

# **COLLEGE INFORMATION**

## **Supplemental information for Parent/Student Handbook**

### **COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS**

Students should check college websites to determine what tests are required by the colleges they are considering entering. Test information and application packets are available in the counseling office. See [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)

1. Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT). This test gives students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the type of questions they will confront on the SAT or ACT. Scores on this examination, taken during the junior year, will also determine the candidates for National Merit Scholarships. The test is given annually during the month of October. The fee is payable at the high school when students apply, or on the day of the test. Fee waivers are available.
2. Admissions Testing
  - a. Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT). The University of California, the State College University system and most private schools use the SAT as an entrance hurdle and predictor of academic success. A three-hour test, half is devoted to verbal reasoning and half to mathematical reasoning. Apply online. Additional information in the counseling office.
  - b. SAT II. SAT II exams are one-hour tests in specific areas such as English composition, foreign language, science, math and U.S. History. Many universities and colleges require these tests as an indication of subject mastery rather than as an entrance hurdle. Applications must be mailed in prior to the test date with fee enclosed. SAT II exams are a requirement for admission to the University of California. Apply online @collegeboard.com
  - c. UC Writing Placement Exam is given on a Saturday in May for all UC bound students. This test is required to determine the student's level of English courses to be taken the freshman year of college. More information is available in the counseling office.
  - d. American College Testing (ACT). The ACT gives a score considered predictive of college achievement with sub-scores in English, math, natural science and social studies. The test is given five (5) times a year and the application must be sent in with appropriate fees about a month in advance of the test date. Applications are available in the counseling office. Exams are available at Eureka High School.

### **VOCATIONAL INTEREST INVENTORIES**

Career inventory surveys are part of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade computer literacy curriculum using the online BRIDGES program. Assistance is also available through the Career Center in C9. Parents can access this great career and college planning program by going to the

[www.bridges.com](http://www.bridges.com) website and using the **parent** opening and the **South Fork ID code: 900140 password: south** All the major construction and industry trade associations offer **apprenticeship programs** which pay students to work and attend classes. Also see <http://www.apprenticeship.org/>

## **COMMUNITY COLLEGE INFORMATION**

**ADMISSIONS:** Admission to a community college is offered to

- Any student who is a high school graduate.
- Any person eighteen years of age or over.
- Any person who has passed the California High School Proficiency Examination.

### **TRANSFER STUDENT**

All community colleges offer a full range of academic courses that enable a student to prepare for a transfer to a four-year college or university. If you are a “transfer” student and plan carefully, you may enter the four-year college as a junior after two years of community college work. Your community college counselor will help you organize a program that will be acceptable by the four-year college, so that you will not lose any credits when you transfer.

If you want to transfer to a private college or an out-of-state public college, you should contact your community college counselor to discuss what courses would be appropriate. These colleges may accept you as a transfer after less than two years of community college work.

### **COMMUNITY COLLEGE COUNSELING INTERVIEW**

If you are planning to transfer to a four-year college or university, you should be sure to discuss your plans with your community college counselor. Before you enter community college, you are strongly encouraged to sign up for a summer counseling interview. This interview gives you a chance to find out about the general characteristics of the college, and it also allows you to work out your program with your counselor.

Your counselor can be most helpful to you if you know what major field you are considering and what four-year college interests you.

### **FINANCIAL COSTS**

Your cost of going to a community college will involve tuition, books and transportation, since most students continue to have room and board provided by living at home. You should realize that “fees” are now charged to attend a community college according to the decisions of the California State Legislature.

### **CAREER PROGRAMS**

All community colleges have programs that are designed to help you with your career development. These career programs involve pre-professional areas where you are

prepared to transfer to a four-year college, as well as two-year programs where you may begin work after completion of your community college courses.

### **CHECK LIST FOR SENIORS**

This checklist is designed to help seniors realize what's done in order to apply for admission to a California Community College.

- 1. File your FAFSA by March 1 or by the community college extension date of September 1.
- 2. Apply online to the college of your choice. We can provide you with Internet access at school if unavailable in your home. Check with counseling for current availability of fee waivers.
- 3. Sign up to take the English and math placement tests. These tests are offered many times at College of the Redwoods and once at South Fork each spring. Assessment testing is required to determine the level of English and Math courses you will start with as a freshman in college. Scores are transferable to some, but not all other California Community colleges.
- 4. Be sure to sign up for a summer counseling conference by following the directions included with the application.
- 5. Ask the counseling department to mail your completed semester high school transcript to the college you choose.
- 6. Some college entrance examinations may be required for admission. You should check the college catalog for any special placement examinations required.

### **HOW TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

- 1. COLLEGE NIGHT. Attend College Night at Eureka High during the month of September.
- 2. WEBSITES. Go to the websites of colleges that interest you. Check for any special entrance requirements for the programs of your interest.
- 3. CAMPUS TOUR. College of the Redwoods Community College is close enough that you are encouraged to visit the campus and talk with staff and students.
- 4. GUIDANCE OFFICE. Contact the persons in the guidance/counseling office of your choice.

