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## **COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

Community colleges are two-year institutions that prepare students for transfer to a four-year college or university or for various careers. California has the largest community college system in the nation with 107 campuses statewide and an enrollment in excess of 1.3 million students each year. Examples of community college campuses are Las Positas CC (Livermore), Ohlone CC (Fremont), Diablo Valley College (Concord), Chabot CC (Hayward), Cuesta CC (San Luis Obispo), Columbia CC (Sonora), Santa Barbara City College, College of San Mateo, and Cabrillo CC (Santa Cruz).

To enroll in a community college, students must be 18 years of age or high school graduates who can show they can profit from a community college education. It is also possible to enter community college with an equivalency exam rather than a diploma. There are no specific courses students must complete, no necessary grade point average, nor is an SAT or ACT score necessary in order to be eligible for admission. However, prior to registering, students are required to take placement tests to determine the course level of math and English at which they will begin.

Many students attend the community colleges with a plan to transfer to a four-year college or university. After completing two years of regular lower-division course work, students may apply to enter the university of their choice as juniors. Students who do not plan to transfer may pursue an AA degree or a certificate in one of many vocational fields with a goal of entering the world of work immediately following their community college experience.

Las Positas offers an Early Admissions Program for entering freshmen. Registration by March allows students to select courses early and to receive special orientation and counseling assistance.

## **PRIVATE AND OUT-OF-STATE PUBLIC COLLEGES**

There are nearly 3,500 colleges and universities throughout the United States for students to consider when selecting and applying to colleges. Many Amador students each year apply to private schools throughout the country as well as to public colleges and universities in other states.

Each of these schools has a personality of its own based on such factors as selectivity, size, programs, geographical environment and campus life. Some are research institutions, others are comprehensive universities while still others are considered liberal arts institutions. There are religiously oriented schools, women's colleges and prestigious specialty schools, like the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. It is the task of each student to seek a college that will be a good match and will meet the criteria considered to be important by that individual student.

Admission to Independent Universities and Colleges varies greatly. Admission requirements range from extremely demanding to less stringent. In Independent schools, admission may not be limited strictly by grades and test scores. The high school curriculum, extracurricular activities, honors, letters of recommendation, special interests, talents, and personal potential play a substantial role in the admissions decisions.

Out-of-State Public Colleges in states other than California provide additional options for Amador students. As Public institutions, a specific list of required subjects, test scores and grade point averages is generally available. In many cases, the requirement for out-of-state students is slightly higher than for residents.

Students are urged to search for specific websites of any college or university in which they have an interest. Admission requirements will be listed as well as virtual tours, majors available, financial aid, and general information and news about the college.

Students may call, write, or e-mail to request applications from the individual campuses; many applications can be downloaded directly from the website. Students may visit the Career Center to obtain additional information about these campuses.