



# SAUSD COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS JUNIOR NEWSLETTER



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US!

CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL REP

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!



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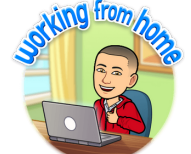
**We Got This!**



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**Hi!**



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Dear SAUSD 11th Graders:

Look ahead this SUMMER...When school lets out and the temperature rises, it will be tempting to settle in for a lazy summer, especially now more than ever. Keeping some structure is important, summer vacation is an exciting time of year to plan for the remaining years of high school and future college plans. Make an impact by letting your interests be your roadmap. When you are true to your authentic self, you will have an awesome summer. SAUSD wishes all of you a healthy, safe, engaging summer! This is the time to connect in various ways, here some examples:

1. Use the Internet for free resources and enrichment activities. Things like MOOCs (massive online courses), Khan Academy, learnalanguage.com, etc.
2. Reclaim your joy. What do YOU love to do? Things that often get put on the backburner during a busy academic year can now be reclaimed this summer. Read for enjoyment, Journal / blog, write thank you emails to people who have helped you throughout the year.
3. Unplug and engage with people. Re-connect with friends, families and mentors. Keeping social distance, face to face virtual connections are important.
4. Build those life skills. Learn to cook, do laundry, practice good money management / budgeting. If you have an academic passion or career interest, inquire about internships, or auditing a college course. Or consider interviewing someone about his/her job or position.

Stay strong SAUSD!

Káty Castellanos  
Director, College  
& Career Readiness



## Social Emotional Learning

As we continue to stay home, it is important to take care of ourselves mentally, physically, and emotionally. Here are some resources that can be useful to you.



**HEADSPACE** is your everyday mindfulness in just a few minutes a day. There are guided meditations to help you manage stress, anxiety, productivity, exercise, and physical health.



**CALM** is designed to help you with sleeping, meditating, and relaxing. Explore meditations, sleep stories, movement exercises, and music.

In this issue of the SAUSD College & Career Readiness Newsletter we are going to introduce you to the following:

- [Social Emotional Learning](#) (p. 1)
- [The UC System](#) (p. 2 - 3)
- [Temporary Suspension of Testing](#) (p. 4 - 5)
- [Getting Ready for Financial Aid](#) (p. 6)
- [Your Grades Matter for Cal Grants](#) (p. 7)
- [Summer Opportunities](#) (p. 8)
- [Virtual College Bootcamp](#) (p. 9)

If you see something underlined, it is linked to a website, make sure to click on it. Most images are also linked to a source.



*The only world-class public research university for, by and of California.*

If you are considering applying to one of the 9 UC undergraduate campuses, here are a few things you should know about the process.

- Earning admission to a UC campus requires early preparation and academic focus.
- Students should endeavor to fulfill and exceed the minimum admission requirements.

## Requirements for the UC Application

- **Subject Requirement:** 15 college-preparatory (a-g) courses, with 11 of those done by the beginning of 12th grade. Look for your school's "a-g" course list [here](#).
- **GPA Requirement:** A grade point average of 3.0 (3.4 for nonresidents) or better, weighted by a maximum of eight semesters of honors points. For instructions on calculating the GPA: [How to Calculate Your UC GPA](#).
- **SAT/ACT Exam Requirement:** UC Temporarily Suspends Testing for Class of 2021. Even though they have suspended the requirement, if you are able to take the tests in the future, submitting your scores will likely help your application in many ways. Our recommendation is to prep and try your best if you do have the opportunity to take the test. See the [UC Press Release](#) for more information.

## • Personal Insight Questions

- There are 8 questions to choose from. You must respond to only 4 of the 8 questions.
- Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words.
- Which questions you choose to answer are up to you, but you should select questions that are most relevant to your experience and that best reflect your individual circumstances. For more information, visit the [Personal Insight Questions and Tips](#).

## • Other Factors for Review

- Quality of a student's senior year program, as measured by the type and number of academic courses in progress or planned.
- Quality of the academic performance relative to the educational opportunities available in the student's high school.
- Outstanding performance in one or more academic subject areas.
- Outstanding work in one or more special projects in any academic field of study.
- Recent, marked improvement in academic performance, as demonstrated by academic GPA and the quality of coursework completed or in progress

For more information visit the [Undergraduate Admissions Applicant Guide](#).



