

Malibu High School
College Counseling Handbook
Class of 2022



Malibu High School

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College Counseling Handbook

Class of 2022

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Dear Class of 2022,

I am proud of you.

Welcome to senior year, the last year of your high school career. You've made it despite a pandemic, through wild fires, and into what seems to be an unknown path in the next few years. As your college counselor, I believe that every one of you will find a spot in the world, and if that spot happens to be on a college campus, I want to be able to help you find your best fit college. I want you to not only graduate from Malibu High, but to persist in life, be good humans, and be the best version of yourselves.

The road ahead as you prepare and apply to college can be stressful, time consuming, and at times, just confusing. I hope that you will take this handbook and read through it carefully, as it will outline some key factors and highlight information you will need as you navigate through the college application process. You have, of course, the support of your team here at Malibu High School. Your counselors, Mrs. Dahm, Mrs. Samsel, and myself will guide you through this process. Your principal, Mr. Miller and assistant principal, Dr. Almeida, and teachers are all here to cheer you on as well. If you need any help, reach out to us. We are here *for* you and *with* you, and are excited to see all the great things you will accomplish this year and into college.

The college application process is a personal journey. Start the process early and trust your gut with what feels right for you.

Let's go Sharks!

Mrs. Linh Snyder
College & Career Counselor

Table of Contents

Events & Workshops.....6

Testing Date and Registration.....7

Timeline for the Class of 2022.....8

Where to Begin.....12

Know thyself.....13

Know the colleges.....14

College Visits/Tours.....14

Building a list: Likely, Target, Reach.....15

Transcript, Rankings, and GPA.....16

Naviance.....16

How to log in.....16

Colleges I am applying to.....17

About Me: Brag Sheet and Resume.....17

Requesting Letters of Recommendation.....17

Sign FERPA and Match to Common App.....19

Check List.....19

The Application Process.....19

Applying Early vs. Regular.....19

CSU.....20

UC.....20

Common App.....21

Other applications (Directly to colleges, UCAS, Coalition) 21

Community College..... 21

Fee Waivers..... 21

Documents.....	23
Transcript.....	23
Letters of Recommendations.....	23
High School Profile.....	23
Secondary School Report.....	23
Mid-Year Report.....	23
Testing (SAT/ACT, AP's)	23
Other factors.....	24
Interviews.....	24
NCAA.....	24
Portfolios	24
Financial Aid.....	24
Scholarships.....	25
Resources.....	26

Events & Workshops: Fall 2021

August 25: Senior College Application Kick off Night @ 5:00 PM Virtually

September 1: College Workshop during support period. Applying Early Action & Decision.

September 15: College Workshop during support period. Applying to the UCs.

September 29: Coffee with the Counselors (Parent event)

September 29: College Workshop during support period. The State of College Admissions.

October 1: Brag sheet is due for all students applying to a 4-year college/university

October 1: FAFSA application is open

October 6: College Workshop during support period. Applying to the Common Application.

October 13: Senior College Activity: All Day

October 20: Coffee with the Counselors (Parent event)

October 27: College Workshop during support period. Applying to the CSUs.

November 1: EARLY Action and Decision application due

November 3: College Workshop during support period. Financial Aid & Scholarships.

November 17: Coffee with the Counselors (Parent event)

November 30: UC & CSU applications due

December 8: Lunch with your counselors. Let us know if you've been admitted early!

One-on-one appointments with Mrs. Snyder by appointment

SAT & ACT Testing Dates and Registration

Malibu High School CEEB code for testing is 051-896.
Malibu High School is not a testing center for Fall testing.

SAT Test Dates:

October 2	Students must register by September 3.
November 6	Students must register by October 8.
December 4	Students must register by November 4.

More information and registration for the SAT is at: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>

ACT Test Dates:

October 23	Students must register by September 17.
December 11	Students must register by November 5.

More information and registration for the SAT is at: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en.html>

Keep in mind that Malibu High School is not responsible for sending any test scores, SAT or ACT, to colleges. If you are sending scores to any colleges, you must send them directly from either the CollegeBoard, if you are sending your SAT, or through the ACT.

Timeline for the Class of 2022

August-September

- Make your one-on-one appointment to discuss your college choices with Mrs. Snyder.
- Check the College & Career website and Naviance for upcoming college events/workshops.
- Attend Senior College Application Kick Off Night on **August 25, virtually**.
- Finalize your “Colleges I’m applying to” list in Naviance.
- Start the applications online. Common Application opens in August.
- Start your UC application online. It is available in August, however, you cannot submit until November.
- Make a list of the colleges that require a letter of recommendation and other school forms.
- Contact each teacher that you want a letter of recommendation from. Add that request in Naviance.
- Review your **unofficial** transcript. Are all grades correct? Are all courses/grades recorded?
- Begin writing your college essays or continue to edit your essays.
- Request test scores to be sent directly from the testing agency to the colleges or universities you are applying, if needed. (For SAT: www.collegeboard.com and ACT: www.actstudent.org).
- Continue to check your email and google classroom for updates from Mrs. Snyder.
- Research/request admission or alumni interviews for private colleges who offer them.
- Attend college workshops.

