

# ACADEMIC NEWS

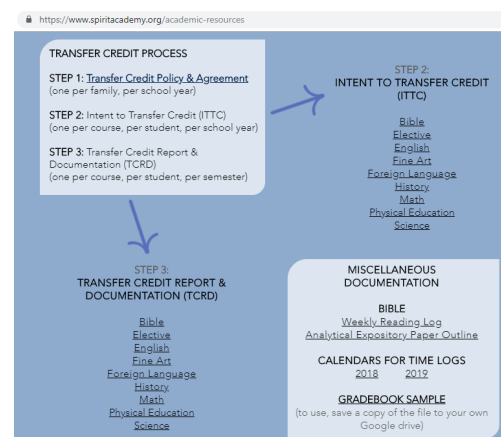
Spirit Christian Academy

## Transferring in Courses for Credit at SCA

Now that second quarter has just begun, it is a good time to do a mid-semester checkup, organize work for documentation purposes and update time logs if you are transferring in courses for credit.

For a reminder of what is due by February 8, please find the subject specific "Transfer Credit Report & Documentation" form on the SCA website: [spiritacademy.org/academic-resources](https://spiritacademy.org/academic-resources)

SCA Sports can count for PE credit! Turn in your intent form at the start of the season and a coach signed transfer credit form at the end of the season. No activity log or transfer fee required.



## Funding a College Education

College is a buzz word used by many parents and students throughout a student's secondary level school years. It is, after all, a gateway for many people to gain the skills and experiences necessary to pursue a chosen career. However, funding a college education can be a challenge that many students are still facing even after earning a college diploma. While trust funds and savings bonds are certainly ideal, the average high school student has to explore other options to pay for ever increasingly expensive college tuition. Thankfully, there is a plethora of resources to aid families in that process. Take a look at some highlights of 5 top free scholarship tools from an article by Scholarship America (Fugate):

1. **CollegeBoard.com:** their annually updated database has 2,300+ scholarship opportunities and awards that can be used at virtually any institution.
2. **CollegeNet.com:** has a scholarship search engine and "hosts an online community that invites students to create topics in an open forum, share their comments, and vote online to determine who is leading the most interesting conversation. By the end of the [weekly] voting cycle...the student with the most votes wins between \$3K-\$5K in scholarship money." Scholarship opportunities are updated monthly.
3. **Fastweb:** their daily updated database has over 1.5 million scholarship opportunities that you can search for based on criteria you set up. They remove scholarships older than 11 months to keep the database current.
4. **Scholarships.com:** their daily updated database contains more than 2.7 million scholarship opportunities.
5. **ScholarshipMonkey.com:** their database contains more than 1 million scholarship opportunities for undergraduate, graduate and professional level students.

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## An Inside Look at UCI's Application Process

### QUICK FACTS ABOUT UC SCHOOLS

- UC schools are *research* schools. Professors are trained as *researchers* not as teachers, and they train researchers. (So how productive are you at research?)
- The UC acceptance rate is 30-35%.
- Certain UC schools use the same scoring system so an application isn't read multiple times.

### INCOMING FRESHMEN

A computer reads through each application in addition to one reader. The reader spends about 3-4 *minutes* on an application. They look for grades, extracurricular activities, and AP scores (which are compared against the AP scores from students at your school). They only do a quick review of the essay (so you don't have to worry as much about that!). UCI wants to accept the top 5-10% of *each* school.

An application will get a second read if the first reader finds any significant barriers.

AP scores are different than college credit courses, but college credit looks good. So make sure you send your community college transcript along with your application.

Readers also look at community service hours, awards and "upward trends" in grades that signal academic improvement. (On average, applicants report over 300 hours of community service during high school.)

### TRANSFER STUDENTS

The application review process is done more internally for students coming in as Juniors. To help transfer in successfully, you will need to:

- Know your major. (As a transfer student, you can choose 2 majors.)
- Have good grades in your subject area.
- Know the transfer requirements of your chosen major(s).

The most common reason transfer students are not admitted is because they do not meet the minimum requirements of their major(s). So make sure you have a checklist of requirements and don't have any missing classes or grades.

### TIPS TO ACE YOUR APPLICATION

- Don't use abbreviations—write it all out.
- Keep it *simple*.
- Remember to include all your extracurricular activities.

## SAT & ACT Testing Dates for 2018-2019

SAT TEST DATE	SAT REGISTRATION DEADLINE	ACT TEST DATE	ACT REGISTRATION DEADLINE
December 1, 2018	November 2, 2018	December 8, 2018	November 2, 2018
March 9, 2019	February 8, 2019	February 9, 2019	January 4, 2019
May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019	April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019
June 1, 2019	May 3, 2019	June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019
		July 13, 2019	June 14, 2019

Late registration dates are available. See [CollegeBoard.org](https://collegeboard.org) for information about the SAT and [ACT.org](https://act.org) for information about the ACT.

## UC, CSU and FAFSA Deadlines

College application season is well underway! Here are some dates you should be aware of if you are interested in a UC or CSU school or will be applying for any kind of financial aid.

### FAFSA and Cal Grant Verification Form

Opened October 1. Closes March 2, 2019.

For an application and more information, visit the FAFSA website: <https://studentaid.ed.gov>

### CSU Fall 2019 Applications

#### Priority Application Filing Period:

October 1-November 30, 2018.