## UC Dates and Deadlines:

### August 1

Fall 2020 Application opens

### October 1

Financial Aid: FAFSA/Dream Act applications open for applicants

### November 1 - 30

Submission period for the Fall 2020 application

## The Sooner, the Better

The UC application opens on August 1. Take your opportunity to start your application early. This will give you ample time to work out any possible errors or questions. See your Counselor or Higher Education Coordinator for more information about application support!

Check out the UC Campuses with this [Virtual Campus Tours](#) option.

Need to Know What Campuses Have What Majors? Check out [Campuses & Majors](#).

To learn more about each UC campus, click on the logos below.



Applying for financial aid is free! Many students are surprised to find what they are eligible to receive in aid. Whether or not you think you'll qualify, it's still a good idea to apply - it's the only way you will be considered for every type off aid possible! Click [here](#) to estimate your aid.

In addition, the UC has [The Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan](#) intended to expand access to the University for lower-income students by establishing a minimum level of grant aid for undergraduates with financial need and household incomes of less than \$80,000, making a UC education affordable and accessible.





Our partners at CollegeSpring have prepared some information to help explain the temporary suspension of college-entrance exams.



**The UCs are waiving SAT/ACT requirements for Juniors (Class of 2021).  
What does that mean for me?**

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the University of California system released its [response](#) and outlined changes for the graduating high school class of 2021. Most notably, **the UCs will waive the standardized testing requirement for current high school juniors who will be applying for Fall 2021 admission.**

**What does the UC decision to waive SAT/ACT requirements mean for me?**

While the UC is not requiring the test for the entering class of 2021, it will still be accepting and considering test scores in admissions decisions if you choose to submit them. If you do not submit your scores, greater weight is given to other aspects of your application, such as your transcript, essays, and extracurriculars. We highly recommend you prep and take the SAT/ACT when it becomes available, because you can decide later whether you want to include it in your application.

**What are the benefits of taking the SAT/ACT if the UCs aren't making the scores mandatory for admissions?**

Submitting your ACT/SAT scores to the UCs can help to:

- **Demonstrate [UC Eligibility](#).**
- **Qualify** you for more financial aid: Many merit-based scholarships will still require you to submit standardized test scores.
- **Qualify** you for [certain majors](#): Some majors at colleges (particularly STEM) will still require you to submit test scores (See: UCR or UCI).
- **Fulfill [university graduation requirements](#)**: Good scores allow you to skip certain classes or placement exams and graduate earlier.

Also, you will be applying to many other colleges, including the CSUs and private universities, many of which will require the SAT. It's still in your best interest to take and do your best on the test.

**When is the next time I will be able to take the SAT/ACT?**

- **[National SAT Dates](#)**: Aug 29, Sept 26, Oct 3, Nov 7, and Dec 5
- **[National ACT Dates](#)**: June 13 & July 18
- College Board and ACT anticipate adding more dates in the summer and Fall to give you more chances to take the test. Talk to your counselors or visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) or [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) to register.

\*\*It is important to note that this exception only applies to this year's juniors and that the tests will continue to be required for the Class of 2022 and beyond.



## What “Test-Optional” Really Means and Why It’s Still Important You Take the SAT/ACT

### Test-Optional vs. Test-Flexible vs. Test-Blind

- Test-Optional schools don’t require SAT/ACT scores from students for admissions. However, they still allow you to submit your scores and will consider them in your overall application.
- Test-Flexible allows students to submit other test scores such as SAT Subject Tests, IB exams, or APs in place of the SAT or ACT.
- Test-Blind schools don’t require any standardized scores for admissions and will not allow you to submit them. Only a handful of schools use this policy.

When the schools don’t have your test scores, other parts of your application will hold more weight in their decision (e.g., transcript, essays, letters of recommendation, extracurriculars).

### Test-Optional Policies Differ For Each College and/or Major

Some test-optional schools:

- Require test scores for out-of-state, international students, or for students pursuing certain majors.
- May determine your test-optional eligibility using an index calculated from your GPA, test scores, and class rank.
- Will still expect you to submit test scores for placement in classes or ask you to take a placement exam.
- May ask for additional materials such as samples of your academic work, scientific research, or letters of recommendation in place of test scores.

