



Prospective Parents: Frequently Asked Questions

What is Minds Matter of Southern California (MMSoCal)?

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 9:00am to 2:30pm 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?

For our Los Angeles location, sessions are held at Salesian High School in Boyle Heights. For our Orange County location, sessions are held at Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Orange County. Each student is responsible to arrange transportation to and from the Saturday sessions but Minds Matter can help if you are having issues.



How are sessions held during COVID-19?

We have been hosting sessions in a hybrid mode in LA. 2 classes of students (Sophomore, Junior or Senior) meet in person each Saturday on a rotating schedule with the 3rd class doing their session virtually. For the OC location, all sessions are now back fully in person. We are anticipating being fully in person with all 3 classes in the fall 2022.

Please note we do require all students and volunteers to be fully vaccinated. Currently we are still wearing masks while we are indoors through the end of this school year. We will reassess for the fall.

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 2 required events, Minds Matter hosts several optional events for families, including our annual picnic, Winter Holiday celebration and others.

Can you explain a bit 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://mindsmatterla.org/students/apply/>

Can siblings apply?

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

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

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

Facebook: /mindsmatteroflosangeles **Website:** www.mindsmatterla.org

Instagram: @mindsmatterla