SENIOR HANDBOOK
CLASS OF 2021
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I want to congratulate you for getting to this point. You are embarking on your senior year but more importantly, you have decided to invest in your future by being part of the College Bound program. By taking this step, I can guarantee you that your senior year will be different. It can be a good year, a great year, or the best year. That is all up to you. What you hold in your hand is a guide to help you achieve your goals. This is your handbook and your future, so show us where you want to go.

-Juan Carrillo
Director of College and Career Development
The College Bound team is created by a diverse group of passionate academic advisors. This group of educators seek the success of each of their students by ensuring you have a plan upon graduating high school. Although they work at different high schools, they always come together to discuss, create, and implement workshops and activities valuable for their student’s lifelong success. College Bound advisors are here to help so be sure to connect with your advisor and ask them about their college experience!
Monica Perez
Samueli Academy

Isabel Sanchez
Alumni Coordinator
Orange High School

Abril Carrasco
Orange High School

Carlos Ocegueda
El Modena High School

Jessica Morales
Saddleback High School

Genesis Guevara
Orange High School

Schendell Fuertes
Valley High School

Paul Fernandez
Nova Academy High School

Gabriela Mireles
Segerstrom High School
If you see the following symbol, be sure to click on it to access an activity that will help you with your college application process. Below is a list of activities included in the handbook:

**Senior Checklist pg. 7**
Keep track of your senior year progress by checking off recommended monthly tasks

**Final College List pg. 8**
Be ready for college applications by creating your college list. Label deadlines, letter of Recommendation requirements, major selection, and more.

**A-G Chart pg. 9**
Keep track of your A-G completion which is required to be admitted into a college.

**Selecting a College pg. 11**
Keep track of your college exploration by taking a look at important factors.

**EOP Questions pg. 19**
Gain access to a document with the EOP questions ready to be drafted.

**PIQ Document pg. 17**
Gain access to a document with the PIQ questions ready to be drafted.

**Brag Sheet pg. 27**
Keep track of your accomplishments, key experiences, leadership experiences.
Our college bound website is a click away. Full of resources and valuable information including:

**Webinar Calendar**
Continue to diversify your knowledge in financial literacy, academics, college, emotional intelligence, and meet new peers.

**Senior Handbook Activities**
Engage in activities that are geared towards planning, organizing, and exploring college information in order to make your senior year easier.

**Resources**
Check out resources including volunteer opportunities, scholarships, community events, and much more!

[Click Here](https://boysandgirlsclub.com/what-we-do/college-bound/)
**SENIOR TIMELINE**

- **August 1st:** UC & Common App Opens
- **September:** Finalize College List & Final Draft PIQs
- **October 1st:** CSU, FAFSA & Dream Act App Opens
- **January:** CB Scholarship Opens
- **December:** Scholarships & Early Decision Admissions
- **November 1st-30th:** Submit College Apps
- **February:** Create School Portals & CB Scholarship Due
- **March 2nd:** FAFSA & Dream Act Due, College Admissions
- **April:** Compare Fin. Aid Packages & College Admissions
- **May-June:** Complete College Requirements
- **May 1st:** SIR & School Deposit Due
- **Congratulations! You Graduated High School!**
**SENIOR CHECKLIST**

**September**
- Common App
- Activity Tracker
- Resume
- College List

**October**
- PIQ Draft
- EOP Draft
- Begin CSU App
- Begin UC App
- Financial Aid App
- Request Letters of Recommendation

**November**
- Common App
- Essay Draft
- Remind Recommenders
- Submit UC App by NOV. 30th
- Submit CSU App by NOV. 30th

**December**
- Finalize Common App
- Remind Recommenders
- Check Emails/Spam
- Open College Portals

**January**
- Check Emails
- Explore Portals (To Do List)

**February**
- Check Emails
- Explore Portals (To Do List)
- College Bound Scholarship

**March**
- Financial Aid Deadline
- Check Emails (Admission)
- Explore Portals (To Do List)
- Take Virtual Tours

**April**
- Review Financial Aid Packages
- Check your portal to do list
- Housing Applications

**May**
- SIR by May 1st
- Verification forms (if requested)
- Update School on CSAC

**June**
- Check Emails
- Orientation dates
- Graduate!!!!
**Bachelors Degree** - a four year undergraduate degree earned at the college level

**CA Dream Act** - application for undocumented students to apply for and receive state based financial aid and institutional scholarships.