### **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

- **REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE PLANNING**
- **COLLEGE ELIGIBILITY INDEX TABLE**

See next page for CSU Undergraduate Admission Requirements.

## HOW TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CSU

1. Attend College Night at Eureka High School during the month of September, preferably during the eleventh grade.
2. COLLEGE WEBSITES.
3. USC MENTOR WEBSITE. [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)
4. CAMPUS TOURS. Each CSU campus offers the opportunity for a student conducted tour to students and parents who visit the campus.
5. TALK TO CSU STUDENTS. You are encouraged to talk with friends, neighbors and former students at your high school who are now attending a CSU campus.
6. SPECIAL DAYS. Some CSU campuses have special days to welcome high school students.
7. COUNSELING OFFICE. Contact your counselor in the Counseling Office.

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA is made up of nine (9) general campuses. Each general campus offers undergraduate and graduate students a full range of academic disciplines. All of the campuses have distinguished faculties, excellent libraries, research laboratories, and high academic standards. At the same time, each campus has its own distinctive character, style, and atmosphere. If you meet the undergraduate admission requirements and are a resident of California, you are entitled to pursue a degree at a UC campus, although not necessarily at the campus of your first choice. A UC education will not only prepare you for the career or profession you want to follow, but will also give you the knowledge and understanding to respond creatively to the challenge of tomorrow's society.

## SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

To satisfy the subject requirements, students must complete the high school courses listed below with a grade point average defined by the scholarship requirements. This sequence of courses is also known as the "a-g" subjects or requirements. Students must take 15 high school courses to fulfill the subject requirement – seven courses of which must be taken in the last two years of high school. To be acceptable to the university, the courses must appear on a list certified by the high school principal as meeting the university's minimum a-g requirements as follows:

- a. U.S. History/Social Science – 2 years required**  
One year of U.S. History or one-half year of U.S. History and one-half year of Civics or American Government and one year of World History.
- b. English – 4 years required**  
Four years of college-preparatory English that include frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature, poetry, and drama. Not more than two semesters of grade 9 English can be used to meet this requirement.
- c. Mathematics – 3 years required, 4 years recommended**  
Three years, including Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2.

Math courses taken in grade 8 may be used to fulfill part of this requirement if the high school accepts them as equivalent to its own course.

- d. **Laboratory Science – 2 years required, 3 years recommended**  
Two years of a laboratory science, such as biology, chemistry, or physics. Not more than one year of ninth grade laboratory science can be used to meet this requirement.
- e. **Language Other Than English– 2 years required, 3 years recommended**  
Two years of the same foreign language. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, and composition.
- f. **College Preparatory Electives – 1 year required**  
One unit, in addition to those required in “a-e” above, chosen from at least one of the following areas: history, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science, foreign language (a third year in the foreign language used for the “e” requirement or two years of another foreign language), social science, and visual and performing arts. A grade 9 science course is an acceptable elective.
- g. **Visual and Performing Arts – 1 year required**

**See Attachment 1 for a comparison of CSU and UC entrance requirements.**

### **EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT**

All freshman applicants must submit test scores as described below. If you apply for admission to the fall term, you should take the test by November of your senior year.

The following tests are required:

1. One aptitude test – either: (a) the Scholastic Aptitude Test I (SAT) – (the verbal and mathematics scores you submit from this test must be from the same sitting); or (b) the American College Test (ACT) – composite score.
2. Two SAT subject tests.

### **HOW TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UC**

1. Attend College Night at Eureka High School during the month of September.
2. COLLEGE WEBSITES.
3. CAMPUS TOURS. Each UC campus offers the opportunity for a conducted tour to students and parents who visit the campus.
4. TALK TO UC STUDENTS. You are encouraged to talk with friends, neighbors and former students at your high school who are now attending a UC campus.
5. SPECIAL DAYS. Some UC campuses have special days to welcome high school students.
6. UC APPLICATION. Seniors are encouraged to read the information about each campus that is contained in the UC application.

7. COUNSELING OFFICE. Contact your counselor in the counseling office.
8. WEB SITE: <http://www.ucop.edu/pathways>

## **SOUTH FORK HIGH SCHOOL COURSES THAT MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

### **a. HISTORY**

AP US Government & Politics, AP US History, U.S. History, Geography, Civics, World History

### **b. ENGLISH**

English I – IV, English I – II Honors, English III Honors, English IV Honors

### **c. MATHEMATICS** (\* may only be used for the “c” requirement)

\* Algebra I, \* Algebra II, \* Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus (U.C. Extension),

### **d. LABORATORY SCIENCE**

AP Biology (online course, not currently offered), AP Chemistry (online course, not currently offered), AP Physics (online course, not currently offered), Biology I, Biology II, Chemistry, Physics

### **e. FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

Spanish I – IV

### **f. VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS** (\* may only be used for the “f” requirement)

Art 2-4, Drama 2-4, Art I, Ceramics 2-4, Madd Jazz, Band

### **g. ELECTIVE COURSES** (All courses listed under a-f with the exception of \* Mathematics or \* Visual/Performing Arts courses, plus the following:

AP Macro Economics (online course, not currently offered)

AP Micro Economics (online course, not currently offered)

Earth Science

Economics

Honors Psychology (online course, not currently offered)

Honors Sociology (online course, not currently offered)

Only the above underlined courses will be assigned extra honors credit:(A=5, B=4, C=3).

