Frequently Asked Questions

*Part 1: Elevating Your College Readiness Programming
With CaliforniaColleges.edu*

This document is designed to answer administrators' most frequently asked questions regarding Caseloads, Career Assessments, College and Major Search tools and Application Launches on CaliforniaColleges.edu.

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Legislative Compliance

What is AB 132, or the Cradle-to-Career System?

California's Cradle-to-Career System, established by AB 132, is intended to be a suite of user-friendly resources focused on early learning through K-12 and higher education, as well as on the financial aid and social services that help students reach their goals.

CaliforniaColleges.edu is currently the platform through which the Cradle-to-Career System provides planning and application tools for students, families, and educators to streamline the college and financial

aid processes and monitor student progress. For more information, please visit the [Cradle-to-Career System website](#).

Partner vs. Basic Accounts

What is a Partner Account?

A Partner Account allows you to use all of the tools available on CaliforniaColleges.edu.
- To be eligible for a Partner Account, you must be enrolled in or employed at one of our [Partner Districts](#).
- Our Partner Districts have established a formal data-sharing agreement with California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI).
- The formal data-sharing agreement makes it possible for school districts to securely upload student transcript data into CaliforniaColleges.edu.
- Student transcript data is required for certain tools, such as the CSU and UC Eligibility Tools, as well as to import their verified "a-g" coursework and grades into the Cal State Apply application.

What is a Basic Account?

If you are not enrolled or employed by a Partner District, you can still sign up for a Basic Account. Students, educators, and other users who have Basic Accounts are able to use many of the tools on CaliforniaColleges.edu. Basic Account users are not able to access tools that require the upload of students courses and grades, such as the CSU and UC Eligibility Tools.

To view a CaliforniaColleges.edu functionality comparison between a Partner Account & Basic Account, click [here](#).

How do I know if I am a partner?

Want to find out if your school and district are already partners? [Check it out here](#).

How do I become a partner?

To become a Partner District, a school district must first establish a formal data-sharing agreement with the California College Guidance Initiative. The formal data-sharing agreement makes it possible for a school district to securely upload student transcript data into CaliforniaColleges.edu. To ensure that Partner Districts have the support they need to successfully bring CaliforniaColleges.edu to their students, CCGI will provide them several forms of support throughout the implementation process.

What are the requirements for a data-sharing agreement with CCGI?

In order for a district to enter into a data-sharing agreement with CCGI, the district must demonstrate that it will:
- Utilize the same Student Information System (SIS) for the next 1-2 years
- Be responsive to CCGI's support to align their local "a-g" course list with the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) Course Management Portal (CMP)
- Serve students in the 9th-12th grades at one or more school sites
- Be able to identify points-of-contact for implementation, data, and contracting

Once a district has determined that it is prepared to bring CaliforniaColleges.edu to their students, it can submit an Intent to Partner form. We encourage districts that are interested in bringing CaliforniaColleges.edu to their students to [Contact Us](#) to learn more about the platform and implementation process.

Caseloads

What are Caseloads?

Caseloads is the tool on CaliforniaColleges.edu for our Partnered Districts that enables subsets of students, known as caseloads, to be attached to their appropriate educator or counselor.

Where can I find Caseloads on CaliforniaColleges.edu and who has access to Caseloads?

In order to access Caseloads, you must have a Partner Educator Account and be a District or Site Admin. District and Site Admin user roles can set up, assign, and manage caseloads, while Educator and Counselor-Caseload Only user roles can view caseloads assigned to them. District or Site Admins can find Caseloads on the Educator Dashboard under "Manage Educator Accounts."

Where can I find caseloads that have been assigned to me?

Educators will be able to find their assigned caseloads under "Manage Student Accounts," as well as under "Manage Reports" by selecting the filter with the appropriate Caseload Title.

How many educators can be assigned to a caseload?

Multiple educators, registered or unregistered, can be assigned to a caseload. However, an educator must have a registered account in order to view their caseload(s).

For more information on Caseloads check out our Informational Guide and Caseloads Video.

