

University High School Senior Meeting 2021

Please visit the UHS Counseling Webpage <https://universityhigh.iusd.org/counseling> and the Counseling Class of 2021 Canvas page for more information

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

Angela Gatlin – Coordinator (email: angelagatlin@iusd.org)

Visit the College & Career Center website for information on colleges, UHS college visits, financial aid, scholarships and more.

<https://universityhigh.iusd.org/cc>

COLLEGE WEBSITES

- www.universityofcalifornia.edu (UC system)
- www2.calstate.edu (Cal State University system)
- www2.assist.org (Explore college majors at UC, Cal State, and Community Colleges)
- www.commonapp.org (Common Application)
- www.californiacolleges.edu (Links and resources for all Colleges and Universities in CA)

NAVIANCE

For data collection purposes, please add all colleges you are applying to your Naviance account.

- Login to Naviance using the single sign on and enter IUSD username and pw (Username: 21lastnamefirstname). Password (9 digit permanent ID)
- Click on the “Colleges” tab then “Colleges I’m Applying To” → Add ALL schools, including UC’s and CSU’s.

PRIVATE COLLEGES & COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you are applying to private schools and need a counselor recommendation:

- Download the “Counselor Recommendation Packet” from Canvas OR the UHS Counseling Website
- Follow all instructions in the packet
- Once complete, email your packet to your counselor from the 19-20 school year (see packet for alpha breakdown).

*If you are using the Common Application, counselors are submitting everything online. To ensure we are able to complete the counselor recommendation on your behalf, please add your counselor’s information on Common App.

- On your Common App account, click on “colleges” to assign recommenders
- Sign the FERPA (We recommend you waive your right to see your letter of recommendation)
- Include your counselor’s information (from 19-20 alpha) (Title: Counselor, Email: firstnamelastname@iusd.org)

SENDING OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

UC and CSU do not require transcripts until you have been accepted and plan to attend (final transcript only). For schools with a portal for counselors to upload information (i.e. CommonApp, Coalition, SendEDU, MIT, Georgetown, etc.) counselors will send your official transcript (make sure that you are inviting your counselor to upload your transcript in this scenario). If schools do not provide an option for counselors to submit transcripts for you, you will be responsible for sending your own transcript. Please either see Mrs. Yang to obtain an official copy to be mailed or visit Parchment [here](#) to send electronically and track your transcript.

TESTING WEBSITES

SAT I Reasoning Test and SAT II Subject Tests

*<http://www.collegeboard.org>

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
Oct. 3	Sep. 4	Sep. 22
Nov. 7	Oct. 7	Oct. 27
Dec. 5	Nov. 5	Nov. 24

ACT Test

* <http://www.actstudent.org/>

ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
Oct. 10, 17, 24, 25	Sep. 17	Sept. 18-25
Dec. 12	Nov. 6	Nov. 7-20

*Please note that many universities are now test-optional and may not require SAT or ACT scores. If scores are required, students must send official test scores to colleges through these websites**

FINANCIAL AID

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> (application for financial aid)

<http://www.fastweb.com/> (scholarship search)

<http://www.calgrants.org/> (information on Cal Grants)

District-wide Financial Aid Night: September 24

Preparing for College and Career - Senior Year Checklist

Review your class schedule and make sure you will not be overwhelmed.

Continue to focus on your academic classes. **Yes! Senior grades count.**

September

Review class schedule, *double check graduation and college admissions requirements*. See your counselor if you have any concerns.
Sign up for and attend Virtual College Visits - contact Mrs. Gatlin.
Actively seek and apply for private and institutional scholarships.
Use Naviance College Match to find colleges.
Begin college applications. Set up username and login information.
Sign up for ACT, SAT 1 and/or SAT subject tests. *All testing should be completed by November. Some colleges will allow for the December test. ****note: most schools are now test-optional*****
Begin/continue writing college essays.
Letters of recommendation: download Counselor Recommendation Packet on Canvas. Ask teachers for their process.

