

College and University Information

The following information was compiled in an effort to education ERCLC families and students that are interested in college admissions. The good news is that many colleges welcome homeschooled students. The bad news is no two colleges are the same when it comes to the admissions process. Although there are some similarities in what colleges are looking for in homeschooled students, each admissions process may require a different focus.

Getting into a top college does not require traditional high school, which is demonstrated by the number of college admissions departments that specifically address admissions for homeschooled or non-traditionally educated students. What is required when applying to college is proving that the student can handle rigorous academics, structured classroom learning along with other skills that college requires. Many homeschoolers prove their college readiness by attending community college classes, use standardized tests (SAT, ACT, CLEP, and AP tests) or complete self-directed projects that highlight intellectual challenges. A portfolio is also frequently used during the admission process. Several colleges want a homeschool transcript. It is our hope that this information serves as the initial jumping off point in your college search. As many of us are drawn to homeschooling to provide individualized learning for our children, the college search process needs to be focused on your individual students' needs. It is up to you and your high school student together to find that best fit college.

A note of caution should be highlighted here: admission information changes often, sometimes yearly. This information should be used only as an initial guide, with the understanding that parents and students must contact the colleges they are interested in directly for accurate and most current information on admissions.

California Community Colleges

California Community Colleges accept all students who apply. A high school diploma is not necessary nor is a CHSPE or GED. However, acceptance into the college is not the same as acceptance into a specific program and many programs have requirements that must be met before the students can enter the program. Information about those requirements can be found at the college office or web-site about the program. Also, acceptance into a Community College does not ensure that space will be available in desired classes. Most colleges use some type of priority system for class registration.

College of the Sequoias:

Web-site: <http://www.cos.edu/>

Admission: Information can be found at http://www.cos.edu/view_page.asp?nodeid=2823&parentid=2864&moduleid=1

Placement Tests: All students registering for math or English classes and/or pursuing a certificate/degree/transfer program will need to take the placement test. Students need to select the appropriate math placement test, based on their math preparation. Information about the math placement tests, as well as placement test preparation problems can be found at http://www.cos.edu/view_page.asp?nodeid=5042&parentid=1235&moduleid=5

Porterville College

Porterville College is part of the Kern Community College District which includes Bakersfield College, Porterville College and Cerro Coso College

Web-site: <http://www.pc.cc.ca.us/>

Reedley College

Reedley College is part of State Center Community College District which includes: Fresno City College, Reedley College, Willow International, Madera Center and Oakhurst Center

Web-site: <http://www.reedleycollege.edu/>

West Hills College

West Hills College, located in Lemoore, is part of West Hills Community College District, which also has centers in Coalinga and at the Naval Air Station in Lemoore.

Web-site: <http://www.westhillscollege.com/lemoore/index.php>

Admission: Information about admission can be found at <http://www.westhillscollege.com/lemoore/admission/index.asp>

California State Colleges and Universities

The California State University (CSU) system includes 23 campuses throughout California. There is one CSU application. On the application the student indicates which campus(es) they are applying for. Information about applying and the application are available at CSUMentor <http://www.csumentor.edu/>

University of California

The University of California (UC) system has 10 campuses throughout California. There is one application for all UCs. On the application the student indicates which universities they are interested in. Information is located at <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/>

Private Schools

Public and private schools differ strongly in their funding sources, with expenses at private colleges typically covered almost entirely by private sources; tuition, donations, and endowments. Though published tuition may be higher at private colleges, most offer financial aid beyond that offered by public colleges.

The following is an example of three private institutions within California which have outlined specific requirements for homeschooled students.

Biola

Web-site: <http://undergrad.biola.edu/apply/process/homeschool/>

At Biola a homeschool student is one who will be attending a college or university after having taken some or all of their secondary education in the home. Specific information about applying to Biola is available on their web-site. The process includes

- Completion of application (early application is advantageous)
- Submission of an official homeschool transcript. This should include a letter grade assigned for each subject studied beginning in the 9th year of schooling. In the absence of a transcript the student must submit scores from the GED or CHSPE
- Scores from SAT or ACT
- Reference form from a member of the pastoral staff of your church.

California Academy of Arts

Web-site: <http://calarts.edu/admissions/applicants>

CalArts welcomes applications for admission from any individual engaged in visual, performing or literary arts. The main criterion for admission is artistic merit, as assessed by the faculty of the individual programs. Other important considerations include the applicant's school records, recommendations and artist's statement.

