Colleges Still Accepting Applications

Seniors—are you looking for colleges that are still accepting applications? Check out these lists of schools that still have space available for students!


http://www.nacacnet.org/research/research-data/College-Openings/Pages/College-Openings-Results.aspx

SENIORS

If you need to request a final transcript to be sent to the institution you will be attending in the Fall, please complete the following steps:
1. In the Senior Graduation Survey, question #6, check the box next to the college you will be attending. You should also check the box in the column titled “Send Final Transcript.”
2. Finish the Senior Graduation Survey.

OR

Senior Check Out - June 9, 2016
You will receive a form about Senior Check Out procedures. On this form, make sure to add the name of the institution you are attending and check the box signifying you need a final transcript sent. Registrar Nancy Ainsworth will send all final transcripts to the institution you have indicated by the middle of June.

*Once your grades are posted on the IC Parent Portal, please print a copy of your unofficial transcript for your own records.

Free College Admissions & Test Prep Resources

- The College Essay- Help from college applications and essays, creating a college list, student fly-in programs, to picking a major, and financial aid. Click here, here and here.
- Free Webinars- Financial Aid, Essays, Campus Visits and even a Student Panel discussion.
- Free Test Prep- College Board Practice SAT test, Khan Academy, Princeton Review ACT & SAT practice tests
Perry Outreach Program

October 1, 2016 at Shriner’s Hospital for Children, Sacramento

October 8, 2016 at UCSF

The Perry Outreach Program is a free, one-day, hands-on experience for high school and college-aged women who are interested in pursuing careers in medicine and engineering. Students will hear from leaders in these fields and try it for themselves by performing mock orthopaedic surgeries and biomechanics experiments.

Participants should be women in grades 10 and up with an expressed interest in science, medicine and/or engineering.

Application deadline: September 1 (Sacramento) or 8 (UCSF)

http://perryinitiative.org/programs/student-online-application/

What Can You Do With Your Summer?

As the end of the school year draws near, make sure to reserve some relaxation for your summer. While the College & Career Center has lots of ideas to keep you busy, it is vital to have down time- some time to get away from the stress of your school obligations and have some fun!

Here are a few suggestions in the meantime:

- Visit Colleges. For a list of questions, see Appendix A.

- Seek out volunteer, job, and enrichment opportunities in your area. Go to the College & Career website for a list of opportunities. Also browse through this list of summer programs by major.

- Study or travel abroad.

- Juniors- View personal statement prompts (Appendix B).

- Juniors- Start to narrow your college list to 10 colleges & universities. Use the “Finding the Best Fit Colleges” Packet to help with your search (Appendix C). Use College Board’s Big Future “College Search” or Naviance College “Super Match” to help narrow your search. Additionally, make sure to research your prospective colleges well and add these schools to the list of “College I’m Thinking About” on Naviance.

- Best wishes for your final exams and for having a rejuvenating summer!!

Colleges That Change Lives

Loren Pope’s book, Colleges That Change Lives (CTCL), looks at education in terms of a school’s value to the student, not in terms of SAT scores, endowments, and acceptance rates. The result is a book that helps readers rethink what it is that they are investing in when making decisions about college.

The non-profit organization, CTCL, hosts events throughout the summer that include a 30 minute presentation followed by a college fair.

Monday, August 1 7:00pm

Marriott Santa Clara
Santa Clara, CA

Tuesday, August 2 7:00pm

Saint Mary’s College of Ca
Moraga, CA

www.ctcl.org
Article(s) of the Month

Why More Teens Like Malia Obama are Taking a Gap Year

Too Poor to Pay for College, Too Rich for Financial Aid

Ms. Cranmer’s College Corner

University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA

2,600 undergraduates/250 graduates

Fun Facts:
- Average class size: 19 students
- 23 Varsity sports in NCAA Division III
- Ranked in Top 20 for “Most Accessible Professors” and “Best Science Facilities” (Princeton Review)
- 75% students participate in community service
- Approximately 90% students received need-based financial aid & merit scholarships; renewable academic merit scholarships range from $5,000-$20,000.
- Seven Carnegie Foundation Washington Professor of the Year award winners- more than any other college or university.
- Within two hours of two ski areas, two national parks, and multiple wilderness areas.
- Is one of 40 schools in nation included in College that Change Lives
- Leading producer of postgraduate fellows, including Western & Fulbright awards
- High acceptance rates to prestigious medical and law schools

What makes it unique?
- Thoughtful professors
- Lively interdisciplinary vibe
- Friendly classmates
- Beautiful campus setting
Appendix A

Making the Most of Your College Visits

Visiting a college campus is a very important part of the college planning process. While reading and researching online is a great start, it’s difficult to really get the feel for a school until you spend time on the actual campus.

