College and University Resources

Choosing a college or university can be a daunting task. To help you, the San Diego Public Library offers a wide variety of free resources that cover choosing a school, applying for admission, and paying your tuition (or possibly avoiding tuition altogether).

At the Central Library, most of the materials on colleges and universities will be concentrated in the Social Sciences section (located on the 3rd Floor), although a number of SAT preparation test books can be found in the Teen Collection. At your local Branch Library, try browsing through the 378s, both in the reference area and in the regular non-fiction stacks. Many branches have special areas for local college and university catalogs, schedules of classes, and brochures, so be sure to ask your librarian if you don’t find them right away.

The Catalog

Computer terminals located throughout Central Library and in each Branch Library provide access to the on-line catalog, which will help you find specific books and other materials in the library’s collection. Enter a subject or keyword and then click on the corresponding icon. Some suggested search terms are as follows:

- Universities and colleges—admission
- College applications
- Universities and colleges—entrance requirements
- Student aid
- Scholarships
- Distance education
- Correspondence schools and courses
- Community colleges
- Private Universities and Colleges
- Minorities--scholarships

The Internet

The Internet can be a great time-saver when it comes to researching colleges and universities, but, due to its unregulated nature, it can also be a source of misinformation. The Librarians’ Index to the Internet (http://lii.org/) is a reliable place to search for college information; all sites indexed by LII have been approved by professional librarians. Some sites of interest:

- Back to College http://www.back2college.com/
  “Resource center for re-entry and nontraditional students, with lots of information about everything from choosing a college to using academic reference materials.”—LII

  “Each year, The Princeton Review surveys thousands of college students to get the inside word about what’s going on at the nation's top 351 colleges. Some rankings cover the serious side of school -- academics, professors, libraries, etc. -- and others tell you what it's really like to live there -- parties, dating, food, dorms, etc." Browse by categories or search by school name.

California Colleges.edu http://www.californiacolleges.edu/
“This combined effort by California colleges and universities and the state Department of Education provides information about higher education opportunities in California. In addition to information about specific public and private schools, career planning, and financial aid, users will also find the school codes used for the SAT, ACT, and FAFSA. They can also set up personal accounts to store information.”—LII

College Board http://www.collegeboard.com/
Each year, the College Board serves over three million students and their parents, 22,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Register online for the SAT here.

CollegeNet http://www.collegenet.com/about/index_html
Search institutions by various criteria including geography, tuition, and enrollment; create a recruitment profile; and search for financial aid.

Common Application https://www.commonapp.org/
The Common Application is the recommended form of 230 selective colleges and universities for admission to their undergraduate programs. All give equal consideration to the Common Application and the college’s own form.

Education (usnews.com) http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/eduhome.htm
“This excellent site from U.S. News & World Report features four sections designed to help users choose a college or graduate school and a career - including college rankings, graduate school rankings, financial aid with best values rankings, and guides to careers, internships, and jobs.”—LII

Free Application for Federal Student Aid http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/
Also available at the Social Sciences Reference Desk.

“An online resource to help students and their families select a college, apply for admission, and plan to finance higher education. The Select a College section provides information on the traditionally African-American institutions of higher education...There is also information on financial aid, self-assessment tools that help you choose a career path, and online application forms.”—LII
Resources

School Directories


The Best 357 Colleges. 2005. R 378.73/Best

California Colleges and Universities. 2002. R 378.794/California


Peterson’s 4 Year Colleges. 2005. R 378.73/Peterson’s


World List of Universities and Other Institutions of Higher Education. 2002. R 378.155/World

Junior and Community Colleges

Peterson’s Two Year Colleges. 2005. R 378.1543/Peterson’s

SAT I & II Preparation

The New SAT, by the staff of Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions. 2005. 378.1662/New (Teen Collection)


The New SAT Math Workbook, by the staff of Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions. 2004. 510.76/New (Teen Collection)

The New SAT Writing Workbook, by the staff of Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions. 2004. 378.1662/New (Teen Collection)

The Official SAT Study Guide: for the New SAT. 2004. 378.1662/Official (Teen Collection)

Getting In


Peterson’s Best College Admission Essays, by Mark A. Stewart. 2004. 378.161/Stewart (Teen Collection)

Financial Assistance


Peterson’s Scholarships Grants and Prizes. 2005. 378.34/Peterson’s


The Scholarship Scouting Report, by Ben Kaplan. 2003. 378.34/Kaplan

Studies Abroad


Study Abroad. 2005. R 370.196/Study

Independent Studies and Distance Learning

Bears’ Guide to College Degrees by Mail & Internet, by John and Mariah Bear. 2003. R 374.473/Bears’