

FROM SOUTH CENTRAL TO COLLEGE... FOR FREE: A UNIQUE PLAN OF ATTACK



Developed by

South Central Scholars Foundation

Part I: High School

Recommended Curriculum

Your recommended A-G college-prep curriculum

- **A: English (four years):** Take AP English Literature & AP English Language if offered. Yes, both.
- **B: Math (four years):** Complete Algebra II and Pre-Calc at a minimum. Take Calculus if it's offered and if you want to (not required). Better: try Statistics instead.
- **C: History (three years):** European History, American History and a social studies elective like Economics, Government, Civics, etc.
- **D: Science (four years):** Take Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. And study one at an advanced level.
- **E: Foreign Language (three or four years):** Take the *same* language all four years. And if you're a native speaker of Spanish, take something else like Mandarin, Arabic, or French in high school.
- **F: Visual and Performing Arts (one year):** Dance, drama, orchestra – whatever's offered at your high school.
- **G: College prep electives:** 1 year of an additional subject.

Curriculum

Further thoughts on your curriculum

- **Take the hardest classes possible:** These recommendations are more rigorous than the University of California A-G requirements. Selective colleges want to see that you've pushed yourself.
- **Take every AP class you can:** Unless scheduling conflicts prevent it, or your school offers 10+ AP classes you should take every AP offered at your school.
- **If your school offers zero or few APs, take classes at community college:** Your credits probably won't count outside California, but *every* college will be impressed that you tried to maximize learning in high school.
- **If you're Latino, and you speak Spanish at home, pick another foreign language:** To colleges, it looks like you're padding your grades. And don't take the SAT II Spanish exam for the high score – colleges will ignore it.
- **Get to know your teachers really well junior year:** You'll most likely ask these teachers for your college recommendation letters.

Extracurriculars

From football to Glee Club

- **Academics come first, extracurriculars second:** Don't over-commit. And join clubs and organizations only after you're confident in your ability to do good work in high school.
- **Pick one to three clubs, and own them:** Don't just show up at meetings. Be passionate, be energetic, and be a leader at whatever you do.
- **It doesn't matter what you like:** Colleges don't make value judgments about extracurricular groups. Being on the newspaper is not better or worse than being on the debate team. Being really good at one or the other is important.
- **Strive for school, regional and national level excellence:** Get elected president of your favorite club. Enter your robot into national competitions. Apply for grants to travel to conferences. Get published in prominent blogs and web sites about your area of interest.
- **Don't do them all:** Colleges like to put together a well-rounded class. That doesn't mean that every student should be well-rounded.

Standardized tests

Start planning now

- **Grades 9-11:** Take the PSAT in October of each year. If your school doesn't make every student take the test, ask your counselor to sign you up.
- **Grade 11:** Take the SAT I in May. Take a 2-3 SAT II subject exams in June.
- **Grade 12:** Take the SAT I in October. Take the ACT in November. Take any SAT II exams you still need in December.
- **Summer before senior year:** Get review books from the library, and take test prep classes if you can afford it. Apply for a test-prep scholarship from Revolution Prep (www.revolutionprep.com) or an organization at your high school or church, and take their class.

Summer enrichment programs

Try college a little early

- **Summer is for studying, too:** SCS recommends that top students apply during the junior year of high school to summer programs for high school students held at hundreds of colleges and universities.
- **Which schools:** There are many types with specialized criteria. There are leadership programs, math programs, writing institutes, etc. See the appendix for a list of programs we recommend.
- **Apply early:** The free programs are highly competitive, and other that aren't free have very limited financial aid.
- **The payoff:** By doing work at the college level while still in high school, you show colleges you're serious about succeeding in your academics. We see students who participate in programs like this admitted to competitive colleges at very high rates.

Applying to college

Know the deadlines and know the details.