The respective programs ask applicants to demonstrate their abilities and levels of training in their chosen fields through live auditions, portfolio submissions, and any other relevant evidence of creative achievement and promise. All applicants are required to submit a completed CalArts Application for Admission, the application fee, transcripts, two letters of recommendation and an artist's statement prior to the artistic review of their work.

Claremont Mckenna

Web-site: <http://www.claremontmckenna.edu/admission/apply/homeschool.php>

Claremont Mckenna requires a homeschool transcript as organized by a parent, teacher, or educational agency. This record should include coursework information and/or an explanation of curricular approach. They are interested in understanding the philosophic reasons for homeschooling and approaches to obtaining education. All students who apply to Claremont Mckenna must take the SAT or ACT. In addition, homeschooled students must take two SAT Subject tests, one in math and the other can be in a discipline of the student's choosing. These subject tests can potentially be waived if college courses have been successfully completed in the disciplines required.

Out of State Colleges

Another consideration for homeschooling families in their college search are out of state colleges. Many colleges outside of California welcome homeschooled students and are able to guarantee completion of undergraduate degrees in four years. Families must contact schools for information on tuition for out of state students, and whether they offer financial aid packages that make tuition affordable.

Below are examples of admission requirements specifically for homeschooled students from colleges found outside of California.

Reed College

Web-site: http://www.reed.edu/apply/applying_to_reed/freshmen_special.html

Reed College realizes "that home-schooled students may find that our application forms do not fit their individualized high school programs." Potential students should send as much information as possible about their academic background and capabilities. Application to Reed College includes

- The Common Application home school supplement, or a detailed outline of the home-school curriculum, including subject areas studied, texts used, and time spent on each discipline.
- A comprehensive list of the books and texts read over the last four years, including novels, textbooks, and other resources.
- An expository writing sample (in addition to the personal statement and "Why Reed" essay). This does not have to be a graded assignment, or one used for coursework, but should be of an academic nature.
- The secondary school report. Parents are often instrumental in the home-schooling process; they should complete the secondary school report, if appropriate.
- At least one letter of recommendation from a tutor, evaluator, or teacher who is not a family member. A second letter of reference may come from an employer, supervisor, or any non-family member who can address important personal qualities such as responsibility, creativity, discipline, and initiative.
- An interview is suggested, either on campus or with a trained alumni admission representative in the student's area.
- Reed College does not require the SAT II, but strongly recommends that home-schooled students submit three subject tests, preferably in mathematics and two subjects of the student's choosing.

Evergreen College

Web-site: <http://admissions.evergreen.edu/freshman.html#homeschooled>

At Evergreen College admission applications for Home School students are evaluated on an individual basis. Homeschooled students are required to submit the following:

- Home school transcript
- SAT or ACT test scores
- A personal statement
- All official high school transcripts (if applicable)
- All official college transcripts (if applicable)

Recommendations from school district educators or college professors, who can address academic preparation, are welcome.

Marlboro College

Web-site: <http://www.marlboro.edu/admissions/counselors/faq#homeschool>

Marlboro College feels that "homeschooling engenders many of the same qualities that one finds in successful Marlboro students: self-motivation, a passion for learning and original thought. As such, homeschoolers have been among our strongest candidates for admissions."

At Marlboro College the application procedure for homeschooled students is the same as for other students with the notable exception of the high school transcript requirement. In lieu of a transcript, we ask for a description of the homeschool curriculum. This would include lists of books read, projects completed and areas of study.

Oregon State

Web-site: http://oregonstate.edu/admissions/firstyear/home_school_requirements.html

Graduates of non-standard or unaccredited high schools, or home-schooled students, may be admitted to Oregon State by successfully completing one of the following options:

A minimum score of 1540 on the new SAT I exam or 23 on the ACT (writing scores are required by OSU); AND an average of 470 or above and a minimum total of 940 on two SAT II Subject Tests:(Math Level I or IIC is required) plus a second test of the student's choice.

The newest version of the SAT and ACT exams include a written essay portion. OSU requires students graduating in the year 2006 and beyond to submit scores for the new SAT Reasoning Test including the written essay test, or ACT test scores including the ACT writing exam.

OR

Achieve an average GED score of at least 58 (if taken prior to January 2002) or 580 (if taken January 2002 or later). No subtest score can be less than 41 (if taken prior to January 2002) or 410 (if taken January 2002 or later). Applicants admitted on the basis of GED scores *are not required to submit SAT or ACT scores.*