October

- Brag Sheet needs to be completed and submitted in Naviance by **October 1** for ALL students.
- Complete all ED, EA, REA applications and submit by, or prior to, November 1.
- Start your CSU application online, available on October 1.
- Continue to revise, update and work on UC applications online; cannot submit until November.
- Complete all requests for letters of recommendation for Regular Decision applications.
- Register for CSS Profile (financial aid form for private schools) on www.collegeboard.com, for schools that require it.

- Complete and submit your FAFSA after October 1, but no later than March 2 (check with individual colleges).
- Attend college workshops.
- See Mrs. Snyder for your one-on-one appointment.

November

- Early Action and Early Decision application due **November 1**.
- Submit CSU and UC applications by **November 30**. Do it earlier!
- Check with colleges by calling, emailing, or on their website, to make sure that your application has been completed and all required documents were received.
- If you have submitted your application, some colleges may send you a student application portal log in. Make sure to create one and keep checking your portal. IF you are missing anything, colleges will let you know on the portal or via email.

December

- Complete ALL other college applications.
- If you got admitted as Early Decision, notify other colleges and withdraw all other applications in progress.
- Write a thank you note to your teachers and counselor who wrote you a recommendation letter.
- Don't forget to send your official SAT or ACT scores to the colleges and universities!!! Request for your test scores to be sent directly from the testing agency to the colleges or universities you are applying (For SAT: www.collegeboard.com and ACT: www.actstudent.org), if needed.
- Study for your finals and do well! Your Senior year grades **DO** matter.

January

- Make sure all admission decision status has been updated. This is important for Mrs. Snyder to submit midyear grades.
- Notify all colleges in writing if you have a change in your Senior year schedule of classes.
- Check with colleges by calling, emailing, or on their website, to make sure that your application has been completed and all required documents were received.

- Respond to all requests for additional information from your colleges.
- Research scholarship opportunities.

February

- Complete all financial aid forms (FAFSA and CSS profile).
- Continue your scholarship search.
- Fill out the Malibu High School specific scholarship application.

March

- FAFSA due March 2 (for most schools).
- Carefully review the Student Aid Report (SAR) and make revisions as necessary.
- Check your e-mail regularly for college notifications and admission decisions.
- Visit schools that you are admitted to and are considering attending.
- Stay in touch with the financial aid offices to better understand their financial aid packages.
- Let the Mrs. Snyder know of your admission decisions and update your Naviance account with decisions.
- Continue your scholarship search.
- MHS Scholarship Application due.

April

- Visit schools that you are admitted to and considering attending.
- Make your decision on which school you will attend.
- If you are waitlisted, write to the school and follow their instructions.

May

- Notify your **ONE** school of choice by **May 1** and pay the enrollment deposit fee.
- Submit housing forms as early as possible to ensure your choice of residence hall and pay the deposit.
- Take AP exams and study for finals.

- Continue attending classes and doing well; you **must** maintain your academic profile. College acceptances can be rescinded!
- Complete the Graduation Survey and take your College Pennant picture!

June

- Request for your final high school transcript to be sent to the school you will attend.
- Student athletes must request a final transcript to be sent to the college as well as the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- If you have taken classes at a college or community college, request that these transcripts be sent to your college in order to receive credit for the classes.
- Request, through College Board, that AP scores be sent to the college you will attend so you can receive college credit.
- Attend Freshman Orientation, take appropriate placement exams and register for Fall classes.
- Make sure to thank everyone who helped you this year. Send thank you notes to your scholarship donors.
- Have a great summer and look forward to the amazing adventure that awaits you!

Where to Begin

Welcome to the world of College Admissions. While a lot has changed since most parents applied to college, the college admissions process has seen the most changes in the last year and a half. With more than 3,000 colleges and universities in the US, the rise in tuition, increase in selectivity at highly sought out colleges, institutions going test optional, and the many social and media outlets of information, the college application process can be stressful and time consuming for both students and parents.

It is my hope, that students and parents find comfort in knowing that the Malibu High School counseling team is working with you, as students and parents, throughout this process. This handbook will provide a general overview of the application process and I hope it will also relieve some stress and anxiety, making the process a little easier to understand. Let's start with having a good framework on how to approach the college application process.

For Students

Take control, you are now in the driver's seat. This college application process, while you will have support of your parents, teachers, counselors, and others, is ultimately yours. You will be the one attending college, so make a decision that is right for you.

Do your research. There are many colleges out there that you may not have heard of. If you are interested in a college, research it. Look at facts, numbers, student life, majors/programs, things that are important to you. Then, make an informed decision. In doing your research, you might want to tour colleges and talk to the admissions rep who covers Malibu High School.

Understand this is an individual process. Every student's application will look different, even if you have friends applying to the same college from Malibu High School. Your application will be different, your GPA and test scores may be different, your extracurricular activities and outside involvement may be different, the specific programs and majors you are applying to may be different. Point is: Your process will be different from your peers. Do not compare your process to another student.

Keep your support team informed. Your counselors, Mrs. Dahm, Mrs. Samsel, and Mrs. Snyder will be your college application team and experts during the application process. If you don't understand or need clarification, please stop by or reach out to us. We are happy to help. Don't forget that your parents are part of your support team. Keep them informed with where you are at in the process and if you need anything from them.

