



STARTING THE COLLEGE SEARCH

Presentation for La Jolla High School Juniors
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October, 2022



Why are you going?

Thinking about what you want to get out of college:

- Do you have a specific job/career goal?
- I've always wanted to be a doctor/lawyer/architect/fashion designer/civil engineer/graphic artist/hedge fund manager...
- I have no idea what I want to do and trust that college will allow me to explore current interests and gain new ones.
- How will college help me achieve my goals?
- Through course of study, internships, research opportunities
- Is graduate school part of your plan?
- Important to plan ahead for appropriate academic offerings, professor connections, finances (grad school is expensive, too).

- Remember: college is not vocational school, but you do want to be employable (or be qualified for grad school) upon graduation...

Start with self reflection – your interests and goals:

- What would you like to learn more about?
 - Academically?
 - Career-wise?

- How do you explore your goals?
 - Xello or other school-sponsored platform?
 - Career goals through O*Net (US Department of Labor website)
 - Shadowing?
 - Internships?

Self-reflection – your priorities:

- ❖ **Location** – Do you prefer to stay close to home? Leave the state? Go overseas?
- ❖ **Academics** – is there a particular area of study that you would like to pursue? Are there constraints on where it is offered? BS/MD or 2-3 Engineering?
- ❖ **School Size** – do you thrive in a large bustling environment or a smaller one?
- ❖ **Learning style** – how do you learn best – listening and taking notes? Reading? Discussion? Collaborative projects?
- ❖ **Campus Appeal** – is on-campus housing guaranteed? In urban or suburban area? Do they offer sports for participating or viewing? What is the surrounding environment like – college town or big city?
- ❖ **Social Life** – clubs? Activities? Greek Life?
- ❖ **Total Cost – Including Aid**

Worksheets to help you refine and focus your thoughts:

College Match · A Blueprint for Choosing the Best School for You

Qualities That Will Make a College Right for You

When you see numbers from 1 to 5 sandwiched between two statements, circle the number that best reflects your level of preference. Circle 1 if you have a strong preference for the quality listed on the left. Circle 5 if you have a strong preference for the quality listed on the right. Use 2, 3, or 4 to reflect varying levels of preference.

Quality 1—Size

Colleges vary in size from under 100 to more than 60,000 students. As you think about this quality, try to picture the size college that is best for you academically AND socially. The following considerations may help you.

Smaller colleges. Smaller colleges provide students with many benefits. First, they can be just as diverse, fun, and interesting as larger schools. Students at these schools often rave about the range of opportunities and the depth of their friendships.

Second, because classes are more intimate than those at large universities, they allow for greater interaction between student and professor. You'll have more opportunities to contribute in class, and it's likely you'll really know your professors. By knowing your professors, you can benefit from their expertise and they can help you with any academic weak points. Further, they will be able to write you knowledgeable recommendations

High desire for accessible teachers.	1	2	3	4	5	Low desire for accessible teachers.
I would likely get better grades in small classes.	1	2	3	4	5	I would likely get similar grades in small or large classes.
More discussion-oriented classes.	1	2	3	4	5	More lecture-oriented classes.
I learn best discussing ideas and interacting with the instructor and students.	1	2	3	4	5	I learn best by reading, listening, taking notes.
Desire for tutors/extra assistance.	1	2	3	4	5	No desire for tutors/ extra assistance.
A close-knit, family-like environment.	1	2	3	4	5	A place where I can blend in with the crowd.

First, look at the following size distinctions. (These distinctions are arbitrary and are intended merely to assist you in considering general size parameters.)