The best time to visit is when the school is in session and students are on campus. Usually visiting on a Monday-Thursday will give you the best idea of what a typical day is like on campus. Most campuses also offer information sessions and tours all year long. Call or visit the web page before your intended visit for specific tour times and meeting places. After taking a campus tour, make sure to leave time to explore the campus on your own.

Below are questions to consider asking during your visit:

**Questions to Ask Current Students:**
- What is the transition like from high school to college?
- Why did you choose this school?
- What has your personal experience been like at this school?
- What do you think makes your school distinctive?
- What do students complain about most?
- What are the most popular sports, clubs, and activities?
- What is it like to live in this town/city?
- What do students like to do on the weekends?
- What is the nature of academic pressure?
- Are the professors approachable?
- Do many students study abroad?
- How are the food options?
- Do you feel safe?
- What is the on-campus/off-campus housing like?
- Other than the library, where do students like to study?
- Does this school have special customs or traditions on campus?
- If you had to select a college from the start, would you make the same choice?

**Questions to Ask Admissions Officers:**
- What makes this school distinctive from other schools of its size and caliber?
- What programs of study are the most popular at and most distinctive to this school?
- If I’m interested in studying ________, what does your school offer in that area?
- What is the make-up of the current freshman class? Is it diverse?
- What percentage of students return sophomore year?
- What are some of the current issues among students?
- Are classes taught by full professors or do you have teaching assistants?
- How do you evaluate applications? Do certain pieces weight more in the admissions decision than others?
- What was your acceptance rate last year?
- Are interviews required during the admission process?
- Will you be the person reading my application?
- What types of financial aid options are available for students?

**Questions to Ask Faculty:**
- What do you like most about teaching at this school?
- What is your teaching style like? Is there a lot of collaborative learning in class?
- What is your typical class size?
- How much interaction and discussion is there in your class?
- What expectations do you have for your students?
- How much interaction do you have with undergraduate students?
- What qualities do you like to see from your students?
- What types of assignments do you give? (Ask for a copy of a recent syllabus.)
- Is there anything you would change about the students/school?
- What issues do you see with your students (i.e., procrastination, poor study habits, cheating, etc.)?

**Making the Most of Your Visits:**
- Plan ahead and make an appointment at the college’s Office of Admissions’ website.
- View the school’s web pages to learn about programs offered.
- Set up a meeting with a professor in your chosen major.
- Plan an overnight stay with a student.
- Look around and really observe the school.
- Visit the cafeteria and try the food.
- Sit in on a class or two.
- Look at bulletin boards to see what activities are happening on campus.
- Read the college’s newspaper.
- Walk through the residence halls.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Drive around the surrounding area.
- Ask yourself: “Could I spend the next four years of my life here?”

Do not schedule more than two visits in a given day. The information will blur. Keep a journal of your observations to discover the distinctive quality that each school possesses.

**Can’t Visit a College?** Tour the colleges online:
campustours.com
youniversitytv.com/colleges
collegeweeklive.com

Sources:
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide
http://collegeapps.about.com/od/choosingacollege/tp/8-Tips-for-a-Campus-Visit.htm
Appendix B

Common Application 2016-2017 Essay Prompts

Choose one of the following to write a maximum of 600 words.

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 failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
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 or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

University of California 2016-2017 *NEW* Freshman Personal Insight Questions

Respond to 4 of the 8 prompts; limited to a maximum of 350 words each.

