

COLLEGE INFORMATIONAL EVENING 2020

German International School of Silicon Valley

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GOING TO UNIVERSITY IN THE US

College Admission Criteria

What's out there?

UC admission criteria

Getting Ready for College



COUNSELOR'S ROLE AT GISSV

- ☐ Give students and families an overview of the US college system and entrance requirements.
- ☐ Guide 9th -12th grade students through necessary steps to attend university in the US and/or British speaking countries.
- ☐ Help students discover their interests and potential direction in college
- ☐ Help juniors prepare college lists and seniors with essays and applications. Write recommendations.
- ☐ Update the accompanying school profile annually.
- ☐ Assist with alumni tracking and invite alumni to share experiences and network with current students.
- ☐ Attend workshops and conferences to keep current with latest college developments.
- ☐ Visit colleges, invite college representatives,



COLLEGE ADMISSION CRITERIA

- **Rigor of the curriculum** –i.e. number of, content of, and performance in academic courses.
- **GPA** in all courses. The single most important piece of your child's college application is his/her grades.
- **Standardized Test scores:** SAT or ACT
- Number of and performance in University-approved **honors courses and Advanced Placement courses**
- **Quality** of the student's academic performance *relative to the educational opportunities available in his or her high school.

ADMISSION CRITERIA CONTINUED

- Special talents and/ or awards in a particular field, such as visual and performing arts or athletic endeavors
- Experiences that demonstrate leadership qualities, initiative, a sense of social responsibility, a commitment to service.
- Achievements that demonstrate the student's promise for contributing to the intellectual vitality of a campus.
- Personal Statement.



AMERICAN STANDARDIZED TESTS

- **PSAT 10** Administered at GISSV in the spring to all 10th graders.
- **PSAT/ NMSQT** (preliminary scholastic aptitude test) taken in October at GISSV by 11th graders considering the American college track. Not mandatory. Does **not** count for college admissions.
- The **SAT**: an external test used by majority of colleges as part of the admissions process.
- Check out www.fairtest.org for a list of colleges that no longer **require** standardized test scores.

AMERICAN TESTS CONTINUED

- ☐ **SAT II** subject tests (1 hour tests that test particular subjects) These are college specific.
- ☐ **ACT** - American College Testing.
- ☐ **SAT v ACT** – Both are equally accepted at all colleges.
 - ☐ The **SAT** contains three sections: Reading, Math, and Writing and Language. The **ACT** contains four sections: Reading, Math, English, and Science. Both also have an optional essay. **The UC system requires the essay.**

<https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Intl-ACT-SAT-English.pdf>

TESTS CONTINUED

☐ **AP** - Advanced Placement courses offered at GISSV

* Courses that require **1 extra hour per week**

- ☐ AP German Language and Culture 10th grade
- ☐ AP Chemistry 10th and 11th grade (2 year course)*
- ☐ AP French Language and Culture 11th grade
- ☐ AP English Language and Composition 11th grade
- ☐ AP Spanish Language and Culture 11th grade
- ☐ AP Microeconomics 11th grade*
- ☐ AP Biology 12th grade*
- ☐ AP Calculus 12th grade*
- ☐ AP English Literature and Composition 12th grade

AP CONTINUED

- AP Computer Science Principles 11th grade
- AP Music Theory 11th/12th grade*
- **Note:**
 - AP exams can be taken irrespective of whether a student has taken the AP course
 - If GISSV does not offer a specific AP course, the student can request an exam to be ordered and he/she can take that exam at school on the date offered.
 - Some students take AP exams earlier than the year they are offered as a GISSV course because they have an aptitude in that subject, or it is a native language for the student.

WHAT'S OUT THERE?

Public and Private Colleges

- ❑ **Liberal Arts colleges:** 90% private
- ❑ **Undergraduate** education is the primary mission.
- ❑ **Focus** on broad skills in thinking and writing, not narrow pre professional skills.
- ❑ **Smaller classes** taught by faculty members
(Nearly all liberal arts colleges have fewer than 5,000 students, and most are in the 1,000 to 2,500 student range)

RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

- ❑ 2/3 public and 1/3 private (Faculty are involved in research)
- ❑ Teach both undergraduates and graduates
- ❑ Size ranges from small (Cal Tech – fewer than 1,000) to medium (Harvard- 6,500 undergrads) to very large (University of Texas 40,000)
- ❑ large classes; faculty teach fewer classes and **may be** less accessible
- ❑ Teaching assistants are used for smaller discussion groups.

