

# Attention high school juniors: COLLEGE CONNECT is now recruiting Cohort 11!

We are a *Mission Graduates* program serving students who will be among the first in their families to obtain and complete a college education.

***Our meetings and programming require your active participation for you to get the most out of College Connect.***

That said, if you have a job, play sports, or attend other programs, you may have to rearrange your schedule in order to accommodate College Connect meetings. However, we are flexible with advanced notice.

Both students and families are expected to regularly participate. Generally, parents meet monthly, and students meet every 1-2 weeks.

## **Who is eligible to apply?**

- First generation student with the desire to obtain and complete a four-year college education
- Cannot be part of another college access program
- Willing to explore colleges outside of California
- Current high school juniors (regardless of immigration status)
- On track to complete high school A-G requirements + has a 2.5 GPA (flexible)
- Low income families that qualify for free/reduced lunch programs
- Live in or attend school in the Mission & Excelsior Districts

**College Connect is FREE for all participants!**  
**All eligible students are encouraged to apply.**

EDUCATION IS MY

**HUSTLE**

**Applications are due  
Friday, September 22.**

Drop your application off at the  
College Connect office:

522 Valencia St (at 16<sup>th</sup> St)  
San Francisco, CA 94110

Questions? Contact Catherine at  
(415) 864-5205 ext. 311 or  
catherine@missiongraduates.org

## **College Connectors and their families receive:**

- Weekly ACT preparation classes & practice exams
- Modular tutoring sessions to avoid remedial classes once in college
- Personal statement and scholarship application support
- Guidance on finding colleges that best meet your personal, academic & financial needs
- Workshops on social justice & educational equity, learning about how to become an active member in the community & a catalyst for college-going culture
- Support making a successful transition to college & through graduation with continued mentorship, career readiness training & financial guidance

*Founded in 1972, Mission Graduates provides a wide range of K-12 after school, in-school & summer programs helping to establish college education as an expectation and goal for every child.*

*Each year, Mission Graduates reaches over 3,100 low-income children, youth & families from San Francisco's Mission District, emphasizing college as a means to achieve economic equity & strengthen the fabric of our community.*

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 four-year institution best fits their needs and interests by visiting a range of college and university campuses in California.*



Cohort 10 students on our annual SoCal College Tour

## Program Timeline

### JUNIOR YEAR:

Aug/Sep	Recruitment of Cohort 11
September 22	Applications due to CC office
Oct/Nov	Interviews & Selection
December	Welcome Orientation
January 201	ACT Preparation begins
Jan/Feb	Family Meetings
March/April	SoCal College Tour
May	ACT Preparation ends; <u>take the ACT</u>

### SUMMER BETWEEN JUNIOR & SENIOR YEAR:

Personal Statement & College Research Workshops  
Weekly meetings with Writing Partners

### SENIOR YEAR:

August	College List & Personal Statement complete; start senior year!
Oct/Nov	Work on college applications
December	Financial Aid Workshop
January	FAFSA Workshop
March/April	Making school decisions
June	College Transition Workshops <i>Mi Pasaje</i> Celebration

## Continued Support in College:

*Continued mentorship while in college, career readiness workshops, and guidance to continue receiving financial aid.*

**Students are encouraged to and receive support in applying for scholarships throughout the program.**

*"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*

## Application Checklist

- Complete **Section 1**  
*Write legibly and make sure nothing is left blank!*
- Answer **Section 2**  
*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.*
- Get your **high school transcript** from your teacher or counselor!
- Ask for a **Letter of Recommendation** from a teacher, mentor or employer (NOT from your family) **Give them the recommender form.**  
*Allow your recommender time to write the letter – ask them at least one week in advanced!*
- Have your guardian complete **Section 3**  
*College Connect works with students and their families. It is important for us to know that they support your college dreams. **Make sure they sign at the bottom!***
- Read and sign **Section 4 (Family Agreement)** with your guardians  
*Both you and your guardians should know and be able to make your fullest commitments to ensure your success in College Connect!*
- Bring your application to the College Connect office by **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22!**  
*Staple all parts of your application – including your essay questions, transcript, letter of recommendation, and family agreement. **KEEP THIS PAGE!!***

**Section 1: Student Information** (Fill this out completely!)

DATE REC'D: \_\_\_\_\_  
 BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Student App / Q's  
 \_\_\_ Parent Q's  
 \_\_\_ Letter of Rec  
 \_\_\_ Transcript  
 \_\_\_ Interview:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a nickname? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (please print legibly): \_\_\_\_\_

Do you check your email regularly?	YES	NO
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Preferred method of contact (circle one)      email      cell phone      Facebook

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the primary language spoken in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

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

No      Yes—for what? \_\_\_\_\_

**Including yourself**, how many people live in your house? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your total income? (Forms 1040—Line 22, 1040A—Line 15, 1040EZ—Line 6) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you qualify for free/reduced lunch at your school?      Yes      No

Have either of your parents received a 4-year college degree in the US?      Yes      No

Do you have a sibling who has received a 4-year college degree in the US?      Yes      No

Are you a participant in a college access/success program?      Yes      No

7 Teepees	ASAP	College Track	First Graduate
Genesys Works	Juma Ventures	SEO Scholars	SMART Program
Students Rising Above	Summer Search	Other: _____	

How much do you know about the college admissions process?      1      2      3      4      5

LAST: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST: \_\_\_\_\_ HIGH SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section Two: Student Questions** (Answers should be at least 3 sentences. **PLEASE TYPE ANSWERS.**)

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?**

These might include unique familial situations, if you have connections to College Connect (i.e., friends or siblings in the program), etc.