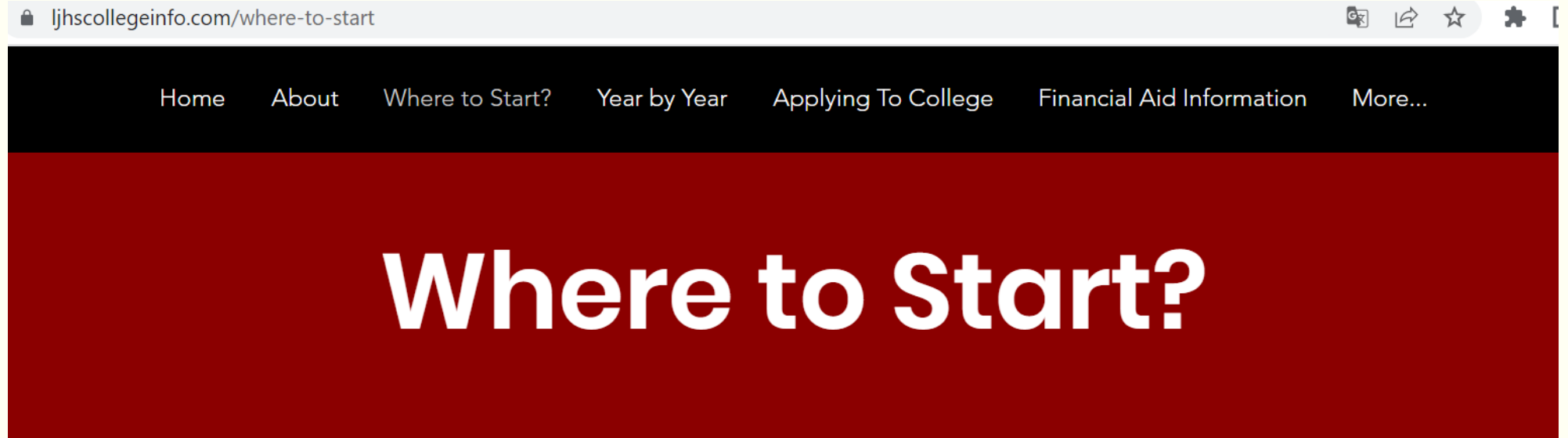
Small size—fewer than 3,000 students

Medium size—between 3,000 and 10,000 students

Large size—between 10,000 and 20,000 students

Largest size—more than 20,000 students

And lots of resources to help you understand it all!



It can be overwhelming to know where and how to begin the college search, but the following pages should provide you with the information you need to begin to bring into focus your goals and reasons for wanting to attend college. Then you can learn about the different types of colleges, research majors (which will lead you toward those career and life goals) and understand college admissions requirements. You will learn about different cool programs that exist and begin to create your list of schools which interest you, and ultimately narrow it down to the schools where you will apply.

Understanding the difference – college vs. university

And why it is important...

- Colleges concentrate on undergraduate instruction
 - Often have smaller classes and are primarily residential (students living on campus)
 - Usually taught solely by professors
 - Offer students opportunities to interact with professors and participate in undergraduate research
 - Liberal Arts Colleges include physical and social sciences and sometimes engineering! Teach students to think critically, write analytically, and communicate effectively across a variety of disciplines.
- Universities offer various levels of degrees (Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral)
 - Made up of several colleges or schools – Engineering, Business, Arts & Sciences, etc.
 - Usually have large research components
 - Often have large classes at the lower division level (first two years)
 - Sections or some classes taught by TA's (Teaching Assistants) or Graduate Student Instructors (GSI's)

Research Careers, Majors and Colleges

Glossary of Terms

Glossary of Terms

Types of Colleges

Creating Your College List

Course Requirements + Testing

Visiting Colleges

Programs you should know about

Informational Videos

Terms and acronyms abound in the world of college admissions. Here is a guide to help you decipher it all.

ACT: Abbreviation for the American College Test. This is an assessment in English, mathematics, social science comprehension, and science reasoning. Accepted by most colleges in lieu of the SAT.

Associate's Degree: An Associate of Arts (AA) degree is traditionally earned in two years at a community college.

Bachelor's Degree: BA – Bachelor of Arts, BS – Bachelor of Science. A diploma earned after successful completion (traditionally in four years) of required courses at a college or university.

Calendar: The system used by an institution to divide its year into instruction periods (sometimes referred to as "Academic Calendar"). The most common are semester, quarter, and 4-1-4.

College Entrance Requirements (including testing):

- If you are graduating from a school in the San Diego Unified School District, you will have met all college entrance requirements.
- Most colleges in the US use the University of California a-g requirements as the basis for their admission requirements. Of course, some colleges require a more rigorous high school curriculum (higher level math, for example) depending on desired major.
- During the pandemic, most colleges stopped requiring SAT or ACT scores for admission as they could not be administered. Many colleges have remained test optional, meaning they do not require scores to be submitted with the application.
- The UC and CSU system (along with many individual schools) became test-free or test-blind, meaning they will not consider scores even if submitted.
- Some colleges have resumed requiring SAT/ACT scores: MIT, Georgetown, public schools in Florida and Tennessee for example. Check www.fairtest.org for a complete list of test optional schools (but also check any college's website for up to date information).