Reporting Tools

How do you run a report?

Educators can run a variety of reports to track and manage student accounts and progress. Navigate to your Educator Dashboard and click "Report Management". Select the report category and type. Select "Run Report".

What report categories are available to educators?

We have the following report categories:
- Academic
- Accounts
- College
- Career
- Financial Aid
- My Plan Activities

Why am I unable to view some of the Filters?

Filters such as ethnicity and special population are a district wide decision to include. Some districts decide not to include certain filters in the reporting tools.

Can I view a specific Caseload in the reporting tools?

Yes! If educators are assigned to a Caseload, they can select the caseload they would like to view in the Caseloads filter section.

Career Assessments

What career assessments are available to students?

We have five assessments that are available to students to help them engage in personal exploration.

1. The Interest Profiler helps students discover their level of interest in activities in six career-based areas. All students, including middle school and high school students, can access this assessment and take it as many times as they want.
2. Learning & Productivity Assessment helps students discover their environmental, physical, emotional, and sociological needs when it comes to learning. This is only available for middle school students and can only be taken a maximum of 3 times total.
3. The Intelligences Assessment helps students identify their potential in nine different intelligences. This is only available for high school students and can only be taken a maximum of 3 times total.
4. The Personality Assessment (MBTI) helps students make more informed decisions about their future by identifying their personality type. Students can explore suggested careers and majors in which those with similar traits have been successful. This is only available for high school students and can only be taken a maximum of 3 times total.
5. The Work Values Survey helps students think about their interests, skills, personality, and values. Students can discover their strengths, preferences, and areas they can focus on as they pursue their goals. This is only available for high school students and they can take this assessment as many times as they want.

For updates on our career assessments check out our Updates to Our Career Assessments announcement.

Do students have to take the Interest Profiler in one sitting?

No, students don't have to complete the Interest Profiler in one sitting.

Can students review their past career assessment results?

Yes, students can revisit their past career assessment results and the associated list of matching careers in their My Career Plan.

What is the data source behind the Career Assessments?

Human eSources (HeS) data informs the Learning and Productivity, Intelligences, and Personality Assessments.

Occupational Information Network (O*Net) data informs the Interest Profiler. (O*NET is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration - USDOL/ETA). Learn more about the Development of the O*Net Interest Profiler (pdf).

Why do some assessments max out after students take them a total of 3 times?

Research suggests that taking these assessments more often does not yield substantially different results. Students are given a maximum three times to retake the assessments so they are able to retake them at least once a year. In this way, students will be able to factor in changes to their interests, styles, and knowledge that could impact their plans for life after high school.

College and Major Search Tools

What are the new updates for the College Search Tool?

As of 2022, the following updates have been made to the College Search Tool:
- Cleaner navigation that includes left-hand filter navigation, selected filters will display across the top, and results auto-update based on selected filters.
- Search options have been expanded to promote equity and support students in finding schools based on multiple factors that are important to them such as by specialty school and religious affiliation:
  - Religious Affiliation (includes 70 different affiliations)
  - Specialty Schools
- Left-hand filter and search results include average net price per year.
- Redesigned "snapshot data" now includes more details for each result and can be sorted alphabetically or numerically by:
- Students can search by California College Type (CCC, CSU, UC or Independent) when the "California Only" filter is selected.
- For more information check out how educators are helping students discover new options for College and Career here and check out our College Search Tool overview.

Where do the Search Tools get college, major, and career data?

The College Search Tool gets data from the following sources:
- [Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)](#)
- Wintergreen Orchard House, which was recently acquired by [Peterson's College Data](#)
- The Chancellor's Office [Curriculum Inventory System (COCI)](#) (This source ensures accurate program and major information for California Community Colleges)
- [U.S. Department of Education's Eligibility Matrix](#) and [Women's College Coalition](#) for specialty school designations

The Major Search Tool gets data from these sources
- [US Department of Education Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP)](#)
- [Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)](#)

The Career Search Tool gets data from:
- [Occupational Information Network (O*NET)](#) for occupational data
- [US Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) for salary information

How accurate is your data in the career fact sheets?