October

Create calendar and keep track of deadlines for applications and financial aid submissions.
Sign up for AP Exams (contact Mrs. Gatlin with questions)
Start UC and CSU applications.
Continue editing your college essays. Have someone that doesn't know you well read it. What did he or she learn about you?
Continue to sign up for and attend Virtual College Visits - contact Mrs. Gatlin
Research scholarships - visit the College & Career Center and CCC Website.
Early Decision/Early Action deadline is usually November 1st. Double check the college websites for specific deadlines.
Start reviewing financial aid. Visit the FAFSA website and apply for a pin number. Contact Ms. Gatlin in the College and Career Center for questions and information.

November

UC/CSU applications due November 30th - try to submit before Thanksgiving
Attend Virtual Application Workshops Wednesday's at 2:30 with Mrs. Gatlin and school counselors
If you need a counselor recommendation, email your completed packet by Nov. 13 for RD. **WE WILL NOT COMPLETE RECOMMENDATIONS OVER WINTER BREAK!**
Take SAT/ACT if you plan to; Send your ACT, SAT 1 and SAT Subject tests scores to all schools. *Even if you sent your scores in 11th grade, re-send.*
Make sure you are taking care of yourself: exercise, eat healthy foods and get extra sleep. If you are feeling overwhelmed, talk to friends, parents and your counselor.

December

Last month to take SAT or ACT if you plan to submit your scores.
If you haven't already, send in your private school applications for Regular Decision - many are due January 1st
Continue reviewing financial aid options. Visit the FAFSA website and apply for a pin number. Contact Ms. Gatlin in the College and Career Center for questions and information.

January

Send SAT/ACT scores you took in December
If you were accepted for Early Decision, you must withdraw your remaining applications.
Continue applying for financial aid.
Counselors will complete mid-year reports, but remember to continuously check your email for any correspondence from colleges.

February

Send an official transcript of first semester senior grades, if not on common app. UC/CSU don't require unless you are specifically asked.
Focus on your academics. You only have one semester left!
Continue to apply for scholarships
Complete FAFSA - deadline is March 1, 2020!
Double check housing deadlines and requirements.

March

Continue to apply for housing and double check specific guidelines for each school.
Attend IVC, OCC or Saddleback Senior days.
Study for AP Exams.

April

Attend Community College night at UNI.
Update FAFSA once your tax returns are complete
Visit colleges you are considering over Spring Break - attend Admit Days.

May

Take AP Exams.
Complete Senior Survey through Naviance account
Take Placement test(s) at the college you are going to attend. (Your college will notify you via e-mail).
Double check qualifications with NCAA website if you want to play a sport in a 4-year college. Athletes must be certified by the NCAA.

June

Take Final Exams!
Graduation!!!
Send final transcript to UC/CSU or Non-Common App schools after final grades come out. Send your transcript through www.parchment.com or see Mrs. Yang. (If you don't send your transcript you will be denied admission). Your counselor will send final transcripts for Common App schools.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS?

Virtual Application Workshops: Get help with any of your college applications on Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30pm with Mrs. Gatlin and a Counselor
(link to workshops will be on Canvas)

Wed. Oct. 7

Wed. Oct. 14

Wed. Oct. 21

Wed. Oct. 28

Wed. Nov. 14

Wed. Nov. 28

CAL STATE UPDATES

<http://www2.calstate.edu/apply>

- Testing
 - CSU will temporarily suspend the use of ACT/SAT examinations in determining admission eligibility for all CSU campuses for 2021-2022
- Admissions
 - Graduates of California high schools will be eligible for admission by earning a 2.50 or greater “a-g” GPA
 - A GPA between 2.00 and 2.49 may be evaluated for admission based upon supplemental factors
 - Campuses and programs designated as impacted may utilize higher “a-g” GPA thresholds for applicants, as well as identify supplemental criteria in making admission decisions
- Credit/No Credit
 - CSU will consider course grades of “credit” or “pass” as fulfilling “a-g” requirements for those courses completed during spring 2020
 - All other coursework must have a grade of C- or higher
 - Grades of credit/no credit will not be included in the calculation of high school GPA.

