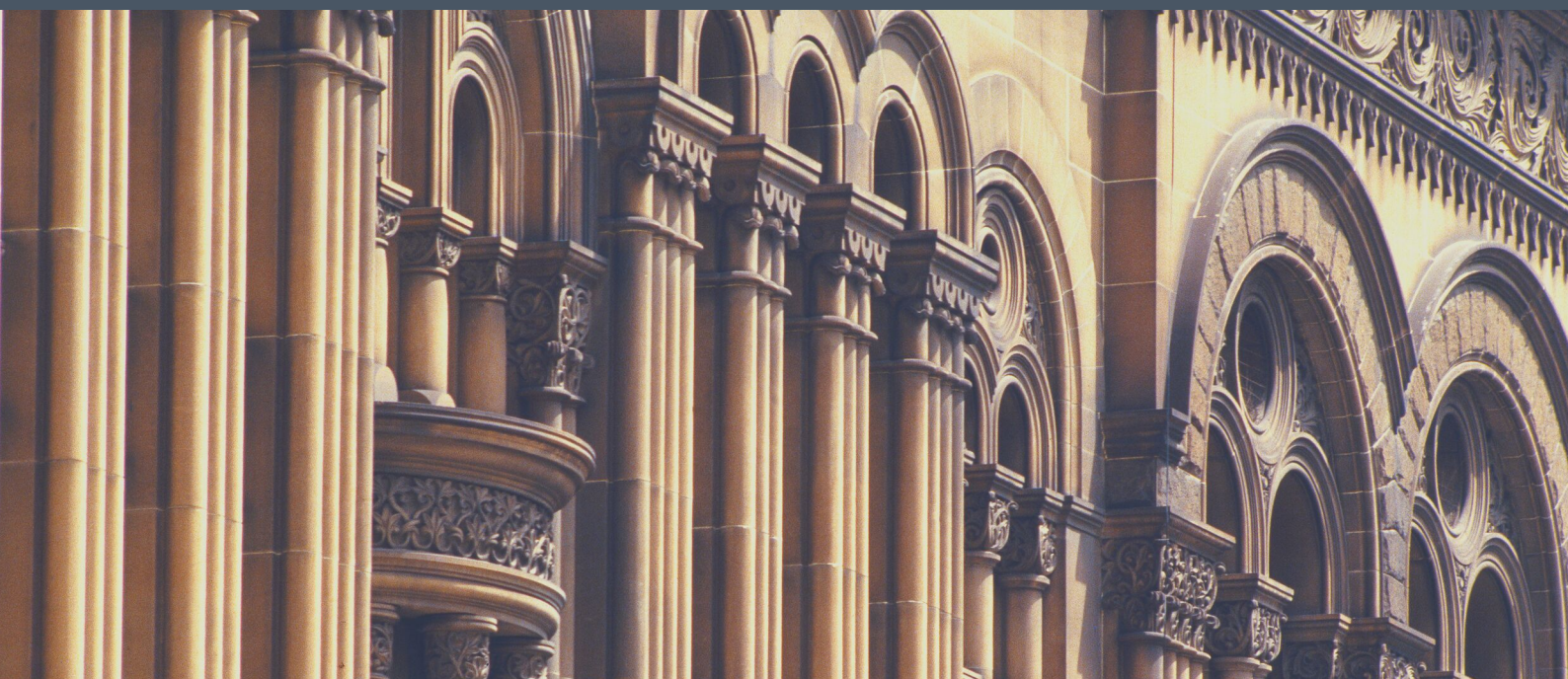


# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

FROM LAMEIRE COLLEGE CONSULTING



## *APPLICATION STRATEGIES: PART 2 OF 2*

BY KARA SMITH

As we reviewed last month, there is an approach to applying to schools that will enhance students' odds of acceptance to a rather high degree: picking the decision plan under which they apply. In this article, we will discuss the remaining application plans: Rolling Admissions (RA), Early Action (EA), and Early Decision II (EDII). Not all schools offer these plans, but a student can take significant advantage of those that do.

