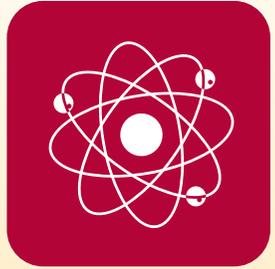
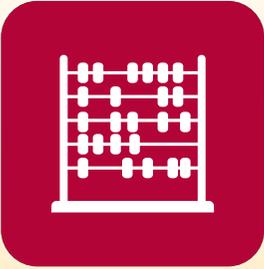


PREPARING FOR

USC

Plan now for a great future.



College Entrance Exams

College entrance exams, such as the SAT and ACT, are just one part of the college admission process, but it is important to prepare for them.

Preparing for exams:

10th-12th Grades:

Prepare to take any SAT Subject tests for your best subjects. Visit sat.collegeboard.org to take practice tests, check test dates or to register for a test. Fee waivers are available for those who qualify.

11th Grade:

Take the PSAT in October. This is the preliminary exam for the SAT and is required for several national scholarship programs, including the National Merit Scholarship. You can prepare for it by visiting www.collegeboard.org.

Start thinking about when and how often you will take the SAT or ACT. Plan to register for the tests at least one to two months in advance of the test date.

12th Grade:

Register for the SAT or the ACT. Your counselor can provide registration forms or you can register online. Plan to register for these exams a month or two before the test date.



Four Facts

ABOUT APPLYING TO COLLEGE



Did You Know:

You don't have to be rich to attend a private university.

Students eligible for need-based financial aid may find the actual costs for a private university comparable to — or less than — a state institution. In fact, two-thirds of our undergraduate students receive financial assistance. And we enroll 4,300 low-income undergraduate students (as defined by Pell Grant eligibility) — more than most other private, highly selective universities.



Did You Know:

There's not one 'perfect' college for you.

There are many colleges right for you. Research your options and you will find that more than one college can meet all your criteria. The College Board's Big Future website provides free and accurate information about thousands of colleges and universities, and can help you prepare for your college search or explore potential majors and careers. Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org for more information.



Did You Know:

Applying for financial aid will not necessarily affect your admission to college.

Many colleges, including USC, do not consider a family's ability to pay when making admission decisions. This is called "need-blind" admission. A variety of need-based aid programs and scholarships may be available to you, so you should apply for financial aid soon after you apply for admission.



Did You Know:

Admission officers consider more than grades and test scores when evaluating an applicant.

In addition to grades and test scores, selective colleges are interested in the rigor of the subjects taken, the competitiveness of the school, and upward or downward trends in your grades. The essay, as well as your extracurricular and leadership activities, talent and personal character are also very important. You should be aware, though, that accomplishments in extracurricular activities and leadership activities cannot make up for a poor academic record.

Financial Aid at USC



The cost of college can be offset with financial aid, which can come from your home state, the federal government, and even your college. USC administers one of the largest financial aid programs in the U.S.

More than two-thirds of students at USC receive financial aid.

Need-based financial aid is offered according to the demonstrated need of the student and family. Financial aid includes need-based grants, merit scholarships, loans and Federal Work-Study.

Merit scholarships are awarded based on a student's academic and extracurricular achievement. For more information about USC Merit and other scholarships, please visit admission.usc.edu/scholarships.

For more information, please visit financialaid.usc.edu.

To find out your potential eligibility for need-based financial aid, please visit our Net Price Calculator at financialaid.usc.edu/npc.



Preparing for USC

Attending college is more important than ever. This brochure will help you learn about the college application process and the classes you should take in middle school and high school to prepare. We encourage you to share this with your family so they can help you reach your goal.

Remember, college admission and financial aid requirements can change from year to year, so stay in close contact with your school counselor for advice and for the most current college information.

For more information about USC: www.usc.edu

START EARLY

To help you meet the basic entrance requirements of many colleges and universities, a college-prep schedule requires you to take at least four college preparatory classes every year of high school.

A college preparatory track should include:

English And Literature: 4 Years



Math: 3-4 years

Recommended track includes algebra through trigonometry or calculus.



Foreign Language: 2-4 years



Laboratory/Natural/Physical Science: 2-4 years



History and Social Science: 2 years



Academic Electives: 3 years



We Recommend You Take:

- Courses that will challenge you. Take the most difficult courses you think you can handle. These will prepare you for universities with selective admission (those that receive more applications than they can accommodate). Push yourself, but be careful not to become overwhelmed.
- Extra classes in the subjects you excel in. Your school counselor will help you plan your schedule according to your strengths and interests.
- Challenging classes such as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses (if you are prepared and if your high school offers them).