- **California State University:** October 1st – November 30th. See csumentor.edu
- **University of California:** November 1st – November 30th. See www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad/adm/apply_online.html and admissions.ucop.edu/pathways.
- **Private colleges:** Usually December 31, some later. See each school's admissions web site.
- **Make a calendar:** Use your Gmail account or your smart phone's calendar function to keep track of all the deadlines.
- **Learn to love the Common App:** See www.commonapp.org. Use it to apply to as many colleges as you want, though a few colleges still don't use it.
- **Fee waivers:** Some schools have application fees, though all have fee waivers for students who demonstrate financial need. See each school's admissions web site for more details, and don't be afraid to ask for a waiver.

Financial aid

Know the two important forms.

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** Fill out this form to qualify for financial aid at every college in the country. Can be submitted on or after January 1st of each year. Must be received by private colleges by February 1st and the state schools by March 2nd. See www.FAFSA.ed.gov.
- **CSS Financial Aid Profile:** Usually required when you apply to a private college or university. See www.profileonline.collegeboard.com.
- **CSS cost:** The FAFSA is free, the CSS costs \$25 for the first college, and \$16 for each additional school you send it to. Submit the profile before February 1st.
- **CSS Fee Waiver:** There are a limited number of fee waivers available to first-time college applicants from families with low household incomes and few assets. The fee waiver covers the registration and 6 colleges or universities. Apply for the fee waiver when you submit the profile before February 1st

Big time scholarships

If you win any of these, paying for college is easy.

- **Gates Millennium Scholarship.** www.gmsp.org. 1,000 chosen, four-year scholarships each. Academic support plus enrichment programs.
- **Dell Scholars:** Four-year scholarship. Applicants must participate in a pre-approved college access program. See www.dellscholars.org.
- **Milken Scholars:** Four-year scholarship. Academic support plus extensive enrichment programs. See <http://www.mff.org/scholars/scholars.taf>.
- **Coca Cola Scholars:** 250 chosen. Lump sums of either \$20,000 or \$10,000. See www.coca-colascholars.org.

Big time scholarships, part II

If you win any of these, paying for college is easy.

- **AXA Scholarship:** <http://www.axa-equitable.com/axa-foundation/about.html>. Awards of \$2,000 to \$10,000.
- **Horatio Alger Scholarship:** 100 scholarships of \$20,000 awarded annually. <https://www.horatioalger.org/scholarships/index.cfm>.
- **KFC Scholars:** <http://www.kfcscholars.org> 50 scholarships of up to \$20,000 awarded annually.
- **Ronald McDonald House Scholarships:** Amounts may vary. <http://rmhc.org/what-we-do/rmhc-u-s-scholarships>

Part II: A unique plan

South Central Scholars has helped hundreds of students like you attend some of the best colleges in the country nearly for free. If you apply to the right colleges – that offer the best financial aid – you can go to college nearly for free. You will have to consider leaving California for college, applying to some small schools you may not have heard of, and pushing yourself to apply to colleges that seem like they might be out of reach. The highest ranked colleges offer the best financial packages and have the highest graduation rates.

The Problem...

College is expensive

- It costs \$31,000 to attend the University of California (UCLA, Berkeley, etc), up 20% from \$26,000 just three years ago.
- Most private colleges cost \$55,000 a year.
- Ninety-five percent of colleges include loans in their financial aid packages, and as tuition increases every year, students must borrow more to go to college.
- The average college graduate in the class of 2011 owes \$22,900. By the time you graduate, that number will be much higher.
- The colleges and universities that offer the best financial aid – like the Ivy League colleges – are the most competitive.
- The average college graduate makes about \$38,000 a year today in their first job after college.

A primer on debt

Student loans are forever

- If you borrow too much money on your credit card, you can declare bankruptcy to be rid of the debt. If you can't pay your mortgage, you mail the keys to the bank and leave.
- But **you cannot discharge student debt in bankruptcy**. It stays with you forever, no matter how old you get or how much you make.
- The companies that issue you loans will tell you the “minimum monthly payment” they will accept. But if you make this payment, you may not pay off the debt for decades. You have to pay more than the minimum.
- We have a friend who graduated nine years ago owing \$21,922. She's made every minimum payment for nine years and now owes \$20,483.
- If you have to borrow money to go to college, then do it – it's probably worth it. But you may not have to if you plan carefully.

