

**CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES**



North Tahoe HS

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One of the largest post-secondary educational systems in the US is the California Community College system. With 112 schools to choose from – you will be hard pressed to find a local community college too far from you. In Tahoe, our closest local colleges are Sierra College (Rocklin is the main campus but you can take many courses in Truckee) and Lake Tahoe Community College in South Lake Tahoe.

Community colleges are a great fit for many students, from students who have worked hard in HS but perhaps need more time to explore and find their passion to those whose HS experience was not as stellar but you are ready to step it up. Community colleges offer many different pathways to education – from certificates to AA degrees (some are even looking at offering Bachelor degrees). Many students will also do an AA-T, an associate’s degree for transfer, that provides a loose guarantee of admissions into the CSU system upon satisfactory completion of the program requirements.

Transferring is a great way to reach a 4 year college degree. Not every student is ready to jump from high school to university. Some need more time to practice being a student, others are restricted by cost or family obligations, and others want more time to decide on a major and career path. Each of these reasons is a good reason to choose the CCC (California Community College) system (see notes at the end of the packet for other details and cautions).

Whatever your reason and goal – the CCC still requires research, planning, and preparation during HS. While there are no “admissions” requirements – CCC is not a competitive application system – thinking about programs that schools offer, location (and cost of said location), transfer rates, and how many students receive the classes they need when they need it are important factors to consider.

The following pages provide a brief glance at the CCC process. Please be sure to make an appointment with Mr. Ream to review where you are at in the process, get some help, and be sure all steps are completed. Don’t forget to sign up for Financial Aid (it goes to CCC too!) by doing the FAFSA/Dream Act and looking for eligible scholarships!

Mr. Ream

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List of 112 CA Community Colleges:

[Allan Hancock College](#)
[Bakersfield College](#)
[Butte College](#)
[Cerritos College](#)
[Chaffey College](#)
[Coastline Community College](#)
[College of San Mateo](#)
[College of the Redwoods](#)
[Columbia College](#)
[Copper Mountain College](#)
[Cuesta College](#)
[De Anza College](#)
[El Camino College](#)
[Folsom Lake College](#)
[Fullerton College](#)
[Golden West College](#)
[Imperial Valley College](#)
[Laney College](#)
[Long Beach City College](#)
[Los Angeles Mission College](#)
[Los Angeles Trade-Tech College](#)
[Mendocino College](#)
[MiraCosta College](#)
[Monterey Peninsula College](#)
[Mt. San Jacinto College](#)
[Orange Coast College](#)
[Palomar College](#)
[Reedley College](#)
[Sacramento City College](#)
[San Diego City College](#)
[San Diego Miramar College](#)
[Santa Ana College](#)
[Santa Rosa Junior College](#)
[Shasta College](#)
[Solano Community College](#)
[Ventura College](#)
[West Hills College Lemoore](#)
[Woodland Community College](#)

[American River College](#)
[Barstow College](#)
[Cañada College](#)
[Cerro Coso Community College](#)
[Citrus College](#)
[College of Alameda](#)
[College of the Canyons](#)
[College of the Sequoias](#)
[Compton Community Educational Center](#)
[Cosumnes River College](#)
[Cuyamaca College](#)
[Diablo Valley College](#)
[Evergreen Valley College](#)
[Foothill College](#)
[Gavilan College](#)
[Grossmont College](#)
[Irvine Valley College](#)
[Las Positas College](#)
[Los Angeles City College](#)
[Los Angeles Pierce College](#)
[Los Angeles Valley College](#)
[Merced College](#)
[Mission College](#)
[Moorpark College](#)
[Napa Valley College](#)
[Oxnard College](#)
[Pasadena City College](#)
[Rio Hondo College](#)
[Saddleback College](#)
[San Diego Continuing Education](#)
[San Joaquin Delta College](#)
[Santa Barbara City College](#)
[Santiago Canyon College](#)
[Sierra College](#)
[Southwestern College](#)
[Victor Valley College](#)
[West Los Angeles College](#)
[Yuba College](#)

