

THE COLLEGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS

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Volume 29 Issue 5

CAL STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM MAY SOON END SAT, ACT REQUIREMENTS

(huffpost.com)

The California State University system is set to drop the SAT or the ACT as an admission requirement, the Los Angeles Times reported, a major step by the college system to expand access to higher education amid criticism that the standardized tests are biased against low-income people and students of color.

Cal State Chancellor Joseph Castro said Wednesday that he was “very supportive” of the plan following the release of a report this month that found many qualified students are finding it difficult to get into California universities.

“I just want folks to know that I am not interested as chancellor to make it harder for students to get into the CSU,” Castro said of the end of the requirements, the Times reported.

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HOW AND WHY COLLEGES LOOK AT SENIOR YEAR GRADES

(collegerealitycheck.com)

Your high school grades constitute your high school GPA. And your high school GPA is taken into account in the college admissions process. And now, you may be wondering if the colleges and universities you apply to will check out your GPA only or your individual high school grades, too.

Colleges look at senior year grades. However, it's only when complete high school transcripts are sent to them. In the meantime, the admissions officers decide based on junior year grades or first-semester senior year grades. Having good second-semester senior year grades can secure one's admission.

No matter if you are happy with your high school grades or doubting that they are enough to get you accepted into the institution of your liking, don't stop reading now. By the end of this article, you will realize how important your high school grades are in the college admissions game.

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10 COLLEGE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

(teenlife.com)

Most high school students dread the college interview. But it doesn't have to send you running in the opposite direction. With a little preparation and a confidence boost because of the preparation, you can ace the interview. Here is a list of 10 interview questions colleges might ask and suggestions on how to respond. They may not be exactly as worded, but they will fall into one of four categories: questions about your fit with the college, questions about your personality, questions about interests and goals, and broader questions requiring a more thoughtful response.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

APIA SCHOLARSHIP

Provides scholarships to underserved APIA students with a special focus on those who live at or below the poverty level, or are otherwise of low socioeconomic status and are the first in their families to attend college. Deadline Jan. 26, 2022



RON BROWN SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Offers four-year renewable awards for \$10,000 per year to African American high school seniors who plan to attend college full-time. Scholarship is based on financial need, academic achievement, essay, extracurricular activities, leadership experience, community service and recommendations. Early Deadline: January 9, 2022



FUTURE ENGINEERS: LUNABOTICS JUNIOR CONTEST

Future Engineers: Lunabotics Junior Contest - K-12 US students: Your challenge is to design a robot that can dig and move lunar soil (regolith) from one area of the lunar South Pole to a holding container near a future Artemis Moon base. Deadline to apply January 25th 2022



THE JACKIE ROBINSON FOUNDATION AWARD

The Jackie Robinson Foundation awards grants of up to \$30,000 over four years to complement financial aid. In addition, minority scholars attend a four day leadership and mentor conference in New York City. Deadline to apply Jan. 12th 2022



SENIOR CHECKLIST

-  Keep a close eye on deadlines
-  Submit the FAFSA
-  Check portals for offers and financial aid packages
-  Ask for teacher recommendations
-  Register for the Common Application
-  Check out the newer Coalition Application

CALIFORNIA STATE SUMMER SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

A four week summer program for talented and motivated high school students in California and beyond. Application Opens in December

HORATIO ALGER ASSOCIATION

Manages 70 of the largest need based scholarship opportunities in the country for high school juniors who have faced or overcome obstacles. Scholarships by state and by career.



Fun Fact:

More than three-quarters of college applicants get into their first-choice schools

24 AWESOME INTERNSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

(blog.collegevine.com)

What do you want to be when you grow up? If you're like most high school students, the answer still isn't crystal clear. That's all right, and in fact, it's 100% normal. The good news is that there are plenty of ways—like internships—to explore your interests and various career fields before you take the leap and commit to a certain program or college major. Internships are a great way for high school students to gain work experience, learn about professional opportunities, and network within career and academic fields.