Meet with Mrs. Snyder. Make a plan to meet with Mrs. Snyder one-on-one early to go over your options and what is the best approach and fit for you.

Let go of things you can't control. You've worked hard to get to where you are. You will put your best foot forward when you submit your application, and then, it is in the hands of the admissions office. They also have institutional priorities that might dictate who they can admit and that is not in your control, including athletic recruitment, enrollment capacity, major/program capacity, legacy and donor affiliations. If they deny you, they are denying your application, not you as an individual.

Manage your time. The application process can feel stressful and time consuming. Start early if you can: start your application online, work on your personal essays, know your deadlines. Doing this early will help you manage your time more efficiently, because remember, you also have your senior year coursework to complete, on top of other things, so start early!

For Parents

Breathe, and let your senior take control of the process. Find a comfortable spot between applying for your senior and ‘all hands off deck.’ I know, it is easier said than done, but trust that your senior will feel much more comfortable with their decisions if they are able to take the lead in this very important step for their future. Remember that colleges will want to hear from students and not their parents in the application process.

Be realistic about the colleges they are looking at: academically and financially. Don’t force your senior to apply to colleges that are not a good fit for them or colleges that they are not likely to be admitted. Have the conversation with your senior early about what your financial expectations will look like.

Support your senior and celebrate small victories. In addition to the Malibu High School Brag Sheet which parents can fill out for counselors and teachers to use as a resource when writing a letter of recommendation, help your senior identify what they want in their college experience, based on their needs and values. This process can be stressful, so celebrate when your senior completes an application, submits their portfolio, or receive their admissions decision. Little celebrations matter!

Know Thyself

When starting the college process, a good starting point to guide you on the journey might be doing some self-assessment or self-discovery. In doing this, you’re going to ask yourself some questions that will help you identify your needs, values, priorities, and wants in a college. When I talk about finding a “good fit,” I often refer to three criteria: Academic Fit, Social Fit, and Financial Fit.

Academic Fit takes a look at the academics offered at each college. Does this college have the program or major I am interested in studying? How rigorous is the coursework here? What is the required coursework outside my major? Are there research opportunities? Are there career/major-prep tracks, such as medical or law?

Social or Environmental Fit takes a look at factors like: How big is the student population? Is this college private or public? Where is this college located? How’s the weather in this part of the country? Does the college have a religious affiliation? Are there sports on campus? What are some on and off campus events? What is the housing situation? Are there fraternities or sororities on campus?

Financial Fit is pretty straight forward. Can you and your family afford this college? When we talk about affordability, we are looking at your total COA (Cost of Attendance) and not just tuition, room & board, because there are other fees and cost to consider. A good tool is the

college Financial Aid Net Calculator, found on each college's financial aid website. You can use this to estimate to gauge what expenses may look like. You'll get a financial aid award letter from each institution you have applied to that will break down your cost and financial responsibilities. Review this carefully before fully committing to a college.

Know the colleges

Researching colleges takes a lot of time and energy. So, the earlier you can start this process, the more time you will have to make an informed decision. Besides understanding your FIT (academic, social, financial), here are some things to consider when researching colleges, such as:

Go beyond the numbers. College admission offices have data and statistics to share about their institution, but remember to look beyond those numbers and trust your gut feeling about a college you are interested in. Just because a college is admitting less than 10% of their students doesn't mean the college is out of your league, or if a college is a top college for a specific major, it does not mean it is a good match for you.

Identify college criteria. Make a list of your college wants and research colleges based on that list, initially. Search for colleges based on major, size, location, sport involvement, career opportunities. Then visit colleges, ask questions, and narrow down your list.

College Visits/Tours. Visiting and touring colleges may help students, and parents, understand the environment, small details, get student's perspective, and really dive into what type of student would be a good fit on campus. Here are my tips/recommendations for touring and visiting colleges:

Reasons to tour a college

- Because it's free and you can!
- To see if you can picture yourself as a student on that campus.
- To understand the campus environment and community, on and off campus.
- What you have read/heard/known about a college may be different when you actually visit.
- Help guide you in a certain direction in your college search: what you like and don't like.
- Help you with the application and decision making process.
- Shows "demonstrated interest" with some admissions offices.
- Help with the "why us" essay component.
- To hear firsthand from students, staff, faculty.

Questions to ask on a tour

- What is campus life like, both on and off campus? What events, activities, traditions, clubs, frats are offered?
- How many students attend? What is the average class size?

- What are popular majors and programs that are known to the college? Are there impacted majors and/or highlighted grad programs?
- How is living on campus? How many students live on campus?
- Why did you (student giving the tour) decide to attend the college?
- What support programs are available for students? Orientation, career services?
- How's the food?
- Cost of attending? Financial aid and scholarships?
- What is required for admission?

