

Q&A WITH SUA

Send in your questions, and we'll share the answers!

Question:

I plan on applying to SUA for admission into the second entering class in 2002. Can you please tell me what standards you will use to evaluate my application? Will you use only grades and test scores?

Answer:

SUA's application review standards are very similar to those used by small, prestigious liberal arts universities in the U.S. Although most successful SUA applicants will have strong academic records, good grades and test scores are not enough by themselves for an applicant to be accepted. In addition to a thorough examination of an applicant's transcripts and SAT/ACT test scores, we also carefully consider the quality of their high school, the difficulty of their chosen courses and academic program, their recommendations, their personal statement or essay, and extracurricular activities that demonstrate active leadership and community interest. In short, we are looking for students who demonstrate the real potential to live the mission of SUA in their lives after graduation. An applicant should be strong in academic areas and also in the more personal area as well — a well-rounded person.

Question:

I know it costs money to attend a private university. My family is not wealthy but I would like to attend SUA. Can I receive financial aid? What kinds of aid does SUA offer? How will my need be evaluated?

Answer:

Even though the annual cost to attend SUA in 2002 will be \$24,500 for both tuition and room and board, this cost is slightly below the annual cost for similar private liberal arts universities in California. However, this is still a significant cost. You might be surprised to know that SUA offers financial aid to both domestic and international students, using the same criteria and formulas for all. Using financial documents, including annual tax reports, provided by the student and his or her parents or guardians, SUA's financial aid counselors apply the same federal formulas that all U.S. colleges use to determine the amount that each family should be expected to pay directly. If you subtract that family contribution from the total SUA cost, the remainder is called your demonstrated need. SUA guarantees that it will meet every accepted student's demonstrated need through a combination of deferred student loans and grants. SUA has determined that the maximum student loan we will assign to a student is \$7,500 per year and the remainder of the need will be met through an SUA grant. For example, if a student's family contribution is determined by the federal formula to be \$7,000 for 2002, the remainder of the total cost would be \$17,500, which SUA would provide to the student through a \$7,500 deferred student loan and a \$10,000 grant.

SUA's student loans follow the same guidelines used by the federal deferred student loan

program. Student loans do not begin to accumulate interest until 6 months after you either graduate or leave SUA, the same time that loan repayment commences. The interest on the loan is currently 5.99 percent and you can elect a repayment schedule of either 10 or 30 years. Of course, you can repay your loan at any time.

If you have questions of any kind about SUA, please send them to SUA at either admission@soka.edu or info@soka.edu. We will use this World Tribune column to share our answers with others who might have the same questions.