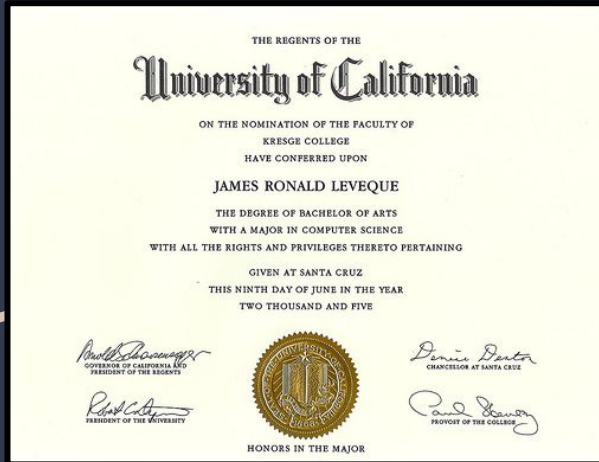


# Understanding U.S. College Systems



# College Degrees



## Undergraduate Degrees

- Associate's Degree (AA, AS):** 2-year degree
- Bachelor's Degree (BA, BS):** 4-year college degree (although may take more time)

## Graduate Degrees

- Master's Degree:** Advanced College Degree (Often 2-3 years to complete)
- Doctorate Degree:** Advanced College Degree Beyond Master's (Ranges in time to complete- usually 3+ years)

# Different College Systems

## 1. COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- Earn a certificate, an Associate's degree or credits for transfer.
- Usually no on-campus housing, must commute
- No minimum GPA for admission
- Cheapest college option
- CA Promise now provides your first year free tuition
- CA Community College Tuition: \$46/unit (\$1,104 for 12 units)



## 2. California State Universities (CSU)

- Earn a Bachelor's degree
- 23 Campuses
- Considers GPA (special A-G calculation) and test scores for admission
- On-campus housing offered
- Greater focus on hands-on careers, practical skills, etc.
- Average Tuition and Fees: \$7,510



# CSU Fun Facts

## More Competitive CSUs:

- ❑ **Cal Poly SLO: 35% Admission Rate**
  - ❑ Average GPA: 3.95    SAT: 1220-1400  
ACT: 26-31
- ❑ **San Diego State: 35% Admission Rate**
  - ❑ Average GPA: 3.70    SAT: 1090-1290  
ACT: 23-28
- ❑ **CSU Long Beach: 34% Admission Rate**
  - ❑ Average GPA: 3.54    SAT: 930-1170  
ACT: 20-26

## Less Competitive (Safety) CSUs:

- ❑ **CSU Dominguez Hills: 75% Admission**
  - ❑ Average GPA: 3.13    SAT: 760-94  
ACT: 15-19
- ❑ **CSU LA: 65% Admission Rate**
  - ❑ Average GPA: 3.16    SAT: 770-990  
ACT: 15-20
- ❑ **CSU Bakersfield: 100% Admission Rate**
  - ❑ Average GPA: 3.30    SAT: 810-1050  
ACT: 16-22



### 3. University of California (UC)

- Earn a Bachelor's degree
- 9 Undergraduate Campuses
- Considers applications holistically—grades, scores, honors, PIQs, service
  - Min GPA: 3.0 (special A-G calculation)
- On-campus housing offered
- Great focus on research
- Average Tuition and Fees: \$13,900



# UC Fun Facts

## Most Competitive UCs:

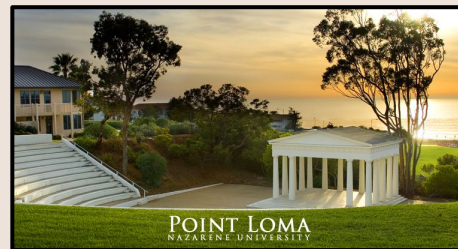
- ❑ **UC Berkeley: 15% Admission Rate**
  - ❑ Average GPA: 3.87      SAT: 1250-1500  
ACT: 29-34
- ❑ **UCLA: 16% Admission Rate**
  - ❑ Average GPA: 4.36      SAT: 1240-1490  
ACT: 27-33
- ❑ **UC Santa Barbara: 33% Admission Rate**
  - ❑ Average GPA: 4.08      SAT: 1240-1470  
ACT: 26-32

## Less Competitive UCs:

- ❑ **UC Merced: 69% Admission**
  - ❑ Average GPA: 3.55      SAT: 860-1070  
ACT: 18-23
- ❑ **UC Riverside: 57% Admission Rate**
  - ❑ Average GPA: 3.74      SAT: 1090-1300  
ACT: 23-29
- ❑ **UC Santa Cruz: 51% Admission Rate**
  - ❑ Average GPA: 3.50      SAT: 1160-1370  
ACT: 24-30