### ***Rolling Admissions***

RA is not the most common plan, and it certainly will not be too common among students from the Bay Area. However, it is worth reviewing for no other reason than to provide a basic understanding of the concept. RA can essentially be summed up in this way: First come, first served. The plan allows students to apply almost any time during the fall or early spring, as long as seats are not filled up in the incoming class. Colleges that operate under this plan include the University of Missouri, Seton Hall University, and the

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University of Tulsa. The majority of schools that offer RA do not typically find themselves ranked within the top 50 schools in the country. Regardless, if a student is interested in applying to schools rather late in the game, RA can be a helpful option.

### ***Early Action***

This is a plan that many of the students in the area will take advantage of, but there are several EA plans about which students should be aware.

#### *Non-restrictive EA*

This plan is the most flexible of all the EA options, and it doesn't provide an enormous statistical benefit in terms of admissions. However, if a student is interested in applying to a school that offers this plan, the student should apply under it, unless another school prohibits them from doing so. Non-restrictive EA, offered at Chicago, Cal Tech, and MIT, allows students to apply early – typically in early November –and receive a decision by mid-December. Depending on whose numbers you look at, there is a slight advantage to applying under this plan, and if a student is admitted he is not locked into attending the school. Again, there are few true disadvantages to applying under non-restrictive EA. The timing can be an issue for some students, though, as they might not have earned their highest SAT score by the October test date (the latest test date that this plan will consider) or, if their spring junior year grades are less than stellar, they won't be able to show schools their fall grades.

#### *Restrictive EA (REA)*

Not every student will be allowed to apply non-restrictive EA, as schools in the REA category will prevent students from applying anywhere else early. Stanford, Yale, and Boston College all offer REA, which does not require the student to attend the school, but gives them a bit of a boost in terms of admissions. However, students will need to sacrifice applying to all other schools early (aside from those offering EDII) if they apply under REA. Choose wisely!

### ***Early Decision II***

EDII is a relatively recent phenomenon, and it's one of the more difficult to understand. EDII is the same as ED, but the application date usually falls right around the RD deadline. For example, if a student applied ED or EA to a school, they would typically do this at the beginning of November. The school would inform them if they were admitted or denied by December 15. If this student was denied ED from, say, the University of Pennsylvania, they would still have two weeks in order to apply under an EDII plan – for instance, at NYU. As you might guess, schools that offer EDII are good schools, but they're depending on the students rejected from top-tier ED schools to apply to them under EDII. There aren't too many schools currently offering EDII, but the list is growing. As mentioned above, NYU offers the plan, as do Claremont McKenna, Emory University, and Vanderbilt University.

Although it might seem unfair, much of a student's success or failure in the application process is determined by factors outside of grades and test scores. One of these factors is the plan under which the student applies. Begin thinking about this approach now in order to make sure that your odds of acceptance are increased!

# UCSD COLLEGES

BY SHIRLEY YOUNG

Out of all the UC campuses, there is one school that does something a little unusual: UCSD. Modeled after a European school system, there are seven different colleges on the UCSD campus and students will need to rank their interest in these colleges from one to seven. Even though all students who go to this school will be UCSD students, the college on campus that they get sorted into will determine where on campus they live, as well as their General Education (GE) course requirements as freshmen and sophomores. Each college on UCSD's campus also has a different theme.

It's important that students consider carefully the order in which they rank these colleges. John Muir College, for example - named after the man known as the "Father of the National Parks" - has an emphasis on environmental awareness. The courses that students choose from to take as freshmen include courses in environmental science, marine biology, earth and space science, and so on. In Earl Warren College - named after former California Governor and a Chief Justice of the United States - students take courses on ethics and society, cultural diversity, philosophy, and more.

