

HOW TO APPLY

1. Find the college's application deadline, application fees, and testing requirements (ACT, SAT, and/or SAT Subject Tests).
 - Look up the college at www.collegeboard.org or check its website, catalog, or application materials for this information.
2. Complete the online application **on time**.
 - Ideally, college applications should be submitted before Christmas vacation. However, you need to check the **application deadline (preferably the Priority Deadline)** for each of your college choices.
 - Applications for all of the UC's and CSU's (including Cal State San Marcos, Cal Poly, and SDSU) are due no later than **November 30**.
3. Request an official transcript if needed.
 - Email your transcript requests to Mr. Duyst or fill out the yellow Transcript Request Form (available in the Counseling Office). Please allow 3 days for this process.
 - Be sure to indicate if you also want your SAT and/or ACT scores sent with your transcript.
4. Request recommendation letters **if needed**. Check the application to determine whether (and from whom) a recommendation letter(s) is needed. (Many schools including UC's and CSU's don't accept them.)
 - Ask people (nicely) if they'd be willing to write a recommendation for you.
 - PLEASE ALLOW AT LEAST TWO WEEKS FOR THIS TO BE DONE.
 - Some colleges will ask for the recommender's email address, while others have a recommendation form for the person to fill out and/or request a recommendation letter be mailed.
 - Recommendation Letter Forms are available in the Counseling Office if the writer needs more information about you.
5. If a personal statement(s) is required, you can find lots of helpful advice here: www.goo.gl/SFYC19

TYPES OF ADMISSION

EARLY DECISION: This is an admission process in which a student applies by a certain date (usually October 15 or November 1) to **one** college. The college notifies the student of the admission decision at an early date (usually in December). However, Early Decision is **binding** – You agree to attend the college (and not apply to any others) if it accepts you and offers an adequate financial aid package.

EARLY ACTION: This is somewhat like Early Decision, with an early application deadline (October or November) and notification of admission (December). But the good thing about Early Action is that it is **not** binding – A student is free to either accept or decline the offer of admission by May 1.

REGULAR NOTIFICATION: Many colleges have specific application deadlines throughout the year. Some of these colleges (like the UC's) don't make their admission decisions until April, so you will have to wait until then to find out if you have been accepted.

ROLLING ADMISSION: A lot of colleges simply accept applications and review them as they are received. With these colleges, you will usually receive an admission decision within a month. For competitive colleges with rolling admission, it is recommended that you apply earlier rather than later.

Unless you apply to a college under the Early Decision plan, you are permitted to wait until May 1 to choose from your offers of admission and send your enrollment deposit to the college of your choice.