What We Will Cover:

1. Application timeline
2. Different types of applications
3. Test optional vs. test blind
4. Common Mistakes when filling out applications
5. PIQs versus Common App Essays
6. When do I need a Letter of Recommendation?
7. Xello
8. Application Check Google Form
9. How to support your student during application season
10. Financial Aid reminders

Application Timeline

Oct 1st

All college applications are now open

Nov 15th

Last day to submit application for review on the Application Check Google Form

Nov 30th

UC and CSU applications due

Dec

FAFSA/CADAA Applications Open Date TBA

Feb 15th

Last day to submit FAFSA/CADAA for extra graduation tickets

*** *Community College applications occur later; our main focus right now are the 4-year colleges that have earlier deadlines*
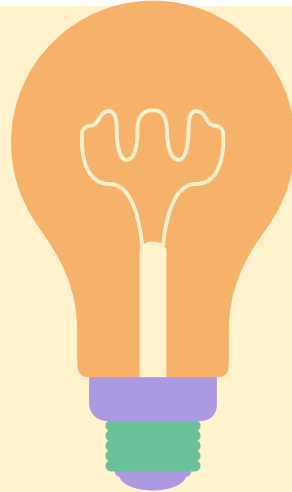
Early Decision versus Early Action

Early Decision

A student who is accepted as an ED applicant MUST attend the college (binding)

ED plans can be difficult because students/families do not have the opportunity to compare financial aid offers.

Early Action

Students receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May 1st.

Test Optional

Students may choose to submit SAT/ACT scores

If a student does not submit any scores, it will not count against them

Test Blind

Schools will not take students' test scores into consideration during the admissions process

Even if students send scores, they will not be used in the admissions process

Different Colleges Require Different Applications

California State University System

The University of California System

CSU

No letters of recommendation or essays

UC

No letters of recommendation, but requires Personal Insight Questions (PIQs)/Involvement

The Common Application is used for some private or out-of-state schools. Others may provide their own application

CSU map labels: Humboldt, Chico, Sonoma, Maritime, Sacramento, San Francisco, East Bay, San Jose, Stanislaus, Monterey Bay, Fresno, San Luis Obispo, Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Northridge, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Dominguez Hills, Pomona, Long Beach, Fullerton, San Marcos, San Diego

UC map labels: Davis, Berkeley, Santa Cruz, Merced, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Irvine, Riverside, San Diego

You'll notice:

Not every school will ask for a letter of recommendation. Students need to be positive before asking their recommenders!

Students should send their recommenders a "brag sheet" to help highlight their accomplishments, interests and other items it would be helpful to know while writing a LOR.

A template is available as an assignment on Xello

What's the difference between a PIQ and a College Essay?

Common App Essay (and many other college essays)

- 1 prompt, 650 word maximum

- Writing style matters; 5-paragraph structure is recommended

- Literary tone

- Centers on anecdote with "hook"

- Supported by recommendation letters

- Focus on personal values and growth experiences

- Core of prompt: "Who are you"

UC Personal Insight Questions

- 4 responses, 350-word maximum each

- Not scored on structure or style

- Factual tone

- Examples over storytelling

- Self-advocacy

- Focus on actions taken, impact

- Core of questions: "What have you done with available opportunities?"

Think of it as answering an interview question, rather than writing a fancy storytelling essay

Common mistakes: Writing too much of your PIQ about someone else, avoiding "I statements", using too much "fluffy writing".

Things to Double Check in the Application

Dates to Check

Applying for Fall 2024
(undergraduate)
Graduation Date: June 6, 2024

Term Type

We are a **SEMESTER** school!

Grading Scale

A-F Grading System
On a 4.0 scale

Double Check Untaxed Income

This number is usually $0 for most families

College Classes

All college classes are at a "Freshman" level on the CSU app

Tips for Guiding Students Through the College Application Process:

- Arrange Campus Visits

- Discuss a plan - Do they want to stay local, live at home etc

- Build a College List- Xello

- Search for Scholarships- Xello/ Ms. Morgan's Emails/Monthly 2024 GLT Newsletter

Xello and the Common App

Students must connect their Common Applications with Xello

BEFORE sending requests to their recommenders, students need to connect their Common Application to their Xello account!