The seven colleges on UCSD's campus are as follows:

**Revelle College** - Revelle students partake in a structured liberal arts program of study that stresses both breadth and depth in its GE curriculum, meant to help students through the lifelong process of intellectual inquiry. Students take part in a core humanities sequence.

**John Muir College** - There is a wide range of GE requirements that makes this college particularly attractive to students with well-defined academic interests. As mentioned above, this college is good for students interested in the natural sciences and mathematics.

**Sixth College** - The theme of Sixth College is "Culture, Art, and Technology" and embraces the rich opportunities available in new interdisciplinary approaches to learning and practice. The GE curriculum culminates with a practicum experience, an opportunity for students to put education into action, and an academic learning experience in which students address real-world problems by undertaking creative projects.

**Earl Warren College** - As mentioned above, this college is named after former California Governor and Chief Justice of the US Earl Warren. Consistent with Earl Warren's principles, Warren College is committed to preparing students for intellectual, social, and professional life as responsible citizen-scholars. Students partake in the two-quarter Warren College Writing Program, and there are required Ethics and Society courses.

**Eleanor Roosevelt College** - Roosevelt College prepares students to thrive as global citizens through scholarship, leadership, and service. The core of GE curriculum is "The Making of the Modern World (MMW)," an interdisciplinary sequence designed and taught by faculty from the departments of Anthropology, History, Literature, Political Science, and Sociology.

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**Thurgood Marshall College** - The focus of this college is the active development of students as both scholars and citizens. There is an emphasis on understanding of the diversity of cultures that comprise contemporary American society. In fact, students at Thurgood Marshall College participate in a unique, three-quarter core sequence called “Dimensions of Culture” that explores the complexity of American experiences across race, religion, class, and gender.

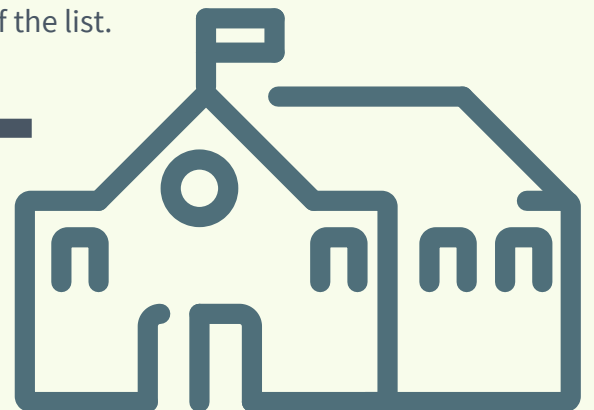
**Seventh College** - Please see below for more information.

In the UC application under “Campuses and Majors,” students who choose to apply to UCSD will come across a section asking them to rank these seven colleges in order of preference. Typically, students do get placed into one of their top two college choices, but this isn’t always guaranteed - especially when UCSD may have over-enrolled for a particular year. However, this is a much rarer occurrence and shouldn’t be something to be stressed over, as long as students are diligent in carefully ranking their choices.

Much additional information is available online about UCSD’s original six colleges, but in this newsletter we will focus on UCSD’s newest addition - the creatively named Seventh College.

This is the first year that Seventh College will be introduced to the campus and to incoming students. At Seventh College, the focus is on helping students to approach their majors of study from a multidisciplinary perspective. The aim is to offer students a breadth of knowledge that will allow them to augment their studies and discover real-world solutions pulled from a variety of perspectives. To aid in this mission, students at Seventh College engage in GE courses during all four years of their college experience, rather than finishing these up in their first or second years. Also, they will produce three capstone projects during the course of their undergraduate studies that focus on this aspect of multidisciplinary problem-solving.

This new addition seems to be part of a trend we’ve seen in colleges offering students the option of a more integrative and interdisciplinary course of study. However, please be aware that not much more is known about Seventh College at this time, including the courses that students will need to take. If this doesn’t jump immediately out at you as a top option, we would suggest ranking this one towards the bottom of the list.







