



What is Mission Graduates?

Mission Graduates is a nonprofit organization that increases the number of K-12 students in San Francisco's Mission District who are prepared for and complete a college education. We serve 1,000 children, youth and their families each year through a wide range of academic and enrichment programs, parent supports and college support.

MISSION GRADUATES' COLLEGE CONNECT PROGRAM IS RECRUITING MISSION DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS!

Do you want to go to a four-year college right after high school graduation?

Do you want to be part of a community of students that have the same goals and aspirations?

Do you think you'll need some extra help preparing for college?

Would you consider going to college outside of San Francisco? Outside of California?

Do you and your parents need support to better understand how to pay for college?

Once in college, would you like support until you graduate?

If you answered YES to these questions, then *College Connect* might be for you!

Who Is Eligible?

- Desire to attend a 4-year college
- Not in another college access program
- Willing to explore colleges outside of CA
- Current high school junior, **regardless of immigration status**
- Minimum 2.5 GPA (flexible)
- On-track to complete A-G requirements
- First generation to attend a 4-year college in the U.S.
- Live or go to school in the Mission or Excelsior Districts

College Connectors and their families receive support with:

- Tutoring
- ACT preparation
- Writing personal statement
- Completing scholarship applications
- Understanding financial aid
- Choosing the best college that meets their personal needs
- Making a successful transition to college
- Staying on-track in college

***This program is FREE for all participants**

Expectations

College Connect meetings are **mandatory** and participation is crucial in order to get the most out of the program. If you are involved in an after-school job, play sports or attend other programs, you may have to rearrange

your schedule in order to make College Connect meetings. However, we are flexible with advance notice.

Both students and parents are expected to regularly participate in all mandatory scheduled events. Generally, meetings/events occur once a month for parents. Students generally meet 1-2 times a week in addition to monthly

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
MONDAY, SEP 29,
2014

START DATE:
THURSDAY, DEC 11,
2014

SUBMIT TO:

Mission Graduates
522 Valencia St.
(@ 16th St.)
San Francisco, CA
94110

QUESTIONS?

Call Ivan:
(415) 926-8283
Email:

ivan@missiongraduates.org

To Fax Application:
(415) 864-0916

In addition to the college preparation support we provide students and families, each College Connect cohort goes on a **college tour** during spring break. This opportunity helps participants understand what kind of 4-year institution best fits their needs and interest by visiting a range of college and university campuses in California.

Application Steps

- ❑ **Complete Section One**
Remember not to leave anything blank.
- ❑ **Complete Section Two**
This is where you tell us why you would be great for the program. Type your response on a separate sheet of paper and attach it to the application.
- ❑ **Complete Section Three**
College Connect works with students and their parents/guardians. It is therefore important for us to know that your parents/guardians support your college dreams. Make sure they sign at the **bottom!!!**
- ❑ **Get your school transcript!**
Ask your teacher or counselor to help you get a copy of your school transcript.
- ❑ **Ask for a letter of recommendation**
Ask an adult teacher, mentor or employer to type a letter of recommendation. This person should NOT be a member of your family! Give them the form titled "Letter of Recommendation."
- ❑ **Sign Parent/Student Agreements**
Carefully read and sign the agreement with your parent or guardian.
- ❑ **Submit application to us!**
Staple all parts of the application (including your essay questions, transcript, letter of recommendation and parent/student agreements) and submit by SEPTEMBER 29, 2014.

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."
~Cesar Chavez



Timeline

Junior Year

Summer:	Program Recruitment
Oct/Nov:	Interviews & Selection
Dec 11 th :	Welcome Orientation
January:	ACT class begins
Jan/Feb:	Family Meetings
March/April:	College Campus Tour
	ACT class ends & students take the ACT. Personal Statement Workshop & College Search

Senior Year

August:	College List & Personal Statement Completed
Oct/Nov:	College Applications
December:	Financial Aid Workshop & Holiday Potluck
January:	FAFSA Workshop
March/April:	School Decisions Made
June:	Graduation Celebration Transition to College Workshop

***Students are encouraged and supported to apply to scholarships throughout the year.**

College Connect supports our college students in three main areas, to ensure students continued success and degree completion.

College Mentors

College Connect supports students by matching them with a volunteer mentor for the first 2 years of college. Mentors and mentees focus on how students can position themselves for long term success at their school. Students will be able to work through challenges they face as a first-generation college student while gaining support, direction and connectivity from their mentor.

Career Readiness

College Connect assists students and alumni with career exploration, internship and job searching, and the graduate or professional school application process. Throughout the school year College Connect also organizes career panels, networking workshops, and job shadow days.

College Finances

We also assist students with FASFA, Dream Act, scholarship applications and loan counseling. In addition, students can apply to College Connect's competitive scholarship program.

Section One: Student Information

(Please fill out completely, do not leave anything blank.)