1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.
2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.
3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.
5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?
6. Describe your favorite academic subject and explain how it has influenced you.
7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
8. What is the one thing that you think sets you apart from other candidates applying to the University of California?
Appendix C

Finding the Best Fit Colleges for You

K. Cranmer, adapted from Dr. Antonoff’s “College Match: A Blueprint for Choosing the Best School For You”
Size

What’s your ideal college size?
   a) Small size- under 3,000 students
   b) Medium size- between 3,000-10,000 students
   c) Large size- between 10,000-20,000 students
   d) Largest size- over 20,000 students

What is your ideal class size?
   a) 15-30 students
   b) 30-50 students
   c) 50-100 students
   d) 100+ students

On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), rate the following statement pairings:

1.) I have a desire for accessible teachers. ______
    I have a low desire for accessible teachers._____

2.) I would likely get better grades in small classes.____
    I would likely get similar grades in small or large classes.____

3.) I like more discussion-oriented classes over lecture-based classes.____
    I like lecture-based classes over discussion-oriented classes.____

4.) I learn best discussing ideas/interacting with the instructor & other students.____
    I learn best by reading/listening/taking notes.____

5.) I prefer a close knit, family like environment._____
    I prefer a place where I can blend in with the crowd.____

K. Cranmer, adapted from Dr. Antonoff’s
“College Match: A Blueprint for Choosing the Best School For You”
Location & Community

1.) Circle the regions in which you would consider attending college.

2.) What attracts you to the regions you circled?

Do you like:

a) A family-centered community
b) A bustling/independent environment
c) A college town

K. Cranmer, adapted from Dr. Antonoff ‘s “College Match: A Blueprint for Choosing the Best School For You”
School Culture Characteristics

1. Circle any quality that describes the types of students with whom you would enjoy going to school.

| Adventurous | Down-to-earth | Outdoorsy |
| Athletic    | Friendly      | Realistic |
| Compassionate | Independent | Sensitive |
| Diverse     | Involved      | Spontaneous |
| Focused     | Moral         | Traditional |
| Idealistic  | Opinionated   | Artsy     |
| Interested in learning for | Practical | Caring |
| learning's sake | Scholarly | Creative |
| Liberal     | Spirited      | Energetic |
| Open        | Tolerant      | Good values |
| Politically active | Ambitious | Interested in cultural activities |
| Risk-taking | Career-oriented | Nonjudgmental |
| Social      | Cosmopolitan  | Patient |
| Tightly-knit | Dress-conscious | Respectful |
| Understanding | Fun | Serious |
| Aggressive  | Innovative    | Supportive |
| Balanced    | Laid back     | Unconventional |
| Conservative | Motivated     |          |

2. If you circled more than 5 qualities, go back and put a check next to the 5 most important ones.

3.) Any other qualities that are important to you that are not listed? If so, what?
**Student Life**

Colleges are unique in many ways. Some of these differences relate to student life. First, check any of the following that are important to you.

- Most students live on-campus
- Food is good
- Lots of spectator sports
- Safe campus
- An environmentally active student body
- Beautiful campus
- Going to athletic games is a big social event
- Leadership opportunities available
- Lots of students participate in intermural sports
- Nice residential halls/living spaces
- Fraternities/Sororities available
- Sense of community exists
- Specialized clubs/programs for women/LGBTQ/multicultural students
- Where I’m recognized for my accomplishments outside of class
- Lots of weekend activities
- Community service/volunteer opportunities
- Food is good
- Very spirited

Second, list *any other* factors that come to mind that will make your college experience a better one.

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K. Cranmer, adapted from Dr. Antonoff’s “College Match: A Blueprint for Choosing the Best School For You”
**Academic Offerings**

On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), rate the following statement pairings:

1.) A liberal arts and sciences college is best._____
   A college that will prepare me for a specific career after four years of college is best._____

2.) I want a broad based education so as to consider several careers._____
   I would like to focus on classes that are relevant to my current career interests._____

What subjects would you like to learn more about?

And/or which subjects will I consider as a major (see list at end of packet for possible majors)?

What careers have you considered?

K. Cranmer, adapted from Dr. Antonoff’s
"College Match: A Blueprint for Choosing the Best School For You"
Summarizing What I’m Looking For

You have considered a number of characteristics important to you in selecting a college. Summarize what you have discovered about the qualities you seek. More specifically, review your responses from the previous pages. Select the 5 most important features of a college and write statements summarizing what you are looking for in a college.

1.)

2.)

3.)

4.)

5.)

K. Cranmer, adapted from Dr. Antonoff’s “College Match: A Blueprint for Choosing the Best School For You”