NON-IMPACTED CAMPUS	IMPACTED CAMPUS	ALL PROGRAMS IMPACTED
Will admit all <i>eligible</i> students *Some majors impacted	Local Region students admitted first *Out of region selected by EI Rank *Some majors impacted	Local region <i>not</i> guaranteed admission **pref. consideration for local region *ALL MAJORS IMPACTED
Bakersfield	Chico	Fresno
Channel Islands	East Bay	Fullerton
Dominguez Hills	Monterey Bay	Long Beach
Stanislaus	Northridge	San Diego
Maritime	Pomona	San Jose
San Francisco	Sacramento	San Luis Obispo
Humboldt	San Bernardino	Los Angeles
	San Marcos	
	Sonoma	

- This data comes from the 20-21 CSU admission cycle

UC INFORMATION

<http://universityofcalifornia.edu>

Statistics of UNI Acceptances to UCs - Class of 2020

UC Campus	Berkeley	Davis	Irvine	LA	Merced	Riverside	SD	SB	S. Cruz
Admits	38	56	64	35	27	90	67	88	64
Avg. GPA	4.34	4.20	4.21	4.37	3.78	3.97	4.32	4.25	4.01
GPA Range	4.00 - 4.61	3.70 - 4.61	3.57 - 4.61	3.78 - 4.61	3.08 - 4.61	3.21 - 4.61	3.49 - 4.61	3.70 - 4.61	3.11 - 4.61
Avg SAT	1520	1480	1480	1520	1400	1430	1520	1500	1450
SAT Range	1300 - 1590	1310 - 1590	1130 - 1590	1250 - 1590	1100 - 1570	1130 - 1580	1250 - 1590	1300 - 1590	1280 - 1570
Avg ACT	34	33	33	34	30	31	34	34	32
ACT Range	30 - 36	28 - 36	24 - 36	30 - 36	21 - 35	22 - 35	26 - 36	28 - 36	25 - 36

14 COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW FACTORS

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-freshman/how-applications-are-reviewed.html>

- 1) **GPA** – Weighted, academic GPA in all completed "a-g" courses (10-11th grade for eligibility)
- 2) **TEST SCORES** - Scores on the ACT w/ Writing or SAT Reasoning Test.
 - a. Due to a preliminary injunction, UC will be test blind starting with the graduating senior class of 2021.
 - i. This case will be further litigated on September 29th, 2020
 - b. SAT Subject Tests are not required but are recommended by some majors on some campuses. Go to: <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements/exam-requirement/sat-subject-tests.html> for each campus' recommendations regarding SAT Subject Tests
- 3) **QUALITY OF COURSES** - Number of, content of and performance in academic courses beyond the minimum "a-g" requirements.
- 4) **HONORS & AP COURSES** - Number of and performance in UC-approved honors and APs
- 5) **ELC** - Identification by UC as being ranked in the top 9 percent of your high school class at the end of your junior year (Eligible in the Local Context, or ELC).
- 6) **SENIOR YEAR COURSES** - Quality of your senior-year program as measured by the type and number of academic courses in progress or planned.
- 7) **QUALITY OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE** relative to the educational opportunities available in your high school.
- 8) **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCES** in one or more academic subject areas.
- 9) **OUTSTANDING WORK** in one or more special projects in any academic field of study.
- 10) **IMPROVEMENT** - Recent, marked improvement in academic performance as demonstrated by academic GPA and the quality of coursework completed or in progress.
- 11) **SPECIAL TALENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS** in a particular field, such as visual and performing arts, communication or athletic endeavors; special skills, such as demonstrated written and oral proficiency in other languages; special interests, such as intensive study and exploration of other cultures; experiences that demonstrate unusual promise for leadership, such as significant community service or significant participation in student government; or other significant experiences or achievements that demonstrate the student's promise for contributing to the intellectual vitality of a campus.
- 12) **SPECIAL PROJECTS** - Completion of special projects undertaken in the context of your high school curriculum or in conjunction with special school events, projects or programs.
- 13) **OVERCOMING SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES** - Academic accomplishments in light of your life experiences and special circumstances.
- 14) **LOCATION** of your secondary school and residence.

