

# Common Myths

**Myth: One Mistake Can Ruin the Chances of Acceptance:**

Reality: Admissions officers understand that students are human and can make mistakes. A single error on an application is unlikely to result in rejection, but it's essential to review applications carefully.

**Myth: Applying to Many Colleges Increases Chances of Acceptance:**

- Reality: Applying to a large number of colleges may actually hinder the quality of applications. It's better to focus on a balanced list of schools that are a good fit academically, socially, and financially.

**Myth: Only Selective Schools Guarantee Success:**

Reality: Attending a prestigious school can open doors, but success is not solely determined by the name of the college. Many factors contribute to a student's success, including their efforts, passion, networking skills, and opportunities taken during college.

**Myth: Only Straight-A Students Get Scholarships:**

- Reality: Scholarships come in various forms and criteria. They're not limited to academic achievement alone. Many scholarships consider factors like leadership, community involvement, specific talents, and financial need.

**Myth: Applying for Financial Aid Is Too Complicated:**

- Reality: While the financial aid process may seem daunting, there are resources available, such as the FAFSA, to make it more manageable. It's essential to understand the deadlines and gather necessary documents.

**Myth: The College You Attend Dictates Your Career Path:**

- Reality: While college experiences can shape opportunities, students have the power to create their own paths. Success is determined by one's dedication, skills, and willingness to pursue opportunities.

**Myth: The Essay Must Be Extraordinary and Unique:**

- Reality: While a strong essay is important, it doesn't need to be overly dramatic or unique to be effective. Authenticity, clarity, and showcasing the student's personality and experiences are more important.

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# Class of 2024

— Senior Parent Night —  
September 7, 2023

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# Senior Parent Liaisons- Class of 2024



Claire Gallacher

Beth Goldberg

Becki Hanson

Joy Martin

Amy Partlett



[class2024@acalanesparentsclub.com](mailto:class2024@acalanesparentsclub.com)

# Volunteers Needed

## Help Wanted

Senior Picnic Co-Chairs (2)

Senior Grad Night Helpers (4)



# Important Upcoming Senior Events

Senior Sunrise 9/22

*Breakfast 7-8am*

*Panoramic Picture 8am*

Homecoming Dance 10/14

Senior Friendsgiving 11/15

Senior Portraits 1/16-19

Senior Breakfast 1/26

# Counseling and College and Career Team

College and Career Advisor - Debbie Levy

Counselor, Anne Schonauer (A-Em)

Counselor, Erika Vasquez (En-Kr)

Counselor, Marissa Meadows (Ku-Rog)

Counselor, Susan Martin (Roh-Z)

Sara Bretthauer - Essay and Application Support

Amy Norstad - Essay and Application Support

Kristin Kisner - College Consultant



# My child is a senior - what should I be doing?

- **Encourage** your student to utilize the resources on campus -
  - College & Career, Academy, 6th and/or 7th Period, Counselor, College Visits
- **Share** information you get via the Daily Don and the APC Newsletter, and emails from the College & Career
- **Limit** “College Talk” at home
  - Maybe schedule a time each week to touch base on progress
- **Complete** the Parent Statement in Naviance (if your student needs a counselor letter of recommendation)
- **Plan** college tours if possible
  - Even just local schools to get a better idea of size, and atmosphere
- **Think** about what paying for college looks like for your family
- **Check emails with your students to make sure you aren't missing anything**

# Application Deadlines/Details

## Common App

- Nov 1 - first set of applications due (with a few exceptions)
- Deadlines vary depending on Early Action, Early Decision and Regular Decision
- 650 word main essay
- Many colleges have supplemental writing

## UC App

- Due Nov 30
- 4 short paragraphs & 20 activities/awards
- No Letters of Recommendation
- No SAT/ACT

## Direct to Institution Apps

- Dates vary by school
- Some roll out their admission decisions to applying early can be helpful

## CSU App

- Oct 1 - Application opens
- Due Nov 30
- No Essay
- No Letters of Rec
- No Activities
- Complete the app in the C&C Center (takes about an hour)

# Class of 2023 Admission Data

Number of Graduates: 310

Gap Year/Undecided/Unknown	3% (12 Students)
2 Year College	17% (52 Students)
4 Year College	79% (246 Students)
University of California	19% (60 Students)
California State University	16% (50 Students)
California Private Schools	4% (14 Students)
Out of State Public Schools	22% (67 Students)
Out of State Private Schools	15% (49 Students)
International Universities	2% (7 Students)