A few interesting college majors. So much to be explored and learned!

- Adventure Education
- Astrobiology
- Audio Technology
- Animal Breeding
- Caribbean Studies
- Documentary Production
- Golf Management
- Greenhouse Operations
- Juvenile Corrections
- Knowledge Management
- Logic
- Mathematical Biology
- Mortuary Science
- Museum Studies
- Nautical Archeology
- Parasitology
- Resort Management
- Sustainability
- Textile Science
- Viticulture

Go to the source – college websites!

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Bachelor of Science

DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR	FOURTH YEAR
Explore your major	Familiarize yourself with ES major requirements . Meet with the ES major advisor to sketch out a four-year plan. Talk to a peer advisor about life at Rausser College.	Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major if currently undeclared. Consider a minor, certificate, or course thread . Meet with the ES major advisor if you plan to study abroad.	Complete the statistics requirement no later than the fall semester. Start brainstorming research topics for your senior thesis and reach out to potential faculty mentors. Take ESPM 100ES during the spring semester, which culminates in a proposal for your senior thesis research topic.	Take ESPM 175 and find a faculty mentor for your senior thesis. Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate. Complete any "bucket list" courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements. Present your research at the ES Symposium to your peers, friends, and family.
Connect and build community	Take advantage of the Rausser Student Resource Center . Get 1:1 mentoring with Berkeley Connect in ESPM . Join a student group like the Environmental Sciences Student Association .	Start attending Rausser undergraduate events . Explore ways to get involved at Rausser College through special programs and groups. Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during office hours.	Help other students as a Rausser Peer Advisor . Become a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley. Seek mentorship from your professors, faculty, and graduate student instructors.	Join a professional association such as the National Association of Environmental Professionals or Society for Conservation Biology . Connect with alumni groups such as the Rausser College Alumni Association and build your network as you prepare to graduate.
Discover your passions	Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or DeCal course like ESPM 98. Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarships Fair in October. Learn about research opportunities for Rausser students. Apply for a research position through SPUR .	Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course . Assist faculty and grad students in their research through URAP or SURF-SMART . Check out research by your peers at a Rausser poster session . Consider a course thread in Humanities & Environment or Sciences and Society .	Apply for a Rausser Travel Grant to fund travel for academic conferences or research. Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS database, SPUR, or URAP . Work on energy and climate change solutions as part of Cal Energy Corps . Enrich your studies with classes in other areas of academic interest.	Teach your own DeCal course . Participate in the college Honors Program . Present your research at a poster session or submit to the Berkeley Scientific Journal . Keep pursuing your interests through a fellowship or by taking a gap year .
Engage locally and globally	Attend the Calapaloosa student activities fair and get involved with a student organization. Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center . Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad . Engage with campus sustainability issues via the Student Environmental Resource Center .	Work with a community organization in an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course . Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program . Check out the Moorea program for fieldwork opportunities abroad. Apply your skills in projects for Solar Spring Break or the Green Initiative Fund .	Participate in a field science or ecology program at the UC Natural Reserve . If interested in environmental policy, look into UCDC or Cal in the Capital . Help youth learn about ecology and the environment through Berkeley SEEDS .	Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State . Attend a conference such as the Clinton Global Initiative: University Conference . Look into travel grants from the college and ASUC. Help farm and forest communities in California through Grizzlycorps .
Reflect and plan your future	Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library . Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner .	Take advantage of career and pre-health advising for Rausser students. Explore career fields through the Career Center .	Conduct informational interviews. Discuss post-graduate options with advisors and professors.	Utilize job search tools from the Career Center. Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

ES graduates are well-prepared for careers in fields such as environmental consulting, education, health, or law, as well as community, urban, or regional planning and other related areas of environmentalism. Graduates are well-qualified for a variety of graduate programs, including environmental policy and management, law school, medical school, and environmental engineering.