What is no-loan financial aid?

A trend that started in 2001, and took off in 2007

- In 2001, Princeton pledged to remove loans from all students' financial aid packages. Grants and work study would be the only forms of aid at Princeton.
- By 2008, about 35 colleges and universities made similar pledges.
- They range from ultra-selective, to schools with admissions rates above 30%. **Most are ranked in the list of top 50 colleges and universities nationally.**
- Many colleges grant no-loan aid only to students whose families make less than a certain annual income – often \$50,000 or so. You should check with each college's financial aid office because these policies change annually.
- South Central Scholars has been encouraging our students to apply to no-loan colleges since 2007. Since then, the number of students from South Central and East LA receiving no-loan financial aid for college has gone up every year.
- Many college counselors are focused on the community college and Cal State system, so they may not know about this option for their students.

Sample financial aid award letters

Electronic Provisional Award Letter

<http://www.finaid.ucla.edu/for/pe2011/initialprint.aspx>

UCLA Financial Aid Office	
104-000-061	
<p>A preliminary review of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) indicates that you may be eligible for financial aid for the 2011-2012 academic year. Your financial aid award will be finalized after a review of your file. Your estimated eligibility is outlined below.</p>	
UCLA Costs Registration Fees & Health Insurance = \$12,743 Books and Supplies = \$1,500 Loans (Interest) = \$16,113 Total UCLA Cost = \$30,467	Links to Resources: The South Central Financial Aid Office homepage New & Best Scholarship Sites
Gift Aid Federal Pell Grant = \$5,500 Scholarships/Institutional Awards = \$4,500 Cal Grant = \$11,128 Total Gift Aid = \$21,267	Your ePAL reflects that you are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An undergraduate student Equivalent Living on campus A-Grade student An on-line applicant Eligible for the new Loan Disbursement Plan (Commencing)
Net UCLA Costs UCLA Costs = \$30,467 Gift Aid = \$21,267 Total Net Cost = \$9,200	Based on the FAFSA available at the time we generated your ePAL, the National processor determined the following: Student Contribution = \$0 Parent Contribution = \$0 Student Family Contribution = \$0
Meeting Net Cost Total Student's Share = \$9,200	THIS IS ONLY AN ESTIMATE The cost of education and related expenses are subject to change without notice. The scope of awards and dollar amounts listed are also subject to change. Additionally, some review of your file by the Financial Aid Office, and Estimated Student and/or Parent Contribution may change. Any change to these contributions will result in a change to your eligibility for financial aid.
Address Work Study Direct Employment Letter = \$1,500 Direct Unemployment Loans = \$2,000 Indirect Unemployment Loans = \$2,200 Total Parent's Share = \$0	
Total Net Cost Aid = \$9,200	
Total Estimated Aid Total Gift Aid = \$21,267 Total Net Cost Aid = \$9,200 Total Estimated Aid = \$30,467	
If you have any questions about your Provisional Award Letter (ePAL), please e-mail us at faid@ucla.edu or call us at (310) 206-6400. Our phone hours are 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm (Pacific).	

A typical UC award letter

- Total cost of UCLA today: \$30,467.
- Grants and scholarships: \$21,267.
- Work study: \$1,500.
- Loans per year: \$7,700.
- Assuming this student graduates in four years, he will owe \$31,000.
- If he is selected as a South Central Scholar, we can give him \$1000 - \$2000 per year, which helps, but he still has a lot of debt.

Sample financial aid award letters



Office of Financial Aid

S01160229

March 24, 2011

Samuel O. Jones
10000 Lakeshore
Los Angeles, CA 90045-1100

Dear Student:

Welcome to Rice!

We have reviewed your financial aid file and are providing a financial aid package for the academic year.

The following represents the basic college budget used in determining aid eligibility for entering undergraduates. Your actual costs may vary from the amounts listed. Listed below the budget are sources of financial aid available to you.

