

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2016

**COLLEGE APPLICATION
AND
ADMISSION GUIDEBOOK**



**NOTRE
DAME
SAN JOSE**

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San Jose, CA 95112

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Introduction



The senior year in high school has surely become one of the acknowledged “rites of passage” – not only because it is the beginning of the student’s leaving home for a more independent life, but also because it includes the college application journey. It is our sincere hope at Notre Dame High School that this college application journey be one of personal discovery and accomplishment: that the college choices our students make are determined by informed decision-making and assisted by our professional guidance. Ultimately, we hope that college counseling will lessen stress and increase self-confidence in making one of life’s important decisions. The skills our seniors learn will take them through many more decision making tasks throughout their lives. Congratulations on being a member of the senior class of Notre Dame High School and be assured that the college admission process will be manageable, positive and a great prelude to your college days!

College Planning Calendar for Seniors ~ Class of 2016



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

*The College Counseling Department will host a College Information Night for Seniors and their Parents on **August 27th, 2015**, in the Learning Commons, with the former Dean of Admissions, now current West Cost Admission Rep for Kenyon College, Jennifer Delahunty and with Ms. Holohan, Director of College Counseling. The evening begins at **7 p.m.** and will cover the timeline of the college admission process at ND as well as advice about competitive college admissions.*

___ 1. Students, schedule your **college counseling appointment** with **Ms. Holohan, Director of College Counseling**. This appointment launches the application phase for college plans; she will review your college application plans and your Naviance summer assignments. **You should have received an email from Ms. Barcena-Barba with directions on how to sign up via YouCanBook.me.**

___ 2. If you haven't taken the necessary **ACT, SAT I, or SAT II** Subject Tests (depending on the admissions requirements of your particular college/university) or if you think you can improve your scores by re-taking these tests, **REGISTER** now at www.collegeboard.com (SAT) or www.actstudent.org (ACT).

These are the dates for the 2015-16 SAT tests: October 3, November 7, December 5, January 23, March 5, May 7, and June 4. (Registration deadlines are typically one month BEFORE the test dates).

These are the dates for the 2015-16 ACT tests: September 12, October 24, December 12, February 6, April 9, and June 11. (Registration deadlines are typically one month BEFORE the test dates).

Remember that most colleges will want to see your testing accomplished by the December test dates of either the SAT or ACT. And, for Early Action or Early Decision admissions plans, the preferred LAST testing date for applicants would be the OCTOBER sitting. Check with the colleges to which you are applying for their specific deadlines.

___ 3. Check on-line for **Private** college/university websites under **Admissions** or under **Prospective Students** for current applications **OR** check at www.commonapp.org for applications for those colleges who subscribe to the **Common Application**.

THE COMMON APP and UC websites go “live” on August 1, 2015.

CSU applications go “live” on October 1, 2015.

___ 4. If you are applying **Early Decision** or **Early Action**, begin working on your application **NOW!** Remember, **application deadline dates** are typically **November 1st (some before that)** for these “early” admissions programs.

Make sure to meet with your college counselor as soon as possible with regard to these “early” plans.

Reminder: Early Decision is a **BINDING** agreement for you to attend the college if you are admitted under this plan; **Early Action** is simply an **EARLY NOTIFICATION** of a decision for you – **NOT** binding. You will still have until May 1st to let these colleges (with **Early Action** plans) know whether you will attend or not.

___ 5. Make sure you have completed your Letter of Recommendation Surveys in Naviance completely so your teachers have detailed information for use in your letters of recommendation.

___ 6. Attend **College Admission Rep** meetings held at Notre Dame and consider local area **College Admissions** presentations in the evening or on weekends. Keep your “Colleges I’m Thinking About” list current in Naviance so you will receive emails alerting you to these visits for the colleges you are interested in.

___ 7. Determine which colleges should receive your **ACT, SAT I, and/or SAT II Subject Test** scores. Score reports must be requested directly from the testing agency and sent directly to the college/university to which you are applying. Notre Dame advises **NOT** using SCORE CHOICE since so many colleges request that students send **ALL SAT** scores; the colleges will take the students' **best scores** from **ALL** test sittings.

___ 8. All requests for letters of recommendation should be given/transmitted electronically to the college counselor and to teachers by **this point**. This applies to **ALL REGULAR decision** applications.

___ 9. Scholarship information begins to arrive. Watch for announcements concerning eligibility and deadlines via e-mails to your Notre Dame accounts. Check **Naviance** under the **Scholarship** heading under **Scholarships and Money** under **COLLEGES**. **Check e-mails from College Counseling with scholarship notices.**

Keep informed by listening to **DAILY** announcements, by reading emails sent to you by Ms. Holohan, and by checking **Naviance** for **College Visit** announcements.

Make sure you have your **Permission Slip** to attend these Notre Dame visits. Forms are available on the college counseling bulletin board by the SLC, in the College Counseling Office or go on-line to the www.ndsj.org website, to College Counseling, and then, under **College Information for Seniors** to print a Permission Slip at this site:
<http://www.ndsj.org/s/970/RtCol.aspx?sid=970&gid=1&pgid=1328>

OCTOBER

___ 1. Applications for the **University of California** become available August 1st and the **California State Universities** become available on-line on October 1st. You can actually **APPLY** to the CSU on October 1st **THROUGH** November 30th. You can **WORK** on your UC applications beginning August 1st but cannot file your application until November 1st – again with a deadline of November 30th.

