



COLLEGE & CAREER INFORMATION

COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORATION

- **NAVIANCE** <http://connection.naviance.com/santamonica>
Career-interest search, college match search, scholarship search, college visit and workshop sign-ups, document requests and submissions.
- **SAMOHI WEBSITE** <http://www.samohi.smmusd.org>
Visit the college center section of our website for information college admissions test, our newsletter, summer programs, sample four-year course plans, and most importantly, the brag sheet (for letters of recommendation).
- **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC)** <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu>
This site has an abundance of information about the UC campuses and admissions information. There is a useful tool to check your eligibility for the university. The online application to the university can be found here.
- **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU)** <http://www.csumentor.edu>
This website allows you to explore campuses, has tools to use to plan for college, and you can apply online to the university here. It also has a financial aid section.
- **PRIVATE COLLEGES in CALIFORNIA** www.aiccu.edu
This website has information on all independent colleges in California. There are tools available to help search colleges, admissions requirements, and college comparisons.
- **SANTA MONICA COLLEGE (SMC)** www.smc.edu
This website allows you to explore the admissions process, campus resources, student services, and programs of study.
- **CALIFORNIA CAREER ZONE** - www.cacareerzone.org
California Career Zone is a new way to explore exciting jobs and occupations that California has to offer and to learn about what career path interests you. Also, check out the California Reality Check to find out how much money you will need to pay for all of your needs
- **WHO DO YOU WANT TO BE** – www.whodouwant2b.com/student/pathways
Not sure which career is right for you? This website will give you a quick and easy quiz where you will learn which careers match well with your personality and interests. It's meant to be fun and give you something to think about.
- **ROAD TRIP NATION** – www.roadtripnation.com
The purpose of this website is to seek stories of individuals who have chosen to live life based on what they are passionate about. From their stories, you will be inspired to define your own road in life by following your true inspiration. Talk to people who have made lives and careers out of doing what they love
- **CALIFORNIA CAREERS INFO** – www.californiacareers.info
California Careers Info is the web home of the California Career Resource Network. This website contains resources for students, counselors, parents, teachers, job and career seekers and anyone interested in developing the skills necessary in today's world of work.
- **MILITARY INFORMATION** – www.defense.gov
Find the most up-to-date information on military options, steps to enlist, and follow-up.



COLLEGE SEARCH/EXPLORATION

- California Colleges: www.californiacolleges.edu
This website is a helpful resource with many tools to assist in your research of colleges within California only. Also has information on financial aid and career options.
- College Admissions Information knowhow2go.acenet.edu
This website is an interactive and user-friendly website on how to best prepare for the college admissions process. Focus is on "Real Advice from Real Students". This website allows students to learn directly from other students their age about college information. Some information available in Spanish.
- College Board College Search <http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
Search for public and private colleges nationwide on this site by selecting preferences for size, location, and other qualities. It also gives you an option to look for schools with certain majors.
- Career Technical Schools www.collegesurfing.com/ce/search
Search for programs by career interest. Good website for students who are looking for an alternative to a four-year college or community college and looking more for a trade to learn. Searches are done by zip code and area of interest.
- College Week Live: www.collegeweeklive.com
This website allows students to sign up for virtual college fairs, virtual chat rooms with specific colleges and universities, as well as college testing and admissions information. College Week Live makes it possible to talk to admissions counselors without having to visit the campus.

COLLEGE STUDENT ATHLETES

- National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) <http://www.ncaa.org>
This is the official site for the NCAA that is geared towards students. It has info about the association (including the different divisions) and a downloadable guide for the college bound student athlete.
- NCAA Eligibility Center website: www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Be Recruited <http://colleges.berecruited.com>
The purpose of this website is to connect high school athletes and college coaches. It allows you to create a profile of yourself for college coaches to look at, research athletic scholarships, and complete a college search.

FINANCIAL AID

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>
Every student who will need financial aid (loans, grants, work study, scholarship), must complete the FAFSA. This website has worksheets you can use to prepare for the application. Completing the application online at this site is the preferred format of submission.
- California Student Aid Commission (Cal Grants) <http://www.csac.ca.gov>
This is the site for Cal Grants (free money given by the state to students who fulfill certain eligibility requirements) and other grant programs in California. There is a comprehensive FAQ section, and you can also check the status of your grant application.
- California Dream Act: dream.csac.ca.gov
Undocumented students may submit Dream Act applications on this website. If the student is approved, the Dream Act will allow them to be eligible for financial aid, including state funded financial aid and non-state funded scholarships for public colleges and universities



- FASTWEB Scholarship Search <http://www.fastweb.com>
This is one of the more popular websites that students use to search for scholarships. It's a free service and it's user-friendly. You complete a survey about your background and interests, and it gives you results of scholarships you may be eligible for. Results include links to the scholarship website and many of them can be submitted online. Log in regularly to see new results.
- Scholarship Search Engine www.scholarships.com
This website is a national scholarship search engine. Create a profile and receive information on scholarships that match your interests and academic profile. For all grades.
- AB540/Undocumented Students www.ab540.com
This website is new used for students and their families who are undocumented. Find updated information about Assembly Bill 540, your rights, and tools to help you fundraise for your college costs. Information also available in Spanish.

VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE INFO

- Santa Monica Public Library Teens — <http://smpl.org/Volunteer.aspx>
This website is from the Santa Monica Public Library and directed for teens in the community. There is information on current events, community service, job opportunities and resources.
- City of Santa Monica Volunteer Program Directory –
www.smgov.net/Department/ccs/content.aspx?id=33725
Download a directory of volunteer options within the community.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST INFO

- College Board <http://www.collegeboard.com>
This is the official site for the SAT tests. You can look at dates and deadlines, register for the tests, and there is a preparation section with practice questions and tests.
- ACT <http://www.actstudent.org>
This is the site for the ACT. You can look at dates and deadlines, register for the tests, and there is a preparation section with practice questions and tests. There is also a downloadable PDF prep booklet.

One or more of the following tests are required for college admissions:

- ACT with writing OR SAT Test
- SAT Subject Exams are required for some schools. See individual admissions requirements from specific universities to find out.

Taking Both Tests

We recommend taking a MOCK version of the SAT and ACT to better gauge which test is best for you. You can get more information on Mock Exams through www.revolutionprep.com. While we emphasize the differences between the two tests, studying for both tests is always key. Both the ACT and the SAT ultimately test your ability to think, and both cover the basics of a high school education.



SAT SUBJECT EXAMS

Subject Exams are not required for all colleges so please check admissions requirements for each school you are thinking of applying to. Information can be found at www.collegeboard.com.

Notes about the Subject Tests

- Students may take up to three SAT Subject Tests on a single test date.
- Students cannot take the SAT Subject Tests and the SAT Reasoning Test during the same test administration.
- Students must indicate which Subject Tests they plan to take when they register for a test. However, they may change which tests they take up to the test date—except for Language Tests with Listening. This applies to center testing only (not school-based testing, which involves specialized materials that may not be available).
- Calculators may only be used on the Mathematics Level 1 and Level 2 Subject Tests. Students may not use calculators for other Subject Tests and must put them away when not taking a mathematics test.
- The Language Tests with Listening are always given in the first hour of testing. Only one listening test can be taken per test date.

FEE WAIVERS

- Request for Fee Waivers for ACT/SAT/Subject exams tests in the College Center based on Free & Reduced Lunch Applications
- Students taking AP Exams also qualify for financial aid when sign-ups begin in the Spring

CALENDAR



FRESHMAN ACTION PLAN

Fall

- Start a calendar with important dates and deadlines.
- Get involved with extracurricular activities.
- Go to college fair

Winter

- Learn about Colleges
- Talk to your family about college financing.
- Visit colleges while they're in session.
- Find out about college firsthand from friends who are home for the holidays.
- Prepare for Tests

Spring

- Navigate Naviance
- Stay Focused
- Sign up for college preparatory courses for next year.
- Look for a great summer opportunity — job, internship or volunteer position.
- Check with your counselor and search online for summer learning programs.
- Meet with your counselor to discuss your college plans. Review your schedule to make sure you're enrolled in challenging classes that will help you prepare for college. Colleges prefer four years of English, as well as history, math, science and a foreign language.



SOPHMORE ACTION PLAN

Fall

- Plan for the Year Ahead
- Review your schedule to make sure you're enrolled in challenging classes that will help you prepare for college.
- Complete a college search to find out the required courses and tests for colleges that you might be interested in attending.
- Start a calendar with important dates and deadlines.
- Get involved with extracurricular activities.
- Go to college fairs in your area.
- Take the PSAT in October. Get free online PSAT/NMSQT practice. Potential indicator for HP/AP courses
- If you're taking the PSAT/NMSQT, sign up for Student Search Service® to learn about colleges and scholarships.
- If you are signed up for a AP courses this year, you should sign up for the SAT Subject Tests for the same subject in the spring

Winter

- Prepare for Tests
- Use the access code on your PSAT/NMSQT score report to sign in to My College QuickStart™ at www.collegeboard.com. With this personalized planning kit, you can prepare for the SAT using a study plan based on your PSAT/NMSQT results and explore lists of suggested colleges, majors and careers.
- Talk to your counselor and teachers about taking SAT Subject Tests™ in your strong subjects this spring, if applicable.
- Learn about Colleges
- Learn about college costs and how financial aid works.
- Find out about college firsthand from friends who are home for the holidays.