Budget	Amount	Resources	Amount
Tuition	34,900.00	Family Contribution	\$13.00
Room and Board	12,270.00		
Fees	651.00		
O-Week	490.00		
Books and Supplies	800.00		
Personal Expenses	1,550.00		
Transportation	600.00		
Budget Totals	\$51,261.00	Need (Budget-Resources)	\$51,248.00

Source:

	Fall	Spring	Total
Federal Work-Study Program	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00
Federal Pell Grant	\$2,775.00	\$2,775.00	\$5,550.00
Rice Tuition Grant	\$21,599.00	\$21,599.00	\$43,198.00
Total Awards:	\$25,624.00	\$25,624.00	\$51,248.00

Please note that any federal student loan and work-study awards are considered to be self-help aid.

If you are selected as a Rice National Merit Scholar, the Rice award will replace a portion of your Rice Tuition Grant. Please report any anticipated non-Rice scholarships by logging in to your ESTHER account at <https://webapps2.rice.edu/esther.html>. Scholarships or grants that you receive that are not sponsored by Rice first replace an equivalent amount of the self-help portion of your aid and then reduce your tuition grant.

A typical no-loan award

- Total cost of Rice: \$51,261
- Grants and scholarships: \$48,748.
- Work study: \$2,500.
- Loans per year: \$0.
- Estimated family contribution: \$13. Family income is ~\$20K/year.
- This student will graduate from Rice in four years with NO debt!
- If he is chosen as a South Central Scholar, we'll give him \$500 - \$1000 to help reduce the work-study burden.

No loan colleges

No-loan colleges	State	Admissions Rate	SAT Verbal	SAT Math	SAT Writing	Percent Latino	Percent Black	Max income to qualify for no-loan
Amherst College	MA	16%	660-760	650-780	660-770	11%	11%	No max
Bowdoin College	ME	19%	660-750	660-750	660-750	10%	6%	No max
Brown University	RI	11%	650-760	670-770	670-770	9%	7%	\$100,000
California Institute of Technology	CA	15%	690-770	770-800	680-770	6%	1%	\$60,000
University of Chicago	IL	27%	690-780	680-780	670-760	9%	6%	\$60,000
Claremont McKenna College	CA	16%	630-730	660-750	N/A	9%	3%	No max
Colby College	ME	34%	630-720	640-720	630-710	3%	3%	No max
Columbia University	NY	10%	680-770	690-780	680-770	13%	11%	No max
Cornell University	NY	19%	630-730	660-770	N/A	6%	5%	\$75,000
Dartmouth College	NH	13%	660-770	680-780	670-780	7%	8%	\$75,000
Davidson College	NC	26%	630-730	640-730	630-730	4%	6%	No max
Duke University	NC	22%	690-770	690-800	N/A	7%	10%	\$40,000
Emory University	GA	30%	640-730	660-750	650-740	4%	10%	\$100,000
Harvard University	MA	7%	690-780	690-790	690-780	7%	8%	No max
Haverford College	PA	25%	660-740	640-740	660-750	8%	8%	No max
Lafayette University	PA	42%	570-670	600-710	580-680	5%	5%	\$50,000
Lehigh University	PA	33%	590-630	630-710	N/A	6%	4%	\$50,000
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	MA	11%	650-760	720-800	660-760	13%	8%	\$75,000
Northwestern University	IL	26%	670-750	690-780	670-750	7%	5%	\$55,000
University of Pennsylvania	PA	17%	650-740	680-780	670-760	6%	8%	No max
Pomona College	CA	16%	700-780	690-780	680-770	11%	9%	No max
Princeton University	NJ	10%	690-790	700-790	700-780	8%	8%	No max
Rice University	TX	22%	640-750	680-780	650-740	12%	7%	\$80,000
Stanford University	CA	16%	660-760	680-780	670-760	13%	10%	\$45,000
Swarthmore College	PA	17%	670-760	670-770	670-760	11%	10%	No max
Tufts University	MA	27%	680-750	680-750	680-760	6%	5%	\$40,000
Vanderbilt University	TN	20%	660-750	690-770	660-750	6%	9%	No max
Vassar College	NY	25%	660-750	640-720	660-750	7%	5%	\$60,000
Washington and Lee University	VA?	19%	650-730	660-730	640-730	2%	3%	No max
Washington University in St. Louis	MO	22%	680-750	710-780	N/A	3%	9%	\$60,000
Wellesley College*	MA	35%	640-740	640-730	650-740	8%	7%	\$60,000
Wesleyan University	CT	22%	640-750	650-750	640-740	9%	7%	\$40,000
Williams College	MA	20%	660-760	650-760	N/A	10%	10%	~\$50,000
Yale University	CT	8%	700-800	700-780	700-790	9%	9%	No max