# UC Admissions Data by year

1997

UCLA - 31.4%  
Berkeley - 31.4%  
UCSB - 71.2%  
UCSD - 53%  
UCSC - 82.3%  
UCI - 65.8%  
Davis - 69.6%  
Riverside - 83.5%

2021

UCLA - 10.8%  
Berkeley - 14.5%  
UCSB - 29.2%  
UCSD - 34.3%  
UCSC - 58.9%  
UCI - 29%  
Davis - 49%  
Riverside - 66%  
Merced - 95.6%

2023

UCLA - 8.8%  
Berkeley - 11.6%  
UCSB - 27.9%  
UCSD - 24.7%  
UCSC - 62.7%  
UCI - 25.7%  
Davis - 41.8%  
Riverside - 70.3%  
Merced - 88.3%

# What is WUE??

WUE is a tuition-savings program that makes attending participating Western out of state schools more affordable. Students pay 150% (or less) of in-state tuition (saves an average of \$10,895/year)

- Each participating school has its own requirements (check on their websites or with Ms. Levy)
- Common WUE schools for Acalanes students - Colorado State, **Washington State**, **University of Nevada Reno**, **Boise State**, **Northern Arizona**, **University of Hawaii Manoa**, **Montana State**, **University of Utah**, **Utah State**

# Demonstrated Interest?

Demonstrated interest is the measurement of how much a student has shown their desire to attend a particular college.

- More common with private schools
- Students can email and connect with admissions reps (easy to find on the school's admission section)
  - These reps are often the first to read an application
  - It is helpful to reach out to the admissions rep before a tour and ask a question not easily found on the website - "Where is a good place to grab lunch after our tour?", "Is there a place on campus we should be sure to see that is not part of the tour?"
  - If a rep visits Acalanes, students can send a thank you email following up on any questions they may still have
  - Admissions reps want to help - reach out, let them know you

# Common Data Set

Tulane - <https://tulane.app.box.com/s/r53izqi0eq9dpkt0hwqwzlcaye2g90oa>

- 1) Waitlist- C2
- 2) Level of Applicant's Interest- C7
- 3) Awarded Aid - H1



# FAFSA - December this year

The [FAFSA](#) opens December 2023. Both students and parents **must** create a Student Aid Account to get an FSA ID before completing the form.

## How FAFSA changes will impact students

FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for federal and state financial aid. Colleges also use the information to determine need for institutional aid.

Note - there are some Private Universities that require the [CSS Profile](#)

# Scholarships

- **Merit Aid from Institution** - the best financial aid comes directly from the college
  - It is guaranteed for all 4 years (GPA requirement needs to be met)
- **WUE** - Guaranteed for all 4 years (GPA requirement needs to be met)
- **Local Scholarships**
  - Applicant Pool is much smaller
  - One time gifts ranging from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand
- **Resources**
  - College Essay Guy (Paying for College in 4 Steps) - <https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/how-to-find-scholarships-for-high-school-seniors>
  - Fast Web - <https://www.fastweb.com/>
  - Going Merry - <https://www.goingmerry.com/>
  - Big Future - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
  - Student Scholarships - <https://studentscholarships.org/>



# Transcript

	Weighted	Non-Wgtd		Subject Area	CREDIT SUMMARY Credit Req'd	Compl	Needed
Acad GPA (9-12)	<b>3.95</b>	<b>3.68</b>		English 1	10.00	10.00	-
Acad GPA (10-12)	<b>4.00</b>	<b>3.60</b>		English 2	10.00	10.00	-
Total GPA (9-12)	<b>3.95</b>	<b>3.70</b>		English 3	10.00	10.00	-
Credit Attempted:	<b>220.00</b>			English 4	10.00	-	10.00
Credit Completed:	<b>220.00</b>			Mathematics	20.00	20.00	-
				Algebra 1	10.00	10.00	-
				Phys Ed 9	10.00	10.00	-
				Phys Ed	10.00	10.00	-
				Physical Science	10.00	10.00	-
				Biological Science	10.00	10.00	-
				World Hist/Geog	10.00	10.00	-
				US History	10.00	10.00	-
				US Government	5.00	-	5.00
				Economics	5.00	-	5.00
				Language/Tech Ed	20.00	20.00	-
				Visual/Perf Arts	10.00	-	10.00
				Health	5.00	5.00	-
				Electives	45.00	75.00	-
				* TOTALS *	220.00	220.00	30.00
				Algebra 1 Requirement Met			