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth : _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Who do you live with? _____

Home Phone: _____ Student Cell Phone: _____

Email (please print legibly): _____

High School: _____

Ethnicity: _____

Preferred method of contact (circle one): email mail home phone cell phone

PSAT score (if available): Verbal _____ Math _____ I didn't take it _____

What is the primary language spoken in your home? _____

Number of dependents who live in your house: _____

What is your total income? (Forms 1040: Line 22, 1040A: Line 15, 1040EZ: Line 6) _____

Has either of your parents received a 4-year college degree in the U.S.? (circle one) YES NO

Do you have a sibling who has received a 4-year college degree in the U.S.? (circle one) YES NO

Have you ever been assessed for a learning disability? (Your answer *does not* affect the selection decision.)

YES NO If so, please tell us what it is: _____

Do you participate in any of the following programs? Circle all that apply: Yes No

College Summit	AACE Talent Search	7 Teepees	College Track
First Graduate	Aim High	Upward Bound	SMART Program
Summer Search	Juma Ventures	SEO Scholars	Students Rising Above

Other College Prep Program: _____

How much do you know about the college admissions process? (circle one)

Nothing A little A good amount A lot Everything

Section Two: Student Questions(Answers should be at least 3 sentences and typed.)

1. Why do you want to be in this program?
2. Why do you want to go to college?
3. Would you consider leaving the Bay Area to attend college? Why or why not?
4. What colleges interest you? **Please include** how you learned about each one and at least one reason you are interested in each school.
5. What are your extracurricular activities?
6. What are your career interests?
7. What are three interesting things about you? (Interests, hobbies, etc.)
8. What are your barriers to college and what is your biggest concern?
9. What do you think are the three most important factors for getting into college?
10. What is your behavior like in the classroom? How do you interact with your teachers inside and outside of the classroom?

****Is there anything else you'd like us to know about you?***

ATTACH YOUR ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS TO YOUR APPLICATION.

Section Three: Parent/Guardian Questions Please use another sheet if you feel you need more space to respond. (Spanish translation on the other side of this sheet)

1st Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Relationship to student: _____

What language are you most comfortable speaking? _____

Daytime phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email (if applicable): _____

2nd Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Relationship to student: _____

What language are you most comfortable speaking? _____

Daytime phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email (if applicable): _____

1. What are your major concerns about the college admissions process and about paying for your child's college education?

2. Would you consider allowing your son or daughter taking out a student loan to help pay for college? Please explain why or why not.

3. Would you be comfortable with your child leaving the Bay Area to attend college? Why or why not?

4. What concerns do you have about your child attending college?

5. What questions do you have about our program?

6. Is there anything else you'd like us to know about your family?

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:

I agree to support my child's participation in *College Connect* if they are accepted and I agree to prioritize the monthly parent workshops once the schedule is announced.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Sección Tres: Preguntas para los Padres/Encargados Por favor, use otra hoja de papel si necesita más espacio para responder.

1- Nombre de Padre/Encargado: _____ Relación al estudiante: _____

Número de teléfono (de día): _____ Celular: _____

Correo electrónico (email): _____

2- Nombre de Padre/Encargado: _____ Relación al estudiante: _____

Número de teléfono (de día): _____ Celular: _____

Correo electrónico (email): _____

1. ¿Cuáles son sus mayores preocupaciones sobre el proceso de aplicación a las universidades y como cubrir los costos de esa educación?

2. ¿Estaría de acuerdo con que su hijo/a solicite un préstamo estudiantil para ayudar a pagar por su educación Universitaria? Por favor explique por que.

3. ¿Estaría conforme con que su hijo/a vaya a estudiar en otra localidad no cerca de aquí? Explique por qué o por qué no.

4. ¿Qué le preocupa de su hijo/a asistir a la Universidad?

5. ¿Tiene preguntas sobre nuestro programa?

6. ¿Hay algo más de que nos quisiera informar sobre su familia?

DECLARACIÓN DE APOYO:

Yo estoy de acuerdo con apoyar a mi hijo/a como participante en *College Connect* si es aceptado/a y de asistir con prioridad los talleres mensuales para padres cuando las fechas hayan sido determinadas y anunciadas.

Firma de Padre/Encargado familiar _____ Fecha _____

Firma de Padre/Encargado familiar _____ Fecha _____

Section Four: Parent/Student Agreement

Mission Graduates increases the number of K-12 students in San Francisco's Mission District who are prepared for and complete a college education. The vision of Mission Graduates is to build a community where every young person has the opportunity to discover their personal pathway through education.

The *College Connect* program will give students and parents the tools and information necessary for students to enter into a four-year college or university immediately after high school graduation. In an effort to ensure success for your child we ask you to acknowledge that participation in College Connect is a joint venture which will require parent and student involvement to succeed. We ask that you discuss this agreement with your child and that each of you make a commitment to the following goals:

Parent:

I, _____ (name of parent), parent of _____, (name of child) acknowledge the importance of this program to ensure the success of my child. I agree to the following:

1. To attend all mandatory parent meetings and workshops.
2. To be an active participant.
3. To notify a College Connect counselor when unable to attend a meeting or workshop.
4. To assist other program participants and their parents and work together with them as a team and community.
5. To fully support my child's education.
6. My child may ride in vehicles driven by Mission Graduates staff for program related activities.
7. Mission Graduates has my permission to obtain copies of my child's school transcripts and attendance records.