*womens' college

Very low loan burden colleges

Very low loan burden colleges	State	Admissions Rate	SAT Verbal	SAT Math	SAT Writing	Percent Latino	Percent Black
Bates College	ME	27%	620-700	640-710	N/A	4%	5%
Boston College	MA	30%	610-700	640-730	630-720	8%	5%
Bryn Mawr*	PA	49%	606-706	580-680	610-700	6%	6%
Carleton	MN	30%	660-760	660-740	670-750	6%	5%
Carnegie Mellon	PA	36%	620-720	670-780	620-720	5%	5%
Franklin and Marshall	PA	48%	600-690	630-700	N/A	5%	4%
George Fox	OR	69%	490-630	490-630	480-600	9%	2%
Georgetown	VA	19%	650-740	660-750	N/A	7%	7%
Grinnell College	IA	34%	600-730	620-730	N/A	7%	6%
Kenyon College	OH	39%	630-720	600-680	620-730	3%	4%
Lewis and Clark	OR	64%	630-720	590-680	610-700	5%	2%
Middlebury College	VT	20%	640-730	650-740	650-740	5%	4%
Mount Holyoke*	MA	58%	610-730	600-720	620-710	5%	7%
Notre Dame	IN	27%	650-740	670-760	640-730	9%	4%
NYU	NY	38%	610-710	600-720	620-710	8%	4%
Santa Clara	CA	59%	550-650	570-680	N/A	15%	4%
Scripps*	CA	33%	640-730	620-700	650-730	9%	4%
Smith*	MA	47%	610-710	580-690	610-710	7%	7%
University of Virginia	VA	32%	600-710	630-730	610-710	4%	8%

*womens' college

SAT optional colleges

SAT Optional Colleges	State	Admissions Rate	SAT Verbal	SAT Math	SAT Writing	Percent Latino	Percent Black	Testing Requirements
Bard College	NY	33%	680-740	650-680	N/A	3%	2%	None.
Bates College	ME	27%	620-700	640-710	N/A	4%	5%	None
Bennington College	VT	66%	620-720	560-640	610-710	2%	2%	None.
Bowdoin College	ME	19%	660-750	660-750	660-750	10%	6%	None.
Bryn Mawr College*	PA	49%	606-706	580-680	610-700	6%	6%	SAT + 2 subject tests OR ACT OR 3 SAT II/3 AP scores
Colby College	ME	34%	630-720	640-720	630-710	3%	3%	SAT I OR ACT OR 3 SAT II
College of the Holy Cross	MA	36%	600-680	610-690	600-690	8%	4%	None
Connecticut College	CT	37%	610-700	610-700	620-710	6%	4%	None
Denison University	OH	50%	600-700	600-680	N/A	3%	6%	None
DePaul University	IL	74%	520-640	520-620	520-630	11%	7%	None.
Dickinson College	PA	49%	600-690	590-680	590-690	5%	4%	None
Franklin and Marshall College	PA	48%	600-690	630-700	N/A	5%	4%	Must submit two graded writing samples in lieu of standardized tests
Furman University	SC	68%	580-690	600-680	580-680	2%	7%	None
George Mason University	VA	63%	500-600	520-610	N/A	6%	7%	Specific requirements http://bit.ly/lSXTqP
Hamilton College	NY	30%	660-740	650-730	650-740	5%	4%	Specific requirements: http://bit.ly/ka3lItt
Hampshire College	MA	63%	600-710	530-660	590-700	8%	4%	None
Lewis and Clark College	OR	64%	630-720	590-680	610-700	5%	2%	Specific requirements: http://bit.ly/kNqNBr
Middlebury College	VT	20%	640-730	650-740	650-740	5%	4%	SAT I OR ACT OR 3 SAT II
Mount Holyoke College*	MA	58%	610-730	600-720	620-710	5%	7%	None
New York University	NY	38%	610-710	600-720	620-710	8%	4%	SAT OR ACT OR 3 SAT II or 3 AP
Pitzer College	CA	20%	608-693	588-680	N/A	15%	6%	Specific requirements: http://bit.ly/jDpLXY
Sarah Lawrence College	NY	58%	N/A	N/A	N/A	5%	3%	None
Smith College*	MA	47%	610-710	580-690	610-710	7%	7%	None for US citizens and residents
Union College	NY	41%	590-670	620-700	580-670	5%	5%	None
Wake Forest University	NC	38%	610-690	630-710	N/A	4%	7%	None
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	MA	63%	560-660	630-720	560-660	6%	3%	Specific requirements: http://bit.ly/iRZn6G