[Antelope Valley College](#)
[Berkeley City College](#)
[Cabrillo College](#)
[Chabot College](#)
[City College of San Francisco](#)
[College of Marin](#)
[College of the Desert](#)
[College of the Siskiyous](#)
[Contra Costa College](#)
[Crafton Hills College](#)
[Cypress College](#)
[East Los Angeles College](#)
[Feather River College](#)
[Fresno City College](#)
[Glendale Community College](#)
[Hartnell College](#)
[Lake Tahoe Community College](#)
[Lassen College](#)
[Los Angeles Harbor College](#)
[Los Angeles Southwest College](#)
[Los Medanos College](#)
[Merritt College](#)
[Modesto Junior College](#)
[Mt. San Antonio College](#)
[Ohlone College](#)
[Palo Verde College](#)
[Porterville College](#)
[Riverside Community College](#)
[San Bernardino Valley College](#)
[San Diego Mesa College](#)
[San Jose City College](#)
[Santa Monica College](#)
[School of Continuing Ed](#)
[Skyline College](#)
[Taft College](#)
[West Hills College Coalinga](#)
[West Valley College](#)



Chancellor's Office
California Community Colleges

1102 Q Street Sacramento, California 95814-6511 www.cccco.edu

State of California

Thoughts to consider when thinking about a Community College

If you have thought about attending to community college (sometimes called a junior or 2 year college), you are with thousands of other Californians. Some key things to consider and research (use the school's website, contact their office, or search online):

- What is your end goal? (Do you want a Associates (AA) degree, a specialized certificate, to transfer to a 4 year program in 2 years, etc)
 - This will guide what schools to look at depending on their college programs (i.e. mechatronics at Sierra College)
 - One benefit (cost wise – maybe not your ideal set of after high school plans) of CCCs is the ability to live at home. This will save \$5,000-\$14,000/year on average in rent, food, utilities, and transportation costs. Big \$\$
- What is the transfer rate to 4 year colleges if you are planning to transfer?
 - How many students complete the 2 year transfer pathway and are successfully admitted to 4 year schools?
 - Things like the number of students at the school, if you can get classes you need when you need them, who is their local campus, and what kind of support they can give you (academic advising and transfer planning).
 - Because CCC have open enrollment – they tend to have classes that fill up. If that class is only offered once per year, you may have to wait until the next year to take it. Thank can delay you if it is a requirement or pre-requisite for another required class.
- If you are looking for a certificate or AA degree – what kind of job placement help and stats do they have after people complete the program? Do they offer any type of internship or specialized programs?

Things to know about the process:

California Residents

Admission to any of California's 112 community colleges is simple. You will be admitted to the community college of your choice if you meet at least one of the following conditions:

- You are 18 years of age or older, with or without a high school diploma
- You are a high school graduate
- You have the equivalent of a high school diploma

Nonresidents

Every California community college admits students who are non-California residents. The policies on admitting nonresidents vary from college to college. At many colleges, California residents have enrollment and registration priority. Nonresident students in all colleges are charged tuition based on the actual cost of instruction. In 2012-13, nonresident students will pay about \$255 per semester unit over and above the resident registration fees. Actual nonresident fees vary from college to college.

If you have been physically present in California for at least a year with the intent to make California your residence, and you have taken actions to establish California residency, you may be eligible for resident fee status at a California community college. Check with your college for more details.

- See more at:

https://www.californiacolleges.edu/college_planning/california_community_colleges/Admission_Requirements/Admission_Requirements.aspx#sthash.SJHMXaJi.dpuf

Applying for Admission

Applying to a California community college is simple. There are two easy ways to apply: online or on paper. Begin your application with a California Community College through CCCApply at www.CCCApply.org, where you can either enter your information online for most colleges, or in some instances, get redirected to a college web site for instructions on how to complete your application on paper.

Although the California Community Colleges enroll students year-round, you should still apply as early as possible. If you have questions or if you would like to talk to someone about whether attending a community college is right for you, contact the college's counseling office to make an appointment.

You may already have a CCCApply account if you took classes during high school at Sierra College. Check this before making a new account.

- See more at:

https://www.californiacolleges.edu/college_planning/california_community_colleges/applying_for_admission/applying_for_admission.aspx#sthash.62lsyk14.dpuf

When to Apply for Admission

You can file an application to attend a California community college at almost any time. Most colleges encourage you to apply as early as possible. However, many colleges will accept an application right up to the beginning of classes.

