



THE GUIDE

MVC RESOURCE GUIDE FOR COLLEGE PLANNING

OUR MISSION:

We empower students to achieve their highest potential through Christ-centered educational excellence.



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JUNIOR YEAR TIMELINE

FALL CHECKLIST

- Make a list of abilities, personal qualities, and what you may want to study/do in college
- Learn about colleges. Look at their websites. Check SuperMatch found under the “Colleges” tab in [Naviance](#) or the Collegeboard version, [BigFuture](#).
- Use Naviance to list 15 colleges of interest.
- Research colleges on your list (minimum GPA requirements, course credits, standardized test scores, competitive GPA), through your Naviance account.
- Inform guidance counselor if you plan to play an NCAA sport.
- If planning to play a sport in college, register with the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)
- If appropriate, gather material for your portfolio (e.g. for drama, music, art, sports, etc.).
- Review “Career Interest Inventory” and “Strengths Explorer” (Naviance) with your guidance counselor.
- Talk to friends, family, teachers, and recent MVC grads about their college experiences.

WINTER CHECKLIST

- Sign up for Spring SAT/ACT. To prepare, download practice booklets from www.collegeboard.org and other great test prep resources like [Khan Academy](#).
- Think about taking [SAT Subject Tests](#) in the spring, while course material is still fresh in your mind; but know many colleges do not consider these results.
- If you’re in Advanced Placement (AP) classes, register for May AP Exams.
- Login to [My College Quickstart](#) data and use your PSAT data to create a SAT study plan, search colleges, and career exploration.

SPRING CHECKLIST

- Visit colleges (large, small, public, private). Get a feel for what works for you. Attend college fairs, too. Take advantage of virtual tours, if available.
- Develop a list of 15-20 colleges that attract you. Request view books and info on financial aid and programs of interest. Visit colleges over Easter.
- Meet with guidance counselor about your list. Determine “Reach,” “Fit,” and “Safety” schools.
- Plan a summer internship, career exploration, service, and/or other resume building opportunities.

SUMMER CHECKLIST

- Find a full-time or part-time job, or participate in a camp or summer college program.
- Visit colleges. Make appointments for interviews with admissions counselors (when available).
- Complete the Senior Survey — a record of your accomplishments, activities, and work experiences since you started high school.

SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

AUGUST

- Have a list of the colleges where you will apply.
- Be signed up for/or have taken SAT, ACT, TOEFL
- Have rough drafts of your personal statement.
- Have a list of all community service hours, awards, and recognitions.
- Check transcripts for accuracy

SEPTEMBER

- Register early for fall SAT/ACT
- Start applications right away if applying through Early Action/Early Decision (deadlines in Nov.)
- Start essays & update your resume

OCTOBER

- Request letters of recommendation
- CSU filing period Nov. 1 – Nov. 30
- FAFSA opens Oct. 1

NOVEMBER

- Submit Early Action/Early Decision app on time
- UC filing period Nov. 1 – Nov. 30 (opens Aug. 1)
- Complete essays and get help with proofreading
- Follow up with teachers re: letters of rec.

DECEMBER

- Last recommended test dates
- Try to wrap up college applications
- Early Action/Early Decision responses arrive

JANUARY

- Early Action/ Early Decision responses arrive
- Mid-year reports are due

MARCH

- March 2: deadline for FAFSA and Cal Grant

APRIL

- Most admission decisions & financial aid award letters arrive

MAY

- May 1st is decision day for most colleges
- AP exams are administered
- Submit your Exit Survey

JUNE

- Make sure your counselor knows where to send your final transcript!



NAVIGATING NAVIANCE



NAVIANCE

NAVIANCE is a powerful tool for

- ✓ Sharing Information About Upcoming Meetings & Events
- ✓ Providing Local Scholarship Opportunities & Additional Resources
- ✓ Searching Colleges & Compiling a List To Which You Are Applying
- ✓ Completing Transcript & Letters of Recommendation Requests

<https://connection.naviance.com/mvcs>

log in with student email and focus password

Email

Password

☐ Remember me

[Forgot your password?](#)

Login

Are you new here?

[I need to register](#)

Monte Vista Christian School

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www.mvcs.org

[Privacy Policy](#)

IMPORTANT links to check out on NAVIANCE

- ✓ SUPERMATCH (find a good fit) -- after login -- COLLEGES > FIND YOUR FIT > SUPERMATCH
- ✓ MY ASSESSMENTS - your strengths, interests, careers paths -- ABOUT ME > MY ASSESSMENTS > take all 3
- ✓ FAMILY CONNECTION (the main page after login) -- key links for transcripts, letters of rec, etc.
- ✓ ABOUT ME > MY STUFF > RESUME -- track your community service, activities, awards, etc.



WHAT ARE SCHOOLS LOOKING FOR?



YOU INCREASE YOUR CHANCES BY:

- ✓ **ACHIEVING YOUR HIGHEST POTENTIAL AS AN MVC STUDENT**
 - Stick with your courses, and if struggling, get help through Flex and/or tutoring
 - If still struggling, visit your guidance counselor
 - Grades matter. Get a “C” or better in core classes for UC/CSU
 - Choose classes related to your intended major and interests
 - Take increasingly challenging courses, even through your senior year
- ✓ **ACHIEVING YOUR HIGHEST POTENTIAL IN OTHER AREAS GOD HAS GIFTED YOU:**
 - Colleges love seeing unusual leadership, service, initiative, and ingenuity in applicants
 - Develop and demonstrate your highest potential as an athlete, artist, etc.
 - Be involved in clubs, teams, community service (including summer opportunities)
- ✓ **TAKING AND RETAKING ADMISSIONS ASSESSMENTS (SAT, ACT, etc.)**
 - The first time you take one, learn from your mistakes, study strategically, and retake
- ✓ **APPLYING TO SCHOOLS THAT MATCH YOUR ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS**
 - Having “reach schools” is great, but your best chances come from finding a match

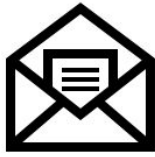
Most important factors universities consider for first-time freshman applicants.