ATTACH YOUR ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS TO YOUR APPLICATION.  
Remember they should be at least 3 sentences and **MUST BE TYPED!**





LAST: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST: \_\_\_\_\_ HIGH SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section Four: Family Agreement** (Spanish translation on the back)

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 & families the tools and information necessary for students to enter a four-year college immediately after high school graduation. In an effort to ensure success for your student, we ask you to acknowledge participation in *College Connect* requires dedicated involvement to succeed. We ask that you discuss this agreement with your student and that each of you make a commitment to the following goals:

**Guardian:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge the importance of this program to ensure the success of my student. I agree to the following:

- To attend all mandatory parent meetings and workshops.
- To be an active participant.
- To notify a *College Connect* staff member when unable to attend a meeting or workshop.
- To assist other program participants and their parents and work together with them as a team and community.
- To fully support my child's education.
- My child may ride in vehicles driven by Mission Graduates staff for program related activities.
- 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 am dedicated to the following:

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

Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST: \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sección Cuatro: Compromiso de Familia**

Mission Graduates (MG) incrementa el número de estudiantes entre las edades K-12 en la Misión a prepararse para asistir a la universidad y conseguir 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 la pedimos a usted que esté consciente del hecho de que la participación en éste programa requiere participación activa tanto del estudiante como de la familia. Por lo tanto se le pide que discuta este contrato con su estudiante y que cada uno de Uds. haga un compromiso en las siguientes áreas:

**Como encargado:** Yo, \_\_\_\_\_, encargado de \_\_\_\_\_ reconozco la importancia de éste programa en el éxito de mi estudiante. Por lo tanto me comprometo a lo siguiente:

- Asistir a todas las reuniones y entrenamientos obligatorios organizados por el programa.
- Ser un participante con voz activa.
- Avisarle con tiempo a los consejeros del programa cuando no pueda asistir a una reunión o entrenamiento.
- Darle mi apoyo a otros participantes del programa y trabajar junto a ellos en un esfuerzo comunal que apoye su éxito personal y de la comunidad.
- Apoyar el proceso educativo de mi hijo/a al ciento por ciento.
- Le doy permiso a mi estudiante a que sea transportado en vehículos del personal de Mission Graduates cuando sea necesario o requerido por ciertas actividades.
- MG tiene mi permiso para obtenga copias de las calificaciones de mi hijo/a y su récord de asistencia escolar.

**Como estudiante:** Yo, \_\_\_\_\_ (nombre de estudiante) reconozco la importancia de éste programa en el camino a mi éxito académico. Por lo tanto me comprometo a lo siguiente:

- Asistir a las reuniones obligatorias del programa.
- Dar lo mejor de mí en materia académica y prepararme para ingresar a la universidad.
- Mantener un alto nivel de asistencia escolar y trabajar duro en cada una de mis clases.
- Pediré ayuda académica cuando la necesite, mucho antes de que mis calificaciones bajen drásticamente.
- Completar todas mis tareas y asignaturas del programa a tiempo, y cumplir con mis metas y fechas límites.
- Ser una voz participe y llegar preparado/a a mis reuniones.
- Revisar mi correo electrónico para estar al día con recursos y anuncios del programa.
- Notificarle con tiempo a los consejeros del programa cuando no pueda llegar a una reunión o entrenamiento.
- Apoyar a otros participantes del programa y trabajar juntos para llegar a formar una comunidad.
- Serviré de ejemplo a otros estudiantes de grados menores en la comunidad.

Firma del Encargado: \_\_\_\_\_

Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

Firma del Estudiante: \_\_\_\_\_

Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST: \_\_\_\_\_ HIGH SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section Five: Letter of Recommendation**

Asking the right person: Mark an "X" next to each of the following statements.

- \_\_\_\_\_ This person can reflect on my intellectual growth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This person would be able to give personal insight about me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This person agreed to write my letter of recommendation without hesitation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This person can assess my academic and personal goals and potential.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This person is NOT my parent, sibling, relative, etc...

Did you have less than 3 "X's"? You might want to ask a different person before continuing.

When requesting a letter of recommendation, be sure to highlight why being in College Connect is important for you and/or your family.

**Give them ample time before our deadline (September 22, 2017)!**

DETACH THIS PORTION AND GIVE IT TO YOUR RECOMMENDER

.....  
Giving your teacher a bit of guidance on what they should express about you to us will only make their job easier. Name three qualities of yours that you'd want your recommendation to express:

\_\_\_\_\_

College Connect, a program of Mission Graduates, is a family-based college guidance and success program for low-income youth in our community who will be among the first in their families to obtain and complete a four-year college education. The holistic support we provide to our students includes 18 weeks of intensive ACT preparation; access to tutoring and mentorship from community volunteers; workshops ranging from self-care and social justice to financial literacy and making a successful transition into college; and assistance with entering the workforce through networking events, internships with partner organizations, and more!

**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, and in what capacity?
2. Why is this student a good candidate for personal, family-based college counseling?
3. How does this student demonstrate their commitment to pursuing higher education? (Provide examples!)
4. Given what you know about this student and their support at home, do you think their education is advocated for and receives emotional support?

*Please give the signed letter to the applicant in a sealed envelope OR email your letter to [catherine@missiongraduates.org](mailto:catherine@missiongraduates.org).  
**Letters of recommendations & applications are due Fri 9/22.***