

2026 PALM SPRINGS COLLEGE SHOWCASE GUIDE

REGISTER WITH STRIVE SCAN NOW



◆ TIPS FOR STUDENTS: PLAN AHEAD

- **Know Who's Coming:** Check the list of colleges and circle the ones you're curious about. Bring a notebook or phone for notes, a bag for brochures, and your Strive Scan bar code!
- **Think About Your Interests:** What do you love to do? What subjects excite you? Where do you want to go?

◆ AT THE FAIR: ASK SMART QUESTIONS

- What makes your school unique?
- What do students love most about your campus?
- How do you support students with my academic and social interests?

◆ TIPS

- Introduce yourself confidently — don't just grab swag, ask a question!
- Take notes after each conversation.
- Speak to a college you've never heard of.

◆ AFTER THE FAIR: REFLECT & CONNECT

- What stood out to you?
- Follow up with reps via email or on social media.
- Share your experience with parents, teachers, and your counselor.

◆ PARENTS: LET YOUR STUDENT LEAD

- Encourage independence and let them ask the questions.
- Be a listener — observe what your student reacts to.
- Ask about safety, support services, and affordability.
- Debrief together about highlights after the event.



CAL STATE SAN MARCOS

📍 San Marcos, CA

🌐 csusm.edu



Founded in 1989 as the 21st campus of the California State University system, Cal State San Marcos sits on a 340-acre hillside campus in North San Diego County — about 40 minutes north of San Diego and minutes from the coast. The university enrolls roughly 15,000 students, mostly undergraduates, across colleges spanning STEM, business, education and health, and the humanities. Popular majors include business, kinesiology, psychology, computer science, and nursing. A federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution, CSUSM is one of the region's most diverse campuses and is nationally recognized for social mobility and access. Cougars compete in NCAA Division II in the CCAA.

Institution Type Public	Average ACT / SAT Test-Blind	Freshman App Deadlines Filing Opens: Oct 1 Scholarship: Feb 1 Final Deadline: Dec 31
Campus Setting Suburban	Average GPA 3.3	Transfer App Deadline FA: Dec 31 SP: Sep 30
Closest Airport (Distance) SAN (40 mi)	GPA Consideration (W or UW) Admission: Weighted Scholarships: Unweighted	Merit-Based Scholarship Consideration is Evaluated From A Separate Application
Enrollment (Undergrad / Total) 14,000 / 15,000	Applications / Admits (Admit Rate) 16,600 / 15,600 (94%)	Merit-Based Scholarship Deadline for Freshmen Feb 1 (Priority)
Golf Courses (within 20 mi) 50-60 (public & private)	Deposits \$150 (May 1)	Merit-Based Scholarship Deadline for Transfers Feb 1 (Priority)
Student-to-Faculty Ratio 24:1	Applications Accepted Cal State Apply	Link to Scholarship Info csusm.edu/financial/scholarships
Student Population (Out of State / Diverse / Intl) 2% / 75% / 1%	Test Optional? Test-Blind Demonstrated Interest? No Rolling Admission? No Admission Interview? No Need-blind Admission? Yes WUE Tuition Exchange? Yes CA Specific Scholarships? Yes	
Athletics Division Division II		
Athletics League California Collegiate (CCAA)		

👤 Primary Representatives

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🚩 Points of Pride

1. Applied learning is built in: every business major completes 'Senior Experience,' a capstone where student teams solve real problems for San Diego-area companies and nonprofits — part of 2,500+ sponsored projects the college has delivered for the region.
2. Cougar athletics are on the rise — in 2024 the NCAA Division II women's basketball team made program history with a record 27 wins, CCAA regular-season and tournament titles, and the school's first-ever Final Four appearance.
3. CSUSM's ACE Scholars Services, one of the nation's most comprehensive programs for former foster youth, pairs students with housing, funding, and dedicated staff — driving an 86% persistence rate versus roughly 50% nationally.