# *ACTIVITIES*

BY CLAIRE SCHADLER

When putting together college applications, each piece has its own important role in highlighting your experiences and interests. The activities section is another part of this puzzle. While the fun part of the activities section is showcasing all the interesting experiences a student has had, the difficult part is that each application has its own requirements. Let's take a look at each application individually!

**University of California:** The UC system made some significant changes to the activities section of their application this year, so parents, if you have an older child who applied to UC schools in previous years, you will notice a lot of changes. One of the main changes is that this year students have 500 characters for their descriptions. This is a significant amount of space where students can delve into their roles, responsibilities, and accomplishments.

For UC activities, students have up to 20 entries total and have no control of how these entries are ordered. Once they are entered into the application, UC has its own method for ranking them. In these 20 entries, students can include educational programs, volunteer work, awards and honors, paid work experience, and extracurricular activities. Another addition this year is that for volunteer work, awards, and paid work experience, UC now asks for a description of the organization or company the student worked for and the requirements or eligibility for the awards.

**Common Application** - For the Common App, the requirements are much different than those of UC. First, students are only allowed 10 entries, which means students will need to choose their 10 most significant activities. The descriptions are only 150 characters, which is much shorter than UC descriptions. Also, students have control over how these activities are ranked, moving from most important to least important. Some tips for the order: start with the most significant educational program. For example, if a student attended a competitive summer program in their area of study, this activity should go first. Next, move back and forth between academic and extracurricular activities. You also want to make sure that the experiences that involved the biggest time commitment and the most recent activities are more toward the top of the list.

For Common App, students are also asked whether they want to continue this activity in college. This question is a drop down menu in the application, so there is no room for an explanation; students either say yes or no. My advice for this question is that if this activity is in the students field of study or is generally related to the type of work students hope to do in college, students should say yes.

**Coalition Application:** For students who are applying to schools that require the Coalition App, there are another set of activities requirements. First, students are given space for 8 entries and descriptions are 255 characters. Information about the hours spent doing an activity is slightly different; students include the hours per week but also include the high end and low end. This space gives students the opportunity to show if their time commitment was inconsistent throughout the year, allowing them to show busy weeks or light weeks for each activity. Coalition also asks if students were involved in a leadership activity, and, if so, with how many people they shared that responsibility.

In conclusion, the activities section is important and making sure that it highlights students' experiences and accomplishments helps in building an overall stronger application.

# *APPLICATION SHORTCUTS: COLLEGES WITH NO SUPPLEMENTAL ESSAYS*

BY EDDIE LAMEIRE



USC has two. Stanford has three to seven. Yale has around five. What are we speaking about? Supplemental application essays!

As we get further into the application season, time gets tighter and tighter, and students look for ways to move through applications quickly. The best shortcut? Apply to colleges that do not require essays

Now, while there are not a lot of top colleges that don't require the essay, there are enough out there that students should be aware of who offers no-essay options. Below, then, we have a partial list. There are some solid schools on here. Please let us know questions about any of them!

- **Case Western Reserve University** (Pre-Professional Scholars program requires additional writing questions)
- **Colby College**
- **Connecticut College**
- **Drexel University** (essay for Westphal College of Media Arts & Design and custom-designed majors)
- **Fordham University**
- **Grinnell College**
- **Kenyon College**
- **Middlebury College**
- **New Jersey Institute of Technology** (depending on answers to some questions, a writing question may be required)
- **Northeastern University**
- **Ohio State University** (Honors and Scholars or Morrill Scholarship Program have an additional writing question)
- **Seton Hall University**
- **Skidmore College**
- **Stevens Institute of Technology** (Accelerated Medicine program has an additional writing question)
- **University of Connecticut**
- **University of Denver**
- **University of Iowa** (supplemental essays for certain programs of study)
- **University of Nebraska**—Lincoln (personal statement required to be considered for leadership and diversity scholarships)
- **University of the Pacific**
- **Wesleyan University** (international students will be required to complete a writing prompt, depending on answers to some questions)