Websites are **UC:** www.ucop.edu/pathways and **CSU:** www.csumentor.edu
 (Admissions information for UC can also be found at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply.)

___ 2. Open your on-line application accounts at www.commonapp.org (where most private college applications and many public universities now have a presence) if available or at the college's own website if not available on the Common App. Begin

working on it as well as on your **required essays and any SUPPLEMENTARY essays or materials or portfolios requested.**

___3. If you are applying to private colleges, go to www.collegeboard.com/css-financial-aid-profile to register for and file the **PROFILE** (financial aid application used by SOME private institutions) available early October. (The PROFILE is the financial aid application form used by many private colleges – in addition to the FAFSA form).

See the **Financial Aid Information** pages in this handbook. Check your private college website under Financial Aid to see if the PROFILE is required, and to see if other university-specific forms are required.

___4. **Transcript requests** should be made for all **EARLY Action** and **EARLY Decision** applications by **October 1**. The Transcript Request form is located on Naviance, under **Colleges I'm Applying To, Request Transcripts 'tab'**. (This button does not appear until you have moved your colleges over to "Colleges I am Applying to" and signed the FERPA agreement)

___5. Special Note: the deadline date for **EARLY DECISION** to **Cal Poly San Luis Obispo** (the only CSU to offer this admissions decision plan) is **October 31st**.

___6. Remember that the **SAT test date** this month is October 3rd, and the **ACT test date** is October 24th.

NOVEMBER

___1. **November 30** is the application **deadline** for all **UC** and **CSU** campuses.

___2. Remember: if you **ARE** applying under **EARLY ACTION** or **EARLY DECISION** admissions plans, most applications are DUE during the **1st week of November (Some before, so check deadline dates!)**.

___3. Continue to attend College Representatives' Admissions meetings held at Notre Dame. Listen to the **Daily Announcements**; check **Naviance** under **VISITS**. Check the Senior Bulletin Board.

___4. Remember that the **SAT test date** for this month is **November 7th**. There is no ACT test date for November.

DECEMBER

___ 1. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to learn more about **federal** student aid for college and for most state and institutional aid. You will be filing your FAFSA online. New for this year is the FSA ID, which consists of a user-created username and password, it replaced the PIN effective May, 2015. It allows users to electronically access personal information on Federal Student Aid Web sites as well as electronically sign a FAFSA. You can obtain a FSA ID by going here: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>, but cannot actually file your FAFSA until **1/1/16**.

___ 2. Notre Dame's **College Financial Aid Information Night** is at **7 p.m.** (Learning Commons), **December 1st**. All Senior Parents are welcome.

___ 3. If you have not done so already, complete and submit electronically your private and out-of-state college applications. Most regular decision applications are due in the early part of **January (please check with each college as to the deadline date)**, so this is a great time to wrap up your applications – forms – essays – and supplementary materials. Review any questions with the Director of College Counseling **BEFORE** the Christmas holidays.

___ 4. Find out which **Notre Dame alumnae** (especially from the Class of 2015) attend colleges of interest to you. Then, check with your college counselor or with the **Alumnae Office** (2nd floor of SLC) to see how you might contact them over the holidays.

___ 5. Remember that the **SAT** test date for this month is **December 5th**. Remember that the **ACT** test date for this month is **December 12th**.

JANUARY

___ 1. The **FAFSA** can be filed after January 1. Check financial aid deadlines and any other supplementary financial aid requirements for your colleges. Look under **Financial Aid** on the college websites.

___ 2. Request seventh semester/mid-year transcripts, if these are required by your colleges. You will receive a **7th Semester Transcript Request Form** in **MENTORING**.

___ 3. Complete **ALL** college admissions applications. This is the **FINAL CALL** for all of your documents to be filed with admissions offices!

___ 4. Check your **graduation status** with your first semester grades and credits to make sure that you have signed up for the proper second semester courses. **(Make an appointment to see your Personal/Academic Counselor)**.

FEBRUARY

___ 1. Check your e-mail for **scholarship** information from the College Counseling office; these will also be available in the College Counseling Resource Room.

___ 2. To insure you have **housing**, follow the residence/housing procedures required at the colleges where you are applying. Some colleges require that you deposit for housing as soon as you are admitted; some colleges, especially public or state institutions, request that you begin the housing application process while you are an **applicant**.

MARCH

___ 1. If you applied to a **UC/CSU** campus, expect a letter/e-mail concerning your admission status. Remember to continue to log onto your application account to check on your application file – for any missing documents or requested materials. You must respond to any request – or the UC/CSU admissions process may be stopped for your application.

___ 2. **Financial Aid Forms Deadline: March 2nd** for the **FAFSA** and **PROFILE**. **Grade Verification Forms** for **Cal Grants** are filed **electronically**, on your behalf, by Notre Dame through our Registrar. You will receive information and a **FORM** to fill out about Cal Grants during **MENTORING**.

___ 3. Explore the colleges you have applied to as thoroughly as possible as you will be making a final decision as to where you will matriculate (attend as a freshman) very soon! This may mean another trip to the campus or, at least, taking a look at the website closely for information on majors and programs (curricular and co-curricular).