**Common App** - platform where students apply for private universities.

**CSAC (California Student Aid Commission)** - website where students accept the grants offered to them for the school year.

**EFC (Estimated Family Contribution)** - an index number that colleges use to determine how much financial aid you're eligible to receive.

**EOP (Educational Opportunity Program)** - program that provides admission, academic, and financial support services for under served student populations.

**FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** - application that students fill out in order to determine your financial aid.

**FSA ID** - a username and password that gives you access to federal student aids online systems and can serve as your legal signature used in the FAFSA Application.

**Grants** - a sum of free money given by the government or other organization for a particular purpose, in this case college.

**Letters of Recommendation** - a letter that speaks about your work ethic and leadership skills written by a counselor, teacher, mentor, etc. Mostly requested for private universities or specific college programs.

**Major** - Specific area of study in college that requires a certain number of units to achieve

**Minor** - A second area of study that you choose to focus on in college. It is not required but it lets you study a different area of study by taking less units.

**Personal Statements** - written responses to specific questions given by private institutions which must be submitted when applying.

**Personal Insight Questions (PIQs)** - Questions given by the University of California system for students to answer when applying. Their purpose is to give them more personal insight into students experiences.

**Scholarships** - A type of financial aid. Free money that a school, individual, company, government, or organization, give to students.

**Students Intent to Register (SIR)** - Accepting admission to one institution. May 1st is the official SIR date.

**Subsidized Loans** - A type of loan that you only start paying interest on after you graduate from college. Usually they give you a 6 month grace period after graduating to start paying the loan with interest.

**Unsubsidized Loans** - A type of loan that you start paying interest as soon as it is borrowed.

**Waitlisted** - College institutions place students in such lists since they have not determined whether to admit or deny the student. Decisions are later notified but varies from college to college.
The A-G Requirements are high school courses that students must complete (with a C or better) to be eligible to apply to a 4 year university.

**Social Science**
- 2 years required

**English**
- 4 years required

**Math**
- 3 years required (4 Rec.)

**Science**
- 2 years required (3 Rec.)

**Foreign Language**
- 2 years required

**Visual Performing Arts**
- 1 year required

**College Prep Elective**
- 1 year required
The California State University (CSU) has temporarily suspended the use of ACT/SAT examinations in determining admission eligibility for all CSU campuses for the 2021-2022 academic year.

UC will be "test-optional" for fall 2021 and fall 2022. Test Optional means you get to choose whether you submit scores or not. Freshman applicants are not required to submit SAT/ACT test scores.

You may self-report scores for any standardized tests. Every college has different testing requirements. Some colleges will always need your test scores. Other colleges may be flexible or have a test optional policy. Be sure to check the testing policy of the colleges on your list.
Cost is important when determining what college to attend. Some institutions might be more expensive than others or the cost of living may vary from city to city. It is important to note that cost doesn't only include tuition but also housing, books, meals, and transportation. Do your research!

Researching if colleges have your major of interest is important. Comparing majors within schools can help you determine the focus of the major at that school. If you don't know what you want to major in you have until you submit your application to decide. A great start would be reflecting on your favorite school subject, what you enjoy doing, and what you see yourself doing in the future.

Set a distance limit or a range in hours of how far you see yourself moving/traveling to. This can help you determine what colleges to apply to or narrow down your choices. Some of the questions you can ask yourself are: Do you want to commute or live on campus? How comfortable are you with living far away from home?

Jobs and internships, while in college, can help you explore different careers. These opportunities will allow you to gain valuable experience that will help you find a job after you graduate college. Therefore, it is essential to identify job and internship opportunities in college.

Campus size can be an important deciding factor when looking at colleges. Some institutions are known for having larger class sizes and others for having smaller student to teacher ratios. Deciding on what type of campus size you feel comfortable in can help you narrow down your selection.