Other things to keep in mind

- The time you choose to tour is important. Avoid touring when the campus is on break (winter break, spring break, summer). You won't get a TRUE feeling of the campus environment if you tour while the students are not there but if that is your only option, go for it.
- Do some research before you tour so you are not going in not knowing anything about the campus.
- Some campuses will allow students to sit in a classroom, meet with an admissions/financial counselor if prior arrangements are made.
- Registering for campus tours are usually done online through the office of undergraduate admission.
- Charge your phone and take pictures on your tour. You'll want to revisit them later to help jog your memory.
- Use your 5 senses:
 - What do you SEE? The environment, buildings, landscape, culture, people on campus.
 - What do you HEAR? What kind of conversations are students/faculty having? (Gives you a sense of what is important and what they are learning.)
 - What do you SMELL? Campus surrounded by nature/trees/flowers? Coffee carts?
 - What can you TOUCH/FEEL? Snow? Rain? Aquarium on campus?
 - What can you TASTE? How's the food on campus? Campus café vs. popular dining restaurants.

Building a list: Likely, Target, Reach

Most of our students at Malibu will apply to about 10 colleges. When building your college list, consider your academic profile (GPA, rigor of coursework, SAT/ACT, if that applies) and the academic profile of the colleges (average admitted GPA from our high school & SAT/ACT scores if that applies). Students applying Early Decision will only apply to ONE school. Students applying Early Action or regular should aim to apply to a few schools, but please do not apply to 30 colleges. I've seen a student do this, "just to see if I would get in." Remember, applying to colleges is an investment and will cost money. Applications can range upwards of \$100 each or more if you are sending test scores. Be mindful of the colleges you add to your list.

Likely: These are colleges where your application for admission is very strong and the probability of your admission is 75% or better. If your grades are well above the average student profile for that college, if your scores are significantly above the middle 50% range, and if, when looking at the history of Malibu High School applicants, you fall within these ranges, that college is in the likely category for you.

Target: Based on the history of students applying to these colleges and your academic profile, you are in the running but your admissions can go either way: accept or deny.

Reach: Any college with less than a 10% admit rate is a reach for students, even if a student has a competitive GPA, test score, and a list of extra-curricular activities.

Transcript, ranking, and GPA

Every student will receive a copy of their transcript. Students and parents, please make sure you review your transcript. If you find there is an error, please let your counselor know ASAP. If the error is a grade change, you will need to *first* speak to your teacher in that class regarding your grade. If you took coursework outside of Malibu High School, like Santa Monica College, you will need to send that official transcript to your counselor ASAP, so that your Malibu High School transcript can be updated to reflect your added coursework. There are no fees to send transcripts to colleges from Malibu High School. Yay!

For Malibu High School, we do not rank students and GPA are on a 4.0, unweighted scale. For college applications, you will select the 4.0 scale or unweighted GPA option. We do not calculate weighted GPA. Each college reviews transcripts and GPAs differently and some might even recalculate GPA based on their own matrix. Don't worry about sending a weighted GPA, as the college will review your transcript based on the Malibu High School 4.0 unweighted GPA scale.

Naviance

Naviance is the college and career platform Malibu High School uses in order to help students apply to college. As a senior, you should be familiar with Naviance. Since we are using Naviance to help you with your application process, there are some things you will need to do before your application is complete and ready to be reviewed by college admissions.

How to log in

Students, please log in using CLEVER. You can find the CLEVER log in button on our Malibu High School main page. You can also access your Naviance account your smmk12 account. Once you have logged in, on the upper right corner, click on the "waffle" where you will see a list of icons (this is where you go will find your google classroom). Click on the icon that says Naviance and you are logged in.

Colleges I am applying to

Once logged in, go to the tab “Colleges I am applying to” and list the colleges you are applying to. This is important because this is the list of colleges where your transcript and letter of recommendation will be sent. Don’t forget to note if you are applying Early Action, Early Decision, Regular Decision, or Rolling. Once you receive your admissions decision from each college, please also remember to update the status: admit, deny, waitlist, defer.

About Me: Brag Sheet and Resume

Your Brag Sheet is a guide to help counselors and teachers write a letter of recommendation for you. The Brag Sheet we are using is from The Common Application and you can find that on our website: <https://www.smmusd.org/malibu> under the College and Career page. Once you have completed the worksheet, you will need to upload that document to Naviance.

Go to ABOUT ME and click on Journal. Then, click the + button on the far right, label your document Brag Sheet, and upload your document. Once uploaded, your counselor and teachers will have access to your brag sheet.

If you would like to add more information, you can do so under the ABOUT ME, Resume section. Click on the + button and add your activities, community service, honors and awards there. This piece is not mandatory, but highly encouraged so we can get a full picture of who you are to write your letter of recommendation.

For Parents: Your brag sheet will need to be uploaded in the Journal section in Naviance as well. Currently, you do not have your own log in, so please have your senior log into their account for you to submit your brag sheet. Similar to the student brag sheet, go to ABOUT ME and click on Journal. Then, click the + button on the far right, label your document Parent Brag Sheet, and upload your document.

Request Letters of Recommendation

You will need to request letters of recommendation from one or two teachers, depending on the college you are applying to. To request a letter of recommendation from your teacher, go to Colleges, then Letter of Recommendations. Search for the teacher you want a letter of recommendation from and add them by clicking on their name. Once you have added them, they will receive an email to notify them of your request. You do not need to request a letter of recommendation from your counselor. Your counselor will write one for you to add to your application.