Data is typically 1-2 years old as data collection schedules are set by the source. Please note that each source sets its own schedule for collecting and updating data.

Can students conduct college searches outside of California?

"California Only" has been set as a default filter for all searches to better serve California students in their search for the school that's right for them. However, students can deselect the "California Only" filter to include out-of-state colleges and universities in their search results.

CCC Apply

How often are CCCApply application statuses updated?

A student's CCCApply application status is generally updated within 30 minutes.

Can students resume their CCCApply application if they do not complete it in one sitting?

Yes, if students launch CCCApply from the platform but don't complete the application, they can resume it later. They can select the Apply button from the platform or sign in directly to the CCCApply website.

What if my student already started their application on the CCCApply website?

Students who started an application on the CCCApply website can also launch from CaliforniaColleges.edu, as long as the application hasn't been submitted.

How can I track which students have applied to CCCApply?

From the Educator Dashboard, educators can click on Report Management. They can then select the report type College and choose the option to run the Which students applied to a California Community College using CCCApply report.

How can students launch their CCCApply application?

Students can launch their online application to a California Community College campus through CaliforniaColleges.edu. By launching from their account, counselors can track all applications in one place and verify which have been submitted. Please see step-by-step instructions for students below:

1. Log into your CaliforniaColleges.edu account and hover over "College" in the top menu bar.
2. Select California Community Colleges Application.
3. In the box that appears, type the name of the college you'd like to apply to or use the dropdown to find it.
4. Click the Launch button to be taken to the CCCApply site for the community college you'd like to attend.
5. Either sign into your existing CCCApply account or create a new one. You can now continue on to fill out your application.
6. If you need to stop, you can always sign back into your CCCApply account later, to pick up where you left off.

Cal State Apply

Can students link their accounts if they start their application directly from Cal State Apply?

Yes, students can link their accounts directly from Cal State Apply by navigating to the CaliforniaColleges.edu Logo, clicking the Show Me How link, and then clicking Connect.

How often are Cal State Apply application statuses updated?

Cal State Apply application statuses are updated nightly.

University of California Application

How often are the UC application statuses updated?

Statuses are updated on a nightly basis.

Will I still be able to track application statuses on CaliforniaColleges.edu if my student created a University of California Application account prior to launching from CaliforniaColleges.edu?

Yes. A student can link their CaliforniaColleges.edu Student Account to a UC Application at any point during the application cycle, including after the student submits their application.

Will students be able to link their accounts directly from the UC Application?

No, students will need to link their UC Application by launching from CaliforniaColleges.edu.

What legal agreements will districts need to sign?

If you are not in a partner district, the appropriate signed legal agreements on file will include a Student Privacy Protection Agreement (AB 1584) and Exhibit A.

Will coursework migrate to the UC Application?

At this time, we do not have a coursework import feature for the UC Application.

How can students launch their UC application?

Students can launch their online application to the University of California through CaliforniaColleges.edu. By launching from their account, counselors can track the UC Application and verify which have been submitted. Please see step-by-step instructions for students below:

1. Once you are signed in to your CaliforniaColleges.edu account, hover over College in the top menu bar and select University of California Application.
2. In the box that appears, click Confirm to link your CaliforniaColleges.edu account to your University of California application account. This will allow you to track your application status using your My College Plan.
3. Once you have arrived at the University of California application website, you have the option to create a new account or login to your existing account.
4. Once you have created your new University of California application account or logged into your existing account, you can continue on to fill out your application.
5. You can save your application at any time, and use your University of California application account to pick up where you left off.

CSU & UC Eligibility Tools for Partner Districts

What are the CSU & UC Eligibility Tools?

CaliforniaColleges.edu's CSU and UC eligibility tools allow students to:
- Track their progress toward meeting California State University and the University of California's requirements
- Identify areas they need to work on
- Catch any issues with their coursework while there's still time to fix them

How does coursework from the Academic Planner migrate to Cal State Apply for Partner Districts?