Source: NACAC Academic Trends Survey (2016)

Factor	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance
Grades in College Prep Courses	76.9%	12.5%
Grades in All Courses	77.1	13.8
Strength of Curriculum	51.8	35.3
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	54.3	27.9
Essay or Writing Sample	18.9	35.9



GENERAL APPLICATION ADVICE



COMMUNICATION & RESPONSIBILITY

- ✓ **CHECK TRANSCRIPTS**
 - Make sure they are accurate for your team sports, repeated courses, test scores, etc.
 - If something is missing or wrong, note it on your transcript and talk to your counselor ASAP
- ✓ **REQUEST TRANSCRIPTS**
 - Submit all transcript/counselor form requests through FAMILY CONNECTION
 - Your counselor will submit your transcript on your behalf
- ✓ **COMPLETE YOUR SENIOR SURVEY**
 - It is used when counselors and teachers write your recommendations/evaluations (without it, you are at a disadvantage)
- ✓ **REVIEW**
 - Review requirements before completing applications, and review your application to ensure completion before submitting
- ✓ **USE YOUR LEGAL NAME & PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS**
 - Do not use your MVCS student email address for your college applications; this will no longer be active once you graduate
- ✓ **BE ORGANIZED**
 - Keep track of your dates, deadlines, supplemental requirements, etc.
- ✓ **PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DEADLINES & CHECK EMAIL FREQUENTLY**
 - After completing your applications you will receive access to individual school portals
- ✓ **GET GREAT RECOMMENDATIONS**
 - Ask teachers who know and love you -- give them at least a 2-week turnaround
 - Make all requests for letters of rec through FAMILY CONNECTION



UC & CSU APPLICATION INFO



UC

- Designed for top 9% of students in CA
- Government funded research institutions
- Sometimes more cost effective than private colleges
- 9 campuses

CSU

- Designed for top 33% of students in CA
- Typically more cost effective than UC
- 23 campuses

DATES & DEADLINES

UC APPLICATION:

- ✓ [To apply to UC](#) (opens on Aug. 1, 2018)
- ✓ UC Filing Period: Nov. 1 - 30, 2018
- ✓ UC Application Hotline: (800) 207-1710
- ✓ Take Admissions Tests (ACT/SAT/TOEFL) by Dec. 2018

CSU APPLICATION:

- ✓ [To apply to CSU](#) (opens on Oct. 1, 2018)
- ✓ Filing Period: Nov. 1 - Nov. 30, 2018
- ✓ Take Admissions Tests (ACT/SAT/TOEFL) by Dec. 2018

REQUIREMENTS (A to G)

UC & CSU SCHOOLS HAVE MINIMUM HS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(see graphic on the next page)

UC/CSU Requirements

*a-g
Requirements*

Be prepared!

**a: history/
social science**
2 years

b: English
4 years

**c:
mathematics**
3 years
(4 years preferred)

d: lab science
2 years
(3 years preferred)

e: world language
2 years
(3 years preferred)

**f: visual &
performing arts**
1 year

**g: college-prep
elective**
1 year



BEYOND UC & CSU

college options

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF GREAT OPTIONS FOR ATTENDING COLLEGE.

CA Community Colleges

- ✓ [To Apply to a CA Community College](#)
- ✓ Cost Effective (about \$46.00 per unit)
- ✓ Often Great For General Ed When You're Less Sure About What You Want to Do
- ✓ Can Be An Effective Route to UC & CSU -- (especially through honors pathways)
- ✓ Check out [Running Start program](#) at Cabrillo College (Intent to participate is by January 2019). [Mallory Robinette](#) is our MVC contact
- ✓ Any California high school graduate is able to attend

Private

- ✓ [To Apply, The Common App](#) is used by many private colleges. Others use their own application system
- ✓ Often more expensive than public schools -- but some have excellent scholarship opportunities
- ✓ Wide variety of sizes, selectivity, cost, and religious affiliations

Out of State

- ✓ Naviance Helps You Broaden Your Search Beyond CA
- ✓ Many MVC students go beyond CA as they search for opportunities around Degree Programs, Acceptance Rates, and Scholarships
- ✓ [The WUE \(Western Undergraduate Exchange\)](#) makes out of state tuition more affordable for certain schools



AFFORDING COLLEGE



HELP FOR MAKING THE NUMBERS WORK

FAFSA

- ✓ Application for financial aid opens October 1 - www.fafsa.ed.gov
- ✓ [Blue & Gold Opportunity Plan](#) (to make UC more affordable for lower-income families)

CAL GRANT

- ✓ Form of "Gift Aid" that is based on GPA and financial need
- ✓ Deadline to submit GPA Verification form is March 2, 2018

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

- ✓ National Scholarship Search through Naviance
- ✓ Fastweb – www.fastweb.com
- ✓ Monte Vista Memorial Scholarships
- ✓ [QuestBridge](#) - Matching high performing, low income students to highly competitive universities

OTHER AID/SCHOLARSHIPS

- ✓ Many universities have school-specific scholarships
- ✓ If attending a private university, it does not hurt to ask for more aid