A word about Letters of Recommendation

Letters of Rec (LOR) give admissions folks another lens on your character, talents, how you think, obstacles or struggles you’ve had to overcome, details about what makes you...YOU. When it comes to LOR, keep in mind **QUALITY** over **QUANTITY**. Don’t assume that the more LOR you have, the better your application will look. Most colleges will require two letters of recommendation. ONE should be an academic evaluation, coming from a teacher at your high school. The other one can come from another teacher or a counselor. You may also ask for a

letter from a coach, employer, pastor/religious leader, or anyone who can speak to your character or leadership abilities. If you choose to ask for a letter from someone who is not at Malibu High School, they will need to send their Letter of Rec directly to each college where you are applying. LOR requires time and thoughtfulness for the writer, so students, be mindful on who you ask, when you ask, and how you ask.

Who should you ask? Your TEACHERS are the best people to ask. Your teachers have seen you in the classroom, watched you interact with your peers, know how you think and have listened to the questions you've asked in class. Some of them might even know who you are outside the classroom, what clubs you are involved in, and how you have contributed to your high school campus. Aren't teachers amazing? If two are required, ask two teachers from different subjects.

Okay, but WHICH teacher should I ask? GREAT question. It depends on the type of college you are applying to. Generally, ask a teacher who you feel knows you best, and one that you have a good relationship with. Don't think that if you earned an A in a class, that teacher would be best. You worked hard for that A, yes, but if you earned a B, or even a C, in another class, but you had to work really hard in that class, that shows dedication and determination. Most students tend to ask teachers who they had junior year. Yes, great, but understand that this year during the pandemic made it really hard for students to connect (literally) with teachers over the screen. If you feel a teacher that you had sophomore year knows you best, ask that teacher.

Okay, but I am applying to college with a pre-med focus, shouldn't I ask my math or science teacher? It makes sense, doesn't it? Yes, again, if you feel your math or science teacher knows you best and can attest to your character, absolutely. Some colleges might require one from a math and science teacher if you are pre-med, so check the requirements. If you are applying to art school, it makes sense to ask your art teacher.

When should I ask? You should ask for a LOR from your teacher at the end of your junior year. Let them know you will be applying to colleges in the Fall and that you would really appreciate LOR from them. That way, even if they might not write your LOR until fall when school is back in session, they will at least have the heads up that one is needed. Once school starts again, circle back with your recommender and let them know the timeline of your college application. If you are applying in the early round, definitely let your recommender know the date LOR are due.

How should I ask? If possible, ask your recommender in person, follow it up with an email. When you ask in person, let them know that you would appreciate a LOR from them and give them a timeline or due date. In a follow up email, include your timeline, and say THANK YOU in advance.

The California State University and University of California system do not require a LOR as part of your application process, and you do not need to submit one to be considered for admissions. They do not want them, so don't send them one.

We will send your transcript to all the colleges you list in Naviance for FREE. The only thing you need to do is list them in Naviance. You do not need to request for a transcript to be sent. If

it is listed, your transcript will be sent once you have completed everything in the Naviance checklist below.

Sign FERPA and Match Common Application to Naviance

Within the Common Application, you will need to sign the FERPA. After you sign the FERPA, go back into your Naviance account and match your account.

- Go to Colleges I am applying to and you will see a RED banner with a button that says Match Account.
- Enter your name and birthday and click Match. By doing this, we are able to send your transcript and letter of recommendation directly to the colleges you are applying to using Common Application.

Naviance Check List

- ✓ List the colleges you are applying to under “Colleges I am applying to”
- ✓ Indicate if you are applying Early Action, Early Decision, Regular Decision, or Rolling
- ✓ Request a letter of recommendation by adding your teachers
- ✓ Upload your Brag Sheet
- ✓ Sign the FERPA and Match Common App

The Application Process

You’ll be getting a lot of information via email regarding the college application process, important dates and deadlines, events and workshops, and general “how are you doing” check ins. It would be helpful, if you start the process early and stay organized. If you haven’t done so already, create an email dedicated for college applications only. You can manage your emails from colleges, admissions reps, and other important information regarding colleges there. Remember: DO NOT use your smmk12 email account to start any college application, as colleges will not be able to email you.

Applying Early vs Regular

Many colleges give students the option of applying early and if you are applying to a college with an early round, please do your research before applying.

Early Decision (ED) refers to a binding agreement between the student, parents, counselors, and college in which a student agrees to attend the college/university if offered admission. This is a BINDING contract, so students should only apply ED to a college if that college is the absolute top choice. Students, when you apply ED, you are essentially saying to the college “if you say YES to me, I am saying YES to you.” If admitted, you promise to withdraw all other applications because you have committed to that college. Some college may have a higher admit rate if a student applies ED, but that will vary on each college selectivity. Generally, students applying ED have a deadline of November 1 and will hear back before January. Students applying ED

also need to be mindful the ED route will not be flexible for students to compare financial aid award letters. Students can only apply to ONE college in the ED round.