Yes, "a-g" coursework in a student's Academic Planner migrates to Cal State Apply. To see the tool in action, check out our videos on Using the Cal State Apply Integration.

What does the color-coding in the students' courses mean?

🟢 (Green) Verified "a-g" course with a grade of C– or better.
🟡 (Yellow) Course listed as "a-g" by school but not found in UCOP Course Management Portal (CMP).
🔴 (Red) Verified "a-g" course with a grade of D or lower.
⚪ (Light gray) Enrolled or planned course.
⚫ (Dark gray) Not a verified "a-g" course.

✔ (Checkmark) Subject area has been satisfied.

Learn more about our Eligibility Tools by visiting the Tools for Students page under College Application Tools on the [CaliforniaColleges.edu Resource Hub](#).

How does the Eligibility Tool determine if the student is on target?

To be able to attend a CSU or UC, students must complete at least 15 years of "a-g" courses by the time they graduate high school.

The CSU and UC Eligibility Tools consider students on target if they complete:
- 4 years of "a-g" courses by the end of 9th grade
- 7 years of "a-g" courses by the end of 10th grade
- 11 years of "a-g" courses by the end of 11th grade
- 15 years of "a-g" courses by the end of 12th grade

What is the difference between the GPAs listed in the Academic Planner and the CSU/UC Eligibility Tools?

- The GPA in the Academic Planner is your high school transcript GPA.
- The GPA in the CSU Eligibility Tool reflects "a-g" coursework submitted by a school district that was completed in 10th-12th grades, including the summers following 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. Eligible courses receive an extra one point in the CSU GPA calculation.

The GPA in the UC Eligibility Tool reflects "a-g" coursework submitted by a school district completed in 10th and 11th grades, including the summers following 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. Courses that have "UC Honors Approved" under the title are approved as honors in the UC CMP database. Eligible courses receive an extra one point in the UC GPA calculation.

Training

Register for a Virtual Training Session Today!

The Virtual Training experience is a critical first step in successful implementation. To ensure that you acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for successful platform usage, we offer training support from the foundational to the advanced. We recommend users attend the full series of training sessions to best learn how our tools will streamline your approach to college readiness and preparation for your students.

Our Administrator series invites district and school decision makers to understand the scope of our tools and its capacity to elevate your college readiness priorities.
Part 1: Elevating Your College Readiness Programming w/CaliforniaColleges.edu
Part 2: Aligning Your Course List with the Course Management Portal (CMP)

Our School Counselor series benefits practitioners with an interactive experience which includes a granular overview of platform tools followed by platform navigation, focused exploration and Q&A.
Part 1: Using CaliforniaColleges.edu: College & Career Exploration with Students
Part 2: Educator Dashboard: Student Account Management & Reports
Part 3: College Application Process Using CaliforniaColleges.edu (CCC/CSU/UC)
Part 4: AB 469 Alignment: Using Financial Aid Lessons & FAFSA/CADAA Applications

Click here for [Virtual Trainings for Educators and Administrators](#).

Help with CaliforniaColleges.edu

After bringing CaliforniaColleges.edu to their students, school districts will continue to receive year-round support from the California College Guidance Initiative staff to ensure that the district, educators, students, and parents are able to effectively use the tools on the platform.

Educator Help Page

Visit our Educator Help Page for frequently asked questions in the areas of:
- Accounts
- Managing Student Accounts
- Managing Other Educator Accounts
- Lessons
- Assignments
- Resources

Student Help Page

Visit our Student Help Page for frequently asked questions in the areas of:
- Account Management
- Using CaliforniaColleges.edu

Demo Accounts

Did you know you can request a CaliforniaColleges.edu demo account? If you are interested in viewing the platform in a student's view or are interested in a demo Educator Account, please Contact Us.

Contact Us

Educators, whether they have Basic or Partner Accounts, will have access to responsive, individualized support for any platform-related questions or issues they may encounter. Send us a message through our Contact Us form. We do our best to respond within one business day.