APRIL

___ 1. Expect to hear from most private colleges by mid-April. Please share your news and thank the teachers who wrote letters of recommendation (a hand written note is always appreciated). Always, **update Naviance with the decisions you are receiving**. **You will be able to do so during MENTORING**.

___ 2. Review your acceptances (you will hear from private colleges no later than mid-April) and your financial aid offers with your college counselor.

___ 3. You will fill out an **electronic SENIOR SURVEY** that will inform Notre Dame of all of your **college decisions** (admits, denies, and Wait Lists) and also inform Notre Dame of all your **awards and honors**. This information is used for (anonymously) statistical research; the matriculation information (where you have decided to attend college) is used for the **Graduation Program** and for **Naviance statistics**.

___ 4. Try to **visit** the college of your choice before your final decision is made. And, do attend receptions for admitted students to meet other students who similarly have been accepted to your colleges. Wait to hear from all the colleges to which you have applied before making your final decision.

MAY

___ 1. Notify the appropriate college of your intent to register by May 1. **This is the National Candidate Reply Date.**

___ 2. Send a **tuition deposit** to your first choice college. Remember, it is not ethical to “double-deposit” at two colleges.

___ 3. Be certain your housing request information is filed appropriately.

___ 4. Check on **placement exams** for **UC** and **CSU** campuses. Your College Counselor will help you locate the websites for these placement exams. Not following specific instructions about these placement exams can jeopardize your admissions status.

(UC: <http://www.ucop.edu/elwr>
UC Entry Level Writing Requirement

(CSU: <https://www.ets.org/csu/about>
CSU Elementary Math and English Language Exams

___ 5. Remember your **AP** exams can help you gain **college credits**. You are responsible for sending these AP scores to the college you will be attending.

___ 7. Look into **student loans** to help with your tuition/room and board costs.

___ 8. Begin to look into **summer jobs** to help pay for college costs. **Naviance** has a resume writing feature under **ABOUT ME**.

JUNE

___ 1. If you have not done so, request your **final transcript** be sent to the college you will attend in the fall. You will receive a **FINAL TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM** in **MENTORING**. If you have changed the college at which you will be a freshman, please inform our Registrar so she sends your final transcript to the appropriate college. Only **ONE** final transcript will be sent to the college of your choice.

___ 2. Attend all graduation activities. **Baccalaureate Mass** is **JUNE 2nd**; **Graduation** is **June 4th**.

___ 3. . Congratulations, Notre Dame graduates, now Notre Dame **alumnae!**



The University of California (UC)

www.universityofcalifornia.edu



The University of California is one of the finest research universities in the world. Its academic offerings span 150 disciplines, with more departments ranked in the top 10 nationally than that of any other public or private university. The rewards of a UC education extend beyond the University's classroom. UC graduates enjoy high acceptance rates at graduate and professional schools and compete successfully in the job market with graduates of the other top universities and colleges.

The campuses are:

Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles (UCLA), Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco (graduate only), Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz

UC Admissions at Glance

Application Filing Period: Submit only one application and indicate all campus choices on it. The filing period is November 1 through November 30; however, the application will be available online August 1 so you can begin working on it. The application is available at: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply

Personal Statement: A personal statement is required. The personal statement is your chance to tell admissions staff who you are and what's important to you. It consists of two prompts, or questions, for a total of 1000 words. **Prompt#1:** Describe the world you come from – for example, your family, community **or** school – and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations. **Prompt#2:** Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution **or** experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?

Eligibility Requirements: To be eligible for admission, a student must have a minimum grade point average (on a recalculated scale for the UC/CSU system) of 3.0. In addition, students must complete the required "A-G" courses, with a minimum of a "C" in each course. Some Honors and AP courses qualify for an extra point when calculating the GPA. Please refer to the UC website for complete eligibility requirements.

The website for this is www.ucop.edu/doorways

Testing Requirements: 1) The **ACT** plus Writing **or** the **SAT Reasoning Test**. The Critical Reading, Writing and Mathematics scores on the SAT will be evaluated from the **same sitting**. If you take the ACT, you will be asked to report your scores on each section of the test as well as your composite score. 2) If you're applying to Engineering, SAT Subject Tests in Math and Science are highly recommended.

California State University (CSU)

www.csumentor.edu

The CSU is a leader in high-quality, accessible, student-focused higher education. With 23 campuses, almost 433,000 students and 44,000 faculty and staff, we are the largest, the most diverse and one of the most affordable university systems in the country. We offer unlimited opportunities to help students achieve their goals. We prepare graduates who go on to make a difference in the workplace. We engage in research and creative activities leading to scientific, technical, artistic and social advances. And we play a vital role in the growth and development of California's communities and economy.



CSU Admissions At a Glance

Admission Requirements: There are three basic admission requirements for the CSU schools: 1) Specific High School courses, the "A-G" subject requirements; 2) Grades and Test Scores, and 3) Graduation from high school and receipt of a high school diploma.

A-G Subject Requirements: The CSU requires a minimum 15-unit pattern of courses for admission as first-time freshmen. Each unit is equal to a year of study in a subject area. A grade of C or higher is required for each course you use to meet any subject requirement.