Early Action (EA) refers to a non-binding admission application process in which students can apply, usually by November 1 and receive a decision by the end of December. Students will still have until the National Reply Date, May 1, to make a commitment. EA allows students more time to make a decision if admitted.

Restrictive Early Action (REA) refers to a non-binding admission application process limiting students from applying to any other colleges, in the ED round and for some college, students cannot apply to any other REA or EA private colleges. REA colleges include Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford. It is recommended that students interested in applying REA or early to any institution carefully read what the college criteria are when applying.

CSU: California State University*

There are 23 campuses that make up the California State University system. Students can apply to as many as they would like and students can apply using one application directly on the CSU website. Students interested in applying to the CSU will need to self-report their coursework and grades on their transcript. The California State University will continue to temporarily suspend the use of ACT/SAT examinations in determining admission eligibility for all CSU campuses for the 2022-2023 academic year. They also will not require letters of recommendation (no brag sheet needed if you are only applying to the CSU or UC) or an essay. Some CSU's are more competitive than others and, depending on certain programs/major, will have additional admissions materials needed for review (portfolio, auditions, nursing.) The CSU application opens October 1 and all applications must be submitted by November 30th.

UC: University of California*

There are 9 campuses that make up the University of California system. Similar to the CSU, students can apply to as many as they would like and students can apply using one application directly on the UC website. Students interested in applying to the UC will need to self-report their coursework and grades on their transcript. In addition, they will ask students to list their extra-curricular activities, honors/awards, and submit 4 short answers called the PIQs (Personal Insight Questions). The UC will not consider SAT or ACT test scores when making admissions decisions or awarding scholarships. If you choose to submit test scores as part of your application, they may be used as an alternative method of fulfilling minimum requirements for eligibility, or for course placement after you enroll. The UC does not require letters of recommendation (no brag sheet needed if you are only applying to the CSU or UC). The UC application filing period is November 1 through November 30.

*Malibu High School will not submit any documents to the CSU or UC for admissions purposes. If you are admitted and decide to enroll, your final transcript will be sent to them at the end of the year after you have graduated.

For a list of A-G approved coursework to apply to the CSU/UC, go to: <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist/institution/1252>

The Common Application (Common App)

Many colleges, out of state and private, will use the Common Application to evaluate a student's application for admission. Each college has their own dates and deadlines and admission requirements for personal statements, additional essays, testing, letters of recommendation, and more. If you are interested in applying to a college, do your research and become familiar with important dates and requirements specific to each college.

Some important things to note when filling out your Common Application:

- Currently, there are **117** seniors in your class.
- Our CEEB (College/High School Code) is **051-896**.
- Malibu High School is on a 4.0 UNWEIGHTED scale. We do not weight GPA.
- Your cumulative GPA is on your transcript. Use the 9-11th grade GPA.
- Malibu High School does NOT rank students.
- DO NOT request a letter of recommendation directly on your Common Application. You will do this via Naviance.
- For students with last name A-K, enter Ms. Samsel's information when filling out the counselor information. For students with last name L-Z, you will fill out Mrs. Dahm's information. You can find their information on the front page of this handbook.
- You will need to sign the FERPA in the Common App before you can link your account to Naviance.

Other applications (Directly to colleges, Coalition, UCAS for international colleges)

There are some colleges using other applications in order to evaluate student's application for admission. If a college is not using the Common Application, check on their website to see which application they require. Some are using the Coalition (like The University of Washington), others might want you to apply directly through their own application, like MIT or Georgetown. If you are interested in applying to any college out of the country, look to see if you need to use the Common App, apply directly to on their website, or the UCAS application. Keep in mind all different requirements and deadlines for each specific college.

Community College

For students who are interested in going to a Community College, the application process usually takes place Spring semester senior year, around February. Seniors can go directly to the community college website and fill out the "First Time Freshman" application online. Usually, students will only need to complete high school to qualify for admissions. General admissions do not require letters of recommendation, test scores, or extra-curricular activities, although some community college Honor's program might have additional requirements. Once an application is submitted, within about a week, students will receive their new student ID and directions for next steps. Check with each community college directly for steps to apply.

Steps to apply to a Community College (varies by college but generally, these are the steps):

1. Apply online. Go directly to the community college website and submit your application.
2. Apply for Financial Aid, by completing the FAFSA.
3. Complete Orientation. You'll need to do this before you can register for courses.
4. Review course placement and take appropriate course placement exams.
5. Meet with your college advisor or counselor.
6. Enroll in coursework.

If you are interested in attending a community college, you will not need to fill out the Brag sheet in Naviance. You will just list the community college you plan on attending in Naviance. For planning purposes, if you are planning on transferring into a CSU or a UC, make sure to let your counselor at the community college know to put you on the IGETC plan. This is a pathway and certification to ensure that you have met all the required coursework to transfer directly into a CSU or UC. You might also want to check with your counselor about the articulation agreement between all of the colleges you are interested in transferring to. This is a list of coursework that will fulfill the majority of your general educational courses. You can also speak to a transfer admission counselor at each college you are interested in transferring to about the best route for you.