Student:

I, _____ (name of student), acknowledge the importance of this program to ensure my success. I agree to the following:

1. To attend all mandatory meetings.
2. To do my best academically and plan to attend a four-year college.
3. To maintain good attendance in school and all of my classes.
4. To ask for academic support when needed, before it results in a low grade.
5. To complete all program assignments when due and meet all deadlines.
6. To be an active participant and come prepared to all meetings.
7. To regularly check my email in order to keep up with program announcements.
8. To notify a College Connect counselor when unable to attend a meeting or event.
9. To assist other program participants and work with them as a team and community.
10. To serve as a role model for younger students in our community.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sección Cuatro: Compromiso de Padres/Estudiante

Mission Graduates incrementa el número de estudiantes entre las edades de kínder a Bachillerato, en el barrio de la Misión, San Francisco, a que se preparen para asistir a la universidad consiguiendo un título universitario. Consecuentemente, buscamos crear un ambiente en el cual cada joven tiene la oportunidad de descubrir su camino personal a través de la educación.

El programa de *College Connect* le dará a los padres de familia y a los estudiantes la información necesaria para que estudiantes ingresen a una institución universitaria. En un esfuerzo por asegurar el éxito de cada estudiante le pedimos a usted que esté consciente del hecho de que la participación en éste programa requiere de la activa participación tanto del estudiante como del padre de familia. Por lo tanto se le pide que discuta este contrato con su hijo (hija) y que cada uno de ustedes hagan un compromiso en las siguientes áreas:

Como padre de familia:

Yo, _____ padre de familia de _____

Reconozco la importancia de éste programa en el éxito de mi hijo (hija). Por lo tanto me comprometo a lo siguiente:

1. Asistir a todas las reuniones y entrenamientos obligatorias organizados por el programa.
2. Ser un participante con voz activa.
3. Avisarle con tiempo a los consejeros del programa cuando no pueda asistir a una reunión o entrenamiento.
4. Darle mi apoyo a otros participantes del programa y trabajar junto a ellos en un esfuerzo comunal que apoye su éxito.
5. Apoyar el proceso educativo de mi hijo (hija) al ciento por ciento
6. Le doy permiso a mi hijo a que sea transportado en vehículos del personal de Mission Graduates cuando sea necesario o requerido por ciertas actividades.
7. Le doy permiso al personal de Mission Graduates para que obtenga copias de las calificaciones de mi hijo(hija) y de su récord de asistencia escolar.

Como estudiante:

Yo, _____ reconozco la importancia de éste programa en el camino a mi éxito académico. Por lo tanto me comprometo a lo siguiente:

1. Asistir a las reuniones obligatorias del programa.
2. Dar lo mejor de mí en materia académica y prepararme para ingresar a la universidad.
3. Mantener un alto nivel de asistencia escolar y trabajar duro en cada una de mis clases.
4. Pediré ayuda académica cuando la necesite, mucho antes de que mis calificaciones bajen drásticamente.
5. Completar todas mis tareas y asignaturas del programa a tiempo, y cumplir con mis metas y fechas límites.
6. Ser una voz partícipe y llegar preparado (preparada) a mis reuniones.
7. Periódicamente revisar mi correo electrónico para estar al día con los anuncios del programa.
8. Notificarle con tiempo a los consejeros del programa cuando no pueda llegar a una reunión o entrenamiento.
9. Apoyar a otros participantes del programa y trabajar conjuntamente con cada uno de ellos para llegar a formar una comunidad.
10. Serviré de ejemplo a otros estudiantes de grados menores en la Misión.

Firma del Padre de Familia _____ Fecha _____

Firma del estudiante _____ Fecha _____

Section Five: Letter of Recommendation

Remove this page and give it to an adult teacher, mentor, or employer to complete. Any adult EXCEPT a relative!!!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECOMMENDER:

College Connect prepares college-bound high school students who live or attend school in the Mission to select, apply, gain admission, finance, and graduate from four-year colleges and universities. Our mission is to ensure that local youth who belong at a four-year college or university after high school graduation find the best college that fits their unique needs.

Using a family-based approach to college counseling, we also seek to dispel the myths surrounding paying for a college education so that families feel comfortable supporting their child's educational goals. In support of this student applicant, kindly type your recommendation and return it to the applicant for final submission. Thank you!

Please include the following in your letter of recommendation:

- Student Name
- Recommender's Name
- Recommender's Phone/Email
- Recommender's Relationship to Student

1. For how many years have you known this student?
2. Why is this student a good candidate for personal, family-based college-counseling?
3. Why will this student be successful in college?
4. How does this student exhibit leadership, maturity, focus, commitment, responsibility, and/or time-management skills?
5. Given what you know about this student and their family, do you think their parent/guardian will participate in required meetings 2-3 times a year AND/OR would be generally supportive of their child attending college?

Please give the completed recommendation to the applicant in a sealed or unsealed envelope.