Grades and Test Scores: Minimum eligible grade point average is 2.0. The CSU uses a calculation called an eligibility index that combines your high school grade point average with the score you earn on either the SAT or ACT tests. Please refer to the following website for information.
http://www.csumentor.edu/planning/high_school

Admission Timeline: the CSU application is available at www.csumentor.edu on October 1. You will have until 11/30/15 to file your CSU application.

Note: Both the CSU and UC systems do NOT require letters of recommendation (NEW FOR THIS YEAR! UC Berkeley, which will reach out to some students to ask them to submit up to two letters of recommendation. DO NOT send letters of rec to Berkeley if they do not ask for them. If they do ask you for them, please see Ms. Holohan)

The California Community College System

www.cccco.edu

California Community Colleges System is comprised of 72 districts, 112 community colleges, and enrolls more than 2.9 million students. Community colleges provide a basic skills education, workforce training, and general education courses that prepare students for transfer to a four-year university. The colleges also offer opportunities for personal enrichment and lifelong learning. If you are considering attending a community college, please contact that college's Admission Office directly for more information about programs, classes and offerings. For more information on how you can afford college, please visit www.icanaffordcollege.com

Admission Requirements

Entrance Requirements: High School diploma or GED; 18 years of age.

Exam Requirements: Placement tests may be required in one or more of the following:
English or ESL, Math, Reading, Chemistry.

Partial List of Community Colleges

Local:	Cabrillo De Anza Mission	Evergreen San Jose City	Foothill West Valley
Other:	Northern California		Southern California
	Canada Skyline Lake Tahoe Shasta College of San Mateo		Cuesta Santa Barbara Pasadena San Diego Santa Monica

Community Colleges with Residence Halls

Columbia College	Lassen College
Feather River	Reedley College
College of the Redwoods	Sierra College
Shasta College	Taft College
College of the Siskiyous	

Did You Know...

- That high school students, may take courses at a community college?
- That there are many residential community colleges?
- Most community colleges have Transfer Admission Guarantees (TAG) or Transfer Admissions Agreements (TAA) with the University of California. See admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/transfer/guarantee for a list of those UCs.
- That UC gives **priority admission** to California Community College transfer students?
- That many private universities also have a Transfer Agreement set in place with Community Colleges?
- That community colleges offer career training programs, online classes and assistance in choosing the program or course to best suit your needs and interests?

The Common Application

Back in 1975, only 15 private colleges were a part of this “common, standardized, first-year application form” that, in a revolutionary way, allowed students to apply to SEVERAL universities using ONE application common to them all.

Fast forward to 2015, and there are now over 500 universities that are members of The Common Application, which still serves the same purpose: **providing students, member institutions, and secondary schools the opportunity to submit applications (both online and in print) to any of the 527 member institutions.**

What you need to know:

- The **homepage** of the Common Application at www.commonapp.org has 6 major headings:
 - **About us** (the history of the Common Application)
 - **Member colleges and universities** (all of the institutions that belong to this universal application)
 - **Common Questions** (a series of Frequently Asked Questions that will help you find answers to questions on content to technical issues – and that includes a DEMO that you should VIEW that runs through the Common Application screens)
 - **Download Forms** (all of the forms associated with the common application, including the application itself, teacher recommendation forms, secondary school/counselor recommendation form, mid-year and final school reports – this is helpful if you want to view what is on-line in a hard-copy form, **but you will be filling out all of this on-line to submit to your colleges**)
 - **Other Resources** (provides links to resources like Fee Waivers, Standardized Testing, Financial Aid, and Admissions Advice)
 - **Contact Us** (this is the application support center for the Common Application and provides you with Video Tutorials on a number of topics, as well as a Knowledge Base where you will find answers to literally ANY topic or issue that might come up for you as an applicant)
- You will need to create YOUR account on the Common Application.
 - This is an account that will be your entrance into applying to any college that accepts the common application (look at Member Colleges to determine which of your colleges – typically private, but some public now use the common application!)
 - The registration takes about 5 minutes to complete; the information you provide will then populate the first screen of the actual application – so make

sure everything you enter is accurate – correct spelling of your name and address and high school, accurate e-mail address, correct birth date.

- Don't forget to keep your username and password in a place you can easily access. This is so important so that you can always easily enter this website as an applicant.
 - You will be entering your Common Application username and password onto Naviance to link both websites so they can “talk” to each other.
 - We ask that you DO waive your right to see recommendations written on your behalf, so you would check that box.
 - We also ask that you AUTHORIZE us to release your transcripts to universities, so you will check that box.
 - And, we ask that you enter your Common Application username and password (see below) for it, when stored on Naviance, becomes the ‘connection’ for your teachers and counselors to upload information on your behalf to the Common Application FROM Naviance.
- THIS IS TAKEN FROM THE NAVIANCE SITE UNDER ‘COLLEGES’ AND ‘COLLEGES I’M APPLYING TO’

The screenshot shows the Naviance website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'home', 'colleges', 'careers', and 'about me'. Below the navigation is a search bar for colleges. The main content area is titled 'colleges I'm applying to' and features an 'IMPORTANT PRIVACY NOTICE FOR COMMON APPLICATION'. The notice explains that Common Application recommendation forms may not be submitted online by the school until the user answers the following questions:

1. The institution does not save recommendations post-matriculation (see list at www.commonapp.org/FERPA).
2. I waive my right to access below, regardless of the institution to which it is sent.