8th GRADE

- Tell your parents you want to attend a selective college.
- Take a course in algebra and a foreign language this year, if possible.
- Study and strive for A's. Though colleges won't generally consider grades you earned before high school, studying hard now will prepare you for the years to come.
- Develop skills that are valuable in high school and essential in college, such as basic computer skills, online research, note-taking and time management.



9th GRADE *and beyond*

Now that you're in high school, preparing for college begins in earnest. Colleges will consider everything you do for the next four years, so this is your opportunity to impress.

If you haven't done so yet, get to know your school counselor. Tell him or her that you want to attend USC and that you need to enroll in college preparatory courses.

Try to earn A's in all your classes.

Form study groups with friends who also plan to go to college, and study together as often as possible.

- If you fall behind or have trouble in a course, ask for help. Look for a tutor, a friend, counselor or parent who can help.
- Create a résumé file, saving items such as report cards, diplomas and certificates; a list of awards and honors you receive; a list of all school and community activities you participate in; a list of offices you hold in these organizations; and a list of volunteer or paid jobs you hold. Update this file every semester.
- Become involved in at least one extracurricular activity and participate as much as possible.
- Join clubs and organizations at your school or in your community to explore your interests and learn leadership skills. Aim for leadership roles by junior or senior year.

Often as early as the eighth grade, you will need to decide if you are going to follow a college preparatory track in high school. *Preparing for USC* will help you learn about the college application and admission process and the right subjects to take.

10th GRADE

It's a busy year. You may be learning to drive or working at your first real job. It's also the year you start exploring your collegiate interests, and step up your academic efforts.

- Review your 10th-grade schedule with your counselor to make sure you are taking all the college prep courses you need for USC.
- Try to take a leadership role in an extracurricular activity and participate in other activities that may interest you.
- Update your résumé file. Record your accomplishments, experiences, awards and service.
- Start your college search. Research colleges online.
- Begin visiting and exploring college campuses that interest you. Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org for more information.

11th GRADE

This is the year you take standardized tests, tour college campuses, and make important choices. Make sure your grades remain strong, because this is the year colleges will examine most closely.

Take the PSAT exam. This is typically offered in October. Talk to your counselor about signing up.
Check with your counselor to make sure you are taking the college preparatory subjects you need to attend USC. Take AP and IB classes if they are offered at your school. Otherwise, consider taking classes at your local community college to further challenge yourself.
Attend college fairs and presentations by college representatives who visit your school.
Make a list of colleges you would like to apply to.
Continue your extracurricular activities, and take the initiative to lead programs or plan activities.
Update your résumé and activities file.

- Visit the colleges near you and/or that interest you the most. Campus visits will give you a firsthand look at student life and give you the chance to meet with admission staff.
- Contact the colleges you are interested in and request to be added to their mailing lists.
- Register for SAT or ACT exams. See the "College Entrance Exams" section for more information.
- Begin looking for various scholarship opportunities offered through the colleges you're interested in, or through outside agencies.
- Be sure to update your résumé file with any new accomplishments, experiences, awards or service.

12th GRADE

The final year of high school is when you prepare for your college experience, from application and acceptance to enrollment.

- Review your recent and current class schedules with your college counselor to make sure you are taking the college preparatory classes you need for admission to USC.
- Complete your college essay.
- Continue striving for strong grades.
- Register for ACT and/or SAT exams. See the "College Entrance Exams" section for more information.
- Take AP or IB courses if offered at your school. A fourth year of math and a laboratory science are strongly recommended for your senior year.
- Pay special attention to college application deadlines and requirements.
- If your school does not offer an AP or IB curriculum, consider enrolling in a course at a local community college or university.
- Complete and submit applications. Submit a portfolio and/or register for an audition if you are applying to an arts program.
- Finalize your list of colleges that you would like to apply to.
- Learn more about financial aid and how to apply at financialaid.usc.edu.
- Continue your extracurricular activities. Find new ways to demonstrate leadership, persistence, thoughtfulness, creativity or some other special trait through your activities.
- Ask your teachers and counselors for recommendations.



Ideas for Making the Most of Your Summers Throughout High School

- Take part in academic enrichment programs and special summer workshops or camps in subjects that interest you. Many of these are held on college campuses.
- Relax and take time off before the next academic year. Consider retaking a class in which you received a grade you weren't satisfied with, or take a new class in summer school.
- Work as a volunteer in an area where your community needs help.
- Gain valuable experience and save money for college by working a part-time job or pursuing an internship in an area that interests you.

THE SUMMER BEFORE YOUR SENIOR YEAR

- Prepare for the SAT or ACT by using test prep resources found in libraries, online or in a bookstore. Workshops such as the Acceso Academy for low-income students in Los Angeles can also help you prepare for college entrance exams. Check with your counselor for more information. Low/no-cost test preparation is also available at collegeboard.org (for the SAT) and at act.org (for the ACT).
- Visit colleges that interest you.
- Complete any audition tapes, art portfolios or special materials required for admission to programs in the fine and performing arts.
- Start working on your college essay. This will give you enough time to rewrite it before submitting it with your college applications.