Jobs and Employers

Analyst Consultant, Accenture
Biological Tech, Dept. of Agriculture
Biologist Intern, UCSF
Business Associate, Next Jump
Consultant, NASA
Data Analyst, Lucid Software
Environmental Compliance Intern, Recology
Environmental Scientist, Americorps
Forestry Tech, Collins Company
GIS Data Specialist, City of San Mateo
Naturalist, Aquarium of the Bay
Software Ops. Specialist, Nuro

Graduate Programs

Civil Engineering, PhD
Ecology, PhD
Environmental Science, Masters
Forestry, PhD
Law, JD
Molecular Biology, PhD
Public Health, Masters
Public Policy Analysis, Masters

Use college websites to research what you can do with various majors! Where do they lead? What are the job possibilities?

Please consider these things as you research schools:

- **Four year graduation rate**
 - Don't spend more than you have to! That fifth/sixth year are expensive!
- **Freshman retention rate**
 - Are students happy and returning to campus?
- **Academic Fit**
 - Have you been given Honors Status? Will you be challenged? Or overwhelmed?
- **Financial Fit**
 - Were you offered merit aid? Sufficient need-based aid? Are any scholarships/aid renewable for all four years?
- **Social Structure, Campus Life, Housing**
 - Greek life? Intermural athletics? Clubs? Housing – be sure that on-campus housing is guaranteed to all freshmen and that subsequent years' housing options are reasonable.
- **Specific Programs**
 - Engineering? Fashion Design? Construction management? Cyber security? Check College Scorecard to see how they rate.

As you research colleges, please learn more about: CTCL

- Colleges That Change Lives – 44 small Liberal Arts Colleges that have student-centered admission policies.
- Started with a book by the same title written by Lorne Pope, a well-known journalist and college expert. Offer a great 4-page PDF on choosing the right school that can be found at www.ctcl.org.

HOW TO CHOOSE
A COLLEGE
THAT'S RIGHT
FOR YOU

CTCL.ORG
COLLEGES THAT CHANGE LIVES

CHANGING LIVES. ONE STUDENT AT A TIME.

As you research schools, please learn more about: WUE

- Western Undergraduate Exchange Scholarship – available at public colleges and universities in Western US states (not every school; not every major).
- Scholarship program offering deeply discounted tuition and fees. Can often be close to the amount of in-state tuition (and often as low than Cal State cost of attendance).
- When applying at most schools, applicants are automatically considered for the scholarship.



The screenshot displays the WICHE website's navigation and main content area. At the top left is the WICHE logo and the text "Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education". To the right are links for "WICHE COMMISSION", "OUR REGION", "PUBLICATIONS", "EVENTS", and "NEWS". Below this is a dark blue navigation bar with links for "TUITION SAVINGS", "KEY INITIATIVES", "COLLABORATION & LEADERSHIP", "POLICY & RESEARCH", "WCET", "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH", and "ABOUT WICHE", along with a search icon. The main content area features a large image of three students (two men and one woman) looking at a screen together. Overlaid on the right side of this image is a blue box with the text "WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE (WUE)" and "WE BROADEN HORIZONS FOR STUDENTS ACROSS THE AMERICAN WEST". At the bottom left, a breadcrumb trail reads "Home > Tuition Savings > For Undergraduates: WUE".

As you research schools, please learn more about: Honors Programs and Honors Colleges

- Honors Colleges abound – mostly as smaller “colleges” or programs within a large university.
- Some offer honors dorms, smaller classes, special seminars and speakers, priority class registration. Some offer honors classes; some have an overall Honors College; some also require an honors thesis.
- Being part of an honors college can be a great way to make a large university smaller.
- Examples at ASU – Barret Honors College, SDSU – Weber Honors College, University of Oregon – Clark Honors College. Other schools which have strong honors programs are U of Alabama, University of South Carolina, New College (Florida), Michigan State, University of Denver, CU Boulder, Colorado State, University of Arizona, University of Kansas, Texas Tech, University of Georgia, University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University. Please check availability for each of your schools.
- Other ways of breaking down large schools are living learning communities, sororities, clubs, sports teams.