There are two radio button options:

- Yes, I do waive my right to access, and I understand I will never see this form or any other recommendations submitted by me or on my behalf.
- No, I do not waive my right to access, and I may someday choose to see this form or any other recommendations or supporting documents submitted by me or on my behalf to the institution at which I'm enrolling, if that institution saves them after I matriculate.

Below the notice, there is a checkbox for authorization: By completing this form, I authorize all schools that I have attended to release all requested records covered under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) so that my application may be reviewed by the Common Application member institution(s) to which I am applying. I further authorize the admission officers reviewing my application, including seasonal staff employed for the sole purpose of evaluating applications, to contact officials at my current and former schools should they have questions about the school forms submitted on my behalf.

At the bottom of the notice, there is a note: 'Please enter your Common Application Online username and password if available. This information will ONLY be used to lookup your account so that your counselor and teachers may submit your recommendation forms online.'

Below the notice are two input fields:

- Common application username:
- Common application password:

The FAFSA and the CSS PROFILE

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This document is required for students for eligibility for grants, scholarships, loans and work.

Completing the FAFSA will generate the **Student Aid Report (SAR)**. This will give you and your colleges information on the **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** you and your family make toward your education. The EFC is based on many factors, including the age of the older parent, the number of family members, the number of students in college, and assets outside the home. The FAFSA does not consider the value of the primary family home as an asset to be used for college education.

We strongly encourage you to complete the FAFSA during January, and definitely before the end of February. Your parents may use estimated family income and financial assets to complete the FAFSA, and changes can be made once your family's tax return is completed. You can go back online and make these changes.

New for this year is the FSA ID, which consists of a user-created username and password, it replaced the PIN effective May, 2015. It allows users to electronically access personal information on Federal Student Aid Web sites as well as electronically sign a FAFSA. You can obtain a FSA ID here: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>, but cannot actually file your FAFSA until 1/1/16.

Once the FAFSA is completed online, the **SAR** is reported electronically to colleges you listed. You will also receive a copy of the **SAR** by e-mail and you should make any changes necessary. The colleges will use the **EFC** to determine how much grant, scholarship, work and loan money you will be offered in a financial aid package.

Some colleges use the **CSS Profile** to gather additional financial information about the student and her family. Go to <https://profileonline.collegeboard.org> to look at the list of colleges and universities requiring this document, and to register and complete the PROFILE. The PROFILE becomes available during October of the senior year.

The **CSS Profile** may be filed, using estimated income figures, as early as the fall of one's senior year, and may be required by a private college to which you are applying. The Profile will ask many questions that appear on the FAFSA, but will include other questions about family's financial situation and assets.

Colleges use the information on the PROFILE to determine, in addition to the FAFSA information, how much grant, scholarship, work-study, loan assistance you will be offered in the financial aid package.

FAFSA Website

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

You may choose any of these three methods to file a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA):

- [Login](#) to apply online (Recommended) or
- Complete a PDF FAFSA (Note: PDF FAFSAs must be mailed for processing) or
- Request a paper FAFSA by calling us at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 319-337-5665. If you are hearing impaired, please contact the TTY line at 1-800-730-8913.

It is far easier to file online, and you will find most colleges prefer that you file electronically as the information is transmitted far more quickly.

The screenshot shows the Firefox browser window displaying the FAFSA website. The browser's address bar shows the URL www.fafsa.ed.gov. The website header includes the FAFSA logo and the text "Free Application for Federal Student Aid". A navigation menu contains links for Home, About Us, Student Aid on the Web, PIN Site, Contact Us, and Browse Help. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a large banner with the text "Get help paying for college" and "Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)". Below the banner is a prominent "Start Here" button. To the right of the button, there are three bullet points: "Start or continue your FAFSA", "Correct your FAFSA", and "Check the status of your FAFSA, and more...". Below the banner, there are three sections: "Deadlines" with the subtext "Information about your deadlines.", "Announcements" with the subtext "students and parents.", and "School Code Search" with the subtext "Find your college's school code. Also find detailed". At the bottom of the page, there is a taskbar with various application icons and a system tray showing the date and time as "Wed 4:39 PM".

Financial Aid Information – Continued

TOP 10 things you MUST do to qualify for most federal and state student aid. (from Fund Your Future, a publication of the California Student Aid Commission).

1. Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application. The easiest and fastest way is online at www.fafsa.gov. For help or other FAFSA options, call 1-800-433-3243. The FAFSA asks for information about you, your family, your finances, and your college plans.
2. Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident or other eligible noncitizen, or qualifying California Dream Act student.
3. For California Dream Act-eligible AB 540 students, complete the secure online California Dream Act Application at www.caldreamact.org or print a paper application to fill out and mail.
4. Demonstrate financial need (not required for unsubsidized federal Stafford loans, federal PLUS loans and some scholarships).
5. Have a high school diploma or its equivalent (GED), or complete a high school education in a state-approved home-school setting.
6. Be a resident of the state (for most state aid).
7. Enroll in an eligible degree or certificate program.
8. Maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) as determined by your college. You can usually find SAP information on your school's website or in the course catalog.
9. Have a Social Security Number (not required for the California Dream Act); visit www.ssa.gov
10. Register with the U.S. Selective Service (males ages 18-25; visit www.sss.gov)

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

The following types of financial aid are available from the federal government, states, colleges, and private sources:

- **GRANTS** are money you don't have to repay and are typically based on financial need. Check into California CAL GRANTS at www.calgrants.org and learn about federal Pell Grants at www.studentaid.ed.gov
- **SCHOLARSHIPS** are also free money for college and are usually based on your area of study or merit, such as good grades; high test scores; athletic, musical or other special abilities; leadership; community service; and sometimes financial need.

