

Admission To Claremont McKenna College

Criteria for Freshman Admission

Seeking to enroll an intellectually talented, dynamic, diverse and active freshman class of between 290 and 300 students every fall term, the CMC Admission Committee closely evaluates every facet of the application for admission, academic as well as non-academic. CMC, a highly selective college, has in recent years admitted approximately 18 percent of all applicants.

What We Look For

- **Secondary School Preparation**

The most important part of the application is the candidate's high school record. Committee members consider strength of school, courses taken, grades earned, rank in class (if available), and counselor and teacher recommendations in evaluating each student. Competitive candidates for admission pursue the most demanding course work possible, receive strong grades, and are highly regarded by their teachers and counselors.

The minimum requirements are:

- **English.** Four years.
- **Mathematics.** Three years, preferably four. Candidates should recognize that mathematical skill is as important for professionals in government and economics as it is in engineering and the physical sciences.
- **Foreign Language.** At least three years
- **History.** At least one year
- **Science.** At least two years required, three preferred. Science majors, including economics and engineering

and management-engineering majors should have had physics and chemistry.

The Admission Committee recognizes *Advanced Placement (AP)*, *International Baccalaureate (IB)*, and *honors courses* as more demanding than conventional courses, and gives appropriate consideration to those courses in the admission process.

- **Standardized Test Scores**

Students are welcome to submit either the SAT or the ACT test scores. Students must request the appropriate testing agency to submit official test scores directly to the College. Students who submit the ACT must also submit the *ACT Writing Test*. *SAT Subject Tests* are not required by Claremont McKenna College. See "Standardized Tests" below for further details.

- **Extracurricular Involvement**

The Admission Committee considers extracurricular involvement very carefully. As a small residential college, the Committee looks for students who are talented and active, both inside and outside the classroom. Evidence of leadership and initiative is particularly important.

- **Diversity**

The world into which CMC graduates will move is a diverse, complex community; to prepare our students to succeed in that world, CMC seeks an academically motivated and highly diverse student body. The College gives special consideration to candidates who have had disadvantaged backgrounds or unusual experiences, or who bring special talents to the campus community.

Freshman Admission Process

Application

Freshman applicants may begin to submit application materials any time after September 1 of the senior year. CMC is an exclusive user of *The Common Application For Undergraduate College Admission* for freshman candidates. Common applications are available in all high schools, as well as from the CMC Admission Office, or on line at www.commonapp.org or at CMC at www.claremontmckenna.edu. Freshman candidates must also submit Claremont McKenna's *Supplement to the Common Application* (see below).

Acceptance to CMC is, of course, contingent upon satisfactory completion of the final term of secondary school, or college (for transfer applicants).

Required Application Credentials for Freshmen

- **Common Application**

These forms should be completed and postmarked by the appropriate deadline. Forms are available on line.

- **Supplement to the Common Application**

A supplement to the Common Application is required. Supplements are available on line at www.commonapp.org. The Supplement requires responses to some specific questions and an analytical essay.

- **Personal Statement**

A personal statement, in the form of an essay, is required.

- **Three Academic References**

Confidential reports by school officials. The *School Report* should be completed by the high school guidance or college counselor.

The two *Teacher Evaluations* should be completed and submitted by instructors who have taught the candidate in academic courses (i.e., English, mathematics, science,

foreign language, or social science). Additional recommendations may be submitted.

- **Application Fee**

The *Common Application* should be accompanied by a \$60 non-refundable application fee. Students with unusual financial need should not let this fee discourage them from applying and should enclose a note with the application requesting a fee waiver.

- **Official High School and College Transcripts**

Candidates must submit an official high school transcript reflecting work completed through the junior year. When seventh semester or tenth trimester grades are available, another transcript should be submitted. Students who have completed college courses while in high school should also submit college transcripts.

- **Standardized Tests**

All applicants must submit either the SAT or the ACT test scores. Students who submit the ACT must also submit the *ACT Writing Test*. *SAT Subject Tests* are not required by Claremont McKenna College. ***Only official test reports from the appropriate testing agency will be accepted.***

The Admission Committee will use the best individual scores on the SAT or the best composite score on the ACT. CMC does not set a minimum score; in recent years, the middle range of the freshman class scored between 1300 and 1500 on the SAT. The middle range of the freshmen electing to take the ACT was between 29 and 33.

