

FAQ's for the 4 Year College Bound Student

Be sure to visit TDHS College/Career webpage at <https://downey.mcs4kids.com/documents/collegeWebpage.html> and read the monthly bulletin. It will cover upcoming events, deadlines & provide more detailed information for you to know. Also plan to visit Modesto City Schools (MCS) Scholarship webpage at <https://www.mcs4kids.com/district/counseling-and-guidance/college-counseling/financial-aid> which is usually up and running in September.

When do I apply to 4-year colleges? Apply ONLINE!!

- October 1st -November 30th for CSU <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>
- November 1st -30th for UC <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu>
- College Application fee waivers for CSU and UC can be found at the end of the online application process
- Private universities have various deadlines and application fees. Check individual college websites and/or Naviance for specific college information or visit www.commonapp.org
- Obtain an unofficial copy of your transcript from the counseling office to assist you in entering every detail in your college application correctly. If you do not accurately report your grades, the college can rescind their offer once they receive your final transcript in June. If you receive a "D" or "F" at the end of the first semester of your senior year, **YOU MUST** contact the colleges you applied to and inform them.

Senior FAQ's

Do I need to take the SAT Subject Tests for the UC System?

SAT Subject Tests are no longer required for admission. However, if you plan to major in Engineering, Math or Science, it is recommended you take the subject tests in Math II and/or Science. Please refer to specific out of state/private college campuses to determine which test is necessary to apply to for a specific major. To view which UC colleges campuses are recommending subject tests visit: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements/examination-requirement/SAT-subject-tests/index.html

How do I send my SAT scores to the CSU's and UC's?

- ▶ If you would like your SAT scores sent to more than one CSU, simply submit ONE CSU campus code when you register to take the exam or on the day of testing then all CSU campuses will have access to your scores. This will only count as ONE of the four you can send for free. CSU's will take the highest math and verbal from multiple test dates.
- ▶ If you would like your SAT scores sent to more than one UC, simply submit ONE UC campus code when you register to take the exam or on the day of testing, then all UC campuses will have access your scores. This will only count as ONE of the four you can send for free. UC's will take the highest test score from one test date sitting
- ▶ If you need to send your scores to any private colleges, you will need to enter those schools individually when you register to take the SAT exam or on the day of testing.
- ▶ ALL SAT/ACT TESTING **should** be taken by **NOVEMBER**, however it **MUST** be completed by the last test date in December in order to be accepted by colleges. **NOTE:** There are a few CSU campuses that will want your testing done by the October test date. Check college websites to be certain and don't forget to send your official test scores to colleges before January!

What is EOP?

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) is designed to improve access and retention of historically low-income, educationally disadvantaged and/or first generation college students. If you fit this criteria, then when applying online to the CSU or UC system, you must check the box that indicates you are applying through EOP. You may not necessarily have to meet all the A-G requirements. Financial assistance is usually offered as well. Check out the following website to learn more about EOP: <http://blog.prepscholar.com/what-is-eop>

What is the Eligibility Index?

When applying to the CSU, they will look at a combination of your GPA and SAT/ACT test scores (reading & math only, not writing). You can calculate your eligibility index with the following formula provided below or just visit: <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/eligibility-index/Documents/eligibility-index.pdf>

SAT scores: (your GPA) x 800 + your SAT Total
ACT scores: (your GPA) x 200 + (10 x ACT Composite)

When will I be able to view my senior class rank?

Your FINAL senior class rank by decile and GPA will be posted at the bottom of your transcript in October

When do I find out if I am accepted?

For CSUs, the earlier you apply, the sooner you'll hear back. UC acceptance notifications are typically received in mid-March to early April. Private universities will vary. **NOTE:** Be sure to check your mailbox and email often for your letter of acceptance!

When do I have to make a final decision regarding acceptance?

May 1st is the most common deadline for informing the college of your "intent" to enroll and in most cases they will also require a deposit to hold your spot too. Read and respond to requests for information carefully when you receive your acceptance letters and check your email REGULARLY!

Do I need to send a transcript with my UC and CSU application?

No, typically UC and CSU campuses **DO NOT** require you to submit a transcript at the time you submit an application. However, some UC & CSU campuses might ask for a mid-year transcript, so be sure to check your email frequently then see Debbie (in Records Office room 8) to request submission of your transcript. Also be sure to check the requirements of private schools regarding submission of transcripts and letters of recommendation.

What is the EAP for CSU's?

Seniors who are accepted & plan to attend a CSU, **MUST** demonstrate readiness to take college level coursework in English and Math. **NOTE:** You might be exempt from having to take an EARLY START English and/or Math course at a CSU in the summer, by achieving acceptable scores on either your EAP test, SAT/ACT test, AP Exam and/or GPA status. To determine your exemption status, you need to look for your EAP results (locate the CAASPP test scores you received during the summer). Included with your CAASPP test results, you'll find your EAP results. If you're not sure whether or not you're exempt, call the Assessment Office of the college you plan to attend or visit the following CSU EAP website <https://www.csustan.edu/early-assessment-program> for more detailed info regarding multiply measure options to help you determine if you're exempt from having to take EARLY START summer courses in English and/or Math.