- **WORK-STUDY or STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS** – federal and college – let you earn money through certain jobs on or off campus to help pay for your education.
- **LOANS** are borrowed money that you must pay back, usually with interest.

YOUR Responsibilities as a Financial Aid Applicant to College

- **Research the colleges you're considering.**
- **Review and consider all information about the college's programs before enrolling.**
- **Know and comply with the deadlines for applications or reapplications for financial aid. Intentional misrepresentation on an application for federal financial aid is a crime.**
- **Respond promptly and provide to the appropriate place all requested verification documentation, corrections to your financial aid application or additional information.**
- **Read and keep copies of all forms and agreements you sign.**
- **Ask your college's financial aid office whether you were awarded student employment, and for details about hours, duties, pay rate and how you'll be paid.**
- **Complete loan entrance counseling before you receive your first disbursement of a federal loan, and exit counseling before you leave school.**
- **Compare your anticipated monthly student loan payments and other expenses to your expected take-home pay after college.**
- **Notify your college and loan servicer promptly of changes in your name, permanent mailing address, telephone number, enrollment or marital status, or financial resources.**
- **Reapply for financial aid EACH YEAR you attend college.**

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE KEEPING PEOPLE FROM COLLEGE?

ANSWER: PERCEIVED COST!

To make it easier for prospective students to figure out how much it will cost them to go to college, Congress passed a higher education law requiring all colleges to offer a "net price calculator" on their websites. **USE** this feature to estimate the amount of your college education, and potential financial aid, for each college you're applying to!

The image is a screenshot of a Firefox browser window displaying the NASFAA website. The browser's address bar shows the URL www.nasfaa.org/students/About_Financial_Aid.aspx. The website's header features the NASFAA logo (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators) and navigation links for HOME, LOG IN, MYNASFAA, NATIONAL CONFERENCE, CAREER CENTER, and SHOP. A search bar and quick links are also present. The main content area is titled "About Financial Aid" and includes a list of links on the left: "About Financial Aid", "Who Gives Financial Aid?", "Will You Be Eligible?", "What Do Financial Aid Administrators Do?", "Financial Aid in Your State", "Cutting Your Costs", "Tuition Discounts in Your Region", "Tax Breaks Help You Save", and "Be a Smart Consumer". The central text states: "It all starts with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). With this one application, you can apply for financial aid at multiple colleges and from multiple funding sources (federal, state, institutional and private providers of assistance)." Below this text is a video player titled "FAFSA Hooray" showing two men. To the right, there are promotional banners for "KnowHow260 toCollege", "Free Tax Help 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return", and "Need money for college?". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons.

***Please check this link for more information on FINANCIAL AID

http://www.nasfaa.org/students/About_Financial_Aid.aspx

GLOSSARY OF COLLEGE TERMS

AA or AS (ASSOCIATE OF ARTS or ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCES)

A 2-year community college degree.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Breaks the school year into one of the following:

Semesters: two terms of 17-18 weeks

Quarters: three terms of 11 weeks

Trimesters: two terms of 15 weeks (third term optional)



ACCREDITATION

The recognition by an outside agency that the school maintains high standards which enable students to qualify for admission to other accredited institutions.

ACT

The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in:

English

Mathematics

Reading

Science

The ACT Plus Writing includes the four subject area tests plus a 30-minute Writing Test.

ACT results are accepted by all 4-year colleges and universities in the U.S.; colleges will list “either the ACT or the SAT are acceptable admissions tests.”

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A set of rules established by each college for a student to be accepted.

“A-G” COURSES

Refers to the list of subjects required for admission by the University of California and the California State University:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. U.S. History | 2 years |
| b. English | 4 years |
| c. Mathematics | 3 years (4 years recommended) |
| d. Laboratory Science | 2 years (3 years recommended) |
| e. Foreign Language | 2 years (3 years recommended) |
| f. Visual & Performing Arts | 1 year |
| g. Elective | 1 year |

ANALYTICAL WRITING PLACEMENT EXAM (AWPE) for the University of California
www.ucop.edu/elwr/

All incoming California students who have not met the Entry Level Writing Requirement by April 1, must take the UC Analytical Writing Placement Examination. The exam will be administered the morning of the second Saturday in May, at testing centers throughout the state.

AP (ADVANCED PLACEMENT)

A system by which college freshmen may by-pass entry-level courses by proving that they have already taken the equivalent in high school. Credit is awarded if a student earns a certain score on an AP exam taken in high school.

BA (BACHELOR OF ARTS) OR BS (BACHELOR OF SCIENCE)

A 4-year college degree, typically called the undergraduate degree.

