

# Frequently Asked Questions

## *Part 1: Using CaliforniaColleges.edu: College & Career Exploration with Students*

This document is designed to answer educators' most frequently asked questions regarding the career exploration tools 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.

## 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 this [recent 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 three 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 one to two 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.

## 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.