🔥 Notes

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

📍 Golden, CO

🌐 mines.edu



COLORADO SCHOOL OF
MINES

Founded in 1874, Colorado School of Mines is a public R1 research university in Golden, Colorado, nestled in the Rocky Mountain foothills just west of Denver. With about 6,200 undergraduates and roughly 8,000 students total, Mines is a mid-sized university with a singular focus on engineering, applied science, and STEM tied to earth, energy, and the environment. Known for rigorous, hands-on academics, it offers 40+ undergraduate programs and immerses students in research and industry partnerships from day one. Orediggers graduate with one of the strongest returns on investment in the country, with early-career salaries around \$84,000, and enjoy traditions like the M Climb and an adventurous Colorado lifestyle.

Institution Type Public	Average ACT / SAT 31 / 1400	Freshman App Deadlines Early Action: Nov 1 Scholarship: Mar 1 Final Deadline: Jan 15
Campus Setting Suburban	Average GPA 3.85	Transfer App Deadline FA: May 1 SP: Oct 10
Closest Airport (Distance) DEN (30 mi)	GPA Consideration (W or UW) Admission: Unweighted Scholarships: Unweighted	Merit-Based Scholarship Consideration is Evaluated From The Admission Application
Enrollment (Undergrad / Total) 6,000 / 8,000	Applications / Admits (Admit Rate) 12,000 / 7,000 (58%)	Merit-Based Scholarship Deadline for Freshmen Nov 1 (Priority)
Golf Courses (within 20 mi) 50-60 (public & private)	Deposits May 1	Merit-Based Scholarship Deadline for Transfers FA: May 1 SP: Oct 10
Student-to-Faculty Ratio 18:1	Applications Accepted Common App Golden App (school-specific)	Link to Scholarship Info finaid.mines.edu/scholarships
Student Population (Out of State / Diverse / Intl) 49% / 35% / 3%	Test Optional? Yes Demonstrated Interest? Yes Rolling Admission? Yes Admission Interview? No Need-blind Admission? No Answer WUE Tuition Exchange? No CA Specific Scholarships? No	
Athletics Division Division II		
Athletics League Rocky Mountain (RMAC)		

👤 Primary Representatives

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🚩 Points of Pride

1. Mines is ranked the #1 mineral and mining engineering program in the world (QS World University Rankings) and earns top-tier national rankings across engineering and applied science.
2. A national leader in ROI: graduates earn a median salary near \$79,300 in their first five years, with first-year starting salaries around \$84,000.
3. As an R1 research university, Mines offers extensive undergraduate research, hosts the largest collegiate section of the Society of Women Engineers, and leads NCAA Division II in Academic All-Americans.

🔥 Notes

SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN

 Savannah, GA  scad.edu

SCAD

The University for Creative Careers

Founded in 1978, the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) is a private, nonprofit university widely regarded as one of the largest and most comprehensive art and design universities in the world. Its flagship campus occupies restored historic buildings throughout the walkable Historic District of Savannah, Georgia, with additional locations in Atlanta and Lacoste, France, plus the online SCADnow. SCAD offers roughly 100 degree programs and 40+ majors — from animation, film, and game design to fashion, architecture, and illustration — more than any other art and design university in the U.S. Enrolling about 19,000 students from all 50 states and 100+ countries, SCAD is best known for its career focus: 99% of spring graduates report employment or further education within 10 months.