## 4. Private Schools (In and Out of State)

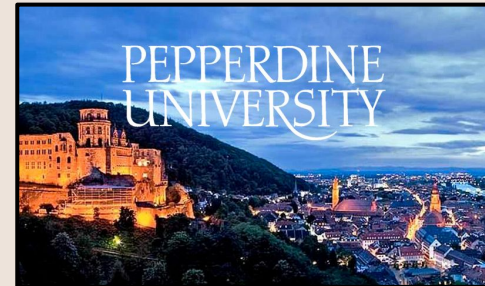
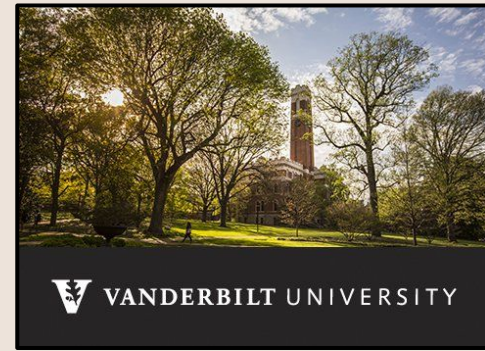
- Earn a Bachelor's degree
- Over 1,500 private colleges in the U.S.
- Each has a different application process
  - Many use the Common App.
- On-campus housing often offered
- Vary in focus, variety of majors offered





## 4. Private Schools (In and Out of State)

- Often smaller campuses/class sizes
- May or may not have a religious affiliation
- Average Tuition and Fees: Varies–  
The initial price tag may be higher,  
but private schools often give more  
scholarships and grants.



## 5. Out-of-State Schools

- Earn a Bachelor's degree
- Application process varies
- Variety of majors and programs
- May have cheaper housing options
- Average Tuition and Fees: Varies– You will pay higher tuition as an out-of state resident, BUT some have great options and grants available.
  - WUE– Western Undergraduate Exchange



# *A Few Things to Keep in Mind*

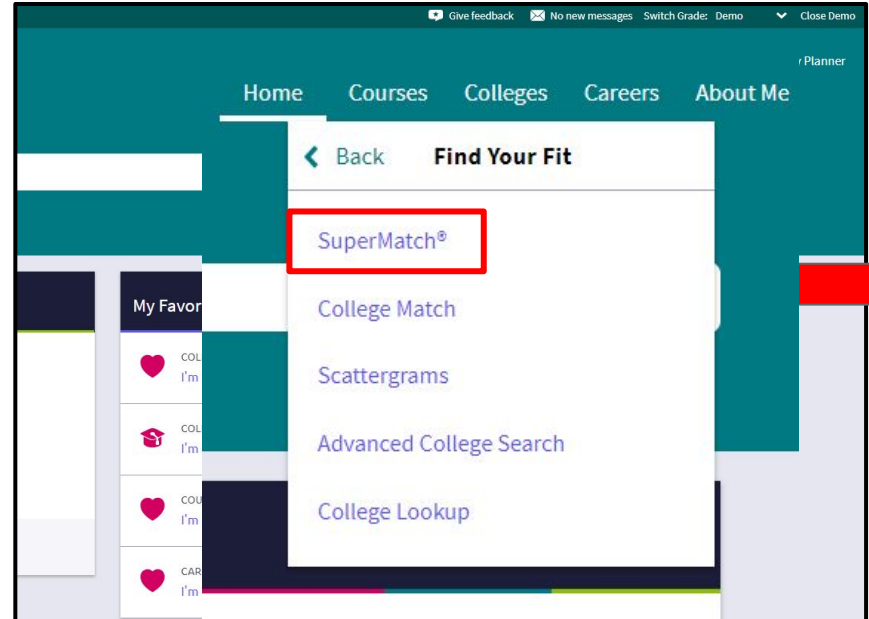
- **Reputation is NOT everything.** There are so many amazing schools that you may have never heard of- don't limit yourself on name only.
- **Don't initially limit yourself based on price alone-** remember financial aid.
- **Be honest with yourself about your priorities and values-** What do YOU really want from your college experience?
- **Consider what you need to be successful-** Will you thrive on a smaller campus with a smaller community? Will living on campus help you stay focused on your education?
- **Where do you want to live and start your adult life?**

# Find Your Match

*Begin thinking about what is most important to you in your college choice.*

Location?  
Size?  
Majors?  
Campus Life  
Diversity?

1. Log onto Naviance from the Helix Charter Website
2. Click on the "Colleges" Tab
3. Select "Find Your Fit"
4. Select "Super Match"



Naviance | Student

SuperMatch College Search

Choose Fit Criteria

LocationAcademicsAdmission

Your Fit Criteria

0 selected criteria

Select Criteria To Start

To refine your results, use the arrows to move your criteria into the "Must Have" and "Nice to Have" boxes.

