



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

THE HONORS COLLEGE

Early Entrance Program

October 2015

Dear Students and Parents:

CONGRATULATIONS! You have been chosen to participate in the **31st biannual SEAA Talent Search (Search for Exceptional Academic Achievement) at California State University, Los Angeles on Sunday, December 6, 2015.** It is an honor to be nominated, and your participation in the Talent Search could have many benefits for you.

Who should participate in SEAA? The SEAA is for students between the ages of 11 and 15 who have been identified as gifted (scoring in the top 10% of their class on standardized exams and/or showing extraordinary verbal or mathematical skills or otherwise identified as gifted). Usually, students are referred by GATE coordinators or teachers for this distinction.

What is the SEAA? Since 1982, the SEAA Talent Search has helped thousands of young gifted students identify and realize their extraordinary academic talents. The Talent Search provides students an opportunity to take the ACT, a multiple-choice exam intended for college-bound high school students. The SEAA covers English, Math, Reading and Science. Students should be aware that this is a difficult, timed test, and some questions are intended to be beyond the scope of most test-takers. For example, the mathematics section includes questions on pre-algebra, algebra, geometry and a couple of trigonometry questions. It is not expected that any test-taker will know all the answers.

Why should I participate in SEAA?

Experience. You will likely be taking many of these SAT-type tests in the years to come. It can be challenging to encounter a difficult exam for the first time as a college-bound high-school senior. It may be a good idea to practice before you take an SAT or PSAT that is part of your permanent record. Also, having the opportunity to gain such testing experience in a supportive environment of like-minded, same age peers may enhance the student's overall experience.

Accurate measurement. Many bright students "top out" on regular achievement tests. When every section score is in the top 10%, it is hard to decipher areas of relative strength and weakness. A difficult exam like the ACT (or SAT) provides a better idea of achievement levels in a variety of specific areas. The information gleaned from this test will help parents and educators plan an optimal educational program for you.

Special Opportunities. Each year some students who take tests like these qualify for prestigious programs at Cal State LA., such as the **Early Entrance Program (EEP)**, and may also be eligible to take Honors Academy workshop classes taught by university faculty during the summer.

How do I sign up? To participate in the **SEAA Talent Search** testing please visit: <http://web.calstatela.edu/univ/uas/>, on the left side of the page select "Events Pay Now," complete the payment form and select the SEAA Talent Search in the drop down menu.

For more information, please visit the website at <http://www.calstatela.edu/eep/about-seaa>, or you may call (323) 343-2287 or send an email to eepstaff@calstatela.edu.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Maddox, Ed. D

Director Early Entrance Program

More Info on reverse

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The California State University: Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Chico, Dominguez Hills, East Bay, Fresno, Fullerton, Humboldt, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Maritime Academy, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, San Marcos, Sonoma, Stanislaus

SEARCH FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Being Selected: Participation in the SEAA Talent Search is entirely voluntary and quite an honor. Students are invited to participate because it is expected that they will do better than most people their age and that the test results will be of value to them. Invited students should feel very proud that their high achievement has made them candidates for the SEAA Talent Search and for possible admission to the Early Entrance Program at Cal State L.A.

Early Entrance Program (EEP): The Early Entrance Program at Cal State L.A. is a unique nationally-acclaimed model for accelerated education. It enables a select number of extraordinarily talented and responsible young people, ages 11-15, and the opportunity to bypass high school in order to be matriculated as full-time university students in structured and supportive program in the Honors College. Students must be no older than 15 by June 1st of the year that they will be applying to the EEP. While we encourage all students interested in EEP to participate in the SEAA testing sponsored by the EEP on campus at Cal State L.A., students may take either the SAT or ACT elsewhere to be considered for this program. Students must send or release ACT scores (SAT scores also accepted) to Dr. Richard S. Maddox, Director of the Early Entrance Program, by the stated deadline to be considered. SEAA participants may qualify to enroll in the Honors Academy workshop classes this summer without applying for fulltime EEP admission.

SEAA Preparation and Strategy: The ACT website has preparation help online to familiarize students with the test, including free test questions, test tips and test descriptions as well as a test booklet. Students registered for the SEAA will be sent a notification via email that includes their test class location, a campus map, and parking information. **It is critical to include a working email address on your SEAA application** and for the email address eeptstaff@cslanet.calstatela.edu to be allowed access through your Spam filters.

Test Day Parking and Logistics: Arrive on campus between 11:45-12:15. Parking will be available in LOT C; EEP students wearing yellow jackets will distribute parking passes at the entrance to the parking lot. Follow signs to King Hall. There is a simple check-in process in the lobby with helpful staff members; student testers will proceed directly upstairs to their classroom after check-in. Testing begins at **12:30** and ends at approximately 4:15. Students should bring a number two pencil and a copy of the e-mail confirmation with room assignment received prior to the test date, and a light snack for break.

While students are testing, parents will congregate in a nearby lecture hall for a brief information session where the directors of both the EEP and the Honors College along with several Parents of EEP (PEEP) will be on-hand to discuss the opportunities available at Cal State L.A. for high achieving students. The EEP director, students and parents will host a brief orientation/Q&A session at the Talent Search. In response to past requests, the parents of current students will be willing to address the many questions/concerns that SEAA parents may have regarding the process of educating your gifted child.

Confidentiality: Test results are completely confidential. Only students will have the ability to release their test scores to any talent or educational institution.

If You Qualify: Students who score in the top 25% of the ACT, with minimum scores of 22 on the verbal and 23 in the math section (or who alternatively achieve a minimum score of 500 on verbal and 550 on math sections of the SAT), and who meet all other admission requirements, may be eligible to be admitted as provisional EEP students should they choose to apply to the Early Entrance Program. Students who meet these qualifications but decide not to apply to the Early Entrance Program may still be eligible to enroll in the Honors Academy, which may offer selected summer workshops at Cal State L.A. The EEP office will provide further information upon request. You may also contact the College of Professional and Global Education at (323) 343-4900.