One advantage of applying early is that you can often register for classes much earlier. As a result, you may have a better choice of classes. In addition, most colleges have an assessment and orientation requirement and applying early provides time to meet these requirements.

Be sure to check with the college for its application deadline. Then check on other college requirements you must complete prior to starting classes. Contact the admissions office for details.

- See more at:

https://www.californiacolleges.edu/college_planning/california_community_colleges/applying_for_admission/when_to_apply_for_admission.aspx#sthash.bB3kUMrQ.dpuf

Transcript Requirements

Although transcripts may not be required, many colleges request transcripts. Your transcript can help a counselor understand your academic background as the two of you discuss what classes to take and which majors or programs might meet your needs. Bring your transcript along when you meet with your counselor. It is also a good idea for you to keep a copy of your college transcript for reference.

If you are planning on transferring to a four-year college, including a CSU or UC campus, you will need to get all your transcripts to your current college. Your college will evaluate your official college transcripts when they prepare a general education certification to verify that you are transfer ready.

If you are under 18, you will need to have your high school send an official copy of your transcript to verify your graduation from high school. Be sure to check with the admissions or counseling offices to see whether you must submit official college transcripts.

- See more at:

https://www.californiacolleges.edu/college_planning/california_community_colleges/applying_for_admission/transcript_requirements.aspx#sthash.PDHbFLOW.dpuf

Application Processing

The processing of your application usually takes only a few days. The admissions requirements for a community college make it easy for most applicants to qualify, so most of the processing involves creating a new record for your enrollment. Please note that there is not a general application window – please visit the school(s) you are considering to view their enrollment process and calendar. Many schools begin course registration for Fall (your possible first semester) in April or May of your senior year. You must be enrolled and have all the process completed prior to registering for classes.

Why might it take more time to process your application? First, your admission may be delayed if you did not provide all the information required on the application or did not sign the application. Some online applications may require you to send in an additional page with your signature, so be sure to do so. Second, applying late may delay your registration. Finally, it may take colleges longer to process your application during busier times of the year.

Don't forget these tips:

- Applying early helps you and the college.
- If you don't understand a question on the admission application, ask your counselor for help.
- Sign your application.

- See more at:

https://www.californiacolleges.edu/college_planning/california_community_colleges/applying_for_admission/application_processing.aspx#sthash.3r5JZeCL.dpuf

Assessment Requirements

Most California Community Colleges require a placement (assessment) test for certain classes. These assessments are used to place you into the correct class based upon your skills and abilities. Even if you have taken an assessment test at another college your new college may require its own assessment. Hold on to your assessment test results in case you change colleges.

At the time you are admitted, the college will inform you of any assessment requirement. Colleges may require you to sign up for one or more assessments. You may also find assessment requirement information in each college's schedule of classes. If a class requires an assessment test before enrollment, you will not be allowed to register for that class until you have completed the assessment.

Our best advice is to take the assessment test as early as possible, and to take it seriously. It won't hurt to refresh your memory before you take an assessment test. Doing your best on an assessment test can make a big difference in the number of classes you may need to take. Plus, if you delay taking any required tests, it may delay your ability to register for classes.

- See more at:

https://www.californiacolleges.edu/college_planning/california_community_colleges/applying_for_admission/assessment_requirements.aspx#sthash.U8gBbr2W.dpuf

Transfer Planning

Preparing students to transfer to four-year universities is one of the primary missions of California Community Colleges. There are multiple ways for students to transfer depending on their individual goals. The counselors at your local community college will work with you to establish an appropriate transfer path - that's right for you. The following information can help you get started.

One way to explore your transfer options is on www.assist.org. ASSIST is an online student-transfer information system that shows how course credits earned at one public California college or university can be applied when transferred to another. ASSIST is the official repository of articulation for California's public colleges and universities and provides the most accurate and up-to-date information about student transfer in California. You can use ASSIST to find community college courses that are transferable to a UC or CSU campus and how those courses might be used to satisfy specific subject matter requirements for admissions, General Education, or lower division major preparation. You can also use ASSIST to explore the majors available at University of California and California State University campuses.