UC and CSU Application Tips – Class of 2021

- Both applications are due at midnight on **November 30, 2020**
 - Don't wait until the last minute to submit your application!
 - Don't forget to hit the Submit button!
 - Research campuses and apply broadly
 - Use your full, legal name on all applications – do not use your nickname
 - Use an email address that you check frequently – be aware of your email address appropriateness
 - Have a copy of your transcript(s) handy when you are completing applications – entering your coursework and grades accurately is very important
 - You will be asked to submit a transcript before enrolling to verify that what you put on your application is accurate, so be very careful when you are entering your information!
 - Do not send transcripts to any CSU or UC campus when you apply – if you are admitted and decide to attend, you will need to submit a transcript from each high school you attended only to the campus you are attending
 - Exception: Campuses may ask you to send a transcript after you have applied – make sure to check your email and respond to these requests in a timely fashion
 - CSU and UC campuses do not require letters of recommendation and they will not read them if you send them
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CSU Application Tips

- Apply online through Cal State Apply starting October 1 – go to the “Freshman” page
- Check out the ? at the top of each page of the application for instructions and FAQ – you can also find contact information for customer service
- **Update on Testing:** CSU will temporarily suspend the use of ACT/SAT examinations in determining admission eligibility for all CSU campuses for the 2021-2022 admission cycle

Profile

Education

- Choose “Undergraduate” then “Graduating High School Senior or equivalent”
 - If you have taken classes at a community college or a 4-year college, choose “Yes” for “Have you taken and earned college credits through a community college or university?”

Selecting Programs

- Choose first campus to which you want to apply
 - Location: Main Campus; Delivery Format: Face to Face; Start Term: Fall 2020
- Choose your intended major
- Click “Reset Filters” to add another campus, then review your selection(s)

Personal Information

Biographic Information

- SSID field is optional – your SSID can be found in the bottom left corner of your transcript – “State ID#”

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)

- If you think you might qualify for EOP, select “Yes” and answer the additional questions – this only needs to be done once and has no bearing on your admission decision

Academic History

High Schools Attended

- Enter June 2021 as your expected date to receive a high school diploma
- CSU recommends entering state, city, and high school name when searching for school(s)
- Enter all high schools you have attended
 - If you are currently an IVA student, add UHS as your home school and add “San Joaquin High School” under “other schools attended”

High School Coursework

- Instructions on what to enter for each field appear if you hover over the field
- Enter Course Title exactly as it appears on the transcript from that school or for UHS classes, pre-populated class options might appear as you type
 - Don't need to enter A and B separately for year-long classes
- Make sure to enter each grade in correct semester box, especially for summer school classes and semester-long classes
- Course Type
 - Non-weighted CP or Honors classes (i.e. English 2 & H English 2) = None
 - Weighted non-AP classes (i.e. H Chem & EM3) = Honors
 - AP classes = Advanced Placement
 - Any course taken at a college that is needed to meet A-G eligibility = College
- Only add CP (or higher) classes – look for “p” on your transcript
- For 12th grade classes, enter “In Progress” for Fall grade and “Planned” for Spring grade
- If you are using an AP or SAT Subject Exam to meet any A-G requirement, enter it as a class

A-G Matching

- **Any class whose title did not auto-populate in High School Coursework section will not be automatically counted toward your A-G Subject Totals – you will need to assign each class to the appropriate A-G category**
- Use the list of UHS A-G courses or UC Doorways website (<https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist#/list/search/institution>) to determine A-G category
 - Be careful with school year!
 - See your counselor if you are not sure!
- College Coursework (if applicable)
- If you have taken classes at a community college or 4-year college and these classes were **not** needed to meet A-G eligibility, you will search for and select the college(s) you attended/are attending
- Choose “No” for “Did you obtain or are you planning to obtain a degree from this college?”
- Enter each semester during which you took a college course
 - Under Select Academic Status, choose “Freshman” for all semesters
 - Choose “Completed” for any semesters that are complete, or “In Progress/Planned” for any you are currently taking or plan to take this year
- Enter courses taken/grades earned at the college(s) you listed in Colleges Attended
- After you have entered all of your classes, don't forget to complete the Transcript Review
 - If you took classes at more than one college, select the one at which you completed the most credits as your primary college
 - The answer to the rest of the questions should be “No,” even the AP credit question

Submit Application

- Each dashboard quadrant has to be green before you can submit your application
- You will be able to check for fee waivers before you submit

UC Application Tips

- The application automatically times out after 30 minutes, so save often
- Use the progress bar at the top of the website and the “Inside This Section” links to the right of the page to navigate through the application
- There is a “Questions” box to the right of each page that may be helpful if you're unsure how to complete a particular field

Academic History

- List every high school you have attended since 9th grade
 - If you are currently an IVA student, add UHS as your home school and add “San Joaquin High School” under “other schools attended”