District Enter: 8/11/2020

School Enter: 8/11/2020

**Class of 2024**

State ID# 

This transcript is unofficial unless

# Does my student need letters of recommendation? (LOR)

## Loyola Marymount

### Application Fees:

First Year International Fee - \$60

First Year Domestic Fee - \$60

### Standardized Test Policy:

Never required

[Test Policy Information](#)

### Courses & Grades:

Required

### Recommendations:

School Report Required

**Counselor Recommendation Required**

Final Report Required

**Teacher Evaluation(s): 1 Required, 2 Optional**

**Other Evaluation(s): 0 Required, 3 Optional**

## Oregon State

### Application Fees:

First Year International Fee - \$65

First Year Domestic Fee - \$65

### Standardized Test Policy:

Never required

[Test Policy Information](#)

### Courses & Grades:

Not Used

### Recommendations:

School Report Required

Final Report Required

Teacher Evaluation(s): Not Applicable

Other Evaluation(s): Not Applicable

# Application Deadlines

## Fall 2024

### First Year

Early Decision - 11/15/2023

Early Decision II - 01/01/2024

Regular Decision - 01/01/2024

Early Action - 11/15/2023

## Other Deadline Information

Wake Forest offers both Early Decision and Early Action in addition to Regular Decision. Early Decision (I or II) is a binding agreement, whereas our Early Action program (for First-Generation students only) is non-binding. Most scholarships (including full-cost scholarships) do not require a separate merit-based scholarship application. Instead, students need only submit a complete Early Action, Early Decision, Early Decision II, or Regular Decision application by November 15. Finalists for scholarships that require more comprehensive interviews or auditions will be notified by the end of March.

# Does a student need to know their major?

Give some info about majors in general (students change their major on average of 3.2 times while in college)

- Helpful to look at coursework for different majors
  - Cal Poly is a great [resource](#) for this. [Cal Poly FlowChart](#)
- Select majors need to be chosen at application time:
  - Engineering majors, Nursing, Computer Science
  - [MyMajors.com](#)

# Should we be considering Community College???

Main reasons for attending Community College:

- Transfer Agreement Programs with UCs and CSUs
- Free tuition for full-time first time students for 2 years/Affordability
- A great way to ease into college and complete general ed coursework
- Fill out FAFSA to get 2 years free at most colleges
- Applications are not due until Spring

# Registering for AP Classes

## Step One: Enter Join Code on CollegeBoard.org before Nov. 10th

- Join Codes will be given to you by your AP Teacher. It is Specific to your Class Period.
- If you are NOT enrolled in an AP Class but would like the option to take the Exam, see the Testing Coordinator (Nicole Singleterry) for a Join Code. Must be done before November 10th

## Step Two: Purchase your Exam on the Acalanes webstore by Nov 10. Each Exam is \$110

Exam dates: May 6-May 17

*Students with testing accommodations need to see Ms. Singleterry by November 1.*

*Nicole Singleterry is the testing coordinator. Her desk is in the counseling office.*

[nsingleterry@auhsdschools.org](mailto:nsingleterry@auhsdschools.org)

# Career Exploration

Career Academies- Upcoming in January/February/March

[My Next Move](#)

[College & Career 101](#)



# Focused Academies

Academy is a great time for students to work on college applications, essays or just get questions answered. There are some future focused academies held in the Collaboration Center in the fall:

September 12- HBCU College Fair

Sept 13 & 15 - Essay Workshops

Sept 20 - UC App 101

Sept 22- More UC App 101

Sept 27- Common App Supplemental Essays

Sept 27- International Schools College Fair - Acalanes Library

October 4, October 6, October 11- CSU Application Support/Major Choice



# What should my senior be doing now?

- Researching schools and building their list
- Working on the UC PIQs and the Common App essay if needed
- Creating accounts for the UC and Common App
  - Starting to enter information and filling out apps
- Talk with teachers and counselor about a letter of rec (if needed)
  - Complete the Student Statement in Naviance if a counselor letter is need
- Match Common App to Naviance/Waive FERPA
- Sign up for college visits in Naviance

\*\*\*If they don't know how to answer a question on an app or how to do something - don't guess. Come in to the C&CC to confirm

