MINDS MATTER
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Application Instructions and Checklist

The student application and all supporting recommendations, forms, and documents must be submitted online by either the priority deadline of May 8th, 2023, or the final deadline of May 29th, 2023.

When you open the application, we are the Southern California chapter of Minds Matter. After choosing the chapter, you will then choose the site you want to apply to - Los Angeles or Orange County.

You will be asked during the online application process to provide names and email addresses for nominated recommenders and your parents or guardians. An email is sent from Minds Matter to counselors, teachers, and parents or guardians when you submit your application.

✔ **One Academic Recommendation**
Counselor, academic teacher, or school administrator. Someone who knows you well and can talk about your academics, passion for learning, etc. This person will also be asked to upload your high school transcript.

✔ **One Additional Adult Recommendation (Optional)**
An adult recommendation may include a teacher, principal, YMCA coordinator, coach, pastor, etc., as long as they are not related to you. This could be someone who knows you and can talk to your strengths and assets.

✔ **Parent/Guardian Form** Parents/Guardian will also upload taxes/proof of income.

As part of the overall application, the following are needed:

✔ **High School Transcript**
The required letter of recommendation must be from a current academic reference (teacher, counselor, school administrator, etc). This person will need access to your transcript to upload but be sure it is someone who knows your academic strengths and can talk to them in the recommendation letter. You will be asked to provide the academic recommender's email address in the online application. Once you complete and submit your application form, an email will be sent from Minds Matter to the recommender you have chosen. They will complete their recommendation and upload your transcript.

✔ **Most Recent Federal Tax Return**
(IRS Form 1040 including W2 form and all Schedules), and/or proof of government assistance. You will give one of your parents'/guardians' email in the application for them to complete the parent/guardian form. As part of this form, your parent/guardian will also need to upload their most recent Federal Tax Return or other proof of income or assistance.

There are two deadlines, a priority deadline of May 8th, 2023 and a final deadline of May 29th, 2023. All application materials, including recommendations and supporting documents must be submitted online by the final deadline. Applicants who apply by May 8th will be given priority consideration, but ALL applications will be evaluated and considered.

Important Program Information for Admitted Students

Minds Matter Sessions

Minds Matter SoCal sessions are on **Saturdays from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm**, during the school year between September and May. The Los Angeles site meets at USC Hybrid High School and the Orange County site meets at Legacy College Prep in Santa Ana.

Weekday Time Commitments

Minds Matter is a rigorous program, and **students are required to do homework**. The typical student spends approximately 4 to 5 hours a week on Minds Matter (essay writing, test preparation revision, assignments, etc.).

More Information

If you have any questions or need more information, please email us at student@mindsmattersocal.org.