- List coursework for each school exactly as it appears on your transcript from that school including any classes in which you earned a D or an F, even if you repeated them later

Colleges Attended While in High School

- List courses taken/grades earned at a community college or 4-year college

Other Academic History

- Your California State Student ID can be found in the bottom left corner of your transcript – “State ID#”
- Additional Comments: This box is only to be used to explain any unusual circumstances in your academic history – it is not to be used as an extension of the Personal Insight questions

Activities & Awards

- Choose up to five of your most meaningful experiences in the following categories:
 - Coursework Other Than A-G
 - Educational Preparation Programs
 - Volunteer & Community Service
 - Work Experience
 - Awards & Honors
 - Extracurricular Activities
- Do not use acronyms – spell out the names of organizations, clubs, awards, etc.
- Be strategic when providing further description of your activities and awards

Test Scores

ACT & SAT; SAT Subject Tests; AP Exams

- Scores on the ACT w/ Writing or SAT Reasoning Test.
 - Due to a preliminary injunction, UC will be test blind starting with the graduating senior class of 2021. This case will be further litigated on September 29, 2020. UHS counselors will provide updates as more information is released.
 - This means you are not required to submit your official scores. However, you can report your scores on your application if you wish to do so.
 - If you choose to send scores, UC does not super score SAT or ACT – only report scores for testing date on which you earned your highest overall/composite score
 - You can wait to send official AP exam score report until 2021 exam scores are out – report is due by July 2021

Personal Insight

- Respond to 4 of the 8 questions – 350 words each
 - Address all aspects of the prompts you choose
- These are not essays – they are designed to help the UC learn more about you
 - Writing style and grammar are not considered, but it’s important that the reader understands what you are saying
 - Your responses should provide new information – should not repeat what’s already in your application
 - Your voice should shine through!
- Check out the [“Personal Insight Questions: Guide for Freshman Applicants”](#)

Additional Comments

- The purpose of this box is not to expand on the Personal Insight questions or answer another one
- The purpose is to explain any unclear parts of your application or tell the UC about any unusual personal or family circumstances which you haven’t explained elsewhere – for example:
 - Grade earned patterns
 - Circumstances which prevented you from doing something you wanted to do, like take a more rigorous course or play a sport
 - Prolonged illness
 - Learning difference

Submit

- Don't forget to click "Submit your application for UC admission"
- The application will let you know if you are missing anything – you will need to acknowledge if you are knowingly applying with incomplete information
- Fee waivers are available if you qualify
- Print and keep a copy of your receipt – you may need your application ID number
- If you don't receive an email confirming your application submission, contact the UC Application Center – see below for contact information

UC Application Support

- The UC Application Center is available at (800) 207-1710 or ucinfo@applyUCsupport.net
- Click [here](#) to learn how to update your application
- If you add or drop a course or earn a D or an F in a course after applying, send your changes by email to docs@applyUCsupport.net
- Make sure to provide your full name, your date of birth, and your application ID number
 - If you need to notify the UC of changes after you've received an offer of admission, contact the individual campus(es) to which you've been accepted



Recommended Resources

- Counseling Canvas Page
 - Senior Packet
 - Senior Timeline
 - College Application Workshops
 - Counselor Recommendation Packet
- Naviance
 - College Super Match: List of colleges that match your search criteria
 - Colleges I'm Thinking About
 - Scattergram
 - College profiles and statistics
 - Make sure to add your email address in Naviance

Common Application

- Go to www.commonapp.org and create an account; don't forget your login information
- 5 tabs:
 - Dashboard
 - Shows the status of the application components for all colleges on one page
 - My Colleges
 - Shows detailed contact info, deadlines, and requirements for each college
 - Where you submit additional application items for each college
 - Common Application
 - Profile, Family, Education, Testing, Activities, and Writing sections
 - Information in this section is sent to all colleges
 - List all courses and grades (not all colleges require this)
 - College Search
 - Allows you to search colleges to add to your "My Colleges" tab
 - Financial Aid Resources
 - Learn about financial aid opportunities for each of your colleges
- Info needed to fill out Education section of "Common Application" tab:
 - Class rank reporting: Choose None (UHS does not rank)