USC Majors

List accurate at time of printing. Please refer to the *USC Catalogue* online at catalogue.usc.edu for an updated list.

Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

American Popular Culture
American Studies and Ethnicity
African American Studies
American Studies
Asian American Studies
Chicano/Latino Studies
Anthropology
Applied and Computational
Mathematics
Archaeology
Art History
Astronomy
Biochemistry
Biological Sciences
Biophysics
Central European Studies
Chemistry
Classics
Cognitive Science
Comparative Literature
Computational Neuroscience
Contemporary Latino and
Latin American Studies
Creative Writing
Earth Sciences
East Asian Area Studies
East Asian Languages and
Cultures (Chinese,
Japanese, Korean)
Economics
Economics/Mathematics
English
Environmental Science and Health
Environmental Studies
French
Gender Studies
GeoDesign
Geological Sciences
Global Geodesign
Global Studies
Health and Human Sciences
Health and Humanity
History
Human Biology
Intelligence and Cyber Operations
International Relations
International Relations
(Global Business)
International Relations
and the Global Economy
Italian
Jewish Studies
Law, History and Culture
Linguistics
Mathematics
Middle East Studies
Narrative Studies
Neuroscience
Non-Governmental Organizations
and Social Change
Philosophy
Philosophy and Physics
Philosophy, Politics and Law
Physics
Physics/Computer Science
Political Economy
Political Science
Psychology
Religion
Russian

Sociology
Spanish

USC School of Architecture

Architecture

Roski School of Art and Design

Art
Design, BFA
Fine Arts, BFA

Iovine and Young Academy for Arts, Technology and the Business of Innovation

Arts, Technology and the Business
of Innovation

Marshall School of Business

Accounting
Business Administration
Business Administration (World)
(first-years only)

USC School of Cinematic Arts

Animation and Digital Arts
Cinema and Media Studies
Cinematic Arts Film and Television
Production, BFA (first-years only)
Cinematic Arts Film and Television
Production, B.A. (transfers only)
Media Arts and Practice
Interactive Entertainment
Writing for Screen and Television

Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism

Communication
Journalism
Public Relations

Kaufman School of Dance

Dance, BFA

Ostrow School of Dentistry

Dental Hygiene (junior transfers only)

USC School of Dramatic Arts

Theatre
Theatre (Acting for Stage, Screen and
Media), BFA
Theatre (Design), BFA
Theatre (Sound Design), BFA
Theatre (Stage Management), BFA
Theatre (Technical Direction), BFA

Viterbi School of Engineering

*Note: areas of emphasis are
indicated in parentheses below.
Undeclared Engineering
Aerospace
Astronautical
Biomedical
Biomedical (Biochemical)
Biomedical (Electrical)
Biomedical (Mechanical)
Chemical
Chemical (Biochemical)
Chemical (Environmental)
Chemical (Nanotechnology)
Chemical (Petroleum)
Chemical (Polymer/Materials Science)
Chemical (Sustainable Energy)
Civil
Civil (Building Science)
Civil (Environmental)
Civil (Structural)

Computer Engineering
and Computer Science
Computer Science
Computer Science (Games)
Computer Science/
Business Administration
Electrical
Environmental
Industrial and Systems
Mechanical
Mechanical (Petroleum)

Davis School of Gerontology

Human Development & Aging
Lifespan Health

Keck School of Medicine

Global Health
Health Promotion and Disease
Prevention Studies

Thornton School of Music

Bachelor of Music degrees:
Composition
Jazz Studies (Instrumental)
Music Production
Popular Music Performance
Classical Performance
Bassoon
Cello
Clarinet
Double Bass
Flute
French Horn
Guitar, Classical
Harp
Oboe
Organ
Percussion
Piano
Saxophone
Trombone
Trumpet
Tuba
Viola
Violin
Vocal Arts

Bachelor of Arts degrees:

Choral Music option
Classical Performance option
(Instrumental or Vocal)
Jazz Performance option
(Instrumental or Vocal)

Bachelor of Science degree:

Music Industry

**Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational
Science and Occupational Therapy**
Occupational Therapy (first-years only)

Price School of Public Policy

Public Policy
Real Estate Development
Urban Studies and Planning

Pre-professional Emphases

Pre-Dentistry
Pre-Law
Pre-Medicine
Pre-Occupational Therapy
Pre-Pharmacy
Pre-Physical Therapy
Pre-Physician Assistant Practice
Pre-Teaching