Another option available to California community college students is the **Associate Degree for Transfer** program. This program is a joint effort of the California Community Colleges and the California State Universities that makes it easier for students to transfer between the two school systems. For the first time in California history, community college students who complete a new AA-T or AS-T degree will be guaranteed admission to the California State University (CSU) system. With this new degree, you have the opportunity to complete two degrees with only 120 units if you apply and are admitted into a similar degree program.

Through the new program, students who complete an AA-T or AS-T will be given a special GPA advantage when applying to CSU impacted campuses or majors. Students with an AA-T or AS-T also enter the CSU system with junior standing. Students who are admitted to a program that has been deemed similar will need only 60 more semester units (or 90 quarter units) to complete a bachelor's degree.

To get started on your AA-T or AS-T, or for more information, check out a community college website, or visit a counseling office to learn about how the joint transfer program can help you achieve your education goals.

You can find contact information for all of the California Community Colleges and California State University campuses, and additional details about the ADT program - as well as research the AA-T or AS-T that might be right for you - at ADegreeWithAGuarantee.com.

For students interested in transferring to a UC campus, six campuses offer guaranteed admission to California community college students who meet specific requirements. By participating in a Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program, you will receive early review of your academic records, early admission notification and specific guidance about major preparation and general education coursework. It's important to note that students can transfer to UC campuses that do not offer the TAG

program. More information on transferring to a UC campus can be found at admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/transfer.

- See more at:

https://www.californiacolleges.edu/college_planning/california_community_colleges/transfer_planning/transfer_planning.aspx#sthash.t9Sx5wGx.dpuf

Paying for it:

A benefit (with a caveat):

One of the biggest reasons I hear students and families decide on a community college is money. While in lots of cases – the cost of community college can be cheaper (due to things like lower tuition, living at home, etc), there are some cases when it can actually be MORE expensive than a 4 year college:

- You move to go to school somewhere that is very expensive to live (San Francisco, LA, Santa Barbara, etc). You will pay a lot for room and board (housing and food).
- You “hang around” in a 2 year college for 4-6 years (by choice or forced choice)
 - Each extra year means you are still paying tuition, housing and such but have no degree/certificate. You also miss out of potential income and job experience (this can really add up too!)
 - The program you are in is really full and you cannot get the classes you need to complete your degree or transfer in 2-3 years.
- You are a high need family who could possibly qualify for great amounts of aid at a 4 year school.
 - Many students who are medium to high need (AGI of \$40-50,000 or less – more if income is lower) could actually SAVE money by attending a 4 year college especially if you have good academics. Look at private schools who may be able to offer more generous financial aid even though their “sticker price” is higher.

Apply for the FAFSA/CA Dream Act/Cal Grant:

One big mistake I see students/families make when looking at the CCC system is to not apply for financial aid because they think they won't qualify or that it doesn't apply to them. IT DOES! On January 1st of the spring of your year of enrollment (anytime after June 30th to the next June 30th), students who are US Citizens and their family should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This qualifies you for grants (free money!), loans, work study, and more. Students who are not US citizens can still qualify for certain types of CA aid by completing the CA Dream Act.

The Cal Grant is a grant you can qualify for, but you must complete the FAFSA/Dream Act. Students must have a 3.0 GPA or higher to qualify.

Apply for scholarships!

Yes – scholarships can typically include community colleges! Many 2 year bound students do not apply for local and regional scholarships. This is a waste of \$\$! Please plan on applying. You will want to read the application to be sure that it applies to you, but many applications are for any level of post-secondary education. This is a great way to help offset the cost of college and training. Even a \$500 scholarship helps and is worth an hour or two of your time (when will you make \$250/hour again in your life?).

Tips on Transferring from a 2-Year to a 4-Year College

Many students use a community college or another two-year college as a stepping-stone to a four-year college and a bachelor's degree. If you want to take this path, here's what you should do:

- Make sure that the credits you earn from your classes at the two-year college will count at your four-year college so you can start out there as a junior. This can save you time and money.
- Sign up for a transfer program at a two-year college. These programs include the same kinds of courses that you'd take in your first two years at a four-year college. They're designed specifically to help you succeed at making the transition.

Make the transfer process go smoothly — plan ahead.

Plan Ahead and Ask Questions

Since each college has its own requirements, the most important thing you can do to make the transfer process run smoothly is plan ahead.