This enables us as their counselors to submit all necessary documents and complete all required recommendations.

Application Check Google Form

All students are being asked to upload their applications into a google form BEFORE submitting them to the schools.

https://bit.ly/2024CollegeAppReview

Application Fees

- **UCs ($80/app -- Fee Waivers Available)**

- **CSUs ($70/app -- Fee Waivers Available)**

- **Private Universities ($0-$90/app -- Fee Waivers Available)**

- **Community Colleges (Free Application)**

GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA TIMELINE

DECEMBER

Apply for Financial Aid

JAN/FEB 2024

Apply to Grossmont for Fall 2024

MARCH 2024

Complete Onboarding Process and Meet w/Grossmont Counselors

EARLY JUNE

Field trip to Grossmont College *Pending College's approval.

GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA COLLEGE PROMISE

What is the Grossmont-Cuyamaca College Promise?
The Promise is an opportunity for first-time students who are CA residents attending full-time to attend college tuition-free for up to 2 years. The Promise helps students become career and transfer ready, providing seamless guidance and financial support through the completion of their academic and career development goals.

What is covered under the Grossmont-Cuyamaca College Promise?
The Promise program covers tuition and mandatory student fees for fall and spring semesters.
* $46 per Unit
* $20 State-mandated Health Fee (Summer $17)
* $1 Student Representation Fee
* $5 Student Center Construction Fee (Cuyamaca College)

What does the Grossmont-Cuyamaca College Promise NOT pay for?
Students are responsible for paying for books, supplies, parking permits, and any course fees. Additional financial support may be available through financial aid for eligible students.

Does the Grossmont-Cuyamaca College Promise cover summer classes (taken after high school)?
No. Tuition and mandatory fees for summer classes are not included in the Grossmont-Cuyamaca College Promise. Enrollment in summer classes does not impact eligibility for the Promise in fall, but costs are the responsibility of the student.

GREAT OPTION FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED COMMUNITY COLLEGE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.

STUDENTS CAN ALSO USE THE GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA COLLEGE PROMISE AS A BACKUP PLAN TO A FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITY.

CUYAMACA · COLLEGE ·

CAMPUS TOURS

📅 Fridays @ approximately 10:00am - 12:30pm

Come and learn more about our amazing programs and get a tour around our beautiful campus

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Walking tour of the campus
- Meet with campus programs
- New Student Presentation
- Free Lunch

TOURS CAN BE SPECIALIZED TO MEET YOUR STUDENTS' NEEDS

SIGN UP TODAY!

tinyurl.com/CuyamacaCampusTour

More information:

✉ cuyamaca.outreach@gcccd.edu

On Campus Resources

CALLING ALL SENIORS

Club College

WEDNESDAYS
3:35pm–6pm in Room 240

> Starts
> August 16th!

Come get help from the College & Career Center and your GLT with your college applications, financial aid, college essays and more!

COLLEGE APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

EVENTS CALENDAR

11 SEPT	**COMMON APPLICATION** Profile, Grades, Activities	DONT MISS IT
18 SEPT	**UC APPLICATION** Profile, Grades, Activities	
09 OCT	**COMMON APPLICATION** Essays, Supplemental Essays	
16 OCT	**CSU APPLICATION** Profile, Grades, Activities	LET'S GO!
23 OCT	**UC APPLICATION** Personal Insight Questions	

HELIX CHARTER College & Career CENTER

MONDAYS - 3:45-5:30 IN RM 190

EMAIL MORGAN@HELIXCHARTER.NET IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

@helixcollege_careercenter

Financial Aid Reminders

★ **Complete and submit the FAFSA/CADAA**

Starting in December

★ **Upload a copy of your SAR or CADAA submission confirmation to Xello**

After you submit

★ **Complete the process BEFORE February 15, 2024 to earn 2 extra graduation tickets**

2/15/24

- Oct 12th- Financial Aid Information Night

Questions?