CAL GRANTS

California Financial Aid. Available to students having a financial need as they continue their education at a college or vocational school. You will receive information on Cal Grants in January of your senior year; your high school files the Cal Grant application for you electronically (before the 3/2 deadline).

COLLEGE CATALOG

A book published by the college describing requirements for admission, degrees, services and course descriptions. Many of these are now on-line only.

CREDIT OR "SEMESTER HOURS" OR "UNIT HOURS" OR "QUARTER HOURS" OR UNITS

A way of referring to the number of credits which are earned in a course. If a class meets three hours per week, it is usually a 3- credit course. A full-time student at college usually attends 5 classes and earns 15 credits per semester.

CSS PROFILE

A Financial Aid Form sponsored by the College Scholarship Service and available through the College Board website. This financial aid form will be used by some private colleges and universities nationwide. The PROFILE is tailored to meet the needs of each individual student applying for financial aid. There is a fee required to file the CSS.
<http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>

CSU (CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES)

The 23 public state campuses, such as San Jose State University or CSU Los Angeles.

DEGREE

Titles given to college graduates upon completion of an academic program. A 4-degree is usually a BA or BS, a 5th or 6th year degree is often an MA (Master of Arts), or MS (Master of Science), with a Doctoral degree (Ph.D.) requiring approximately 5 additional years beyond the BA or BS.

ELM (Entry Level Mathematics Test)

This is a test that is required by the California State University system if you attend one of their 23 campuses. It is not an admissions test, but determines eligibility to enroll in specific math courses. Students may be exempt from ELM based on prior coursework or standardized test results from the ACT or SAT.

**EPT (English Placement Test)**

This is a test that is required by the California State University system if you attend one of their 23 campuses. It is not an admissions test, but determines eligibility to enroll in specific English courses. Students may be exempt from the EPT based on prior coursework or standardized test results from the SAT or ACT.

EARLY ACTION

Under this plan, highly qualified candidates who apply early (often by November 1st) may receive offers of admission by mid-December. Unlike the Early Decision Plan, the Early Action Plan does not allow an institution to request an applicant to make a prior commitment to matriculate, or make any response to an offer of admission, until the traditional May 1 candidate reply date.

EARLY DECISION Early decision, like [early action](#), is an accelerated college application process in which students typically must complete their applications in November. In most cases, students will then receive a decision from the college before the new year.

Early decision has a few obvious benefits:

- Frequently the acceptance rate is higher for early decision than it is for regular admissions.
- Students who aren't accepted early are still considered with the regular applicant pool at many schools.
- Students who are accepted early are done stressing about getting into college months before most applicants.

However, Early Decision is not as attractive as Early Action for several reasons:

- Early Decision is **binding**. If admitted, a student must attend the school or else lose a sizable enrollment deposit.
- A student may apply to only one college early (although additional applications for regular admissions are allowed).
- If accepted, a student must withdraw all other college applications.
- A student accepted early must decide to attend before receiving a financial aid package (note that inadequate financial aid is the one allowable reason for breaking an early decision contract).

Because of the restrictions placed on applicants applying through early decision, a student should not apply early unless he or she is 100% sure that the college is the best choice.

FAFSA (FREE APPLICATION

This is the form required to apply for financial aid by the University of California and the California State University. Private colleges and universities also require this form. Out-of-state public universities will also require the FAFSA.



FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID)

required to apply for financial aid by the University of California and the California State University. Private colleges and universities will also require the FAFSA.

FEE WAIVER

A form available to students having a family income that meets the U.S. Department of Labor definition of low income. The Fee Waiver Form is submitted instead of money when applying for college testing or admission. See the College Counseling office for more information and for forms. The Common App has an online waiver form.

FINANCIAL AID

Money from a variety of sources (grants, loan, scholarships, work study) which helps pay for college costs. The “package” of funds is determined by the family’s financial need and the availability of funds from the college or university.

FINANCIAL NEED

The difference between the cost of education and what the family and/or the applicant can reasonably be expected to contribute.

FULL-TIME STUDENT

A college student who generally takes a minimum of either 16 units per quarter or 12 units per semester.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

The goal of General Education (GE) coursework is to give you a broad sampling of different academic areas. This sampling exposes you to varied disciplines, increasing the value and breadth of your total undergraduate education. G.E. coursework allows you to discover new interests that may open a whole new range of opportunities for further study or career choice. These are completed the first two years of college. The second two years involve coursework in major and minor areas.

GRANTS

Financial aid for students by various private and public organizations, including CAL GRANTS from the State of California. Grants do not have to be paid back.

**IMPACTED PROGRAM**

An **impacted major** is a [major](#) for which more students apply than the school can accommodate. It is a classic example of when demand exceeds supply. When this occurs, the major becomes impacted and therefore is susceptible to higher standards of admission. Some examples in the CSU are Business, Engineering, Psychology, and Nursing.

MA (MASTER OF ARTS) OR MS (MASTER OF SCIENCE)

A graduate degree usually requires one or two years of academic work beyond the BA.

MAJOR

The main area of study in college, usually requiring about one year in a planned series of courses during the 4-year program.

MINOR

Approximately 18 credits in an academic area outside the major department.