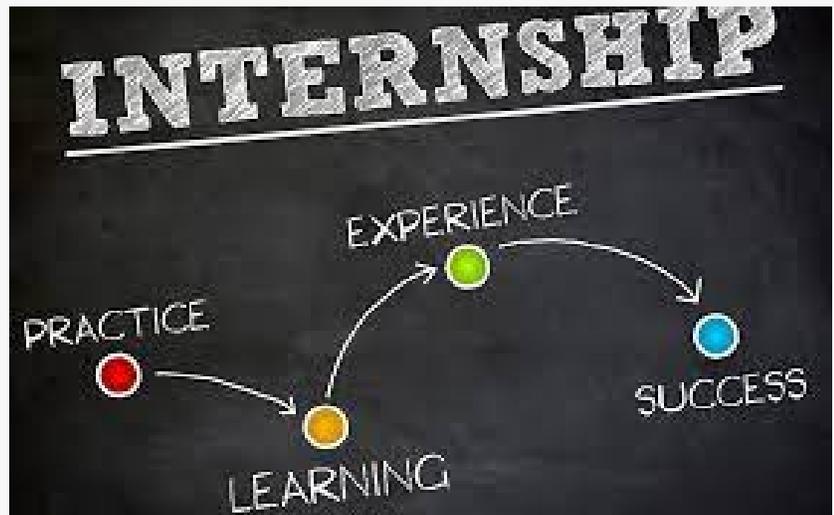
What Is an Internship and How Does It Work?

An internship is essentially an introductory work experience in a professional career field. It is sometimes paid, though usually at the lowest end of the pay scale, and it is sometimes unpaid. The function of an internship is to gain experience and insight into a certain field while also performing some functional work in exchange for the experience.

For example, if you get an internship in a research lab, usually you won't jump right into hands-on lab work.⁸

Instead, you'll start with things like cleaning the lab and entering data into spreadsheets. While this might sound tedious, it will also give you the opportunity to connect with the people who work there, learn about the day-to-day functioning of the worksite, and give you an idea of whether or not a career in this field might be of interest to you.

Before you commit to an internship, you should always make sure that you are clear on the expectations. Have a good understanding of the time commitment, the length of the internship,



the responsibilities, and whether or not you'll be receiving anything in exchange. Some unpaid internships might offer other perks like free classes at related institutions, travel reimbursement, or even housing. You should also be certain you understand your responsibilities and that you're comfortable sticking with them. Internships are a great way to break into difficult career fields. For students who want to gain experience in research, medicine, law, or other professions normally requiring an advanced degree, an internship is a way to gain some insight and experience without the commitment of a degree. You will learn about the field and forge important connections with people who might ultimately write you a recommendation or even offer you a job.

How Do Internships Impact Your College Chances?

Extracurricular activities play a considerable role in the college admissions process and are an excellent opportunity for applicants to stand apart from a field of academically equal candidates.

In general, any internship is beneficial to your application, but some are more influential than others. For example, the more high-profile and selective the opportunity, the better it looks to a prospective school. Similarly, the more responsibility and leadership a student demonstrates in an internship position, the more likely it is to catch the eye of an admissions office.

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COLLEGE NEWS

DePaul, **Harvard and Stanford** students won't have in-person classes the first weeks of the semester; **Penn State, UCLA and U of Southern California** are considering such a move; **Cornell** has surge in infections; **Bowie State, Towson and Tufts** move finals online.

There Is No College in COVID: Selections From the **Oregon State University**–Cascades Student Journaling Project book consists of a curated collection of journal entries from first-year students at OSU-Cascades enrolled in a fall 2020 academic success course designed to help ease the transition to college.

WWAMI guarantees Alaska residents access to the **University of Washington's** medical school. It's been a great partnership. It benefits both states by minimizing medical education costs and, importantly, providing physicians to the **State of Alaska**.

Two **Oregon State University** Extension Service Small Farms program projects have been awarded U.S. Department of Agriculture grants totaling more than \$800,000 to strengthen the viability of Oregon's small and mid-scale farms and food businesses.

A new **Washington State University** shuttle service is providing free transportation to travelers bound for the Lewiston Nez Perce County Regional Airport. Calls from car-less college students seeking a transportation option to and from the airport prompted the new shuttle program, Michael Isaacs, airport director, said.

CLIMATE JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIP

\$1,000 awarded to one lucky applicant. Jamie Sarai Margolin co founder of Zero Hour created this scholarship. Deadline April 15th.



