



UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

ACHIEVE UC

UC Preparation Calendar

FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

7–8 SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE

Student:

- Use an online inventory such as californiacolleges.edu to explore your career interests.
- Talk to a trusted adult about going to college.
- Make schoolwork, participation and attendance your top priority. Ask for help if you need it.
- Seek out extra classes and enrichment activities.

Parent or Guardian

- Contribute to a college savings plan to begin preparing to pay for colleges.

Together:

- Read, read, read.

9 FALL NINTH GRADE

Student:

- Work with your counselor to review the approved A-G course list (hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcounselist).
- With your counselor, create a four-year schedule that meets high school graduation and college entrance requirements.

Parent or Guardian:

- Establish regular communication with your student's teachers and counselors, so that everyone on your team is up-to-date on college preparation.
- Encourage your student to explore extracurricular activities at school and in the community.
- Check the high school website for events, testing dates, attendance reports and access to your student's grades.
- Find out if your school has educational outreach programs, such as the Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP), Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) or Puente Project.

WINTER NINTH GRADE

Student:

- Talk with your adult support team about your academic strengths and weaknesses. Explore tutoring resources to improve in weak areas.
- Enroll in honors courses in subjects at which you excel.

Parent or Guardian:

- Check in with teachers and counselors to find out how your student is doing academically and socially. (Social challenges can affect academic performance.)

Together:

- Create a folder for college-related materials.
- Follow the University of California on social media. Find links at universityofcalifornia.edu.

SPRING NINTH GRADE

Student:

- Make an early start on your search for summer internships or jobs, giving thought to positions and companies that are aligned with your goals.

Together:

- Begin to explore summer academic enrichment opportunities. Some may require applications as early as March.

SUMMER NINTH GRADE

Student:

- Create a summer reading list, with input from teachers, counselors and the local library.

10 FALL TENTH GRADE

Student:

- Review your four-year academic plan with your adult support team. Make sure you are on track with college course requirements.
- With a counselor, discuss whether or not you will be taking the PSAT, SAT or ACT entrance exams. Many universities (like the UC system) are not requiring or considering scores for these tests in the admissions process. Entrance exams might be required for admission to private universities or colleges.

WINTER TENTH GRADE

Student:

- Consider setting up free online accounts with College Board (collegeboard.org), CaliforniaColleges.edu and/or Khan Academy (khanacademy.org) to help you research colleges and academic subject preparation.
- Set up a separate email account for all college-related correspondence and check it regularly.

SPRING TENTH GRADE

Student:

- Begin early to explore summer jobs and opportunities for academic enrichment and volunteering, being mindful of application deadlines. Ask your counselor about summer courses available to you at local colleges.
- Meet with your counselor to discuss junior year coursework, especially AP and honors courses.

SUMMER TENTH GRADE

Student:

- Confirm your summer plans.
- Create a summer reading list, with recommendations from teachers, counselors and the local library.

Parent or Guardian:

- Meet your student's teachers and counselors.
- Encourage your student to seek help with challenging subjects, enlisting a tutor if necessary.
- Work with your student to find activities, events and performances for the family. Let them take the lead in planning and scheduling.

Together:

- Seek out and attend college nights, financial aid workshops and other events for prospective college applicants.

Parent or Guardian:

- Talk to your student about their progress in school. Identify areas in which they excel, and encourage enrollment in honors and Advanced Placement courses in those subjects.
- Discuss potential career paths with your student. Help identify people you know whose careers are of interest, and arrange meetings with them.

Together:

- Research and discuss colleges and costs.
- Take a tour of a local college or university while school is in session.

Parent or Guardian:

- Meet with your student to discuss the activities listed at left.

Together:

- Explore how UC supports diverse students and communities at diversity.universityofcalifornia.edu.



Students who plan to participate in Division I or II college sports should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center in the summer of junior year.

11 FALL ELEVENTH GRADE

Student:

- If you plan to take the PSAT, sign up in October. (See 10th-grade notes on entrance exams.)
- Make a list of colleges you are considering, noting campus size, location and resources.
- Learn the entrance requirements for the schools on your list.

Parent or Guardian:

- Discuss your student's college-preparation progress with teachers and counselor.
- Students who are not eligible for a Social Security Number may be eligible for state aid through the California Dream Act.

Together:

- Attend college nights and college fairs.
- Take a tour of a local college while classes are in session, to get a feel for the campus.
- Begin researching scholarships at your target colleges.
- Familiarize yourselves with the costs of college: tuition, fees, housing, food, transportation and supplies.

WINTER ELEVENTH GRADE

Student:

- Winter break is a good time to meet with friends (and their parents) who are returning from their first semester at college.

Parent or Guardian:

- If your student plans to apply to a college or university that requires a college entrance exam, ask your student's counselor about fee waivers.

Together:

- If you plan to apply to a college or university that requires a college entrance exam, register for the SAT and/or ACT 6–8 weeks ahead to get the best exam dates and locations.

