

# ADMISSION TO CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

## Criteria for Freshman Admission

Seeking to enroll an intellectually talented, dynamic, diverse and active freshman class of between 250 and 270 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 30 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 recommended, three preferred. Management-engineering and science 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*

Test scores from the SAT I or the ACT are required for admission; submission of SAT II test results is recommended but not required. The Admission Committee will use the best individual scores on the SAT I 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 1280 and 1480 on the SAT I.

#### • *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.

## The 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 freshman candidates, and does not have its own application form for freshmen. Common Applications are available in all high schools, as well as from the CMC Admission Office, or on line at: [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) or at CMC at: [www.claremontmckenna.edu](http://www.claremontmckenna.edu).

Candidates should submit the *Pre-Application Supplement* as soon as they are sure of their interest in CMC; they may submit the *Common Application* and the other credentials later. Every candidate must ensure that all necessary application materials are received on time.

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 Freshman

### • *Common Application Form*

This form should be accompanied by a \$50 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.

### • *Three Academic References.*

These are 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 by instructors who have taught the candidate in academic courses (i.e., English, mathematics, science, foreign language, or social science).

### • *Personal Statement*

A personal statement is required.

### • *Pre-Application Supplement*

A pre-application supplement to the Common Application is required. Supplements will be sent to all applicants and are also available from the CMC Admission Office, or on line at: [www.claremontmckenna.edu](http://www.claremontmckenna.edu). The supplement requires responses to some specific questions, an analytical essay, and two passport-size photographs of the applicant. The photographs are not used for selection purposes, but to help members of the Admission Committee remember applicants with whom they have met, and to personalize the admission process.

The photographs are later used in the *Guide to Student Life*.

### • *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 take the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I), or the American College Test (ACT). In addition, candidates are encouraged (but not required unless they are home-schooled candidates), to take three SAT II: Subject Tests. Candidates must ask the appropriate testing agency to report their test scores to CMC. Test scores that are reported on an official high school transcript are considered official scores by the Admission Committee.

## Other Admission Information

### • *Personal Interview*

Interviews are optional and are informational, not evaluative. Only students who have completed their junior year of high school may interview. To schedule an interview, candidates must make appointments in advance by writing or calling the Admission Office. Interviews are not available to freshman candidates after January 1 or to transfer candidates after April 1. Alumni interviews can be scheduled in some areas outside of Southern California.

### • *Tours and Information Sessions*

Information sessions and student-guided tours are available throughout the year.

## Early Decision for Freshman Candidates

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 initiate no new ones. The only difference between the *Early Decision I* and *Early Decision II* options is the deadline for submission of the application. Students who aren't sure that CMC is their first choice should apply under the Regular Decision program. The advantage of applying Early Decision is that candidates may learn of an admission decision early in the senior year, possibly reducing the additional effort and cost of applying to other colleges.

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 \$5,000, are given to approximately 30 incoming freshmen each year. Recipients demonstrate academic excellence, strong extracurricular achievements and leadership. For more information, see "Scholarships."

### **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 I are required for all foreign students.**

Foreign students must also provide evidence that they can carry the expenses of an education at CMC.

### **Home-Schooled Students**

CMC welcomes applications from home-schooled students. Because those students follow no standard curriculum, CMC expects all home-schooled applicants to provide the following with the application:

- At least three SAT II: Subject Tests, including writing, mathematics, and a subject of the applicant's choice
- A general syllabus for all course work completed
- At least one recommendation from a non-family member
- A statement explaining why they, or their family, chose homeschooling, and what they consider its advantages and disadvantages
- Applicants should demonstrate active participation in extracurricular activities, especially those which demonstrate social interaction with peers
- All candidates who have taken academic course work at a community college or other university, must ask the (college) registrar to send official copies of all transcripts to the CMC Admission Office
- Interviews with Admission Office staff members are highly recommended

Additionally, the standard rules on transfer credit for college work completed by 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.

## Criteria for Transfer Admission and Readmission

### Transfer Admission

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 I or ACT. 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. Advanced standing for more than two years is never granted; students are expected to complete two of their college years at CMC, and at least 16 courses must be taken and passed while attending the College. Applicants must provide an official statement confirming that they left their previous institution in good standing.

### 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. Students interested in mid-year admission who need financial aid should apply by November 1; other applicable dates are listed below.

### Transfer Application Form

Transfer students must use CMC's *Application For Transfer Admission*. Transfer application forms may be obtained from the CMC Admission Office, or on line at [www.claremontmckenna.edu](http://www.claremontmckenna.edu). CMC will not accept the Common Application from transfer candidates.

### 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."

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## Important Dates for All Applicants

- 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 (freshmen only; CSS Profile due by November 1)

<b>December 15</b>	Notification date for Spring semester applicants and Early Decision I applicants
<b>December 20</b>	Application deadline for McKenna Achievement Award candidates (freshmen only)
<b>January 2</b>	Early Decision II Application and Financial Aid deadline (freshmen only; CSS Profile due by December 1) Regular Decision Application deadline (freshmen only) Candidates admitted for Spring semester reply date and due date for tuition deposit
<b>February 1</b>	Financial Aid Application deadline for Regular Decision candidates (freshmen only) Candidates admitted Early Decision I reply date and due date for tuition deposit
<b>February 15</b>	Notification date for Early Decision II candidates
<b>March 1</b>	Candidates admitted Early Decision II reply date and due date for tuition deposit Financial Aid Application deadline for Fall semester transfer candidates
<b>March 2</b>	Cal Grant materials deadline for all California residents
<b>April 1</b>	Application deadline for Fall semester transfer candidates Notification date for Regular Decision candidates (freshmen only)
<b>May 1</b>	Candidates admitted Regular Decision reply date and due date for tuition deposit
<b>May 15</b>	Notification date for Fall semester transfer candidates
<b>June 1</b>	Transfer candidates admitted for Fall semester reply date and due date for tuition deposit

## 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 and International Baccalaureate courses, and to complete all exams. CMC usually grants credit and/or placement for high scores on AP and IB exams. The maximum amount of credit toward graduation students may receive for AP and/or IB exams is the

equivalent of four CMC courses. For further information, see "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. College courses taken to satisfy high school graduation requirements cannot be used for college credit at CMC.

To be eligible for transfer credit, all college

courses must be part of the standard college curriculum. Students in dual enrollment programs (high school-college) or home-schooled students taking college courses prior to CMC entry should contact the Admission Office to discuss transfer credit questions.

Students entering 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 a total 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 Office of 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, 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 in 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 *unaccred-*

*ited institutions* may petition for credit, but only after the 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 spring 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.

### Security Deposit

A security deposit of \$190 is required of all accepted applicants at the time they return the housing letter, but no later than July 1.

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.

