



Mira Costa High School

College & Career Center

YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE.



The College & Career Center (CCC) supports all Mira Costa High School students as they explore their interests, discover their strengths, identify their goals, and prepare for life beyond high school. Beginning in freshman year and continuing through graduation, students receive personalized guidance through one-on-one counseling, small-group workshops, grade-level classroom lessons, and a wide range of college and career planning resources.

CCC Counselors guide students through every stage of the planning process—from self-discovery and academic preparation to exploring colleges and careers, developing balanced college lists, navigating admissions requirements, completing applications, and evaluating postsecondary opportunities. Recognizing that every student's journey is unique, counselors help students and families understand the full range of pathways available, including four-year universities, community colleges, dual enrollment and transferable college coursework, career technical education and certification programs, military service, apprenticeships, and direct entry into the workforce.

Working closely with students and families, CCC Counselors make the college and career planning process more manageable, informed, and meaningful. Above all, the CCC empowers students to take ownership of their futures—approaching the opportunities ahead with confidence, a sense of purpose, and an understanding that there are many pathways to personal and professional success.



CCC Resources & Support

The CCC is an informational resource center open to all MCHS students and families during school and evening hours.

- One-on-One College & Career Counseling
- College Essay & Personal Statement Review
- Individual College Application Review
- Community College Exploration & Planning
- Naviance Platform Support
- Career Interest Assessments & Guidance
- SAT/ACT Information & Test Preparation Resources
- College Search & Planning Resources
- Scholarship Resources & Opportunities
- Student Athlete Support
- Internship & Career Exploration Resources
- Scholastic Honor Societies

CCC Events & Workshops

The CCC section of the Mira Costa High School website includes specific dates of all CCC hosted events.

- 150+ College Admission Representative Visits
- Common Application Workshops
- University of California (UC) Application Workshops
- California State University (CSU) Application Workshops
- Dual Enrollment Workshops
- Personal Statement Workshops
- Standardized Testing Workshops
- Scholarship Workshops
- PSAT
- College Knowledge Night
- Financial Aid Night
- College Mini-Fair
- Career Speaker Series



Professional Support for Students

Members of the Mira Costa Counseling Department and College & Career Center are members and participants in professional organizations. Counselors actively engage in conferences and higher education discussions to stay up to date with college admission trends and connect students to the resources and information they need to make their post-graduation choice.

Grade-Level Steps for Success

College & Career Counselors connect with students throughout their four years at Mira Costa, providing grade-level guidance that builds from exploration and preparation to developing and implementing a postsecondary plan.

NINTH GRADE

Goal: Build a strong foundation and begin exploring college and career pathways

Freshmen learn about high school requirements and are encouraged to explore the CCC.

- Understand MCHS graduation requirements and how to read a transcript
- Learn about admission requirements for UC, CSU, private, and out-of-state colleges and universities
- Become familiar with SAT/ACT testing and the role of standardized tests
- Explore ways to build a strong academic and extracurricular foundation

TENTH GRADE

Goal: Explore interests, strengths, and future possibilities

Sophomores participate in a classroom lesson with College & Career Counselors focused on planning for junior year and making purposeful choices for the years ahead.

- Use Naviance for college and career exploration
- Identify personal strengths, interests, and potential career pathways
- Explore extracurricular activities, summer opportunities, and experiences that align with individual interests
- Prepare for junior-year course selection and understand how academic choices connect to future goals





ELEVENTH GRADE

Goal: Develop postsecondary options and create an individualized plan

All juniors participate in a College & Career Counselor-led lesson through their English classes, including a guided college search using Naviance.

- Research colleges and other post-secondary pathways
- Use Naviance to identify schools that align with academic profile, interests, and priorities
- Understand admissions requirements and the college application timeline
- Review standardized testing options and resources
- Identify and refine personal criteria for selecting colleges
- Begin building a resume and preparing for the application process
- Develop a plan to make productive use of the summer before senior year

TWELFTH GRADE

Goal: Put the postsecondary plan into action

Throughout senior year, counselors provide ongoing guidance and individualized support to help students successfully navigate the transition from Mira Costa to college, career, or other postsecondary opportunities.

- Understand application requirements and deadlines for UC, CSU, community colleges, private colleges, and other postsecondary options
- Navigate the college application and financial aid process
- Develop effective personal statements and college essays
- Use Naviance to manage application materials and request letters of recommendation
- Receive individualized support through one-on-one appointments with College & Career Counselors
- Complete applications with a clear understanding of deadlines, requirements and next steps
- College Visits, Workshops and Meetings



Makes It Possible

Support of MBEF funds dedicated College & Career Center Counselors, giving Mira Costa students personalized guidance as they prepare for life beyond high school. This investment ensures students have access to the expertise, resources, and individual support they need to confidently navigate college, career, and other post-secondary pathways.



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