



Prospective Parents: Frequently Asked Questions

What is Minds Matter of Southern California (MMSoCal)?

Minds Matter Southern California (MMSoCal) is a volunteer-driven non-profit organization preparing driven and determined low-income high school students for college and life success. Students must have a 3.0 or above GPA to apply.

What does the program entail?

Our multi-year program supports students beginning in their sophomore year. Students receive math and writing support, test preparation, mentorship, social and emotional learning, leadership development, and access to summer programs at leading universities across the country. Support continues through and beyond college with alumni events, internships, college success assistance, our alumni system, and, of course, the broad Minds Matter community.

What is the cost of the Minds Matter program?

There is no cost to families for the Minds Matter program. Minds Matter covers the costs of books and materials, summer programs, travel to and from summer programs, application fees, and other costs. Students are required to complete financial aid applications for the summer programs, but Minds Matter covers any remaining costs.

What's the weekly commitment?

Students are required to attend sessions from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm every Saturday from September to May and participate in two summer college programs after their sophomore and junior years. Homework is assigned for various activities, and students are expected to complete it on time. There are also a few off-site activities during the year.



Where are Minds Matter Saturday sessions held?

Sessions are held in Los Angeles at USC Hybrid High School ([3939 S Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90037](#)). Each student is responsible for arranging transportation to and from the Saturday sessions, but Minds Matter can help if you are having issues. The location is well served by [public transportation](#) with Metro busses and the E-Line rail.

Health and COVID-19 policies

We are returned to in-person sessions. Please note we do require all students and volunteers to be fully vaccinated. Wearing masks is optional. We will reassess these policies on an ongoing basis.

Who are the Volunteers?

Our volunteers (mentors, instructors, tutors, program heads, team leads, etc) are racially and economically diverse, and all are college-educated professionals. All volunteers must pass a thorough background check and complete youth protection training. Student safety is our top priority.

Am I required to be present at the program?

There are generally two required Saturday events for parents/guardians, one of which is the orientation (generally in the fall), and the second is a summer program overview (generally in the spring). Other than the two required events, Minds Matter hosts several optional events for families, including our annual picnic, Winter Holiday celebration, and others.

Would you please explain more about the summer programs?

Students participate in two summer academic programs at leading universities after their Sophomore and Junior years. Summer programs allow students an unparalleled opportunity to experience college life during high school. Summer programs generally last between 2 and 6 weeks. The application processes for



summer programs are excellent practice for the college and financial aid application processes.

Do we have to provide income information every year?

Yes, income information is necessary for financial aid, summer programs, and college applications.

Is immigration status a factor?

Immigration status is **not** a factor in admission to our program.

How does my child apply?

Students apply to the Minds Matter program during the spring semester in their Freshman year for enrollment the following Fall.

You can apply here: <https://mindsmattersocal.org/students/apply/>

Can siblings apply?

Yes, siblings are eligible to apply. The application process is the same as for any new applicant.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, reach out to student@mindsmattersocal.org.

Please follow us on our social media channels and check our website for more information:

Facebook: /MindsMatterSoCal

Website: www.mindsmattersocal.org

Instagram: @mindsmattersocal