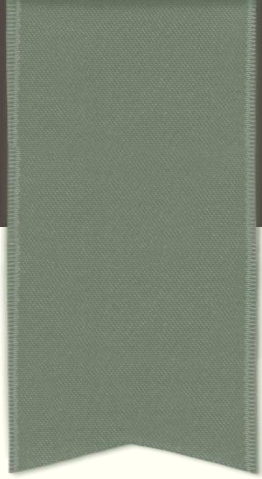
Demonstrated interest:

- Some schools are very interested in students who are interested in them! They can track your interest in various ways, and you can find out where this matters by checking www.collegedata.com under admission – level of an applicant’s interest.
- When you find schools which interest you, demonstrate your interest in them by signing up on their website to receive informational emails. Then open and read them!
- If a college rep is coming to your school and you can attend their information session or meet with them, do so – and introduce yourself. That person will be reading your application.
- Attend a college fair and come armed with a plan to speak to schools which interest you. Be sure to register in advance to get a QR code so that the rep can scan your information and know you were there.
- Visit the college in person if possible. Register in advance for a campus tour and information session.

If you have special interests or talents that you plan to pursue, know what it takes as the timeline may be accelerated:

- If you are a recruited athlete, be sure to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Meet with your school and/or club coach for additional guidance.
- If you are an artist, look up portfolio requirements and deadlines for submission at your colleges..
- If you are in dance, music or theater, look up audition requirements at each of your colleges. Be clear on dates, as they are often early in senior year or even summer prior. Auditions may require you to travel (to the school, or large city nearby).





FINANCIAL AID AND PAYING FOR COLLEGE

An important part of the search...

Set Financial Expectations Ahead of the College Search

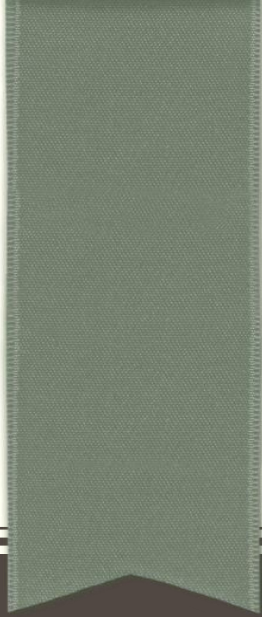
- Debbie Schwartz of Road2College writes that “college lists often begin with schools your student has heard of (but knows little about, including how much they really cost to attend).
- “Parents and pros will tell you to start at the beginning: with price. Once you’ve weathered sticker shock, use an EFC (expected family contribution) calculator to help you understand what financial aid your student may qualify for.”
- Understand financial aid and the difference between need-based aid and merit aid.
- Realize that colleges use merit aid to entice highly-qualified students to enroll, often making the cost of attending far lower than the “sticker price”.
- Parents – good to educate yourselves early by joining Facebook groups such as Paying For College 101, Merit Scholarship Deep Dive, or LJHS College Info, and listening to podcasts and YouTube presentations regarding paying for college.

Reason for making paying for college a consideration:

College costs have continued to spiral upward. Current per-year prices (living on-campus):

- USC - \$85,648
- Claremont McKenna - \$82,127
- University of Michigan - \$72,153
- University of Colorado Boulder - \$57,502
- UC Berkeley - \$43,794
- SDSU - \$32,110
- 89% of freshman students don't pay "sticker price"





VISITING COLLEGES

Tips for a successful college visit:

- Sign up for a visit on the school's website – that way, they know you've been there!
- Attend an information session which usually accompanies a school tour.
- Together, these are a great way to demonstrate your interest in a school!
- Find good questions to ask a tour guide on ww
- Visit the Financial Aid Office if you have questions about financial aid at that school.

Types of Colleges and their applications:

- Community Colleges – least expensive option; usually attend for two years then transfer to a 4-year school to complete the final two years and receive a degree.
- California State Universities – 23 campuses (SD State, Cal Poly SLO, etc) have their own application; apply by November 30 senior year
- University of California – 9 campuses (UCSD, UCLA, UCSB, etc) – have their own application; apply by November 30 senior year
- Out-of-state Public Schools – (University of Colorado, University of Arizona, etc.) – many use the Common Application, some have their own applications
- Private Schools – (USD, Chapman, SMU, Tulane) – over 900 use the Common Application. Deadlines vary but students can begin working on applications on August 1, and work on essays spring of junior year or summer before senior year.

Most important things to do junior year:

- Devote some time to thinking about you next steps after high school.
- Research colleges and start identifying those that might be of interest. Begin demonstrating your interest to those schools.
- Spend time doing things you enjoy! Develop leadership skills in those activities.
- Do your best academically – your transcript (the courses you take and the grades you receive) is your biggest asset! This will include senior year, so keep that in mind when choosing senior year classes.



THANK YOU FOR
ATTENDING – BEST
OF LUCK!