Other Freshman Admission Information

Personal Interview

Interviews are optional and are informational, not evaluative. Only students who have completed their junior year of high school will be granted an interview.

To schedule an interview, candidates must make appointments in advance by emailing or calling the Admission Office. Interviews are not available to freshman candidates after December 15 or to transfer candidates after April 1. Interviews with CMC alumni can be scheduled in many areas outside of southern California.

Tours and Information Sessions

Information sessions and student-guided tours are available throughout the year. No appointment is necessary.

Early Decision

If CMC is clearly a student's first choice, he or she may apply under one of CMC's two Early Decision options. The *Early Decision* option is a binding agreement – if accepted, the student is expected to withdraw all other applications and not to initiate any new ones. The advantage of applying *Early Decision* is that candidates learn of an admission decision early in the senior year, possibly reducing the additional effort and cost of applying to other colleges. The only difference between the *Early Decision I* (November 15) and *Early Decision II* (January 2) options is the deadline for submission of the application. Students who are not sure that CMC is their first choice should apply under the regular decision program.

Freshman candidates who apply under *Early Decision* may be admitted, deferred, or denied. Those who are admitted must understand that failure to comply with the *Early Decision* guidelines may result in rescission of the offer of admission. Candidates who are deferred are considered, without prejudice, with regular decision candidates later in the spring. These candidates are encouraged to submit applications elsewhere. Candidates who are denied are not reconsidered with the regular decision pool and should apply elsewhere; there is no appeal process for denial. There is no *Early Decision* program for transfer candidates.

McKenna Achievement Award Program

The McKenna Achievement Awards, annually renewable scholarships of \$10,000, are given to approximately 15 incoming freshmen each year. Recipients have provided evidence of academic excellence, strong extracurricular achievements, and leadership. For more information, see “Scholarships” in “Expenses, Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Other Financial Information.”

Frank Seaver Leadership Scholarship Program

The Frank Seaver Leadership Scholarship is a renewable full-tuition scholarship given to approximately four entering freshmen every year. This scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate exceptional promise to become leaders intent on making a positive impact on the world. For more information, see “Scholarships” in “Expenses, Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Other Financial Information.”

International Students

The admission procedure for students who are citizens of foreign countries is the same as that for other students. However, foreign students must submit evidence that they are sufficiently fluent in English to be able to handle all coursework without undue handicap. The *Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)* as well as the *SAT* or *ACT* is required for all foreign students. Students must request the appropriate testing agencies to send official test reports directly to CMC.

A limited amount of need-based financial aid is available for international students. Competition is very selective. To be considered, students must submit the *International Student Financial Aid Application* available from the College Board at <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

Home-Schooled Students

CMC welcomes applications from home-

schooled students. Because home-schooled students may have chosen a non-traditional path to obtain a high school education, the Admission Office works very closely with these applicants. Interviews with Admission Office staff members or with alumni in cities throughout the country or the world are highly recommended.

All home-schooled applicants are required to follow regular application procedures, including submission of the *Common Application* and the *Supplement*. To assist the Admission Office in understanding their educational journey, including the philosophical reasons for home-schooling and approaches to education, home-schooled students are also asked to submit the following documentation:

- A home school transcript organized by a parent, teacher, or educational agency, including course work information and/or an explanation of curricular approach.
- The SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT. Both must be taken with the writing section of the exam.
- Two SAT Subject Tests. The first exam must be in mathematics and the second should be in an academic discipline, such as English, foreign language, history, or science.
- Four letters of recommendation, including:
 - A counselor letter, preferably from an educational supervisor but it may be written by a parent.
 - Two teacher letters, preferably from people who taught an academic subject.
 - Extra-curricular letter from a non-family member familiar with social or extracurricular activities (peer, clergy, employer, coach, etc.).

