

SOPHOMORE

Workshop

Road to College Conference

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Objective:

- ✓ Understand the factors that colleges use when reviewing applicant's application
- ✓ Understanding your strength and weakness on your application
- ✓ Identifying what would make your application stronger

THE ADMISSION GAME

Sophomore Workshop

1. You have taken as many challenging classes as your high school offers

- ✓ Colleges pay attention to what's available to students.
- ✓ Shows student's determination to succeed.
- ✓ A more rigorous high school curriculum better prepares students for the rigors of a college classroom.
- ✓ Students are not penalized for attending a school that doesn't offer as many options as another might.

2. You play the oboe and you're good at it.

- ✓ Colleges recruit and admit students who can help keep their orchestras, teams, theater departments, etc. performing at their best.

3. You chose to take math and science classes during your senior year.

- ✓ STEM majors should take math and science senior year.
- ✓ This displays consistency—and ensures that students don't give up on important core courses.

4. You clearly stated that this college is your first choice by applying Early Decision (which is a binding agreement that says you'll attend if admitted)

- ✓ Colleges want students who they know will attend

5 and 6. You plan to major in psychology or in Pre-Med

- ✓ Popular majors may have too many students.
- ✓ Harder for students to be admitted to reduce the number of students in that major

7. You plan to major in a STEM field like chemistry, computer science, engineering, or mathematics

- ✓ Need for more STEM majors.
- ✓ Highly competitive
- ✓ Must take as many AP and Honor STEM course

8. You had trouble finding someone to write your college recommendation letters because you don't know your teachers well

- ✓ Not required for UC or CSU applications
- ✓ Required for CSU EOP application
- ✓ Scholarships
- ✓ Used to learn more about a student.
- ✓ When teachers know their students well, they can better advocate for them.

9. When you submitted your college applications, you forgot to change the names of the colleges to which you were applying

- ✓ Sometimes the small things make a big difference!
- ✓ Proof-read everything

10. Your brother is a sophomore at this college

- ✓ Many colleges appreciate and respect their history and traditions.
- ✓ Being a legacy shows a tradition of attending that college
- ✓ Some colleges takes that into consideration when making their admissions decisions.

11. You thought they meant it when they said the optional essay was optional, so you didn't write it

- ✓ Always take the opportunity to share more about yourself.
- ✓ SAT and ACT essay is not optional
- ✓ Here's a good motto: nothing is optional!

12. Your college essay about sports focused on your coach instead of on your own athletic growth

- ✓ Essays should focus on something a student
 - did,
 - Learned
 - discovered about themselves

- ✓ Essays should always give the admissions committee more information about yourself

13. You wrote the best essay of the year - it was passed around the admission office because it was so fantastic

- ✓ A well-written essay can make a big difference in the committee remembering an applicant and advocating for them
- ✓ Elaborate on topics you want the admission committee to know about you

14. You plagiarized your AP US History paper and got caught

- ✓ Plagiarism and cheating are unacceptable in high school and in college.

15. You will be the first person in your family to attend college

- ✓ Colleges care about building diverse student bodies
- ✓ First Generation college students is a group of students colleges seek to enroll.
- ✓ Adds diversity on campus

16 and 17. You participated in an enriching summer program between your junior and senior years; You have not participated in any extracurricular activities, don't have an afterschool job, and don't have responsibilities to care for younger siblings

- ✓ Being active and engaged as a high school student is an indication that a student will be active and engaged as a college student.
- ✓ All colleges want active and engaged students.

18. Your afterschool activities include 4-H leadership and caring for your younger siblings

- ✓ Colleges need student leaders on their campuses
- ✓ Colleges are interested in students who show leadership qualities
- ✓ Remember that leadership can be exhibited in many different ways.

19. You are an Eagle Scout or Gold Award winner

- ✓ Earning major awards shows that you can persist and accomplish your goals.
- ✓ Demonstrates the willingness to work hard through challenging times.

20. You are a varsity athlete; if you are a varsity athlete who took second at the regional competition in your sport

- ✓ Plan to participate in college sports,
 - ✓ Being a strong athlete matters in the admissions process.
- ✓ Don't plan to play in college,
 - ✓ Athletic participation shows a level of commitment and perseverance

21. You got a "D" in an academic course at the end of your junior year

- ✓ Grades do matter.
- ✓ Prefer to see students improve over time, rather than have their grades decline.
- ✓ Students who share the circumstances of their
- ✓ It doesn't have to be a deal-breaker, though!