PELL GRANT

Financial aid from the Federal Government available to students with financial need to be used at many types of colleges and vocational schools. Requires the filing of the FAFSA.

PREREQUISITES

Courses, test scores, and/or grades at a certain level that must be completed before taking a specific course.

PRIVATE COLLEGE

A school which is not supported by state taxes. (Public colleges are supported by tuition fees, taxes and other state funds).

PSAT/NMSQT(PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST/NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFYING TEST)

A shortened version of the SAT offered in October for high school juniors. The scores are helpful in college admission planning and/or qualifying for National Merit Scholarships and other university or private organization scholarships.

ROLLING ADMISSIONS

Under rolling admission, candidates are invited to submit their applications to the university anytime within a large window. The window is usually over six months long, and some schools do not have a previously specified end date (the window simply closes when all spots are filled). The university will then review the application and notify the applicant of their decision within a few weeks from submission. Under rolling admissions, it is better to apply as early as possible in the window of admission.



ROTC

Many colleges have units of the Reserve Officer's Training Corps that offer two and four year programs of military training culminating in an officer's commission. In some colleges credit for the courses can be applied towards a degree. ROTC Scholarships are available which pay for full college costs.

SAT

A college admissions exam measuring verbal (reading and writing) and math critical reasoning skills. Either the SAT OR the ACT (see definition earlier in Glossary) are accepted national admissions tests by all colleges and universities.

SAT SUBJECT TEST

One hour exam offered in 22 different subjects. These are NO LONGER required by the University of California, but the UC highly recommends Science and Math SAT Subject tests for Engineering candidates. Some private colleges and universities and some international universities will require SAT Subject tests; check individual, specific college websites for SAT Subject test requirements.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Gifts of money awarded for achievement, skills, talents, community service, and/or financial need. Most scholarships are awarded to high school seniors in the spring semester and usually range from \$25 to thousands of dollars. Students do not necessarily need to have a 4.0 GPA to apply. Many scholarships go to students with "B" averages who fit the criteria for the award.

SIR (STATEMENT OF INTENT TO REGISTER)

This is the form that must be returned to the college of your choice by a specified date, usually May 1st. It confirms your intent to register at the college and reserves a spot for you.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of your official record of grades and courses from time of entrance to the end of the latest semester.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

College students who transfer from one college to another, usually at the end of sophomore year. Changing colleges during the junior or senior year, when the student is completing major requirements, is not recommended.

TUITION

A fee that is paid for instruction in a school, college, or university.

UC (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA)

The 10 campus system includes Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and the newest campus, Merced. The tenth campus, San Francisco is devoted to graduate studies in the health/medical sciences.

UNDERGRADUATE

College student who has not yet received a bachelor's degree.

WAITING LIST

In addition to accepting and rejecting applicants, many colleges place students on a Wait List for admission. As accepted applicants decide to attend other colleges, the school will offer admission to students who had been placed on the Wait List.

WEIGHTED GPA

Honors and AP classes are given an extra point when computing the grade point average by many colleges and universities. Grades of "D" or "F" in honors/AP courses are not given extra points.

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR COLLEGE PLANNING



Colleges

AICCU (Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities)

<http://www.aiccu.edu>

ASSIST (Transfer admission information)

www.assist.org

California Colleges

<http://californiacolleges.edu/>

California Community Colleges

www.cccco.edu

California State University, System-wide information

<http://www.calstate.edu/> and www.csumentor.edu

College Data (Search and Admissions Statistics)

www.collegedata.com

College Net (Browse institutions by various criteria)

www.collegenet.com

Niche (College reviews written by students)

<https://colleges.niche.com/>

Colleges that changes lives (based on the book by Loren Pope, Colleges That Change Lives, CTCL is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and support of a student-centered college search process. These colleges are known for cooperative learning and involved faculty.)

www.ctcl.org

Unigo (College Information written by students)

www.unigo.com

University of California, system-wide information

www.universityofcalifornia.edu

Financial Aid and Scholarship Information

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

www.FAFSA.ed.gov

California Student Aid Commission

<http://www.csac.ca.gov/>

FastWeb Scholarship Database

www.fastweb.com

The “Smart Student” Guide to Financial Aid

www.finaid.org

Standardized Testing

SAT –Information and Registration (Includes the SAT Reasoning Test and the Subject Tests)

www.collegeboard.com

ACT- Information and Registration

www.actstudent.org

Princeton Review Test Prep (This site contains test prep information and free SAT practice Tests)

www.princetonreview.com

Athletics

National Collegiate Athletic Association

www.ncaa.org and www.eligibilitycenter.org

YOUR NOTES ON COLLEGE VISITS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

APPENDIX B

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL'S COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING RESOURCE CENTER

Visit the Center for the Following Resources:

- Standardized Test Prep Books and Pamphlets for the SAT and ACT
- College Guide Books
- Financial Aid Information and Brochures
- Notes from College Admission Representatives' Visits to Notre Dame
- Current Information about the University of California System
- Current Information about California State University System
- Scholarship Opportunities
- Summer Enrichment Programs
- Hardcopy of the BYU online Course Catalog
- College DVDs
- Seasonal College Posters
- Career Guidebooks
- Career Exploration Information
- Scholarship Information

