

The Admissions Playbook

California Institute of Technology

Head Coach

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High School Course Requirements

- 4 years of math (including at least one year of calculus, completed prior to application)
- 1 year of physics
- 1 year of chemistry
- 3 years of English (4 recommended)
- 1 year of U.S. history/government

Testing Requirements

- Caltech has transitioned to test blind. The SAT and ACT will not be factored into the Admissions decision. Even if you report the scores, Admissions and Faculty Readers will not see submitted scores during the review process.
- This change places a *greater emphasis* on your classwork and extracurricular activities. It is extremely important that you are taking the *toughest math and science classes* your school offers early on in your academic career and that you are excelling in those classes.
- Focus on excelling in those rigorous classes, writing your essays/supplements with a passion for STEM, be engaged in STEM-related activities (research, internships, published articles, etc), and have glowing recommendation letters from teachers, research supervisors, etc.

Caltech Admissions Timeline

Restrictive Early Action

Visit Campus: September-December

November 1 (postmark/electronic submission)

deadline for application and all supporting materials

Mid-December

notification of admission decision

February 1 (postmark)

midyear school report deadline

May 1 (postmark)

admitted students reply deadline

Regular Decision

Visit Campus: September-March

January 3 (postmark/electronic submission)

deadline for application and all supporting materials

February (postmark)

midyear school report deadline

Mid-March

notification of admission decision

May 1 (postmark)

admitted students reply deadline

STEM Activities Guide

How can I stand out in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) field?

- Research
- Informal Research
- Clubs
- Internships
- Projects
- Experiments
- Passion for STEM!

Examples of Interests/Activities

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Starting a Rocketry Club | Participating in Summer Research | Engineering Summer Camps |
| Coaching a Lego MindStorms team | Performing Chemistry demonstrations for youth | Writing a science column for school newspaper |
| Science Bowl | Took Calc III at the Community College | Robotics Club |
| IB Extended Essay | Learning programming code | Detailing Physics class project |
| Exhausted all High School Science Courses | Science Honor Society | Math Competitions |
| Independent Tutoring | Physics Olympiad | Volunteering with Hospital |
| Setting the Chemistry lab up for next day's experiments | Personal Engineering Projects | Supplementing class with articles read outside class |
| Summer Internships | Following a blog, listening to podcasts, or attending a lecture | Subscribing to Magazines or Journals |

*these are sample activities that set you apart from the rest of the great applicants. Show your passion for STEM!

Recommendation Letters

- 1 Math or Science Teacher **AND** 1 Humanities or Social Science Teacher
- Carefully select a person that can speak on your behalf, share detailed information of your experiences, and express your passion and commitment to STEM
- The written letter should express your talents, interests/hobbies, character, leadership and anything extra that they view you go above and beyond on.
- It is encouraged to submit 1 letter of evaluation from a **mentor** and/or **supervisor** who knows you from a different context or through areas of interest (especially in research, if any).

Tips for Essay

- Do not avoid the question. Be thoughtful, detailed and genuine. Essays are read in their entirety!
- If possible, personalize your response
 - Tell your story and how it can relate to the question.
 - Let the reader hear your voice. Be enthusiastic about STEM, your goals and your stories
- Caltech creates a unique environment for an individual. Help guide the reader as to how this excites you.
 - Talk about a specific program/part of Caltech if it is something that directly relates to your story.
- Show the desire to share, interact, and evolve in the top scientific community. Collaboration and Teamwork!
- Allow the reader to understand what makes you unique.
- Showcase what qualities **you bring** to Caltech, the campus and the local and global communities.
 - Reiterate how you will make a positive and immediate impact on the community
- Share and create connections between your previous experiences and what you expect to achieve at Caltech.
- We do not have admissions interviews, so this is your chance to showcase your depth, purpose and “brag” about yourself. Be proud!

Helpful Links

Admissions Deadlines -

<https://www.admissions.caltech.edu/apply/first-year-applicants/deadlines>

Preparation -

<https://www.admissions.caltech.edu/apply/preparing-for-caltech/academic-preparation>

Requirements -

<https://www.admissions.caltech.edu/apply/first-year-applicants/application-requirements>

Ideal Candidate -

<https://www.admissions.caltech.edu/apply/what-we-look-for>

Financial Aid-

<https://www.finaid.caltech.edu/>

Visiting Caltech -

<https://www.caltech.edu/about/visit/plan-your-visit>

Caltech Athletics -

<https://gocaltech.com/>

Caltech Women's Tennis Twitter

@caltechwten

Caltech Women's Tennis Instagram

@caltechwten