Institution Type Private	Average ACT / SAT 24 / 1170	Freshman App Deadlines Rolling Admission Apply 30 days before term No fixed deadline
Campus Setting Urban	Average GPA 3.56	Transfer App Deadline FA: Rolling SP: Rolling
Closest Airport (Distance) SAV (10 mi)	GPA Consideration (W or UW) Admission: Unweighted Scholarships: Unweighted	Merit-Based Scholarship Consideration is Evaluated From The Admission Application
Enrollment (Undergrad / Total) 16,000 / 19,000	Applications / Admits (Admit Rate) 14,900 / 12,500 (84%)	Merit-Based Scholarship Deadline for Freshmen Rolling
Golf Courses (within 20 mi) 25-35 (public & private)	Deposits No Answer	Merit-Based Scholarship Deadline for Transfers Rolling
Student-to-Faculty Ratio 20:1	Applications Accepted SCAD Application	Link to Scholarship Info scad.edu/admission/scholarships
Student Population (Out of State / Diverse / Intl) N/A / 30% / 14%	Test Optional? Yes Demonstrated Interest? No Rolling Admission? Yes Admission Interview? No Need-blind Admission? No Answer WUE Tuition Exchange? No CA Specific Scholarships? No	
Athletics Division NAIA		
Athletics League The Sun Conference		

 Primary Representatives

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 Points of Pride

1. SCAD offers about 100 degree programs — more than any other art and design university in the U.S. — and is most acclaimed for its animation, film and television, fashion, interior design, and game design programs, with its sequential art (comics) major a distinctive flagship.
2. 99% of spring graduates were employed, pursuing further education, or both within 10 months of graduation, per SCAD's annual alumni study.
3. SCAD is a global, immersive experience — students study across campuses in Savannah, Atlanta, and Lacoste, France (plus SCADnow online), alongside classmates from 100+ countries, and take part in signature events like the SCAD Savannah Film Festival that bring the industry to campus.

 Notes

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

📍 Norman, OK

🌐 ou.edu



Founded in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a public research university in Norman, Oklahoma, just 20 minutes south of Oklahoma City. OU's Norman undergraduate population is slightly more than 22,000, giving students a major university experience in a private college atmosphere. With three campuses in Oklahoma, OU also offers study abroad opportunities at several locations and campuses overseas. Over 50% of OU students come from out of state, and 90% are offered a scholarship to attend. With 170+ degree programs, 45 national championships, and 650+ student organizations, OU pairs small class sizes with big opportunities at one of the most beautiful campuses in the country.

Institution Type Public	Average ACT / SAT 26 / 1230	Freshman App Deadlines Early Action: Nov 1 Scholarship: Dec 15 Final Deadline: Feb 1
Campus Setting Suburban	Average GPA 3.65	Transfer App Deadline FA: Jun 1 SP: Nov 1
Closest Airport (Distance) OKC (24 mi)	GPA Consideration (W or UW) Admission: Unweighted Scholarships: Weighted	Merit-Based Scholarship Consideration is Evaluated From The Admission Application
Enrollment (Undergrad / Total) 22,000 / 32,000	Applications / Admits (Admit Rate) 25,000 / 19,000 (75%)	Merit-Based Scholarship Deadline for Freshmen Dec 15
Golf Courses (within 20 mi) 20-25 (public & private) *On-campus course*	Deposits No Answer	Merit-Based Scholarship Deadline for Transfers FA: Mar 15 SP: Nov. 1
Student-to-Faculty Ratio 17:1	Applications Accepted Common App Coalition App University-Specific App	Link to Scholarship Info ou.edu/admissions/affordability/scholarships
Student Population (Out of State / Diverse / Intl) 51% / 49% / 2%	Test Optional? Yes Demonstrated Interest? Yes Rolling Admission? Yes Admission Interview? No Need-blind Admission? Yes WUE Tuition Exchange? No CA Specific Scholarships? Yes	
Athletics Division Division I		
Athletics League Southeastern Conference (SEC)		

👤 Primary Representatives

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🚩 Points of Pride

1. Over 90% of incoming students receive a scholarship from the Office of Admissions and Recruitment.
2. 51% of students come from out of state, and California sends OU its second-largest population of out-of-state students.
3. OU offers top-ranked programs in energy management, atmospheric science, advertising, aviation, dance, musical theatre, journalism, and more!

🔗 Notes