



# COLLEGE TRENDS IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

How high school students and families can better prepare for the college search and application process during a time of anxiety and uncertainty

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## Admissions **ARROW**

- Association for Regional Representatives of Oregon and Washington -

<http://www.admissionsarrow.com/member-directory/>

ARROW includes representatives from more than 40 colleges from outside the Seattle area and across the United States. These are your college representatives who are available to answer your questions and wish to hear from students expressing interest in their colleges and programs.

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# College Presenters

## ❑ Chapman University

Orange, CA

Garrett Addison,

[waddison@chapman.edu](mailto:waddison@chapman.edu)

Chapman.edu

Common Application

November 1 (EA/ED) & January 15 (RD)

## ❑ University of Florida

Gainesville, FL

Lily Leitkowski, [lleitkowski@admissions.ufl.edu](mailto:lleitkowski@admissions.ufl.edu)

UFL.edu

Common & Coalition Applications Priority Deadline: November 1

## ❑ San Diego State University

San Diego, CA

Sarah Faulk, [sfaulk@sdsu.edu](mailto:sfaulk@sdsu.edu) (Presented by Brian Zaun)

SDSU.edu

Cal State Apply

October 1 – December 4

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The **Common Application** and **Coalition for College** have each added a question relating to Covid-19 and how this 'disruption' may have affected the student in regard to their studies, health, well-being, reliable access to technology, etc. For each application, the question is **OPTIONAL**. However, the Common Application word limit is 250 words while the Coalition is 300 words. For colleges that are not members of either of these application platforms, I expect that some will include similar questions on their own applications.

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Many high schools have switched to Pass/Fail or “A” / Incomplete grading systems. How will this affect the review of students’ transcripts upon evaluation of their application?

### **Chapman University**

- Chapman will still evaluate students holistically and within context of their individual environments
- We’ve always evaluated grade trends and types of coursework students are entering, which will continue
- We also plan to honor weighting toward high level coursework even if a grade is unavailable

### **University of Florida**

- Changes in high school grading systems do not have an impact on the way we review applications

### **San Diego State University**

- SDSU will consider course grades of “credit” or “pass” as fulfilling “a-g” requirements for those courses completed during winter, spring or summer 2020 terms
  - All other coursework must be graded and a grade of C- or better must be earned for the course to satisfy “a-g” requirements
  - Grades of credit/pass or no credit/no pass will not be included in the calculation of high school GPA
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Many colleges and universities have gone test optional for the coming year. What is your school's policy for current seniors expecting to apply this year and for applicants in subsequent years? If you are test optional, are there exceptions to this policy? For example: scholarships, honors programs or credentialed majors (Nursing, Education, etc.)

### **Chapman University**

- Chapman is test optional for Fall 2021 and moving forward. This applies to all programs on campus and merit scholarship evaluations
- Homeschool students or students with narrative transcripts will be asked to submit SAT/ACT coursework, but can appeal through our committee on extenuating circumstances (COVID, cancelled test dates, homeschool through district, etc)

### **University of Florida**

- UF still requires test scores – decisions surrounding testing made at the state level, not by the university

### **San Diego State University**

- SDSU will temporarily suspend the use of ACT/SAT examinations in determining admission eligibility



Because of Pass / Fail – “A” / Incomplete grading and test optional applications, how does this affect the remainder of a student’s application (Strength of schedule, activities, recommendations, essay questions, etc.)?

### **Chapman University**

- Chapman is still a holistic evaluation within the context of a student's individual environment
- Nothing has changed besides our new COVID lens

### **University of Florida**

- COVID-19 impacts are expected and will be accounted for in the holistic review
- Will focus on what you were able to do and provide detail as it relates to that
- Ensure that when listing courses on the SSAR all applicable weight is added

### **San Diego State University**

- First-time freshmen must meet the following eligibility requirements:
    - be a high school graduate or equivalent
    - complete the 15-unit comprehensive “a-g” pattern of college preparatory course
    - and earn a qualifying “a-g” grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or greater
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For families wishing to visit your college, what are some factors they should be considering? Summer, fall, spring? If the campus is closed to classes, can they still plan to visit campus if just to walk the grounds for potential fit? What are your current “virtual” visit options?

### **Chapman University**

- Chapman offers many virtual online options to see campus and speak with current students/staff/faculty
- Families wanting to physically be on campus are asked to follow all health protocols (masks, social distancing, etc.)
- Encouraged not to visit until it's safe to do so to protect the health of any current students/faculty/staff on campus.

### **University of Florida**

- Guided tours canceled for the foreseeable future
- Campus is open to visitors for self-guided tours
- In “normal times,” recommend visiting when classes are in session to get a feel for an active campus
- Virtual visits happening Monday/Wednesday/Friday with student panel options

### **San Diego State University**

- SDSU - [https://admissions.sdsu.edu/tours\\_events](https://admissions.sdsu.edu/tours_events)
- We don't currently offer any on campus visit programs
- Visitors of San Diego and the SDSU campus should be aware of local health guidelines and precautions





Many colleges have seen a rise in students requesting a gap year. If this is the case with your school, do you see this potentially affecting your decision-making (competitiveness) of next year's applicant pool? Secondly, what is your school's policy for students requesting a gap year (deferred admission)?

### **Chapman University**

- Chapman saw a rise in gap semester/year requests, but not at a volume that will affect decisions for Fall 2021
- Students thinking about taking a gap semester/year must speak with their admissions representative to receive a request form

### **University of Florida**

- No impact – class size estimated to be the same as in previous years
- Deferrals are considered on a case-by-case basis
- Usually only granted due to unique extenuating circumstances

### **San Diego State University**

- SDSU students wishing to defer their admission to a future term do so via an appeal process



# Additional tips and advice from our college representatives

## Chapman University

- Utilize the virtual information sessions – there are some creative options!
- Ask questions of your admission representatives – we're here to help you!
- Spend time outdoors (if you can) – getting away from the computer can do wonders!

## University of Florida

- Treat the application like it's a conversation between yourself and an admissions officer – this is our one chance get to know you, so tell us about yourself!
- Be authentic! Writing about what you're passionate about shines through and sets you apart.
- Don't assume we will know something about you if you don't tell us – the more detail you can provide, the better

## San Diego State University

- Focus on the things that you can control; the courses you take and the grades you earn
- Make sure you are aware of, and successfully completing, the necessary A – G courses
- You self-report classes and grades on the app, so have a transcript available to ensure accuracy



# THANK YOU!

Thank you to the families who joined us today and most particularly to the college professionals who prepared for and participated in this virtual information session.

I wish you good health and a great school year!



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