Fee Waivers

If you need a fee waiver in order to apply for colleges, please see Mrs. Snyder. Fee waivers are generally given to students who qualify for free or reduced lunch, however, if you feel you qualify for a fee waiver due to financial hardship, see Mrs. Snyder. Fee waivers for the UC and CSU are directly on the application. The UC and CSU will determine eligibility based on what is reported on the income section of the application.

If you need a fee waiver to take the SAT or ACT, please see Mrs. Snyder.

Decisions

Every institution has a different timeline for when they notify students of their admissions decision and is based on the application process a student selected to apply through.

For students applying EA or ED, expect to hear back around mid-December. For students applying regular decision, expect to hear back beginning in February. Those applying to the UC's can expect to receive decisions in March. Students applying through a rolling admission can hear back as early as 4 weeks after submitting their application or longer.

If you are waitlisted or deferred from a college, please carefully read the letter that was sent to you, as it will have additional steps you might need to take in order for the admissions office to make a final decision. For students who are on the waitlist, some colleges might want you to "opt

in” to a list to stay on the waitlist if you are still interested in being consider for admission. If you have been deferred, it usually means they would like to wait to review your senior year first semester coursework before rendering a final decision. Your mid-year report, or first semester senior year grades, will be submitted in late January to these colleges. There’s no specific timeline for when colleges will pull students from their waitlist.

The National Reply Date or College Decision Day is May 1. Students will need to secure their admission spot to one college, usually by submitting their enrollment deposit. Many colleges will also require a housing deposit, so check with the college before you make a decision.

Documents

There are 5 documents that Malibu High School sends to each college you are applying to. These documents are sent through Naviance and most colleges will receive these documents electronically.

Transcript. Your transcript covers your entire academic history at Malibu High School. It will show your grades from 9th, 10th, and 11th grade. Your coursework from senior year will also be on your transcript. Your cumulative GPA is your GPA from 9-11th.

Letters of Recommendation. Your LOR from your teachers and counselors are confidential documents and are sent directly to each college you apply to. These letters will support your application for admission, so it is highly recommended that you spend time working on your Brag Sheet to give your teachers and counselors information about who YOU are. If there’s something specific that you want to highlight for a letter of recommendation, talk to your teacher or counselor directly. You must request a teacher letter of recommendation through Naviance, not Common Application.

High School Profile. The school profile includes information about Malibu High School’s curriculum, grading policies, school accreditation and history, standardized test scores, grade distribution, and college matriculation data for last year’s class.

Secondary School Report. This report contains information about the student in the context of Malibu High School. Specifically, colleges and universities ask about the rigor of the student’s curriculum as compared to other students at MHS.

Mid-Year Report. This is your first semester grades senior year. In January, your transcript will automatically be sent to the colleges you have applied to listed in Naviance. You do not need to officially request for your transcripts to be sent.

Testing (SAT/ACT, AP’s). Malibu High School does not send any SAT/ACT or AP scores to colleges. You are responsible for sending any or all scores to the colleges you applied to that require them. If you took the SAT or ACT, you can submit your scores by going directly to CollegeBoard or ACTwebsite to submit them. While some colleges will take self-reported scores on your application, double check with each college. For AP scores, you can self-report your scores on your application. You do not need to send official scores to the colleges you are

applying to for admissions purposes. If you are admitted and decide to enroll, then you will send your AP scores to be considered for any credit the college may offer.

Other factors

In the world of college admissions, in addition to the application, there are other factors that some colleges consider when reviewing an applicant for admissions. Some of these factors are things students have no control over, like enrollment priorities and limitations, legacy, sport recruitment, the applicant pool number, and more. What you can do is let go of the worries from these factors and focus on the things you can control: your application. There are other factors that you can control that might play in your favor.

Interviews. If the college you are interested in offers an interview *and* you feel comfortable interviewing, do it. Interviews are usually done with an admissions rep, alumni, or even current student but is not a mandatory piece of an application. It is an additional piece that can provide more insight into who you are as a student, should you choose to interview. Check with each college directly if this is offered.

NCAA. If you are interested in playing sports competitively at the college level or you are actively being recruited, you should have already created a NCAA profile and spoken to your coach regarding this process.

Portfolios/auditions. Your artistic abilities can play a role in some admissions decisions depending on the college where you are applying. For those who are interested in applying to a visual arts college, you'll want to put together a portfolio with your work, as some colleges might ask you to submit this, via Slide Room, when you apply for admissions. If your talent is in theater or music, some colleges will ask for an audition. Check with the college you are interested in to understand their requirements. Some might also want students to apply early in order to secure audition times, so again, double check directly with the colleges you are interested in.

Financial Aid

What is Financial Aid?

Financial Aid is help used to cover college costs, such as tuition, room and board, books, traveling, and other fees. There are generally two types of aid: need based aid and merit aid. Need based aid can be determined by state/federal guidelines or each institution's policies. Merit based aid is awarded to students based on factors like academic excellence, athletic or artistic abilities, and more. Financial Aid can come in the form of grants (money you don't have to pay back), scholarships (FREE money), loans (money you borrow and will need to pay back), and federal work study (you work on campus to pay for some of your cost of attendance.)

How do I apply for Financial Aid?