Do I need to send letters of recommendation (LOR) to colleges?

UC or CSU colleges do NOT require nor do they accept LOR's. Some private universities and scholarship applications will typically require one or more letters of recommendation (check specifics on the application). Ask teachers who know you well to write your LOR, and give them at least 3-4 weeks' notice.

What is the Common Application and how do I use it?

Common applications are used when applying to private universities. Visit www.commonapp.org to access the application. Remember that private colleges have different application deadlines, so be sure to do your research carefully. There is a portion of the application in which you will need to waive your FERPA rights and a section that the counselor and your teachers need to complete. If you plan to apply to one or more private colleges, it's important you start early in your senior year as there are many steps in this process to complete. **DON'T PROCRASTINATE!!! Also make sure to inform the college counselor of your plans to apply to a private college as it will not be known to her.**

How many colleges should I apply to?

It's suggested about 3-4: a "dream" college, a couple of "reach" colleges and a "safety" college (like CSU Stanislaus or UC Merced since they are in our demographic area).

Should I make campus visits?

Absolutely! It is important you connect with the college you will be attending for the next four years! Setting foot on the campuses, will make a difference in where you choose to go. You can go with your parents and visit campuses or take tours on your own, or you can attend various college campus preview days by checking their website for dates <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/choosing-a-campus/Pages/campus-preview-days-fall.aspx> . Either way, it's important to make sure you "fit" with the campus you select. *Try to schedule college visits periodically throughout your high school career.*

How do I find colleges that will best fit my major and areas of interest?

Visit Naviance at <http://connection.naviance.com/downey> . If you take the "Career Interest Profiler" it will match you to careers that best suit your personality and colleges that have majors which match your interests.

What is Naviance and how do I register?

Naviance is a powerful resource tool to help guide you through the sometimes confusing path of college and careers. It is designed to help you plan and prepare for YOUR future! For example, you can create your student profile, research colleges and careers, create a resume, find scholarships and learn more about yourself and what interests you through our career and personality inventories. It also helps you keep track of the colleges you applied to in the fall and accepted to in the spring. Whether you plan to attend a college or vocational/trade/tech school, go into the military or work right after high school, visit the Naviance site regularly and become familiar with the many resources available to help you plan and prepare for **YOUR** future. **NOTE FOR REGISTRATION: Downey is now on a single-sign-on process called CLEVER. Therefore, user name and password are NO longer required to login to Naviance when using your school device. Instead, go to the bottom of this page and select LOGIN WITH CLEVER.**
<https://student.naviance.com/downey>

How can I find out about scholarships?

Scholarships listings are ongoing throughout the school year and are posted on the MCS Scholarship webpage monthly at www.mcs4kids.com/district/counseling-and-guidance/college-counseling/financial-aid. Also browse through the reliable scholarship search engines provided at the top of the webpage and look through the National Scholarship Search tool provided in Naviance. **TIP:** Once you decided where you are going to attend, be sure to research the scholarships that are offered by your college/university!

When should I apply for financial aid?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA is an online application that you and your family fill out together. All students should apply for financial aid regardless of GPA or family income level. **NEW!** FAFSA can be filled out starting **October 1st – March 2nd** and parents can use **LAST YEARS TAX INFO** to complete and submit the form online. **NOTE:** Before submitting the FAFSA application, students need to make sure their name & birth date used on their FAFSA application **exactly** matches the name & birth date on their Power School account and Social Security card. If an error is discovered before submitting the FAFSA, please notify the counseling office ASAP, otherwise the state may reject your FAFSA submission and you risk NOT qualifying for Financial Aid/Cal Grants. **Using the correct information will allow MCS district office to electronically submit you Cal Grant GPA verification form without complications.** Financial aid is given for different reasons and can be used at all different types of colleges: 4-year universities, community colleges and some career/ technical schools. It is highly recommended you and your parent attend the many free community FAFSA workshop events available in your area www.cash4college.csac.ca.gov and plan to submit your FAFSA no later than the end of January.

Will my AP test scores earn me college credit at every university?

Many CSU and UC campuses accept AP exam scores of 3, 4, or 5. Private colleges may handle these in different ways. It is strongly recommended to check individual college websites to see how credit is awarded. To view AP credit policies by university, go to: www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy.

What if I want to play sports at a Division I or Division II school?

Register **NOW** with the NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3> by the end of your junior year or very beginning of your senior year. **NOTE: NCAA will NOT accept classes taken in summer school, so you will need to retake D/F classes in your regular school schedule.** Check out the following <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future> and www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/CBSA17.pdf for more detailed NCAA information. Don't forget to contact/meet with your Downey coach, Downey Athletic Director or the sport coach of the college you're interested in playing for to **VERIFY** that you are on track to meet NCAA requirements (which are different than your A-G requirements).