

## HOW CAN I AFFORD COLLEGE? (I've heard that it's so expensive!)

Here are a few **MYTHS** about the cost of higher education:

1. It's too expensive for low income people
2. You have to borrow lots of money and go into debt to pay for it
3. Financial aid and scholarships are only for top athletes, or people who got excellent grades in school
4. Joining the military is the only way you can afford college

And here are some **FACTS**:

1. You can find financial aid to lower or even eliminate the cost of your college education
2. Financial aid comes in scholarships, stipends, grants or loans. Only loans require you to pay them back. Scholarships, stipends and grants are *free money!*
3. There are scholarships and financial aid opportunities for all kinds of students, not just top athletes or straight "A" students
4. There are many challenging, interesting and rewarding national and community service opportunities that will help you pay for college- and you stay safe and keep your freedom

### Resources for More Information:

-**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Government Money:** Visit [www.ed.gov/thinkcollege](http://www.ed.gov/thinkcollege)

-**The California Student Aid Commission** has many useful documents you can download free and a lot of good information. Call 1-888-CA-GRANT or visit

[www.calgrant.org](http://www.calgrant.org) or [www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=40](http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=40)

-**The Student Guide to Financial Aid** (updated each year) available free by calling (800) 433-3243 or at:

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

-**Americorps, VISTA, and the National Civilian**

**Community Corps** hire tens of thousands of people a year to do important, interesting work while earning money for college. Contact the Corporation for National Service 1201 New York Ave, NW Washington, D.C. 20525 (800) 942-2677 or [www.nationalservice.org](http://www.nationalservice.org)

**Other good college information and financial aid web sites:**

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.freescholarshipguide.com](http://www.freescholarshipguide.com)

[www.icanaffordcollege.com](http://www.icanaffordcollege.com)

[www.collegeispossible.org](http://www.collegeispossible.org)

[www.college411.org](http://www.college411.org)

## O.K.-I WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY... (Excellent Decision!) Colleges and Universities Want YOU!

If you are in high school, the best place to start is at the college center. Also, be sure to ask teachers, friends in college, or other adults whose opinions you trust, what advice they have for you.

This webpage provides links to hundreds of college and university homepages as well as scholarship, financial aid and testing information:  
[http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/homepage/news/update/college\\_info.html](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/homepage/news/update/college_info.html)

### **www.get-recruited.com**

Free service offers students a chance to be recruited by colleges, universities and graduate schools throughout the United States

### **Public Universities in California**

#### **The California State University System**

[www.calstate.edu](http://www.calstate.edu)

The CSU has 23 campuses, all over the state. Cal State LA, Northridge, and Dominguez Hills are CSU campuses in the LA area. CSU is the largest, the most diverse, and one of the most affordable university systems in the country. These campuses offer traditional 4-year and graduate degrees, as well as licensing and certificate programs (for example, teaching credentials and nursing licenses).

If you are in high school or 2-year college, and doing well, CSU Mentor is a good place to start exploring this university system. On the CSU Mentor website, you can learn more about a CSU campus, start your planning with the High School or Transfer Planner, and find the campuses that meet your needs: [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)

*last, but not least...*

#### **The University of California System**

Well-known UC schools include UCLA, UC San Diego, and UC Berkeley, but there are many more campuses in the state. The UC system is the top public university system in CA, and the toughest to get into. If you are an excellent student, you can apply to a UC school right out of high school, or transfer (which is much easier) from a 2-year college. Visit their website to learn all about how to be a UC student:

[www.universityofcalifornia.edu/students/welcome.html](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/students/welcome.html)

# HIGHER EDUCATION

You  
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*A Resource Guide  
for Southern  
California Youth*

*Paying for college*  
**Myths & Realities**  
**Scholarships &  
financial aid**

*Where to start*  
**Help figuring out where  
to go and how to get in**

*You're not alone*  
**Academic and personal  
support services**

# WILL "REAL LIFE" GET IN THE WAY? (I have a family, a job, etc.)

It doesn't have to... The good news is that many schools offer support services for working people, those with children, English language learners, and the disabled. For example:

## The Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) Program

**At many community colleges-  
ask at your local campus**

The EOC program provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. An important objective of EOC is to counsel participants on financial aid options and to assist in the application process. The goal of EOC is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education institutions.