## **PRIVATE COLLEGE INFORMATION**

There are hundreds of private colleges and universities with a wide range of characteristics that make them attractive to students. Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Dartmouth are prestigious eastern colleges with highly selective admissions. Cal Tech, Harvey Mudd, and MIT offer outstanding science and engineering programs. Smith, Wellesley, Scripps and Mills limit their enrollment to women. Westmont, Pomona, USC, Occidental and UOP are examples of the more than 50 private colleges in California. In search for a private college, you should first decide on the college characteristics that are important to you and then begin checking on the individual campuses.

## **COLLEGE CHARACTERISTICS**

Since private colleges do vary a great deal, here are some questions that you may want to ask yourself concerning private college characteristics.

1. Is the location of the college important?

2. Do you want to stay in California or go out of state?
3. Would you prefer that the campus be in a “big city” or in a rural surrounding?
4. Do you want a “coed” student body or a women or men’s college?
5. Should there be 1000 or 10,000 or 15,000 undergraduate students?
6. Are there special majors in art or engineering or drama or English?
7. Does the college have a facility to help you find summer jobs in your career area?
8. What kind of financial aid is available to help pay the college costs?
9. Is the college highly selective or available to most applicants?
10. What happens to the graduates of the college?

### **HOW DO PRIVATE COLLEGES MAKE ADMISSIONS DECISIONS?**

Private colleges vary in terms of selectivity with some having highly selective admissions and others having a relatively open admissions program. The key factors involved in admissions decisions are:

1. High School Course – A strong program of college preparatory courses is recommended from the freshman through the senior year.
2. Grades – Colleges look carefully at the grades in academic subjects.
3. College Entrance Exams – The SAT, ACT and Achievement Tests are used by most private colleges.
4. Letters of Recommendation – Most private colleges require letters of recommendation from teachers and other persons who know you well.

### **PERSONAL INTERVIEW**

A few highly selective colleges have a personal interview as part of their selection process. Realizing that many students live far away, the colleges often provide an applicant the opportunity to talk with an alumni interviewer who lives in the local community. If your college requires an interview, then a college representative will contact you.

### **COSTS**

Do not be afraid of the higher cost of attending a private school. There are many aid packages available to students demonstrating both the need and strong academic aptitude.

### **HOUSING**

Some colleges provide housing for all new students, while other colleges have limited housing arrangements. You should read the information from your college carefully, so you will know about the housing opportunities at your campus and what procedure to follow in order to apply for freshman housing.

### **HOW TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PRIVATE COLLEGES**

1. COLLEGE WEBSITES
2. SUMMER TRIP. Some students plan a trip to visit campuses and talk with admissions persons and college students.

3. COLLEGE CATALOGS. Some private college catalogs are available at your high school.
4. COUNSELING OFFICE. Contact the counseling office for more information.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

In today's world it is becoming increasingly more expensive to finance advanced education. However, there are sources of aid available to students attending vocational schools and colleges. This section will deal with the various sources available and the procedures for obtaining aid. A motivated student can find a way to finance a college education in spite of the rising costs.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**

Both scholarships and grants are outright gifts that do not have to be repaid. Colleges and private organizations grant scholarships to outstanding students for special skills or achievement and for academic excellence and promise. A few of these are awarded to students without need, but most of them take into account the student's ability to pay.

In order to receive a financial aid package, a student **must** complete a FAFSA. Students must complete the FAFSA application beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> with a deadline of March 2<sup>nd</sup> of the senior year.

The CAL GRANT is merit based and awarded to students attending California schools.

**See Attachment 2 for Financial Aid Tips.**

## **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

South Fork High School Counseling Department has additional information concerning financial aid available from most state and local organizations. Watch the Splinter notices throughout the year for scholarship information. Announcements are posted in the counseling department, in the A-wing Splinter showcase, and in B1 classroom. South Fork has a long list of local community scholarship sponsors and the due dates and criteria for each application. Please avail yourself of this great resource.

Some businesses and industries have special scholarships for sons and daughters of their employees. Most of these are competitive. Parents should contact the personnel office at work to obtain necessary application forms. All of these methods of securing financial aid require an investment in time.

**See appendix 3 for the month-by-month Junior and Senior Year Checklist for Four-year College-bound Students.**