There are several forms that you will need to submit to be considered for aid. Colleges require the FAFSA to be considered financial aid. You can start filling out the FAFSA on October 1 when the online application opens. The deadline to submit is March 1 but the sooner you can file your FAFSA, the better. You'll have to list all of the colleges you are applying to on your FAFSA in order for each institution to receive your information for financial aid evaluation.

CSS Profile

In addition to the FAFSA, some private institutions will also require the CSS profile, an online application through CollegeBoard, for additional information to be reviewed for financial aid. There is a fee for the CSS profile. A list of colleges that require the CSS profile can be found here: <https://profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatingInstitutions.aspx>

Cal Grant

If you are applying to a college in California, there is an additional piece that is required in order to qualify, and that is the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form. Malibu High School will send this out electronically to the Cal Grant Administration in December, so there is no need to submit a request for this.

Scholarships

There are tons of scholarships you should look into when you apply for college, as most of these scholarships will require the same type of information: transcript, essays, and or a letter of recommendation. On the resource page, there's a list of national scholarships you might want to consider applying for if you qualify. Malibu High School also sponsors a number of scholarships for just Malibu High School seniors to apply for in the Spring. Some of these scholarships and donors include: The Malibu Foundation, The Malibu's Women's Club, The Malibu Optimist Club, Malibu HS PTA, and more. That list and applications will be available to seniors in February.

Resources

Mrs. Snyder's BLOG and website: <https://www.counselorsnyder.com/>

NCAA- Thinking of being a college athlete?

- Make sure to check out the NCAA website: <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>
- Student athlete GUIDE:
http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Student_Resources/CBSA.pdf
- Search for NCAA colleges by school, division, location, and more:
<https://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/research/ncaa-member-schools>

Common Application- Apply to college using the Common App

- Application opens in August: <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- Explore over 900+ colleges using their search engine:
<https://www.commonapp.org/explore/>
- Want to know which college requires an additional/supplemental essay? Check here:
<https://appsupport.commonapp.org/applicantsupport/s/writing-requirements>

University of California- Apply to the UCs

- Application opens in August: <https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/my-application/login>
- UC Personal Insight Questions: <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-freshman/personal-insight-questions.html>
- Search the UC A-G coursework by your high school: <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist>

California State University- Apply to the CSUs

- Application opens in October: <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/freshman>

The Coalition- Apply to college using The Coalition

- Application here: <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>
- Essay Prompt: <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/essays>

UCAS- Applying to colleges internationally?

- Application here: <https://www.ucas.com/>
- Search for international colleges: <https://www.ucas.com/explore/unis>

College Search Engine:

- Colleges that Change Lives: <https://ctcl.org/>
- Big Future: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
- Niche: <https://www.niche.com/>
- The Princeton Review: <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-search>
- College Navigator: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- College Data: <https://www.collegedata.com/college-search>
- Common App College Explorer: <https://www.commonapp.org/explore/>
- Search for international colleges: <https://www.ucas.com/explore/unis>

Testing

- The CollegeBoard covers the PSAT, SAT and AP exams. For more information and to register for an exam: <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
- ACT covers the ACT exam. Register and more info here: <https://www.act.org/>
- Search this site for a list of colleges that are test optional or flexible: <https://fairtest.org/>

Financial Aid

- Apply for federal financial aid using the FAFSA. Application opens in October: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- Does your college require the CSS profile? Search here and find out: <https://profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatingInstitutions.aspx>
- CSS profile application here: <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>
- MyIntuition net price calculator: <https://myintuition.org/>

Scholarships- FREE MONEY that you don't have to pay back

- Dell Scholarship. Application opens October 1: <https://www.dellscholars.org/scholarship/>
- Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship: The Cooke Foundation College Scholarship Program is the largest undergraduate scholarship program available to high-achieving high school seniors with financial need who seek to attend the nation's best four-year colleges and

universities. <https://www.jkcf.org/our-scholarships/college-scholarship-program/how-to-apply/>

- Posse Scholarship: full-tuition leadership scholarships from Posse's partner colleges and universities. This is a nomination process done by your high school counselor so check in with them! More info here: <https://www.possefoundation.org/>
- The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation supports more than 1,400 exceptional college students each year. <https://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply/>
- Gates Millennium Scholars: Provides students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in any discipline they choose. <https://gmsp.org/>
- UNCF – Awards 10,000 students each year through 400 scholarship and internship programs so that students from low- and moderate-income families can afford college tuition, books and room and board. <https://uncf.org/scholarships>
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund – The nation's largest non-profit organization devoted to providing college scholarships for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). <https://apiascholars.org/scholarship/apia-scholarship/>
- Reagan Foundation Scholarships - Scholarship opportunities for outstanding student leaders. <https://www.reaganfoundation.org/education/scholarship-programs/>

Scholarship Search Engines

- GoMerry: A free, one-stop scholarships platform. It matches you with scholarships and then helps you apply directly. <https://www.goingmerry.com/>
- Scholarship.com: A free college scholarship search and financial aid information. <https://www.scholarships.com/>
- The College Board Opportunity Scholarships - The program guides juniors and seniors through the college planning process and offers the chance to earn scholarships. <https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/>