COLLEGES THAT OFFER SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

- ❑ Schools like Julliard or CA Institution of the Arts cater for students who are highly focused in a specialized area and have clear career goals
- ❑ Colleges with special affiliations
 - ❑ Religious Colleges (University of Notre Dame)
 - ❑ Cooperative Colleges- University of Cincinnati, Drexel, Northeastern, UMass-Lowell, Rochester Institute of Technology. Students are able to explore careers during college while earning money and gaining job experience
- ❑ Polytechnical Universities



THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC)

- A public university system and part of the state's three tier public higher education system which includes the UC, CSU (CA State Universities) and CCC (CA Community Colleges)



- **UC**
- 10 campuses throughout the state
- UC Berkeley ranked 2nd worldwide among private and public universities
- UC Berkeley, UCLA and UCSD and UCSB ranked in top 15
- Eight campuses operate on the quarter system, while **Berkeley** and **Merced** are on the semester system.
- *New for 2023/2024 the UC will be officially **test blind** which means SAT or ACT scores will not be considered in the assessment of an applicant

CSU SYSTEM CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES

23 campuses in California and over 1,800 bachelor's and master's degree programs in some 240 subject areas.

- ❑ Serve over 400,000 students and take in 1/3 of CA high school graduates
- ❑ faculty members are preeminent in their fields, are committed to teaching and involvement with students.
- ❑ http://www.sbccc.edu/transfercenter/files/UC/CSU_Comparison_Chart. compares type of degrees awarded, undergraduate focus, cost, ethnic makeup, eligibility requirements and advantages of each system)



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE – A VIABLE OPTION

- ❑ Largest system of higher education in the world serving more than 2.9 million students in CA

❑ **Benefits**

- ❑ High School Diploma required in some states, not CA.
- ❑ No standardized tests required.
- ❑ cost considerably less than 4 year public colleges
- ❑ after the mandatory 2 years, students can transfer to a 4 year college
- ❑ also offers 2 year associate degrees in specialized fields

GPA CALCULATION FOR THE UC AND CSU

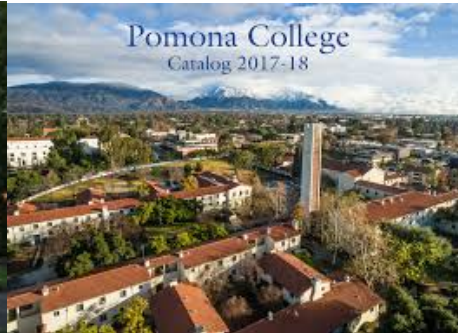


- California applicants must earn at least a 3.0 GPA and nonresidents must earn a minimum 3.4 GPA in all A-G or college-preparatory courses to meet this requirement.
- <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements/subject-requirement-a-g.html>
- In calculating a student's GPA, UC **does not** include courses taken in the freshman year, regardless of the level of the course.
- In addition, UC calculates a weighted GPA limited to 4 years of honors courses with no more than 2 years of 10th grade honors courses.
- In other words, for a semester calendar, which many U.S. schools use, 8 semesters of honors points with no more than 4 semesters of honors points from courses completed in the 10th grade.

WUE SCHOOLS

- **WUE** (pronounced “woo-wee”) is the Western Undergraduate Exchange, and it is coordinated by WICHE. ... If you are a resident of one of WICHE's 16 member states/U.S. territories (CNMI and Guam), you are eligible for consideration for reduced **tuition** rate offered at 160 participating **WUE** institutions.
- [WUE FAQ | WICHE](#)
- <https://www.wiche.edu/about-wue>

COLLEGES OUR STUDENTS HAVE ATTENDED





GAP YEAR AND DEFERRALS

- Experience a different culture. A vacation allows you to see a different culture. ...
- Learn a new language. ...
- Develop new life skills. ...
- Discover a hidden passion. ...
- Prep for college. ...
- Improve yourself. ...
- Live life to the fullest. ...
- Boost your job prospects.

GAP YEAR- CONTINUED

- Many universities and colleges support gap years and semesters with varying deferral policies, often allowing a student to keep their accepted status and return a year, or sometimes two years, later. These include-
- Yale, Harvard, Carnegie Mellon, U Penn, Columbia, Harvey Mudd.
- Others have the student apply to college during his/her Gap Year. **UC's**
- <https://www.oszlist.com/blog/gap-year-without-breaking-bank/>

FINDING MONEY FOR COLLEGE

- <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
- <http://money.cnn.com/2017/04/25/pf/college/pay-for-college/index.html>



SCHOLARSHIP SITES

- Fastweb.com.
- MeritAid.com
- Collegeboard.org.
- Niche.com.
- CollegeNET.com.
- Scholarship Monkey invite alumni to share experiences and network with current students.
- Cappex
- Chegg
- Unigo
- Peterson's
- The US Labor Department's Free Search Tool





PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLEGES WITH MERIT AID

- <https://www.oszlist.com/college/maps/meritaid/private/>
- <https://www.oszlist.com/blog/>

- *Thank you for coming and have a pleasant evening.*