If you're planning to attend a CSU as a Freshman and you currently have less than a 3.0 GPA, you will need to submit scores for either the ACT or SAT to help them "calculate your eligibility index for admission."

## The Community College Plan

Community College. As a high school student, those words were almost the same as saying "continuation high school," and many of my friends joked about the first year of community college (CC) being the "13th" grade. Needless to say, that stigma did not lessen as I entered my senior year. While I spent my first year of college at a CSU, I did end up finishing my associate's degree at a CC, and I was very thankful. It saved me money and allowed me to explore classes I would not otherwise have taken.

Today the words "community college" have a more positive connotation. This is partly because our state supplemented 4 year CSUs and UCs are so impacted. However, it also helps that CCs offer programs that ensure acceptance into a CSU/UC upon completion. With a lower price tag, our local CCs have helped meet a rising demand for quality higher education.

And still, according to the California Community Colleges website, there are so many other reasons to consider community college:

However, because local CSU campuses, such as Fullerton and Long Beach, are impacted, many students provide these scores even with higher GPAs. To be competitive in this arena, SCA encourages you to take the ACT or SAT and submit your scores with your application.

To explore CSU campuses and learn more about applying, visit: <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>

### UC Fall 2019 Applications

**Filing period:** November 1-30, 2018

If you're hoping to attend a UC as a freshman, you will also need an ACT with Writing or SAT with Essay score to submit. If you haven't taken the test yet, take a look at the test dates on page 2 and start preparing!

To read more about the UC admissions process, visit: <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu>

1. **Become Job-Ready Sooner:** Many careers, such as being a chef, medical assistant or working within law enforcement, do not require a four year bachelor's degree. You can earn a degree or certification and start working in 2 years.
2. **Explore Opportunities:** You may not know exactly what you want to do. CC provides a wide range of classes at a much lower cost, so you can try out different fields before making a commitment.
3. **Transition Softly:** Most courses in a CC are smaller than university classes (that can have 300+ students) and are taught by experienced instructors (rather than graduate assistants) who have time to meet with you one-on-one if needed. Learning at a CC can be helpful for students who aren't quite ready to experience a "big" college experience.

"Reasons to Attend a Community College." CCCApply. [home.cccapply.org/colleges/why-attend](http://home.cccapply.org/colleges/why-attend). 01 Nov. 2018.

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**Spirit Christian Academy (SCA)** is a private University-Model School whose mission is to partner with parents to provide their students with a comprehensive, college preparatory education from a Christian perspective.

The Vision of Spirit Christian Academy is threefold: to help students develop a meaningful relationship with Jesus; to prepare them in leadership education; and to partner with parents in the overall development of their students' character.

## Community College Spotlight: Santiago Canyon College

**Location:** In the city of Orange off Chapman and Newport Blvd. at 8045 East Chapman Avenue

**Accreditation:** Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

**Ranking:** #13 among the 50 Best Community Colleges in the U.S. by College Choice

**Student Population:** 17,000+ students in enrollment in the past two terms.

**Cost Per Unit for CA Residents:** \$47

### Degrees, Certificates & Programs:

47 Associates Degrees

27 CSU Associate Degrees for Transfer

34 Certificates of Achievements or Proficiency

SCC offers vocational and certificate programs that lead to "gainful employment" in accounting, carpentry, electricity, maintenance mechanics, surveying, biotechnology, computer science, cosmetology, digital media arts, entrepreneurship, real estate, sign language, and more.

### Services for Prospective Students:

These are all available at different local high schools throughout the month of November.

- Financial Aid Presentations
- Application Workshops
- "Cash for College"

If you're a junior or senior, plan on attending the **College and Career Fair** at Esperanza High School hosted by SCC on **November 28**.

### Scholarship Opportunities:

Students who are planning on attending SCC full time during the 2019-2020 school year can apply for the **SCC Promise Scholarship** which provides a **full year of free tuition**! Students who receive this scholarship can also look forward to all the support and guidance they need to fulfill their educational goals including Student Success Workshops, Academic Coaching, one-on-one counseling, tutoring, career exploration, and transfer advisement. In addition, if you have financial need, you could be awarded \$400 toward textbook purchases made at the SCC Hawk Bookstore.

Statistics are listed on the SCC Fact Sheet ([www.scccollege.edu/About/Documents/Fact-Sheet/Fact-Sheet.pdf](http://www.scccollege.edu/About/Documents/Fact-Sheet/Fact-Sheet.pdf)). Degree & Program information is available on pages 36-205 of the SCC 2016-2017 Catalog ([www.scccollege.edu/Departments/AcademicSenate/CICouncil/Documents/Degrees%20and%20Certificates/Degrees%20and%20Certificates.pdf](http://www.scccollege.edu/Departments/AcademicSenate/CICouncil/Documents/Degrees%20and%20Certificates/Degrees%20and%20Certificates.pdf)) and the Gainful Employment page on the SCC website ([www.scccollege.edu/StudentServices/FinancialAid/Pages/Gainful-Employment.aspx](http://www.scccollege.edu/StudentServices/FinancialAid/Pages/Gainful-Employment.aspx)). All other information can be found in the SCC November 2018 Newsletter.