

HIFE CPP REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Must have a minimum of 2.5 GPA
- ◆ Must attend an accredited institution
- ◆ Must be willing to complete the assigned homework provided by the HIFE Coach

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## Identify Important Factors In Choosing A College

In choosing a college, the first things you'll probably consider will be the **type of academic program** and the **availability of the major—or majors—you are most interested in.**

Here are some other things to think about as you compare colleges. How you rank these other factors will depend largely on your personal preferences and needs.

Number your top five factors by importance below.

### 1. Location

- ◆ Distance from home

### 2. Environment

- ◆ Type of school (2-yr or 4-year)
- ◆ School setting (urban, rural)
- ◆ Location and size of nearest city
- ◆ Co-ed, male, female
- ◆ Religious affiliation

### 3. Size

- ◆ Enrollment
- ◆ Physical size of campus

### 4. Admission requirements

- ◆ Deadline(s)
- ◆ Test(s) required
- ◆ Average test scores, GPA, rank
- ◆ Special requirements

### 5. Academics

- ◆ Majors offered
- ◆ Special requirements
- ◆ Accreditation—recognized by regional or national accrediting bodies as meeting its objectives
- ◆ Student-faculty ratio
- ◆ Typical class size

### 6. College expenses

- ◆ Tuition, room and board
- ◆ Estimated total budget
- ◆ Application fee, deposits

### 7. Financial aid

- ◆ Deadline(s)

- ◆ Required forms
- ◆ % of student population receiving aid
- ◆ Scholarships
- ◆ Part-time employment opportunities

### 8. Housing

- ◆ Residence hall requirements
- ◆ Availability
- ◆ Types and sizes
- ◆ Food plans

### 9. Facilities

- ◆ Academic
- ◆ Recreational

### 10. Activities

- ◆ Clubs, organizations
- ◆ Sororities/fraternities
- ◆ Athletics, intramurals

Source: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

## Message From The Dean - Bob Fulcomer

Summer is almost over for the students heading back to school. For those students who will be going into their senior year of high school it is a critical time. There are a lot of things they have to be doing and getting prepared for above and beyond their class work. Parents of seniors also need to be preparing for the financial obligations as well as ensuring

their child is doing all they can and need to do to be prepared. Some of the issues are college applications, SAT and ACT testing, selecting the right school for the right major. If there are assets that can be realigned to better posture the family to be in a better position for financial aid, all of these things need to be done before the end of the year,

some sooner. Some of the California schools require applications to be submitted by the end of October. Many parents don't know this and for sure don't know how or where to start. Remember this is the true value of the CCP program, and all of these things contribute to college cost reduction.

## Student Loan Debt Is Worse Than You Thought



It's a fact: Getting a college degree can also get you a better-paying job. But as enrollment in colleges and universities has risen, so has student loan debt, making it the only type of consumer debt that continued to grow during both the recession and the economic recovery.

According to a new congressional report, student loan debt has nearly doubled since the recession started – going from \$550 billion in the fourth quarter of 2007 to almost \$1 trillion during the first quarter of this year. And the Joint Economic Committee report says student loan debt, from both federal and private loans, "now represents the biggest aggregate balance among non-mortgage debt categories."

The report notes two-thirds of recent college and university graduates left their alma maters with an average balance of \$27,000 in loan debt, which works out to about 60% of what a young graduate earns annually.

Other financial challenges loom. Unless Congress acts, the interest rate on federally subsidized Stafford loans – low-interest, fixed-rate loans for any student enrolled at least half time – are expected to double on July 1 from 3.4% to 6.8%.

That rate increase would raise the cost of interest

for students borrowing the maximum amount of Stafford loans to \$4,500, or by \$2,600, for the average borrower. This change was originally scheduled to take place last year, but Congress passed an eleventh-hour one-year extension.

As the Joint Economic Committee report notes, the rising cost of higher education and increasing debt burdens for students pose a risk not only for new graduates but for the overall economy.

"Higher education provides students with the skills needed to be competitive in today's global economy and creates a gateway to well-paying careers," Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., the vice chair of the Joint Economic Committee, said last year during the first round of debate on the Stafford loans.

"But rising costs for education are putting a strain on . . . families and students, and burdening students with thousands of dollars in additional debt is simply unacceptable."

Source: Bruce Kennedy - MSN Money

## Featured University - California State University - San Marcos



California State University San Marcos, one of the youngest and fastest-growing CSU campuses, is a pioneer in providing broad access to quality instruction and a trail-blazer in hands-on education relevant to today's global and technology-rich society. We are nationally recognized as a model of public accountability, institutional innovation and community engagement. We build regional alliances that foster economic, social, and cultural development. We inspire our students to be exceptional, and we focus on assuring the progress of ALL of them to graduation. Our faculty engages in the latest research and other creative activities,

and our graduates are prepared to lead and compete in the digital age.

As Cal State San Marcos enters its third decade, we are renewing our commitment to the historic mission of public higher education with a special emphasis on five strategic priority areas: academic excellence, student life, campus climate, community partnerships, and educational equity. These principles are central to who we are, where we have been, and what we want to be.

California State University San Marcos focuses on the student as an active

participant in the learning process. Students work closely with a faculty whose commitment to sustained excellence in teaching, research, and community partnership enhances student learning. The university offers rigorous undergraduate and graduate programs distinguished by exemplary teaching, innovative curricula, and the application of new technologies. CSUSM provides a range of services that respond to the needs of a student body with diverse backgrounds, expanding student access to an excellent and affordable education.

Source: [www.csusm.edu](http://www.csusm.edu)

## Fewer Parents Can Pay College Tuition

Source: Megan Kowalski and Hadley Malcolm, USA TODAY

As families continue to recover from the recession, they're relying less on their own income and savings and more on grants and scholarships to finance a college education than in previous years, according to Sallie Mae's How America Pays for College study to be released Tuesday.

