



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What paper work do I need to submit to be considered for Project College?

You need to complete the application. There are a couple of different sections – one for you to complete and one for your parents/guardians to complete. We also need you to submit copies of your most recent IEP and/or ITP (if you have one) and a current IPP from regional center (if you are a regional center client). If you are accepted, you will receive a packet of various forms that you will need to submit at that time. Incomplete packets may not be considered so make sure all information is included.

2. Where will I “live” during my week at Project College?

You will share a dorm room on campus with other participants. You will have your own room, but will share a bathroom and common area.

3. Can I pick my roommate?

If you are coming with a friend and you feel that you really need to be with them, then yes, that can be accommodated. However, we do encourage you to meet new people and we take that into consideration when we are assigning rooms.

4. Where/what will we eat?

Your tuition fee includes your meals, which you will purchase and eat in the cafeteria on campus. You will be able to choose from a wide variety of meals. Just be sure you let us know if you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions. You will receive a meal card and will be required to budget your purchases to stay within the amount provided. Feel free to bring snacks for your room.

5. Do I need to bring my linens like sheets and towels?

No. The university provides those items. You will receive clean linens periodically through the week as well.

6. What personal items do I need to bring?

You will need all of your personal care items such as shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, blow dryer, etc. If you forget something, there is a store on campus that may have what you need.

7. **Can I bring my cell phone, laptop, tablet, and other electronic devices?**
Yes, you can bring your phone, but you will not be able to use it during class time. You will be able to use it after classes. You can bring other electronic devices (e.g. laptops, iPads) to use only for note taking during class. Using your electronic devices recreationally during class is not allowed. Use of earbuds/headphones as a classroom accommodation must be preapproved at the time of admission.
8. **Will I have any free time?**
While the evenings are typically non-classroom time, we do have a variety of fun activities planned that you are encouraged to attend. Some of those activities include a movie night, going to the beach, going out for dinner, etc.
9. **What kind of classes will I be attending?**
Project College is in its seventh year and using feedback from past students, we have developed a curriculum that gives you a good idea what it will be like when you go to college. We talk about time management, accessing campus resources, note taking and studying skills, self-advocacy, socialization, maintaining a healthy lifestyle away from home, etc.
10. **Who teaches the classes?**
Instructors are carefully selected by the Project College committee. Several of the instructors are employed by the university (USD) and speak about their areas of expertise. Other instructors are professionals from the community that are experts in their fields.
11. **What are the qualifications of the staff providing supervision during the day and overnight?**
The daytime staff consists mostly of Project College committee members and the instructors. There are at least 2 Project College staff at USD at all times. The evenings and nights consist of two overnight staff that are trained in CPR and First Aid and must pass a criminal background check. The evening staff function as "resident advisors", similar to an actual college experience, but they will also lead the evening activities and ensure your safety. Additionally, a couple of the activities are sponsored by USD's student services so you will be spending time with USD students/employees. USD is a safe and secure campus.

12. Is someone with me all the time?

Project College will have staff on campus at all times. You are responsible for letting them know if you are going somewhere alone, like back to your room, or to one of the stores on campus. We would prefer that you use the buddy system since it is a rather large campus. We do ask that you do not leave campus at any time. Leaving the campus unattended or without permission will result in you being sent home.

13. Is there a dress code?

You should wear what you would wear to school - shorts, jeans, tasteful t-shirts, etc. Evenings can be chilly so a light jacket or sweatshirt is recommended. Keep in mind - you will not be doing laundry so bring enough clothes to last the week.

14. Do I need to bring spending money?

You can bring a small amount of money to spend at the bookstore or snack bar. You might want to purchase a t-shirt or memento from the university. However, since all meals are provided, you won't need any money for meals.

15. What happens if I want to go home early?

Project College staff understand that at times a week away from home can be overwhelming. We will do our best to make you happy and comfortable. If you do feel that you want to leave, we will assist you in contacting your family or guardians to arrange for transportation home. We cannot refund any of your tuition.

16. Are there rules for the week?

In order to ensure a safe and rewarding experience for all students, the following rules are enforced throughout the week:

- a) All students must participate in the classes and evening activities. Only free time activities are optional.
- b) Disruptive and/or aggressive behavior toward staff, instructors, or fellow students is not allowed. Bullying WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
- c) No alcohol or drug use is permitted.
- d) No weapons are allowed.
- e) Students are not permitted to leave campus unattended or without permission.

Violation of these rules will result in students being sent home. Additionally, failure to comply with your medication schedule as described by your family/parent could result in being released to go home before the end of the week.