### Taking the SAT/ACT and submitting to “Test-Optional” schools has many benefits

Good test scores allow you to:

- Demonstrate your eligibility and competitiveness for college.
- Qualify for merit scholarships and financial aid.
- Gain entrance into certain majors and campuses.
- Graduate sooner because you can place out of certain classes or skip placement exams.

**In summary, even though these colleges don’t strictly require you to take the test, submitting your scores will likely help your application in many ways. Our recommendation is to prep, try your best on the test, and decide whether or not to submit when you apply. Don’t close the door of opportunity yet!**



## Getting Ready for Financial Aid Next Year!

Juniors, as you get ready to apply to college next year, it is just as important that we start talking about the financial aid that you will need to help you pay for college. You will either fill out a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or the [California Dream Act](#) application.



Every high school will have a Financial Aid Meeting for both parents and students to understand the process and assist with filling out the financial aid application so don't worry, be ready!

## What do you need to get ready?

Mostly all students are considered DEPENDENTS of their parents, which means that they financially support you. **THIS SUMMER, TALK WITH YOUR PARENTS, SO THEY CAN BEGIN GATHERING THE DOCUMENTS YOU WILL NEED FOR THE FALL OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR.**

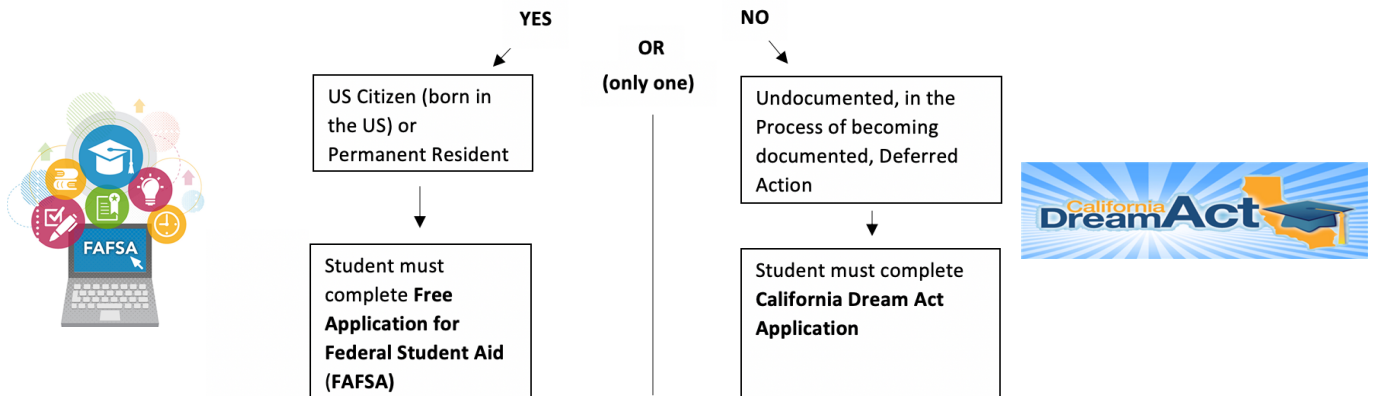
You will need the following:

- Parents' tax information such as their 2019 Income Tax documents. If your parents don't file taxes, get an estimate of how much income they earned in 2019.
- If your parents receive government benefits such as welfare, social security, disability, unemployment, or food stamps, write down the amount they received in 2019.
- Parents' date of birth and date of marriage/separation/widowed, if applicable.
- You will need to know your social security number if you are a US citizen or Legal Resident. If you are "Undocumented," you can use your Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN number) if you have one, if not that's OK.
- If you work and file taxes, make sure to bring your 2019 Income Tax documents. If you worked and DID NOT file, make sure you bring your W-2 form to determine how much money you earned in 2019.

### The filing date window is from October 1st to March 2nd of your Senior Year

#### Financial Aid Eligibility

Are you a US Citizen or Permanent Resident?