- Graduating class size: 550
- Cumulative GPA: Use your 9-12 academic weighted GPA
- GPA scale: 4
- GPA weighting: Choose Weighted
- UHS school code: 051984
- FERPA (Under “My Colleges” tab)
 - Asks you whether or not you waive the right to view the documents that are sent on your behalf (i.e., recommendations, school report, transcript)
 - We recommend you select the checkbox waiving your right to view these documents as many teachers will not write you a letter unless you do
 - Once you submit this FERPA waiver, you cannot change it

Reporting Official Test Scores (if you plan on sending them)

- SAT and SAT Subject Tests: Request through Collegeboard.org
- ACT: Request through ACT.org
- AP Exams: Request through Collegeboard.org (only send to the college you are attending)

Transcripts

UC and CSU do not require transcripts until you have been accepted and plan to attend (final transcript only). For schools with a portal for counselors to upload information (i.e. CommonApp, Coalition, SendEDU, MIT, Georgetown, etc.) counselors will send your official transcript (make sure that you are inviting your counselor to upload your transcript in this scenario). If schools do not provide an option for counselors to submit transcripts for you, you will be responsible for sending your own transcript. Please either see Mrs. Yang to obtain an official copy to be mailed or visit Parchment [here](#) to send electronically and track your transcript.

Counselor Recommendation

- Complete Counselor Recommendation Packet
- Must email completed packet to your counselor from the 19-20 school year by deadlines listed below:
 - **Early Decision or Early Action: October 1st, 2020**
 - **Regular Decision-Letter: November 13th, 2020**

Making a College List

To determine whether a school is a **reach, target or safety** for you, please use the college’s average GPA, test scores (ACT or SAT), and admit rate as a point of comparison. The Scattergram tool in Naviance is also a good tool to help you determine this information.

1. **“Reach”** – Based on the college’s average GPA, average SAT/ACT scores and admit rate, this school would be a stretch for you to be admitted but you would like to apply because it is a dream school. It offers the area of interest you want to pursue.
2. **“Target”** – Based on the college’s average GPA, average SAT/ACT scores and admit rate, you have a 50/50 chance of being accepted and this school offers the area of interest you want to pursue.
3. **“Safety”** – Based on the college’s average GPA, average SAT/ACT scores and admit rate, you will be admitted to this school. This school also offers the area of interest you would like to pursue, and it is a school you would attend just in case you are not admitted to your target and reach schools.

Your list of colleges should consist of primarily target schools with one or two reach and safety schools. Please make sure that all of the colleges in your list are ones that you would be happy to attend; applying to colleges can be very expensive, and we do not recommend that you apply to any schools to which you would not ultimately attend.

After Submitting Common Application

- Consistently check your email for any communication from colleges
- Check your application status for each college on college portals
- Submit FAFSA and CSS Profile (if needed) by deadlines
- Work with Mrs. Gatlin to apply for scholarships (if needed)

- Decisions will come out by April 1 at the latest; commit by May 1

2020-2021 Common Application Essay Prompts

650-word limit

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your *thinking*? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

College Application Tips

1. **Professional email address.** Spicychick@gmail.com is not a good choice. You can't go wrong with your name; it helps colleges find your records.
2. **Follow Directions.** If a school says it wants letters of recommendations from 11th and 12th grade teachers only, that's what they want.
3. **Extracurricular Activities: Don't overdo it.** Be honest about your hours because they will wonder when you have time for school or sleep. Explain acronyms of clubs and titles (i.e. FBLA or YAT)
4. **Explain changes.** Explain why you quit your sport after two years or are no longer in Band.
5. **Keep it clean.** Admissions officers view profanity as a deliberate attempt to be noticed and not in a good way.
6. **Own up to bad behavior.** Don't lie about school punishments/suspensions. The school is duty bound to report discipline issues. What does matter is your take on the experience. Accept responsibility; show contrition or lessons learned.
7. **Optional essays aren't optional.** Take advantage of them and don't opt out. They could be the place to explain bad grades or other glitches in your resume.
8. **Check email regularly.** If colleges don't send confirmation emails, email them after a week to see if they received your application.
9. **Don't assume your counselor will handle it.** Counselors are not always included in the correspondence so let counselors know if anything is missing on their part.