Remember that you will be attending college for about 3-4 years. In order to continue to develop into a well rounded individual, you should be active on campus. Therefore, looking into clubs, sports, and other extracurricular activities can give you insight on the experiences you might be able to have if you attend that campus.
California State Universities (CSU)

*Estimated time from the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Ana

- Humboldt ~ 12H
- Los Angeles ~ 1H
- Dominguez Hills ~ 40M
- Long Beach ~ 30 M
- San Diego ~ 1H 30M
- San Marcos ~ 1H
- Fullerton ~ 20M
- BGC Santa Ana
- San Bernardino ~ 1H 30M
- Pomona 40M
- Bakersfield ~ 3H
- San Luis Obispo ~ 4H
- Monterey Bay ~ 6H
- Stanislaus ~ 6H
- East Bay ~ 6H 30M
- Sacramento ~ 6H 30M
- Sonoma ~ 7H 30M
- San Jose ~ 6H
- San Francisco ~ 7H
- Stanislaus ~ 6H
- Chico ~ 8H
- Humboldt ~ 12H

23 COLLEGES
Cal States are 4 year college institutions that are known for being job oriented. They provide hands on education that will prepare you when applying for jobs after earning your degree.

**CSU Application**

- **Opens**: Oct. 1
- **Closes**: Nov. 30

**Useful Links**

- **Cal State Apply**
  - Start or continue your Cal State Application.
- **Impacted Majors**
  - Explore impacted majors at each Cal State institution.
- **Cost of Attendance**
  - Compare the cost of attendance at all Cal States.
- **Admission Handbook**
  - Learn more facts about the Cal State system.
What is EOP?

EOP is a program built to help first generation, low income students reach their fullest potential in a college setting. Campuses tailor their programs to accommodate the needs of their student population. Therefore support services may differ from campus to campus.

Support Services

Summer Program Orientation
Academic Advising Tutoring
Career Exploration Special Admissions
Financial Aid Personal Counseling

Eligibility

- A-G Completed
- Demonstrate academic potential and motivation
- Demonstrate need for services
- Meet Income Criteria

INCOME CRITERIA

*If your total family income exceeds these guidelines you may only be considered if your EFC doesn’t exceed 1,500

Student Testimonies

Michelle Enriquez
Cal State Fullerton
"EOP is very helpful to me and it was very important in my first semester of college. It helped to find resources and I love the one on one counseling"

Romelyn Macareg
Cal State Stanislaus
"EOP is an amazing program, they are the best and have the coolest mentors"

Useful Links

About EOP
Learn more about EOP by clicking here.

EOP Q&A
View frequently asked questing by clicking here.

EOP Deadlines
Reference the deadlines for document submission at each cal state campus.
Briefly describe your family's economic background. Include information about your financial challenges.

Why would you like to attend college? Discuss your career and personal goals. Are there any particular circumstances, school experiences, or persons that influenced your preparation or motivation to attend college?

Briefly discuss your academic background. Did you utilize any additional support at your high school, such as tutoring? Do your grades in high school and/or college reflect your academic ability or potential?

List any volunteer, extracurricular activities, or work experience in which you are or have been involved in the past two years.

Is there any additional information you would like EOP to consider in determining your admission to the program?

Applicants may complete and submit their Cal State Apply application and then later return to complete the EOP portion of the application.

If you are applying to EOP after you submitted your application, return to the dashboard and click Update My Application in order for your updates to be received by Cal State Apply staff.

EOP Questions Activity
Los Angeles ~1H 30M
San Diego ~1H 30M
Riverside ~1H
Merced ~5H
Santa Barbara ~2H 30M
Santa Cruz ~6H
Davis ~6H 30M
Berkeley ~6H 30M

YOU ARE HERE
Irvine ~20M

*Estimated time from the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Ana
The UC system is well known for its emphasis on research and theory-based learning. UCs provide a great opportunity for students to engage and connect with professors doing research in the fields they want to enter.

**Quick Facts**

- **150 yrs**
  - The UC system has been around for almost 150 years
- **2/3**
  - of California students who applied to UC last year got in
- **41%**
  - of UC undergraduates are first-generation
- **A-G**
  - requirements required for admission
- **3.0 GPA**
  - and above is required to apply to UC
- **$70**
  - is the application fee for each UC you apply to
- **9**
  - UC undergraduate campuses across all of California
- **800**
  - degree programs offered in total at all UC campuses

**UC Application**

- **Opens**
  - Aug. 1
- **Closes**
  - Nov. 30

**Useful Links**

- **University of California**
  - Get started on your application.
- **Undergraduate Majors**
  - Explore the complete list of undergraduate majors.
- **Cost of Attendance**
  - Find out the estimated average costs for attending a UC school.
- **Applying as a Freshman**
  - Learn about the freshman requirements to start your new journey at a UC.
What are the personal insight questions?
These questions are about getting to know you better: your life experiences, interests, ambitions and inspirations. Think of it as your interview with the admissions officers.