No Results Yet

Fit Score

LocationAcademicsAdmissionDiversityInstitution

Close

Location

Search by state or region

Search by distance

Type US State or Canadian Province...

Quick Selection: US Regions & Others

☐ Central

☐ Southeast

☐ Mid-Atlantic

☐ West

☐ Midwest

☐ US Territories

☐ Northeast

☐ Canada

CAMPUS SURROUNDINGS

☐ Large City

☐ Small City

☐ Suburb near Large City

☐ Suburb near Small City

☐ Town not near a City

☐ Rural

Give feedbackNo new messagesSwitch Grade: DemoClose Demo

HomeCoursesCollegesCareersAbout MeMy Planner

About SuperMatch

Resources

Saved Searches Choose one Save SearchStart Over

Nice to Have

A Nice to Have is anything that's important to you, but isn't an absolute must have.

Pick what to show



# SuperMatch College Search

[Choose Fit Criteria](#)
[Location](#)
[Academics](#)
[Admission](#)
[Diversity](#)
[Institution Characteristics](#)
[Cost](#)
[Student Life](#)

Change your fit criteria

Fit Score <sup>i</sup>

Academic Match <sup>i</sup>

University of Redlands  
Redlands, CA, Small City  
4 year, Private nonprofit

[PIN TO COMPARE](#)

[FAVORITE](#)

100%

Why?

## Match\*

Average You

GPA 3.7 3.5 <sup>i</sup>

SAT 1190 N/A

ACT 26 N/A

\* To best determine if you're an academic match for this institution, enter both your GPA and standardized test scores.

California State University-San Marcos  
San Marcos, CA, Small City  
4 year, Public

[PIN TO COMPARE](#)

[FAVORITE](#)

100%

Why?

Average You

GPA 3.17 3.5 <sup>i</sup>

SAT 960 N/A

ACT 20.5 N/A

SuperMatch doesn't have sufficient application history for this institution to determine academic match.

Humboldt State University  
Arcata, CA, Rural  
4 year, Public

[PIN TO COMPARE](#)

[FAVORITE](#)

100%

Why?

Average You

GPA 3.18 3.5 <sup>i</sup>

SAT 980 N/A

ACT 21 N/A

SuperMatch doesn't have sufficient application history for this institution to determine academic match.

California State University-Stanislaus  
Turlock, CA, Suburb near Small City  
4 year, Public

[PIN TO COMPARE](#)

100%

Why?

Average You

GPA 3.2 3.5 <sup>i</sup>

SAT N/A N/A

ACT N/A N/A

[Close](#)

## Fit Score Breakdown

Your Fit Score: **100%**



University of Redlands  
Redlands, CA  
4 year, Private nonprofit

[PIN TO COMPARE](#)  
[FAVORITE](#)

Your Fit Criteria

## Legend

✓ Match
✶ Close Match
⚠ Data Unknown
✗ Doesn't Match

## Must Have

4 out of 4 Must Have criteria are a match

✓ Location [1]  
Located in California

✓ Institution Type  
4 year

✓ On-campus Housing  
50% of students live on-campus

✓ Major [Any]

## Nice to Have

3 out of 3 Nice to Have criteria are a match

✓ Student Body Size [3]  
5215 total students

✓ At least 40% are minority students  
45% are minority students

✓ Greek Life

# Next Steps

- Click on individual colleges to explore them further.
  - Find info on admissions, costs, student life, majors, etc.
- Favorite the schools that interest you. ❤️
- You can widen or narrow your search depending on your results.



Naviance | Student

HOME Colleges Careers About Me My Planner

University of Redlands  
Redlands, CA, United States | [www.redlands.edu](http://www.redlands.edu) [Communicate](#)

Overview Studies Student Life Admissions Costs

<b>AVERAGE NET PRICE</b> <b>\$39,398</b> Income: <b>&gt; \$110K</b> <a href="#">More about Cost &amp; Aid</a> From 2018	<b>GRADUATION RATE</b> <b>74%</b> Within 6 years <a href="#">More about Learning Environment</a> From 2018	<b>ACCEPTANCE RATE</b> <b>75%</b> Check out Scattergrams to see how this relates to you From 2018	<b>COLLEGE OVERLAPS</b> <b>57</b> Students who apply to this college also applied to these 57 colleges <a href="#">Learn more</a>	<b>EARLY ACTION DEADLINE</b> <b>November 15</b> <a href="#">See all deadlines</a>
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Get to know the college  
[Learn more about University of Redlands.](#)

Quick Facts

<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.redlands.edu">www.redlands.edu</a>
<b>School Type</b>	Private / 4 Year
<b>CEEB Code</b>	4848
<b>ACT Code</b>	0464