

Class of 2023

College Planning



Goals for the Evening

To help juniors plan for applying to 4-year colleges:

- Provide a To Do list
- Graduation requirements vs College Admission requirements
- Community College
- How to research colleges
- Your college list
- Factors in admission decisions
- SAT/ACT Testing
- NCAA (athletes)
- FAFSA/Scholarships
- Common Application
- Questions

To Do List

Start researching colleges.

Attend College Rep visits at Rancho.

Maintain grades for college applications as well as to qualify for advanced classes in senior year.

Register to take the SAT/ACT.

Register with NCAA (student athletes).

Visit colleges - in person is best but virtual is an option.

Summer before senior year - finalize college list, start applications and writing essays

Graduation Requirements

Theology	40 credits
English	40 credits
History	30 credits
Mathematics (to include Algebra I, Geometry)	30 credits
Science (to include 1 physical and 1 life)	30 credits
Global Language (2 years of same language)	20 credits
Visual & Performing Arts	10 credits
Electives (to include speech/writing seminar)	30 credits
Physical Education	20 credits

60 community service hours are required for graduation.

College Admission Requirements/Recommendations

Many 4-year colleges list the minimum requirements for admittance. It is important to also keep in mind those courses that are recommended.

- Math - highly recommended at least Algebra 2 and one year beyond (precalculus, statistics, etc.)
- Science - recommended to take a fourth science course
- Global Language - recommended to take a third year
- Taking the core academic courses each year in high school is recommended

Community College Option

What is a Community College?

Community colleges are typically two-year institutions that offer the benefits of low tuition and convenient locations. Students usually choose a community college with one of the following goals in mind:

- To begin earning basic credits that will later transfer to a four-year college
- To pursue a two-year Associate Degree or certificate program to prepare for a specific career
- To take continuing education classes in order to build new job skills, explore a new career or pursue a personal interest

When Should You Consider a Community College?

- Cost is an issue. Tuition at most community colleges is quite a bit cheaper than at their four-year counterparts.
- Your grades do not make the grade. Unlike competitive four-year colleges, community colleges typically have open admission policies which only require a high school diploma. This is a great way to improve your academic track record in order to get accepted to a four-year college.
- You are not quite ready to leave home. Plenty of high school grads are just not ready for the responsibility of living on their own. Community colleges are a good stepping stone, since you can ease into college courses while still living at home.
- You want job-specific training. At a community college, you can usually dive right into a two-year program that will give you specific training for a specialized field or a technical or vocational career.

How to Research Colleges

Finding the right fit for you is important and there are so many choices.

Things to consider: location, size, cost, majors offered, GPA/test score averages.

Suggested websites:

collegesearch.collegeboard.org

niche.com/colleges/search

www.cappex.com

Review websites for

- Average GPA of freshman class
- Average test scores of freshman class
- Majors offered
- Cost of Tuition, housing, food
- 4-year graduation rate
- Size of classes
- Other aspects important to you

Visit Colleges

- Visit when school is in session (when possible).
- Talk to current students - ask specific questions.
- Take the campus tour.
- Explore the campus on your own.
- Be a student for a day (or night).
- Keep a record of every college visit.

College Fairs

Temecula Virtual College Fair - September 25

<https://temeculaca.gov/682/College-Vocational-Invitational>

National College Fairs - virtual September - November

<https://www.nacacfairs.org/>

Christian College Fairs - in person

https://www.naccap.org/page/Fair_Locations

Your College List

Reach: A college whose admissions criteria surpasses the student's current academic profile (GPA & test scores). The most selective colleges and universities are reaches for everyone regardless of how strong an applicant is (2-3 reach schools recommended).

Target: The student's academic profile is aligned with the admissions criteria of the college or university. The student has at least a 50% chance of admission based on their academic profile (2-3 target schools recommended).

Safe: The applicant's academic profile significantly surpasses the college or universities admissions criteria (1-2 safe schools recommended).

* Admissions criteria varies from school to school. Most colleges take a holistic approach in the admissions process.

Factors in Admissions Decisions

- Application
- High School Transcript, including senior year schedule
- College Essay
- Extracurriculars/Activities (Resume optional)
- Teacher Letters of Recommendation (typically 2)
- Counselor Written Evaluation
- Standardized Test Scores
- Institutional Priorities from year to year

Register to take the SAT/ACT

Students must register themselves - choose the test date and test center as well as pay for the test online.

SAT

collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat

Reading/Writing & Language/Math

3 hours

Math covers: Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis

Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator.

Scored on a scale of 400–1600

ACT

www.act.org

English/Math/Reading/Science Reasoning/Essay (Optional)

2 hours, 55 minutes

Math covers: Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Probability & Statistics

You can use a calculator on all math questions.

Scored on a scale of 1–36

SAT/ACT Test Prep

Achieve Test Prep <http://temeculasat.com/>

Sylvan Learning of Temecula

<https://locations.sylvanlearning.com/us/temecula-ca/our-approach/advancement-test-prep>

Lighthouse Tutoring <https://lighthousetutor.com/>

Khan Academy <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/>

Varsity Tutors <https://www.varsitytutors.com/free-sat-act-prep-course>

*The information about providers and services does **not** constitute endorsement or recommendation by Rancho. This list provides services in the area and/or online that families can research further.

Register with NCAA (student athletes)

Students who plan to participate in NCAA sports must register at ncaaclearinghouse.net.

Division I and II - You need to create a Certification Account to make official visits to Divisions I and II schools or to sign a National Letter of Intent.

Division III - Create a free Profile Page if you plan to compete at a Division III school.

FAFSA Scholarships

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

The [FAFSA](#) must be completed (October-March senior year) in order to apply for federal grants, work-study, and loans for college.

Some schools require the FAFSA for merit scholarships (those based on academic merit or other talents or skills).

Helpful videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/FederalStudentAid>

SCHOLARSHIPS

<https://www.scholarships.com/>

<https://www.fastweb.com/>

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/scholarships>

Common Application

- The Common Application can be used to apply to more than one college.
- To find out if your colleges use the CA search here
<https://www.commonapp.org/>
- Must complete the Common App standard information once
- Must add colleges to the application and then complete those college-specific requirements
- Invite Teachers for letters of recommendation
- Invite Counselor for transcript and other Rancho information

*Coalition Application is similar

Questions?

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