Personal Insight Questions Instructions:
- Choose 4 out of the 8 questions
- Each question must have a written response of maximum 350 words

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<th>Question #2</th>
<th>Question #3</th>
<th>Question #4</th>
<th>Question #5</th>
<th>Question #6</th>
<th>Question #7</th>
<th>Question #8</th>
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<td><strong>TOPIC = LEADERSHIP</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOPIC = CREATIVITY</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOPIC = TALENTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOPIC = EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY or BARRIER</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOPIC = CHALLENGES</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOPIC = FAVORITE SUBJECT AND/OR CLASS</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOPIC = GIVING BACK, MAKING CHANGE</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOPIC = STANDING OUT, BEING UNIQUE</strong></td>
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<td>Describe an example of your LEADERSHIP experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes OR contributed to group efforts over time.</td>
<td>Every person has a CREATIVE SIDE, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.</td>
<td>What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?</td>
<td>Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY or worked to overcome an EDUCATIONAL BARRIER you have faced.</td>
<td>Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?</td>
<td>Describe your favorite ACADEMIC SUBJECT and explain how it has influenced you.</td>
<td>What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?</td>
<td>What is the one thing that you think sets you apart from other candidates applying to the University?</td>
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**Writing Tips**

- **Start Early**
  - Give yourself enough time (~1 month) to develop a good and well-written response.
- **Write persuasively**
  - Use concrete examples to support the points you wish to make.
- **Use “I” statements**
- **Proofread and Edit**
  - Have a friend, a teacher, or your academic advisor proofread your work and help you improve your responses.
  - Reading your responses aloud can help you catch writing mistakes.
- **Get feedback**
  - Have someone look over your responses and have them give you pointers on how to improve your work.
- **Copy and paste**
  - Once you are satisfied with your responses, copy them and paste them onto your online application.
- **Relax**
  - This part of the application process will only add value to your entire application. Keep in mind that this is one of the many pieces that UC admission officers will consider.

- **Talk about one campus**
  - Remember that your responses are for all of the UC campuses!
- **Inappropriate use of humor**
- **Creative writing (poems, clichés)**
- **Quotations**
  - They want to know your thoughts & words, not someone else’s.
- **Acronyms**
  - Spell it out!
- **Generalities**
  - Try to be specific. Stick to the facts and personal examples.
- **Repetition:**
  - Your response is limited. Therefore try to provide new information they will not be able to find elsewhere in your application. This includes same examples or same clubs.
- **Ask philosophical questions:**
  - Get to the point!

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**Useful Links**

**UC PIQs**
UC personal insight questions and directions.

**UC PIQs Guide**
Personal insight questions guide for freshman.
Community College (CC)

- Cerritos CC (30M)
- Cypress CC (30M)
- Fullerton CC (30M)
- Golden West CC (24M)
- Santa Ana CC (8M)
- Coastline CC (13M)
- Irvine Valley CC (20M)
- Orange Coast CC (20M)
- Saddleback Canyon CC (30M)

*Estimated time from the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Ana
You can earn an associates degree, or a certificate, or transfer to a University through the community college system. The community college system also tends to be more affordable and encourages students to transfer within 2 years.

### CC Application

There are no specific deadlines to apply to community college!

However, if you want to apply for a specific session, look at the calendar.

### Apply through California Community Colleges

You can earn an associates degree, or a certificate, or transfer to a University through the community college system. The community college system also tends to be more affordable and encourages students to transfer within 2 years.

### Useful Links

- **CCC Apply**
  Begin your Community College Application

- **Why attend?**
  Learn why you should go to community college.

- **California’s Promise Grant**
  Discover a grant that can pay for your college tuition!
Private & Out of State Colleges
Private Schools are independently operated and are known for their close-knit community. They consist of small class sizes, personalized teaching, close bonds with classmates/professors, and may have religious affiliations.