FILENE MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Four to six \$60,000 Filene Music Scholarships are awarded each year through a performance competition coordinated by Skidmore's Department of Music. Deadline January 15, 2022



JUNIOR CHECKLIST

-  Attend virtual college visits
Make plans to visit college campuses
-  ACT - Next test date is February 12. You must register by January 7th. It takes 30 minutes to complete registration and you will need a photo.
-  SAT - Next test date is March 12. You must register by February 11th

GE REAGAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Honoring the legacy and character of our nation's 40th President, the GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program rewards college-bound students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship with financial assistance to pursue higher education. Deadline January 6, 2022

AROUND THE CORNER FROM COLLEGE

\$1,000 scholarship to one applicant each season. Deadline is June 30th



HSF SCHOLARSHIPS

More than 150 scholarships for Latino students with or without US citizenship



HOW AND WHY COLLEGES LOOK AT SENIOR YEAR GRADES

(Continued from page 1)

But before everything else, let's check out why your high school transcript is of the essence...Colleges look at various parts of a high school transcript. Some of them are the GPA, college-level courses, class rank, and disciplinary actions taken against a student. Some colleges look at test scores, while others don't, depending on if they have a test-optional or test-blind admissions policy.

- **GPA** -As a general rule, the higher the GPA, the better the chances of getting accepted.



- **College Classes** - Taking challenging AP or IB courses in high school and doing well show that you are ready for college. It can also help you save time and money by allowing you to finish college at a faster rate (for schools that accept credit). But keep in mind that you won't be disadvantaged in the admissions process if there are no college-level classes in your high school.
- **Class rank** - Based on the State of College Admission report by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), only 9.1% of colleges and universities said that class rank is of considerable importance in the admissions process.
- **Disciplinary Record** - Some other things that may be used in the admissions process may appear on a high school transcript. One example is any serious disciplinary action taken against a student.

Do Colleges Look at Freshman Year Grades?

Colleges look at first-year high school grades. Most admissions officers will not forgive and forget low freshman grades. However, they will be more understanding of them. Senior year grades, in contrast, are taken seriously. In fact, colleges can rescind admission based on senior high school grades.

Do Colleges Look at Senior Year Quarter Grades?

Colleges look at senior year quarter grades. In some instances, quarter grades are not as important as semester grades and final grades. However, they can affect admissions decisions for students who apply Early Decision (ED) or Early Action (EA). They can impact Rolling Admission (RA) outcomes, too.

Do Colleges Look at Second Semester Senior Year Grades?

Colleges look at the second-semester grades of senior high school students. However, they do so not during the application process. That's because it is unlikely for them to be available at that time. Instead, colleges request high schools to send second-semester senior grades to them later.

The best time to start to strive to have good grades is the moment that you step foot on your high school campus. And by keeping up the good work, you can keep your GPA from falling below the threshold your dream college has set. The higher your GPA is by the time you graduate high school, the higher your chances become.

Here is a list of 10 interview questions colleges might ask and suggestions on how to respond. They may not be exactly as worded, but they will fall into one of four categories: questions about your fit with the college, questions about your personality, questions about interests and goals, and broader questions requiring a more thoughtful response.

10 COLLEGE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

*Continued from page 1***1. How would you describe yourself to someone who did not know you?**

Use this question to communicate your passions and even your quirks. This makes you a “person” and not just a name on an application. Find something that makes you memorable and use it to give the interviewer a snapshot into who you are.

2. What do you expect to be doing ten years from now?

This is six years after you’ve graduated from college. Who knows what they will be doing ten years from now? Odds are you have no idea and haven’t even thought about it. It’s acceptable to answer, “I don’t know”, if you explain your answer. You are just out of high school and entering into college. Explain that college will shape who you are, what you pursue, and what career path you take. An honest response is always the best response.

3. What are your strengths and weaknesses?

Think about this question. It’s not enough to say you are a leader or you are a loyal friend. You need examples and incidents that communicate your strengths, and will help the judges understand why you believe they are strengths. When talking about a weakness, be honest. The key is to show that you are taking steps to minimize or overcome this weakness.

4. How would you contribute to our college community?

Be specific when answering this question. Since the question asks about the community, it should be community oriented. How will you make the college a better place?

5. What subject in high school did you find most challenging? Even if you’re an excellent student, there will be subjects that challenge you. Use this opportunity to show how you tackled the challenge (tutoring, one-on-one with the teacher, study groups, etc.). This shows colleges that even if you face difficulty in a college course, you know how to get help.

6. Why do you want to attend this college?

Use this question to reveal something about yourself that they might not know. Don’t state the obvious and say —because it’s a top-tiered college, or they have majors that interest you, or your parents went there. Walk the interviewer through the thought process you took when selecting the college. This will communicate what’s important to you and show them what you value, why you want to attend their college, and what you hope to gain from an education there.