Spring

- Naviance: Career Search
- Stay Focused
- Meet with your Advisor to create your schedule for next year and to discuss your college plans.
- Sign up for college preparatory courses for next year.
- Look for a great summer opportunity — job, internship or volunteer position.
- Check with your counselor and search online for summer learning programs.

Summer

- Make the Most of Your Break
- Start a summer reading list. Ask your teachers to recommend books.
- Plan to visit college campuses to get a feel for your options. Start with colleges near you.
- Finalize your summer plans.



JUNIOR YEAR ACTION PLAN

Fall

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT® in October
- Take a MOCK SAT or ACT Exam
- Naviance: Start college search
- Start with you: Make lists of your abilities, preferences and personal qualities.
- List things you may want to study and do in college.
- Jump-start your college planning by reading about majors and careers.
- Begin thinking about Financial Aid
- Talk to your counselor about your college plans.
- Attend college night and financial aid night at your school.
- Use financial aid calculators to estimate your aid eligibility and college costs.

Winter

- Get Ready for the SAT, ACT and/or Subject Exams
- Use the access code on your PSAT/NMSQT score report to sign in to My College QuickStart™. With this personalized planning kit, you can prepare for the SAT using a study plan based on your PSAT/NMSQT results and explore lists of suggested colleges, majors and careers.
- Take a MOCK SAT or ACT Exam.

Spring

- Explore Colleges
- Start visiting local colleges: large, small, public and private.
- Develop an initial list of 15-20 colleges that interest you.
- Sign up and prepare for AP® Exams.
- Plan Ahead for the Summer & Senior Year and challenge yourself with honors and AP classes
- Select your classes for senior year with your Advisor.
- Plan summer activities early. Enrich yourself by volunteering, getting an interesting job or internship, or signing up for special summer learning programs.
- Make an appointment to meet with your College Counselor:
<http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/CollegeCenter/information.html>
- Take SAT and/or ACT exam and SAT Subject Tests (if required by school or program).

Summer

- Keep Up Your Momentum
- Visit colleges. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, schedule interviews with admission officers. Be sure to bring your campus visit checklist.
- Check important dates; some colleges have early dates or rolling admission.
- Think about essay topics and start writing.
- Start working on your Brag Sheet



SENIOR ACTION PLAN

Fall

- Naviance: Scholarship search
- Narrow your list of colleges to approximately 9-12 colleges, and review it with your counselor.
- Visit as many colleges on your list as possible to help narrow.
- Make a master calendar and note: Test dates, fees and deadlines, college application due dates, required financial aid applications and their deadlines, recommendations, transcripts and other necessary materials, your high school's deadlines for application requests, such as your transcript
- Ask for recommendations. Give each person your brag sheet and any required forms. Follow up with a thank you card.
- Write application essays and ask teachers, family members and friends to read for final revision.
- Decide Whether to Apply Early Action or Early Decision
- November 1: For early admission, colleges may require test scores and applications in early November. Send your SAT® scores.
- Ask if your college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility.
- Get Financial Aid Info
- Attend financial aid info events in your area.
- Talk to your college counselor about CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® and learn about completing the PROFILE.
- Search for scholarships, review scholarship books, and ask your college counselor about local and state funding sources.
- Complete all your testing requirements, if necessary.

Winter

- Review Application Details
- Most regular applications are due between January 1 and February 15. Keep copies of everything you send to colleges.
- Have your high school send your transcript to colleges.
- Check college portal to make sure they've received all application materials.
- Attend Cash for College
- Apply for Financial Aid
- You and your family should save this year's pay stubs to estimate income on aid forms that you'll file early next year.
- Submit your FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible. Men who are 18 years of age or older must register with Selective Service to receive federal financial aid.
- Many priority financial aid deadlines fall in February. To get the most attractive award package, apply by the priority date. Keep copies of everything you send.

Spring

- Review Acceptance Letters
- You should get acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April.
- Use Compare Your Aid Awards to compare awards from different colleges. Talk to financial aid officers at your college if you have questions about the award offered.
- If you haven't already, visit your final college before accepting.
- Make Your Final Choice by May 1
- Notify every college of your acceptance or rejection of offers of admission or financial aid by May 1. Send a deposit to the college you choose.