The study, which surveyed a group of 1,602 undergraduates and parents of undergraduates earlier this year, shows that grants and scholarships are used more than any other type of funding, covering 30% of total college costs for a typical family. Five years ago, only half of families reported using grants and scholarships to pay for college. This year, two-thirds of families did, the study shows.

Meanwhile, parents are contributing less of their income and savings toward college costs, covering 27% of college costs compared with 37% in 2010, the study shows.

"The post-recession reality is (parents) don't have the income and savings," says Sarah Ducich, senior vice

president of public policy at Sallie Mae. "It's not that they're not willing to stretch. It's that they don't think they have the money to do that."

Parents have developed a more cost-conscious mentality, with more families than ever eliminating colleges their kids were considering for being too expensive. Nearly 70% of families eliminated schools because of costs at some point during the application process, according to the report, compared with 58% who did so in 2008, when the study was first issued.

Student borrowing has been increasing, contributing to 18% of the total cost of college compared with 14% in 2008 and 2009.

But more families will also rely on college savings plans this year than any other year, according to the study. Low-income, middle-income and high-income families have all increased their use of state 529 plans, and the report states that 17% of families used 529 college savings plans to pay for college in 2013, up from 12% the previous year.

Ortega, mother of an upcoming senior at Texas A&M University and a 13-year-old son in San Antonio, knows the importance of college savings plans. Thanks to the Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan, she has been able to pay college tuition for both of her sons to attend state universities in advance of entering school.

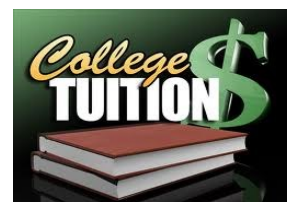
She says that without the plan, which has been closed to new enrollment since 2001, her family probably wouldn't have been able to afford tuition and would have had to take out student loans — and she didn't want her sons finishing college with debt.

Ducich worries, though, that still not enough families are planning for the cost of college. Even though the study reports that parents are less worried about increasing tuition and their own economic circumstances than they were in 2010, six out of 10 still don't have a financial plan for all years of college, the study says.

"We're just not seeing enough families plan," Ducich says. "There's a red flag that says

some of these families are going to be surprised by the extra cost it's going to take to finish that degree. They're going to have to spend more and finance it in some way."

Contributing: Jayne O'Donnell



## Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA)

Presented By - Dave Bromeier, CFE®, ChFC®, Investment Advisor

A Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA) is an account created as an incentive to help parents and students save for education expenses.

The total contributions for the beneficiary of this account cannot be more than \$2,000 in any year, no matter how many accounts have been established. A beneficiary is someone who is under age

18 or is a special needs beneficiary.

Earnings grow tax-deferred and distributions are tax-free when used for qualified post-secondary education costs. ESAs may be transferred from one child to another and a child can fund with no minimum income requirements. ESAs may also be withdrawn tax-free before

2013 for primary and secondary school expenses.

### The drawbacks are:

- ◆ contribution per child
- ◆ If not used, it is taxable at age 30 to the child with a 10% penalty Parental income restrictions:
  - Single: \$95,000 - \$110,000
  - Married: \$190,000- \$220,000



# HIFE



## COLLEGE PLANNING PROGRAM

### SOPHOMORE STUDENTS

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Check us out on the web:  
[www.hife-usa.org](http://www.hife-usa.org)

## Preparing For College As A High School Sophomore

Now that you have completed your first year of high school, you are one year closer to finding a college that fits your goals. While trying to keep your grades up, you can begin the process of researching for the "right college." Take advantage of meeting with your guidance counselor on a regular basis while getting involved with community service as well as other outside activities such as clubs, organizations and athletics.

In addition to your GPA, many colleges review the types of classes you are taking, the amount of workload that you have as well as your activities outside the classroom. It is important that you get

involved with one or two different clubs or organizations and try to hold a leadership position within that group. Admission offices in many colleges and universities tend to evaluate a student's application to see whether the extracurricular activity has made an impact on the community or the student's life.

Ask advice from friends and family about their college experiences and what they would change if they were to start over again. Find out the student's enrollment requirements for a specific major at each college that you have interest in. It is also important that you know the percentage of acceptance for

incoming freshmen at the particular school that you wish to attend.

Research the cost to attend your desired college and discuss your options with your parents and counselor on ways to financially prepare to fund your college education.

Your HIFE Coach can assist you in the college planning process by determining the college cost, financial aid programs available, as well as the acceptance rate for each college or university you desire to attend.

Contact your local HIFE CPP College Consultant to inquire more about this.

## Choosing A Career Path

Determining a career path can often be a difficult process. You need to conduct research to find out the specific of that particular career which includes qualifications, training requirements, job

availabilities as well as potential salary. Our HIFE Kuder Assessment Program can help you select a number of career paths for you to compare by matching your skills, work ethics and interests. Our HIFE Coach



can assist you in this process when you enroll in our HIFE CPP.

## Coach's Corner

Many of our students have been working with us for 8 - 10 months now, and some are heading into their freshman year of college. This can be a very stressful time for them and their parents, especially if they are moving away from home and will be living in the dorms or an apartment. We as coaches want to remind everyone that we

can be a valuable resource to assist with this transition.

Many times a student doesn't know who they should talk to at the university when they have an issue or concern, be it class selection or class changes. We have been there and worked with students for many years and we understand the transition, parents often have questions

about what they can do to assist their child as well.

The CPP is a partnership and the coach is here to assist the parents as well. Many students don't return to college after the first year or even just the first semester due to the stress of change from high school to college life. We are here to help but we can't help if you don't ask us or tell us your questions.