SPRING ELEVENTH GRADE

Student:

- Review your senior-year schedule with your counselor.
- Research and apply for summer jobs, classes and/or volunteer work.
- Prepare early for the May AP exams.

Parent or Guardian:

- Use online tools such as UC campus financial aid calculators (<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/estimate-your-aid.html>) to estimate financial aid and get the best estimate of net costs. (You and your student can do this together.)

Together:

- Begin actively searching for scholarships.
- Continue college visits while classes are in session.

SUMMER ELEVENTH GRADE

Student:

- Create a summer reading list, with recommendations from teachers, counselors and the local library.
- Review the Personal Insight Questions and create your first draft of responses. Learn more on the UC Admissions website (admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-freshman/personal-insight-questions).

Parent or Guardian:

- If planning a summer vacation, include a college tour.

Together:

- Continue to refine your list of target schools, noting their various admission requirements. Consider freshman and transfer pathways.
- Mark your calendars with important deadlines for applications and financial aid.
- If you plan to apply for admission to a college or university that requires an entrance exam, register for fall ACT, SAT and/or SAT Subject Tests. Early registration will ensure availability of the best locations and dates for you.

12 FALL TWELFTH GRADE

Student:

- Identify three or four people whose judgment you trust to review your application materials. Do this early, so they have time to give you helpful feedback with enough time for you to make use of it.
- Ask for letters of recommendation for colleges that require them at least three weeks before they are due. Provide your sources with your résumé, transcript and any other information about your activities, accomplishments and future goals.
- Make sure your guidance counselor sends your transcripts to colleges that require them.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (fafsa.gov) or California Dream Act Application (dream.csac.ca.gov) for financial aid consideration.

WINTER TWELFTH GRADE

Student:

- If you have college friends, meet with them over winter break and gather their suggestions on preparing for the first semester of college.

Parent or Guardian:

- Review all the steps at left with your student to make sure they are completed on time.
- If your student is of undocumented status and planning to apply for financial aid through the California Dream Act, apply for a Parent PIN at dream.csac.ca.gov.

Together:

- Go over all the admission requirements and deadlines.
- Review details with counselor.
- Apply for any college application fee waivers directly through each college. If you've received an SAT fee waiver, you may be eligible for an application fee waiver.
- If you are eligible for a fee waiver, use it to apply for free to up to four UC campuses.
- Attend a college fair or college open house.
- Create your application account in ApplyUC (admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply-now) beginning August 1.
- Apply to UC campuses between October 1 and November 30.
- Parent and student will each create Federal Student Aid IDs (FSA ID) at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch> to apply for financial aid online.
- For undocumented-status parents of students who are U.S. citizens, you will need to send the provided signature page to the Department of Education, instead of creating an FSA ID, to complete the application process. The signature page will indicate where to send it.

Together:

- Take note of scholarship applications due in December.
- Attend a financial aid night at your student's school and/or a community event such as Cash For College (cash4college.csac.ca.gov) for help with filling out the FAFSA and California Dream Act Application.
- Submit the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application no later than March 2.
- Student or school must submit a verified Cal Grant GPA form (www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/g4_gpa_form.pdf) by March 2.
- You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) electronically or via mail (if you didn't provide an email) within three weeks after you've completed the FAFSA. Verify the information, update (if necessary) and return it. If you don't receive it, call 800-433-3243.

SPRING TWELFTH GRADE

Student:

- If you plan to attend community college in the fall, apply now and create a UC Transfer Admission Planner account (uctap.universityofcalifornia.edu).
- Look for a summer job, internship or volunteer opportunity.
- Continue to maintain good grades and attendance. Colleges have been known to rescind offers of admission when students don't maintain good grades in their final high school term.
- Look for admissions decisions (and financial aid awards) to arrive in February/March.
- Prepare for the AP exams, held in the first two weeks of May. If your scores qualify, you can earn course credit at many colleges. Send your scores to the college you will attend in the fall.
- If you have been wait-listed, contact the admissions office and express your continued interest in the school.
- Find out about test dates for any placement exams your college might require.

SUMMER TWELFTH GRADE

Student:

- Confirm that your final transcripts have been sent to the college you will attend in the fall.

Parent or Guardian:

- Review all the steps at left with your student to make sure they are completed on time.
- Compare financial aid award letters. Contact financial aid officers if you have questions. If you have not received enough aid, ask if other options are available.
- Make arrangements for you and your student to attend open house or preview day events.

Together:

- Review all acceptance and financial aid letters. Notify all colleges of acceptance or rejection of admission or financial aid offers by May.
- If you have not received financial aid award information from a college within a month of receiving an acceptance letter, contact the college's financial aid office immediately.
- Submit the Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) for the chosen college by the established deadline. Determine if a deposit is required.
- Inquire about summer preparatory programs at the college the student will attend. Some programs offer for-credit courses and can provide a successful start to college.

Together:

- Make preparations for the following school year.

For complete information about getting started at UC, use this link: achieve.universityofcalifornia.edu