All candidates who have taken academic coursework at a community college or another academic institution must ask the appropriate registrars to send official copies of all transcripts to the CMC Admission Office. Some of these courses may be used for one of the SAT subject tests. The

standard rules on transfer credit for college work completed by incoming freshmen may not apply to home-schooled students; CMC is likely to consider some of their college courses as substitutes for junior or senior high school courses.

Veterans

Candidates who are veterans of the armed services should submit a copy of their honorable separation papers with their credentials. Veterans who have served at least two years may be eligible for elective credit towards graduation. See “Transfer Credit” in “Academic Policies and Procedures.” Further information is available from the Admission Office or the registrar.

Deferred Admission

Freshman candidates accepted for admission who send a commitment deposit may delay entrance for one or two semesters. They must write the dean of admission to describe their plans and request the deferment.

Transfer Students

Transfer Admission

All students wishing to transfer from another college or university must submit transcripts of all college work, in addition to all other credentials required of freshman candidates, including high school transcripts and SAT or ACT scores. If the college transcript does not list courses in which the student is currently registered, that list must be submitted to facilitate credit evaluation. Preference is given to those who submit their credentials by April 1; notices of admission decisions are mailed by May 15.

Students who have not done well at the academic institution previously attended will not be considered and transfer applicants must provide an official statement confirming that they left their previous institution in good standing. All transfer students are expected to complete

two years of full-time study at CMC, and at least 16 courses must be taken and passed while attending the College. Advanced standing for more than two years is never granted regardless of the number of college courses completed prior to enrollment at CMC.

Mid-Year Admission

Although most transfer students enter CMC in September, a few are usually accepted for mid-year entrance (courses begin in mid-January). Full consideration can be guaranteed only to those whose credentials are complete by November 1; financial aid applications are also due by November 1; other applicable dates are listed below.

Transfer Application Form

Transfer students must use *The Common Application* for Transfer Admission. Transfer

application forms may be obtained from the *Common Application* website: www.commonapp.org.

Readmission

Students wishing to return to CMC *more than three years after they left the College* for any reason, including suspension, must submit a request for readmission to the Admission Office. These readmission requests will be considered along with requests for transfer admission. If readmitted, readmission candidates must satisfy the graduation requirements in effect when they reenter the College. Other requests for readmission must be submitted to the registrar for presentation to the Academic Standards Committee. For additional information, see “Academic Policies and Procedures” or the *Statement of Academic Policy*.

Important Dates for All Applicants

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| September 1 | CMC begins accepting applications for admission for next year’s Spring and Fall semesters (freshmen and transfers) |
| November 1 | Application and financial aid deadlines for Spring semester candidates (freshmen and transfers) |
| November 15 | Early Decision I application deadline |
| December 1 | Application deadline for McKenna Achievement Award candidates (freshmen only) Application deadline for Frank Seaver Leadership Scholarship (freshmen only) Financial Aid deadline for Early Decision I applicants |
| December 15 | Notification date for Spring semester applicants and Early Decision I applicants |
| January 2 | Early Decision II Application and Financial Aid deadline Regular Decision Application deadline (freshmen only) Candidates admitted for Spring semester reply date and due date for tuition deposit |
| February 1 | Financial Aid Application deadline for Regular Decision candidates (freshmen only) Candidates admitted Early Decision I reply date and due date for tuition deposit |
| February 15 | Notification date for Early Decision II candidates |

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| March 1 | Candidates admitted Early Decision II reply date and due date for tuition deposit Financial Aid Application deadline for Fall semester transfer candidates |
| March 2 | Cal Grant materials deadline for all California residents |
| April 1 | Application deadline for Fall semester transfer candidates Notification date for Regular Decision candidates (freshmen only) |
| May 1 | Candidates admitted Regular Decision reply date and due date for tuition deposit |
| May 15 | Notification date for Fall semester transfer candidates |
| June 1 | Transfer candidates admitted for Fall semester reply date and due date for tuition deposit |

Master of Finance

In 2008-2009, Claremont McKenna College will begin accepting applications for the Robert Day School Master of Finance Program, which will be offered for the first time in 2009-2010. Applications will be accepted and processed on a rolling basis. For details, please see “Special Programs” and the website at www.cmc.edu/rdschool.