22. You emailed the admission representative to ask questions and tell them about your interest in their school (and in the case of the student who got a “D,” you offered an explanation of that grade)

- ✓ Admissions committees pays attention to “expressed interest” from applicants.
- ✓ Admissions committees monitors how much contact a student has with the admissions staff.
 - Email
 - Visiting
 - Meeting with a representative at a college fair.

23. You are a legal resident of California

- ✓ Cal grant eligibility
- ✓ In state tuition

24. You never gave your counselor or GEAR UP coordinator personal information to use when writing your college recommendation letter

- ✓ The more someone knows, the better the letter they can write.
- ✓ Recommendation letters matter!

25. Your last name is Knight - the name on the library is Knight - and it's not a coincidence

- ✓ Donations matter—and fair or not
- ✓ Donations:
 - ✓ To improve academic programs,
 - ✓ To build new buildings
 - ✓ For the cost of running the school.
- ✓ Son or daughter of the donor may have an ensure spot in class.

What are your thoughts?

The 14 Factors of Comprehensive Review for the UC System

1. Grade-point average
2. Test scores
3. Performance in and number of courses beyond minimum a-g requirements
4. Honors courses and advanced courses
5. Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) – CA residents only
6. Quality of senior-year program of study
7. Academic opportunities in California high schools
8. Outstanding performance in one or more academic subject areas
9. Achievements in special projects
10. Improvement in academic performance
11. Special talents, achievements and awards
12. Participation in educational preparation programs
13. Academic accomplishment in light of life experiences
14. Geographic location



CSU Eligibility Index (EI)

➤ Your EI is the main factor that determines admission to most of the Cal State schools and majors.

*The index will help tell if you're eligible for admission to the CSU.

➤ Each school and major has its own EI cutoff for admission.

*Due to impaction, many campuses have supplemental admission criteria.

Your Eligibility Index is calculated using your grade point average (GPA) and your ACT or SAT score.

$$\text{*(College Preparatory Grade Point Average X 800) + SAT Critical Reading + SAT Math= EI}$$

The ACT composite will be converted to an SAT total replacing both the Critical Reading and Math scores for this calculation.

GPA	SAT SCORE
2.99	510
2.98	520
2.97	530
2.96	540
2.95	540
2.94	550
2.93	560
2.92	570
2.91	580
2.90	580
2.89	590
2.88	600
2.87	610
2.86	620
2.85	620
2.84	630
2.83	640
2.82	650
2.81	660
2.80	660
2.79	670
2.78	680
2.77	690
2.76	700
2.75	700
2.74	710

GPA	SAT SCORE
2.27	1090
2.26	1100
2.25	1100
2.24	1110
2.23	1120
2.22	1130
2.21	1140
2.20	1140
2.19	1150
2.18	1160
2.17	1170
2.16	1180
2.15	1180
2.14	1190
2.13	1200
2.12	1210
2.11	1220
2.10	1220
2.09	1230
2.08	1240
2.07	1250
2.06	1260
2.05	1260
2.04	1270
2.03	1280
2.02	1290
2.01	1300
2.00	1300

How do you compare?

1. How is your GPA?
2. Are you taking AP or Honor courses?
3. Are you demonstrating leadership?
4. Are you in any clubs or extra curricular activities?
5. Have you participated in any community service?



What Colleges look for in a Student's Application



What college applications ask for	How do you compare?	What changes can you make?
1. Grade-Point Average		
2. Standardized Test Scores <small>(SAT and ACT Scores)</small>		
3. Grades of courses In and beyond minimum a-g requirements <small>(AP & Honors)</small>	How many? A- B- C-	How many? A- B- C-
4. Outstanding performance In academic subjects <small>(Have you tutored a peer?)</small>		
5. Personal qualities and talents <small>(Leadership skills and artistic talents)</small>		
6. Contributions to the community and school <small>(Community service)</small>		
7. Participation In education preparation programs <small>(EAOP and Upward Bound)</small>		
8. Achievement In academic enrichment programs, special projects, and more <small>(Achievements in school, employment, organizations, and clubs)</small>		
9. Challenges you have faced <small>(Any hardships or unusual circumstances you have faced)</small>		



EARLY ACADEMIC OUTREACH PROGRAM

What can you do to improve your application?

1. Receive A's & B's in all courses.
2. Take AP, IB, and Honor courses throughout high school
3. STEM majors: Take extra science and math courses
4. Take community college courses
5. Take the PSAT
6. Study for the SAT or ACT
7. Join clubs and hold a leadership role by senior year
8. Participate in community service
9. Get a job by senior year
10. Always challenge yourself

university of california
early academic outreach program



Thank you!

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