Get help from these resources:

- Your high school counselor
- College websites
- The admission or counseling office of the two-year college you're thinking of attending
- Transfer advisers at the admission offices of the four-year colleges you're considering

Ask these questions:

- Does the two-year college have a special transfer relationship — often called an articulation agreement — with any four-year colleges?
- Will the credits I earn be accepted at the four-year colleges I'm considering?
- What grades do I need to earn in my classes to get credit at the four-year colleges?
- What's the minimum GPA I need to maintain to get into the four-year colleges?

How It Works

So what happens when you transfer? Your four-year college will look at the courses you took and the grades you earned at your two-year college and decide how much credit to give you. Each course is worth a certain number of credits, often three, and students need to earn enough credits, usually 120, to graduate.

Here are more transfer facts:

- If enough of your courses transfer, you'll start at the four-year college as a junior.
- If you don't get credit for some of your courses, you may need to take them again at the four-year college.
- When you graduate from the four-year college, only that college's name will appear on your bachelor's degree.



10 Tips for First-Year Community College Students



Think long-term: If your goal is to transfer, start now by researching potential schools and programs.



Create a plan with your goals in mind: Begin by taking classes and completing the general education requirements that correspond to the university/program where you want to end up. Try to avoid classes you don't need. Requirements vary depending on the college or university you want to transfer to – counselors can help you.



Develop a relationship with an academic counselor: It is important to work with a counselor as you make your plans for course selection, graduation, transfer, etc. When going to meet with a counselor or staff member, bring all related documents (transcripts, test scores, etc.).



Check your college email often: Email is the main way FLC communicates important information.



Don't wait on financial aid: Visit the financial aid office as soon as possible to see what funds you qualify for. Scholarships, grants, and loans can help you reach your goals.



Make grades a priority: You can set yourself up for good grades by taking classes that interest you. You may enter college not knowing what area of study you want to focus on, so use your first year as an opportunity to explore. Make sure to also take advantage of student success resources, like the Libraries, Tutoring, and more.



Gear up for parking: Buy your parking permit online before the semester begins and avoid the long lines of the first week. Parking is very busy the first few weeks. Arrive at least 45-60 minutes before your first class.



Be prepared for the 1st week of classes: Print out your class schedule a few days before the start of the semester and bring it with you the 1st week of classes. Also, get to campus early and find your classrooms.



Talk to your instructors: Show interest in class - and meet with your instructors outside of class by visiting during posted office hours. If you have questions, ask for answers.



Make new friends: Get to know other students in and outside of classes - share resources, ideas, and experiences. Join a campus club or get involved with Student Government.

Next Steps, cautions, and lingo:

If you want to apply to a CCC, please setup a meeting with Mr. Ream to talk about your plans. He has lots of great info and can help you ask yourself the right questions about what you want out of the experience and your future goals. Be sure to start with big picture questions like ideas for future career/major, finances available, what type of degree is needed for planned career, location you would like to live, etc.

Please keep in mind some of the cautions listed in the above packet. Things like transfer rates and degree completion times vary by program, student, and campus. Also that, while often true, it is not always the cheapest option.

Beware of undermatching:

Undermatching. By definition, undermatching refers to college ready students who select and enroll in colleges with selectivity levels significantly lower than their academic profile or forego applying to a selective college altogether. If you are academically ready for a more selective college – undermatching *may* result in a less fulfilling post-secondary experience.

For example: you have a 4.1 GPA, strong involvement in school and sports, and decent SAT scores. You could be admitted to fairly competitive universities like Cal Berkley, SF State, CSU Long Beach, and other “top tier” schools, but instead choose to attend a less competitive school like CSU Stanislaus or a community college. While this is not bad in itself – it can result in a less rigorous and academic environment. Just be aware of the type of academic environment you are seeking. Mr. Ream can help with this so please come see him if you are concerned about this!

Wrapping up: Make the plan and stick to it

When you start school – always plan on working with your academic advisor at the college you will be attending. This will help you plan out your time there and push you towards your goals. This will make sure you are on track for an on-time graduation or transfer.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Nothing is stupid. Try new things – make new friends. This is a new start for you and your academics. Transferring will be based on what you do from college forward and HS, if it wasn't so hot, won't come back to haunt you.

Good luck! Have fun.

Mr. Ream