College Credit and Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams

CMC encourages students to take challenging academic courses in high school, including Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, and to take the appropriate exams. The maximum amount of credit students may receive for AP and/or IB exams is the equivalent of **four CMC courses**. For details on CMC’s policies on credit and/or placement for AP and IB exams, see “Transfer Credit” in “Academic Policies and Procedures.”

Other College Credit

• Freshmen

Students entering CMC as freshmen may receive transfer credit for a maximum of **four CMC courses** for college coursework

completed prior to their enrollment at CMC. Such credit may be granted *in addition to any college credit for AP or IB examinations* (see above).

To be eligible for transfer credit, all college courses must be part of the standard college curriculum. College courses taken to satisfy high school graduation requirements cannot be used for college credit at CMC. Students in dual enrollment programs (high school-college) or home-schooled students who are taking college courses prior to their enrollment at CMC should contact the Admission Office to discuss transfer credit questions. See “Transfer Credit” in “Academic Policies and Procedures” for further information.

Students entering CMC as freshmen may not complete more than four general education requirements off-campus before entering CMC or while enrolled at CMC (in summer school, through Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate, study abroad, etc.).

• Transfer Students

There is no limit to the number of college courses transfer students may take before enrolling at CMC, but only the equivalent of 16 CMC course credits, including credit for AP and IB exams, will be accepted toward graduation. No transfer credit will be granted for courses challenged by examination at other

institutions, or for special courses or exams for which other academic institutions may have granted credit, including CLEP, etc.

New transfer students must provide the registrar with official final transcripts from all previously attended institutions. Course descriptions, syllabi, translations, and other documentation may be required before the college work can be evaluated for credit.

A transfer entrant may be given credit for any course completed with a grade of “C” (2.00 if A=4; 6.00 if A=12 grade points) or better at another accredited college or university, if the course is comparable to courses offered at The Claremont Colleges during the academic year. For transfer credit calculation purposes, a course credit at CMC is considered the equivalent of four semester units or six quarter units. For further information on transfer credit policies, see “Academic Policies and Procedures.”

Transfer students who, after enrolling at CMC, wish to bring in additional summer school credits must consult with the registrar to determine if they are eligible for additional transfer or general education credits.

Students seeking to transfer from *unaccredited institutions* may petition for credit after completion of at least one semester of full-time academic work at CMC with a grade point average of “B” (9.00) or better. Department chairs also may require that these students take any appropriate substantiating examinations.

Upon Acceptance

Tuition Deposit

A tuition deposit of \$500 is required of all accepted applicants at the time they notify CMC that they plan to enter. Confirmation of final admission is contingent upon receipt of this deposit. The deposit will be credited directly to the student’s account and is not refundable if the student withdraws from the entering class before registration.

Receipt of this deposit and the student’s signature constitutes a decision to attend CMC; therefore, students must withdraw applications from all other colleges to which they have been admitted. Should CMC learn that a student has made a commitment to attend more than one college, CMC’s offer of admission may be rescinded.

Final Transcript

An official transcript showing final grades and a notation of graduation (freshmen only) must be sent to CMC upon completion of the last term. Freshmen with missing high school transcripts and transfer students with missing final college transcripts will not be allowed to participate in pre-registration for the following semester.

Both freshmen and transfer candidates who are admitted are expected to continue to excel in their program prior to enrollment at CMC. Failure to complete courses in progress at a satisfactory level may result in rescission of admission. If a student is in danger of failing to complete senior-year work at a satisfactory level, they must consult the Admission Office prior to the receipt of their final transcript.

Security Deposit

In addition to the \$500 tuition deposit, a security deposit of \$190 is required of all accepted applicants at the time they return the housing letter. The deposit is retained until after the student’s graduation or withdrawal, when it is refunded after any proper charges have been deducted.

Medical Examination

The *medical certificate*, required of all students prior to entrance, must include a physical examination, tuberculin test, chest X-ray of anyone with a positive tuberculin test within the past six months, and active immunization against tetanus.