### **Services provided by this and similar programs include:**

- \*Academic advice
- \*Personal counseling
- \*Career workshops
- \*Information on various educational opportunities
- \*Information on student financial assistance
- \*Assistance in completing applications for college admissions, testing and financial aid
- \*Coordination with nearby postsecondary institutions
- \*Media activities designed to involve and acquaint the community with higher education opportunities
- \*Tutoring/Mentoring
- \*Assistance with child care

**Remember: Hundreds of thousands of working people, people with kids, people learning English, and those with disabilities are in college, and doing great!**

Almost all colleges and universities have services like the EOCs. You can research what's available on the school's website, or ask the counseling or admissions office. Don't let the fear that your life makes college too hard stop you from giving it your best try! Remember: You are not alone.

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE (A very smart place to begin your higher education)

## **Less money, less stress!**

Community colleges are also known as "2 year" colleges because many students attend for 2 years, then transfer to a university ("4 year" college) to earn their bachelor's degrees. Community colleges tend to offer extra support for students who need help with academics, as well as working students and parents. They offer many excellent career certificate and licensing programs, and have the lowest costs.

**Go here to access links to all of the many  
L.A. community colleges' websites:  
[www.at-la.com/@la-edu/college.htm#cc](http://www.at-la.com/@la-edu/college.htm#cc)**

### **L.A. community college offices to call for more information:**

- Los Angeles Southwest College (323) 241-5321
- Los Angeles City College (323) 953-4000
- East Los Angeles College (323) 265-8650
- Los Angeles Harbor College (310) 233-4090
- Los Angeles Mission College (818) 364-7600
- Pierce College (818) 719-6404
- Los Angeles Valley College (818) 947-2553
- Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (213) 763-5300
- West Los Angeles College (310) 287-4501

### **Community College District Offices Outside L.A.**

- The Coast Community College District. Coastal Orange County (714) 546-7600
- North Orange County Community College District (714) 808-4500
- Rancho Santiago Community College Dist., Santa Ana (714) 480-7300
- San Bernardino Community College District (909) 382-4000
- The South Orange County Community College District, Irvine-Mission Viejo (949) 582-4999
- Ventura County Community College District (805) 384-8300

## **Other Community Colleges Around and Outside L.A.**

- Antelope Valley College, Lancaster (661) 722-6300
- Cerritos College, Norwalk (562) 860-2451
- Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga (909) 987-1737
- Citrus College, Glendora (626) 963-0323
- College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita (661) 362-3280
- College of the Desert, Palm Desert (760) 346-8041
- Copper Mountain College, Joshua Tree (760) 366-3791
- Crafton Hills College, Yucaipa (909) 794-2161
- Cypress College, Cypress (714) 484-7000
- El Camino College, Torrance (866) 352-2646
- Glendale Community College (818) 240-1000
- Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut (909) 594-5611
- Mt. San Jacinto College (951) 487-MSJC (6752)
- Pasadena City College (626) 585-7123
- Rio Hondo College Whittier (562) 692-0921
- Riverside Community College (951) 222-8000
- Santa Monica College (310) 434-4000

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## **I Don't Have A U.S. Green Card (How can I go to college without paying a fortune?)**

### **Community Resources:**

#### **Coalition For Humane Immigrants Rights Los Angeles (CHIRLA)**

#### **Leticia A Education Committee/Wise Up**

A group working for education rights of all students, so that they may attend public high schools and universities  
2533 W. Third St., Ste. 101, Los Angeles, CA 90057  
(213) 353-1333 [www.chirla.org](http://www.chirla.org)

CHIRLA's hotline provides a bi-lingual Spanish/English info and referral service: (888) 624-4752

#### **The Koreatown Youth & Community Center**

Programs and services for recently-immigrated, economic disadvantaged youth & their families who experience coping and adjustment difficulties due to language and cultural barriers.  
3727 West 6th Street, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90020 (213) 365-7400  
[www.kycccla.org](http://www.kycccla.org)

#### **Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)**

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (is the leading nonprofit Latino litigation, advocacy and educational outreach institution in the United States  
634 S. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90014 (213) 629-2555  
[www.maldef.org](http://www.maldef.org)