*womens' college

Liberal Arts Colleges

Why SCS likes them so much

- To generalize a bit, there are research universities (like Stanford, UCLA, and Duke), and there are liberal arts colleges (like Amherst, Smith, Brown, Williams, Pomona, Grinnell and Swarthmore).
- Liberal arts colleges are smaller, they focus mostly on teaching students (as opposed to research), and they don't have big time football, so fewer people have heard of them compared to bigger universities.
- SCS has found that liberal arts colleges tend to provide better financial aid and student support, and they are more successful at helping students graduate. These schools are ranked among the best in the United States.
- We encourage all students from South & East LA to apply to liberal arts colleges.

Colleges need diversity

You can give it to them!

- At most colleges, the Board of Trustees and the President want a more diverse student body. They put pressure on the Dean of Admissions to recruit and admit students from diverse backgrounds.
- Many of the best diverse students – like you – don't know this. So students often apply just to their in-state public universities like the Berkeley and UCLA, when there is a universe of amazing colleges *fighting* over the few diverse students who know about them.
- Many no-loan colleges are in the Midwest and Northeast – areas with low minority populations. They must recruit in places like L.A. to meet their goals.
- The hunt for students who bring diversity to campus – in the form of race, geography, income, or first-to-attend-college status – is the motivating factor behind no-loan financial aid.

No-loan financial aid FAQs...

We've heard them all...

- **Can I get in to these schools?** Yes! Many of these schools are selective, but if you look carefully at the list, there are many with reasonable admissions rates. You should apply to “reach” schools as well as “safety” schools, especially the SAT optional colleges on this list. Even though they don't require SAT scores, they are excellent academic institutions.
- **Should I still apply to UC and Cal State schools?:** Yes. The UCs are great schools and everyone should apply so they can compare their options.
- **Is there anyone like me there?** Yes! Colleges enacted no-loan financial aid specifically to recruit students from low income backgrounds. And SCS has our own Scholars attending virtually every one of these colleges.
- **What about getting there, and other expenses?** No-loan financial aid covers books, transportation, room and board and even general personal expenses – pizza money! And SCS will help with anything else you need. Just ask.

Bowen's Paradox

Aren't these private colleges *hard*?

- William Bowen is the former President of Princeton, and the lead author of an important book *Crossing the Finish Line: Completing College at America's Public Universities*.
- He identified the problem of **undermatching** -- or when a student qualified to attend an excellent college, instead attends a college that is lower ranked.
- Low-income minority students who attend highly selective colleges graduate at a **higher** rate than low-income minority students with similar qualifications who attend a less selective college.
- The undermatching rate is higher than 50% among low-income minority students, who fail to apply to selective colleges that they're **qualified** to attend.
- So, this means you should apply to highly selective colleges, even though you might think they're "harder" than somewhere less selective. **You're qualified!**

How to get “extra credit”