7. Who do you most admire?

When interviewers ask this question they are trying to learn something about you through the person you admire most. It says something about you so it’s important to explain your choice. It’s not enough just to give a name, you need to know something about the person and why they inspire you.

8. What is your favorite book and why?

They are not looking for a book report. What they want is to learn more about who you are from the books you read, which are an indicator of your interests, beliefs, goals, likes and dislikes.

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CAL STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM MAY SOON END SAT, ACT REQUIREMENTS

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He added that he was “committed to providing access to students of all backgrounds.”

The Cal State system has about 486,000 students across 23 campuses and is the largest four-year university system in the country. The system’s board of trustees will review a recommendation to drop the ACT and SAT, made this month by an advisory council, in January and then vote on it in the spring.

The move follows a similar one by the University of California system, which said last year it would no longer take SAT or ACT scores into account for admissions or scholarships. The system includes some of the nation’s premier universities, including UCLA and Berkeley, and came amid a lawsuit filed on behalf of students and other advocacy groups that said the requirement was unfairly biased against poor students of color, particularly Black and Latino applicants.

The University of California system said last month it wouldn’t replace either test with an alternative after searching for a separate standardized test to help with admissions decisions. School officials said they couldn’t find an exam that would avoid the biases named by the tests’ detractors.

“UC will continue to practice test-free admissions now and into the future,” Micheal Brown, the system’s provost, said at the time.

COBELL SCHOLARSHIP

Cobell Scholarship for members of a US federally recognized tribe enrolled in full time study pursuing a degree. Undergraduate, summer and vocational school scholarships available. Deadline to apply Jan. 10th, 2022



NROTC SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The purpose of the Navy ROTC Program is to educate and train qualified young men and women for service as commissioned officers in the Navy's unrestricted line, the Navy Nurse Corps and the Marine Corps. Due January 31st 2022



10 COLLEGE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

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9. How have you been a leader or displayed leadership?

Don’t list off a bunch of titles and positions. Focus on one specific leadership position and give detail to show the depth of your commitment. Cite concrete accomplishments. Remember that you don’t have to hold an office or title or elected position to be a leader. Describing how you organized something or motivated a group of people is just as impressive. Leadership isn’t communicated by titles, but by action.

10. What challenge have you overcome?

You can draw from many different types of challenges: academic, personal, work, goals, tragedy, and even an ethical dilemma. This question is designed to determine what type of problem solver you are; college is about developing critical thinking and problem solving skills.

24 AWESOME INTERNSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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24 GREAT INTERNSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

1. United States Secret Service (USSS) Student Volunteer Program
2. BRAINYAC
3. Air Force Research Library Scholar Program
4. Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program
5. GeoSciences Bridge Program
6. Plant Genome Research REU
7. Cincinnati Museum Center Internships
8. Student Research Internship Program at the Scripps Translational Science Institute
9. New-York Historical Society's Student Historian Program
10. Microsoft High School Internship
11. The Expanding Horizons Internship
12. Smithsonian Internship
13. The Library of Congress Internship
14. KP LAUNCH Program
15. Johns Hopkins Internship in Brain Sciences (JHIBS)
16. NASA High School Internship
17. Met High School Internship Program
18. Adler Planetarium Summer High School Internship
19. Bank of America Student Leader Program
20. Indiana University Cancer Center Summer Research Program
21. Virtual NGO & Social Support Internship out of India
22. Stanford Compression Forum Summer Internship
23. Carnegie Museums Internships
24. Washington Performing Arts Internship

COLLEGE NEWS

The Department of Applied Linguistics at **Portland State University** received a grant from the Provost's ReImagine initiative to raise awareness of language bias within the PSU community.

San Francisco State awarded 10 scholarships through a drawing to fully fund four years of undergraduate tuition to the University for eligible youth who registered at participating vaccination locations in the city.

A **Cal State Long Beach** associate professor of social work recently was rewarded a recurring \$15 million by state legislators for the entire CSU system for the Basic Needs Initiative component of Graduation Initiative 2025 to help bridge the food insecurity and housing gap for students.

Point Loma Nazarene University has earned multiple high-ranking West regional awards for 2022 including #12 Best West Regional Universities

Pomona student goes TikTok viral with revamped Rice Purity Test. The Innocence Test will tell you in exchange for an examination of all your "impure" actions.