**Applications**

Find college applications on the Common App or the college website

- **Early Action/Decision:** Oct - Feb.
- **Regular Admission:** Nov - Jan

**Useful Links**

- **Common App**
  (Start your application)

- **Fly-in Programs**
  (Programs that fly you to out of state colleges)

- **Compare Colleges**
  (Start your application)

- **Private College Scholarships**
  (Find different types of scholarships)
FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid: Application that determines how much financial aid a student is eligible to receive in order to pay for school. (Click here to apply)

CA Dream Act

Application that allows non U.S. citizen/resident students interested in attending eligible California Colleges, Universities, and Career Education Programs to apply for state financial aid. (Click here to apply)

Scholarships

A type of financial aid that is awarded by need or merit. It requires an application and may also require letters of recommendations and/or and essay. (Click here to learn more)
Grants

Money that is given to a student to help pay for college. Eligibility is determined through FAFSA/Dream Act. Grants can be given by the Federal or State government or by a college.

Loans

Money that is borrowed that needs to be paid back. School loans are determined by need and can accumulate interest. There are 3 types of school loans: Subsidized, Unsubsidized, and Federal Perkins loans.

Work Study

A federal program that employs students in a part-time job to help pay educational expenses. Eligibility is determined by need.

Click here to learn more
To Get Started On FAFSA/Dream Act You Need:

- Your Social Security Number OR Alien Registration Number (if not U.S Citizen)

- Your/Parent's federal income tax returns, W2 Forms, & other records of money earned

- Your/Parent's bank statements & records of investments (if applicable)

- Create your FSA ID and FAFSA/Dream Act account
What is a letter of recommendation?
A letter of recommendation is a formalized letter from a teacher, school counselor, manager, or someone who can vouch for your skill, performance, and character. It should also outline why they believe you are a great candidate for the role at hand.

Step 1
Choose a Recommender
Pick someone who knows you well and you have worked closely with or a teacher whose class you have done well in. (teacher, guidance counselor, coach, CB Advisor)

Step 2
Plan Ahead of Time
Have your materials ready to provide to your recommender and ask him or her at least 3 weeks before the deadline

Step 3
Provide Additional Material
Ask your recommender if they would like additional information to write a stronger letter.
*You can provide a brag sheet.

Step 4
Courtesy Reminder
If the deadline is in 1 week or less, kindly remind your recommender of the deadline.

Step 5
Thank You
Write a Thank You card to your recommender.

Step 6
Another Letter of Rec
Always request and receive permission from your recommender to submit another one for another application
Application opens in Spring to all College Bound seniors

General Application Requirements:

- Essay prompts
- Resume
- Transcript
- Letter of recommendation
- College Bound extracurricular activities form
- Proof of FAFSA/CA Dream Act submission
- Copy of financial aid award letter of the school the applicant plans to attend (if available)

$50,000 AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS EVERY YEAR
What is the Alumni Program?
A continued network of support for College Bound students throughout their post-high school journey.

What do we offer?
Academic, career, professional, and other assistance through:
- In person meetings
- Virtual meetings via Zoom
- Workshops and/or webinars via Zoom
- Social events/mixers

Benefits
Active alumni students are eligible for the following:
- Scholarships
- Book Stipends
- Travel Stipends
- Giveaways
All students will receive academic, career/professional guidance, & other support.

Additional Information:
The program is entirely free and students may participate in the program regardless of their location or post-high school plan.

CONTACT
Ms. Sanchez: isanchez@boysandgirlsclub.com
MEET OUR
COLLEGE BOUND ALUMNI

Marco Manzano
- School: Santa Ana College
- Major: Electrical Engineering
- Graduated from: Valley High School

Jessica Medina
- School: UC Irvine
- Major: Biological Science & Criminology
- Graduated from: Orange High School

Kyle Eaton
- School: University of Redlands
- Major: Undeclared
- Graduated from: El Modena High School

Hannah Tjoa
- School: CSU Fullerton
- Major: Nursing
- Graduated from: El Modena High School

Sergio Santoyo
- School: UC Davis
- Major: Computer Engineering
- Graduated from: Saddleback High School

Kimberly Ortega
- Currently Attending: Cal State LA
- Major: Masters in Family & Marriage Therapy with PPS & CWA Credential
- Graduated from: CSU Fullerton, Middle College High School
Certificate of Achievement

Presented to:

For taking an active role in fulfilling their academic and personal goals by utilizing the senior handbook.

I am College Bound

I will be attending:

Presented by: Juan Carrillo
College Bound Director