You can get a leg up vs. the headline statistics

- Apply to distant colleges. Colleges in Maine or Iowa don't get a lot of applications from California, so they'll look at each one carefully.
- Apply to colleges with low representation of your ethnic group. Chances are that the school is looking to increase diversity, so they'll look carefully at you.
- If a college is your top choice, tell them! A short email to a college, telling them that they're your dream school and that you'd accept their offer if admitted, can go a long way. But you should only say this to a college if it's true!
- You can apply early decision (ED), but you should only apply ED to a no-loan school and you should talk to the financial aid office there first to make sure you totally understand their policies and your likely aid package in advance. **Only do this if you are super prepared, super sure, and ready/able to commit.**
- Apply to small liberal arts colleges. Relatively few diversity students have even heard of most of them.

Free trips!

Colleges will pay for you to visit them

- In the fall, many colleges host recruitment weekends specifically to bring minority students to their campuses.
- In most cases, these trips are free.
- By visiting a distant campus before you enroll, you can make a much better decision as to whether this college is right for you.
- Call the admissions office to ask if a college you're interested in will offer you a visit – policies change often so you have to ask.
- Also, virtually every college hosts a weekend visit during April for admitted students. This is your chance to visit before you must choose a college on May 1 of your senior year.
- Students whose financial aid profile shows need can often ask for the college to pay for this trip. We always encourage you to visit a college if you can, so take advantage of this opportunity.

Part III: South Central Scholars

South Central Scholars has partnered with over 625 students like you to help you get the most out of college.

Important SCS events

We hope to see you at each of these events

- **Summer conference at USC:** Meet current SCS students, hear about careers from important panelists, learn how to succeed in college. Motivated high school students (rising seniors and juniors) welcome. Register online: www.southcentralscholars.org/2011_summer_conference
- **SCS College Fair:** Thursday October 6, 2011. Over 50 colleges and universities will attend – most of them are no loan, low loan and SAT optional.
- **Parent/student info night:** Our annual event to help educate parents about the college application process. Late November – see our web site for the date.
- **Financial Aid Workshop:** Randy Winston walks you through the FAFSA and the CSS profile, line by line. Early January each year – see our web site.
- **Location:** Our summer conference is at USC. All other events held either at **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**, 9300 Crenshaw Blvd. Inglewood CA 90305 or **First Church of God**, 9550 Crenshaw Blvd, Inglewood, CA 90305

How to Apply for SCS

There are specific events and deadlines to know

- **Attend one of our events:** See above for details. While you're there, fill out an intake form so we'll have your name and email address in our system.
- **SCS high school visits:** Mr. Randy Winston, President of Schools and Services, will visit your high school at least once each year. Make sure to find out when from your principal or counselor and attend his visit. Mr. Winston will have intake forms available.
- **Sign up on our web site:** Click on the tab for "Student Center," and look for the intake form.
- **Applications open in late April of your senior year:** We accept online applications from our web site from late April to mid May during your senior year. If you've submitted an intake form, we'll email you to let you know when.

What SCS offers you

Four key components of our program

- **Scholarships:** We provide *bridge scholarships* in the amount of \$500 - \$2500 per year, renewable for all four years of college. Scholarships vary in inverse proportion to the amount of debt in your financial aid package.
- **Mentorship and Support Network:** We have hundreds of volunteers and board members eager to mentor motivated students from South Central. Most often, your mentor will be an alum of your college or a professional in a field of interest to you.
- **Internships:** SCS places a huge emphasis on career guidance. We work to secure our students internships in professional settings like hospitals, law firms, investment firms, PR & marketing firms, and technology companies.
- **Applications open in late April of your senior year:** We accept online applications from our web site from late April to mid May during your senior year. If you've submitted an intake form, we'll email you to let you know when.

Appendices

Appendix I: Summer programs

We have a booklet that showcases summer programs for high school students at some of the elite colleges and universities in the US. All of these programs offer various levels of financial aid. If you're interested in receiving a copy of this guide, please ask Randy Winston or email him at

rwinston@southcentralscholars.org.