TIPS FOR YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY

1. **ANSWER THE QUESTION** – Make sure you address all parts of the prompt.
2. **PUT THE FOCUS ON YOURSELF** – Admissions officers want to hear *your* voice, see *your* writing ability and learn about YOU. They want to know your thoughts, feelings and what you took away from your experience. Avoid “thesaurizing” your essay. Think of it as a journal entry with good grammar and spelling.
3. **SPELLING AND GRAMMAR DO COUNT** – Make sure you type your essays in Microsoft Word where you can spell-check it first. Have someone else read and revise it and then copy and paste the final draft into the application. Do not write your essay in the application – there is no spell-check.

4. **BE ORIGINAL** – Try to avoid clichés and quotes. Divorces, grandparents’ deaths, winning the big game, or break-ups tend to be common topics. Try to write about something unique to only you.
5. **CONSIDER A SMALLER CANVAS** – It doesn’t take a big event to write a compelling essay. One student wrote about how he got to know his patrons serving them breakfast at his weekend job, while another student wrote about why an Iron Maiden poster graces her bedroom wall.
6. **APPEAL TO THE 5 SENSES** – Use imagery and clear vivid prose to paint a picture or set the stage.
7. **PROVE IT** – If you want to convey that you are a leader, or determined, or motivated – PROVE IT! Give specific, detailed examples of actions – demonstrate how you showed leadership or what you did to persevere. Then make sure to express what you took away from the experience
8. **HOOK YOUR READER** – Admissions officers read thousands of essays, so grab their interest right away with an intriguing introduction. Raise questions, appeal to their emotions, make them want to keep reading. Here are some examples of interesting first lines

California Community Colleges

Cost

Local Community College Tuition*	California State University Tuition*	University of California Tuition*
\$1,144 per year	\$5,742 per year	\$14,100 per year

Cost does not include room and board or books and supplies

* Promise Program = First Two Years Free for CA Residents*

Transfer-Ability

- **University of California**

Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) Program:

6 UC campuses (see chart below) offer guaranteed admission to California community college students who meet the GPA and other guidelines specific to that campus, by participating in a TAG program.

GPA of Students Admitted to UC System (Non-Selective Majors)				
	High School (middle 25-75%)	Community College (average)	TAG Program?	TAG GPA
UC Berkeley	4.0 - 4.3	3.77		N/A
UC Davis	4.0 - 4.3	3.48	✓	3.2 - 3.5
UC Irvine	3.9 - 4.3	3.51	✓	3.4
UC Los Angeles	4.2 - 4.3	3.71		N/A
UC Merced	3.4 - 3.9	3.24	✓	2.8 - 3.0
UC Riverside	3.6 - 4.1	3.25	✓	2.7 - 3.0
UC San Diego	4.0 - 4.3	3.64		N/A
UC Santa Barbara	4.0 - 4.3	3.54	✓	3.4
UC Santa Cruz	3.7 - 4.1	3.35	✓	3.0

California State University Upper-Division Transfer Requirements

You will need at least 60 semester or 90 quarter transferable units completed by the time you enter a CSU. To make admission decisions, CSU admissions offices look at 3 factors:

- Your college grades
- The college coursework you have completed, especially in general education
- Whether you are in good standing at the last college or university you attended

COMMUNITY COLLEGE INFORMATION

IVC Information:

- IVC Information Night (TBD)
- IVC Freshman Advantage Program (Deadline: April 16, 2021)
- IVC counselor support
 - Irvine Valley College Counselor, Marcy Maldonado, is available to speak to you via telephone or online chat every **Monday from 9-1 pm** and every **Wednesday from 1-4 pm**. If you have any questions about your Matriculation, Transfer, K-12 Special Admissions, or anything else please send an email to mmaldonado22@ivc.edu. Mrs. Maldonado will then reply to you within 24-business hours to schedule an appointment during one of the times mentioned.
 - **Please include the following in your email:**
 - *Full name:*
 - *IVC Student ID# (if you have one):*
 - *High School:*
 - *Short details of what you need support with:*
- No placement tests! Use transcript for placement ☐ Ask your counselor for a copy

Promise Program

- Free tuition available for 2 years at California Community Colleges
 - Must be CA resident and first time college student
 - Must complete FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application by March 2, 2021
 - Must complete Promise Program application by April 16, 2021