**DO NOT ASSUME YOU WILL NOT QUALIFY. EVERYONE SHOULD APPLY!**



California Student Aid Commission

**Your grades matter!!!** Financial assistance for college for many SAUSD students will come in the form of a grant from the state of California. A Cal Grant is money for college you don't have to pay back. There are three kinds of Cal Grants — A, B, and C — but you don't have to figure out which one to apply for. Your eligibility will be based on factors such as your GPA and family income. Cal Grants can be used at any University of California, California State University or California Community College, as well as qualifying independent and career colleges or technical schools in California. All SAUSD students are eligible to apply for this important form of financial aid, regardless of your status.

Applying for the Cal Grant with a financial aid application will start in October of your senior year. Yet, ***qualifying for the Cal Grant takes place during your sophomore and junior year.*** The organization in charge of the Cal Grant, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), uses your unweighted GPA from 10th & 11th grade. You have until the end of your junior summer to make up failing grades, or unsatisfactory grades, to boost your GPA to a qualifying range. If you can, strive to raise your GPA to a minimum of 3.0 unweighted. If this seems out of reach, at the very least, work to raise your GPA to a minimum of a 2.0 unweighted. The Higher Ed/Counseling team at your high school will help guide you through the process of applying for financial aid in the Fall.

For now, here is a brief overview of the three Cal Grants:

- Cal Grant A requires a minimum unweighted GPA of 3.0. It will help pay for the tuition and fees at a four-year college. As of this fall, Cal Grants are up to \$12,630 at a University of California campus, up to \$5,742 at a California State University campus, and up to \$9,084 at independent colleges.
- Cal Grant B requires a minimum unweighted GPA of 2.0. It provides a living allowance of up to \$1672 at a two- or four-year college.
- Cal Grant C assists with the costs of a technical or career education. It provides up to \$1,904 for books, tools, and equipment, and up to \$2,462 more for tuition and fees at schools other than California Community Colleges.

More information about Cal Grants and award amounts can be found at this link:

<https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/what-are-cal-grant-award-amounts>

Type	Where can you use it?	Requirements	What does it pay for?
Cal Grant <b>A</b>	4-year college	3.0 GPA, low to middle income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSU fees...\$5,742</li> <li>• UC fees...\$12,630</li> <li>• Up to \$9,084 for private colleges.</li> </ul>
Cal Grant <b>B</b>	CCC or 4-year college	2.0 GPA, low income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,672 for the 1<sup>st</sup> year</li> <li>• \$1,672 + <b>fees</b> for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> years</li> </ul>
Cal Grant <b>C</b>	CCC or vocational school	No required GPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,094 at a CCC</li> <li>• Up to \$2,462 at for-profit trade schools</li> </ul>

# Your Grades Matter! FINISH STRONG



Looking to get a job this summer? Make sure to visit the SAUSD Career Technical Education website to learn how to get a work permit.

This summer is the last opportunity to try and raise your GPA to meet eligibility to four-year universities, as well as for the Cal Grant program. Contact your high school counselor to discuss the following options:

- Online summer school courses
- Enrichment opportunities
- Community College courses



During these uncertain times how can we help others?

Volunteer Match invites you to click "learn more" to visit their resource hub and explore the growing network of #COVID-19 and virtual volunteering opportunities for practical actions you can take today to support your community.

Explore hundreds of virtual volunteer opportunities in cause areas like health and medicine, education, and community building, that you can do from a computer, from home or anywhere.



Is a Youth-led movement for good.

Do Something.org allows you to choose a campaign to make an impact with millions of young people, and earn a chance to earn scholarships. Talk about a win-win!



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Click the icon to view We Care Campaign updates.



# Class of 2021 VIRTUAL College BootCamp

**- Join the BootCamp -  
Increase your college knowledge,  
learn admission strategies  
& get a head start  
on college applications!**



**Finding your College Fit!**

**Intro to the UC Application & Personal Insight Questions**



**Understanding the Cal State University Eligibility Index**

**What are private colleges looking for in the essay?**

**Updates on SAT & ACT Tests**



**Financial Aid Introduction**

**Juniors with a 3.0 academic GPA (unweighted)**

**Sign up by MAY 31**

**<http://bit.ly/sausdbootcamp2020>**

**SAUSD BootCamp is FREE!**

Questions? Contact your counselor or Higher Education Coordinator.