

# Besant Hill School (Ojai, California)

Guaranteed Success: Save 2 Years & Tuition to Top US Universities

*Your Smart Pathway via a Top 100 Boarding High School*



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Year Founded	1946
Number of Students	Up to 100
Accepting Grades	9-12, Post Graduate
Average Class Size	8
Campus Size	520 Acres
Student to Faculty Ratio	4:1
Faculty with Advanced Degrees	80%
Number of AP & Honors Classes	15
Number of Extracurricular Clubs	12
Foreign Languages Offered	French, Spanish
Average Number of Countries Represented	20+
% of International Students	35%
Number of Colleges Visiting Annually	50+
University Placement	100%



Founded in 1946, Besant Hill School is a small, elite boarding high school in California, offering students a nurturing environment where they can flourish and feel free to be themselves.

Located in the resort town of Ojai, just 1.5 hours north of Los Angeles, Besant Hill sits on a beautiful 520-acre campus just 15 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. Students study in a serene and calming environment, while still having easy access to some of the best educational, professional and recreational resources on the west coast.



Ranking on Niche.com

**#9**

Best Boarding High Schools  
in California

**#64**

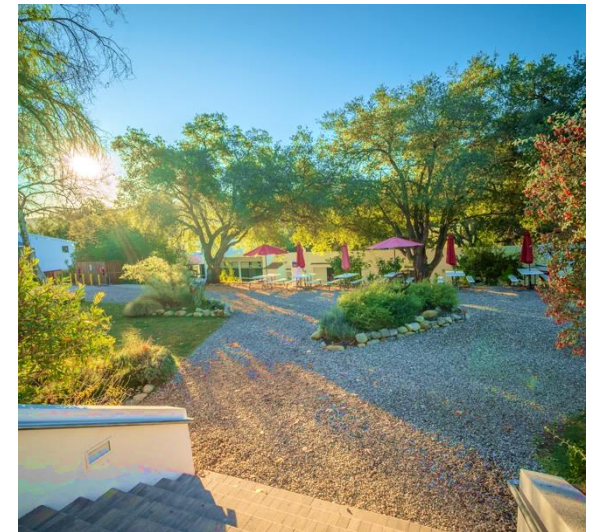
out of 441  
Best Boarding High Schools  
in America

**#203**

out of 4,917  
Best Private High Schools  
in America



# School Campus

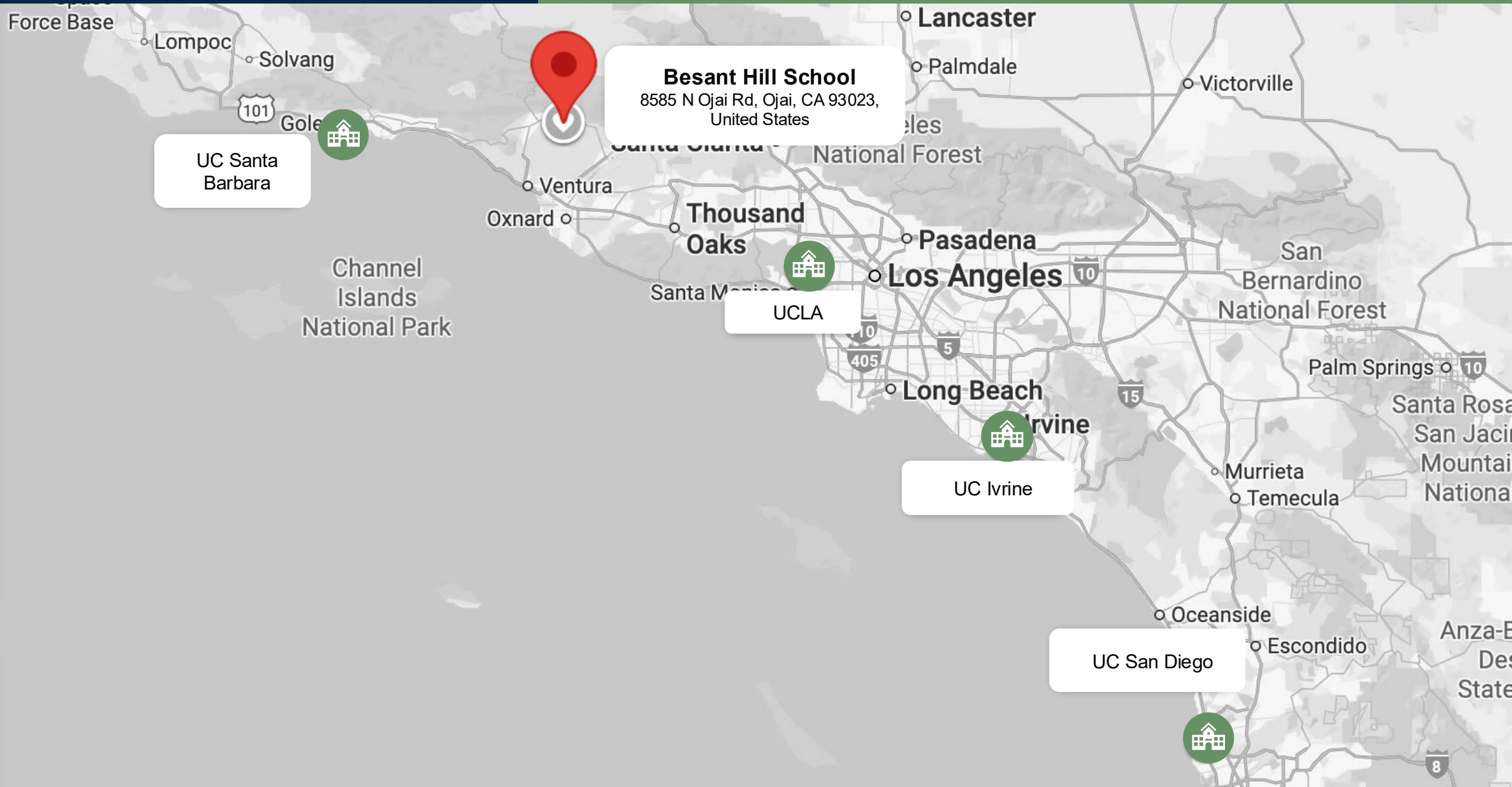


Besant Hill School is located in Ojai, a beautiful town in Southern California located about 90 minutes north of Los Angeles and south of Santa Barbara. The 520-acre campus features academic, boarding and recreational facilities that complement the serene, natural environment.

Students live in a safe, picturesque campus and enjoy easy access to world-famous museums, amusement parks, leading universities and more.

- **90 minutes to Los Angeles & 40 minutes to Santa Barbara**
- Direct access to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)
- Close to Caltech, UCLA, USC, UCI, Chapman University (within 2 hours of driving)
- **Weather:** Ojai has one of those **“California postcard” climates** people dream about — mild, sunny, and comfortable most of the year.
- Close proximity to public parks, beaches, hospitals, restaurants, and much more!





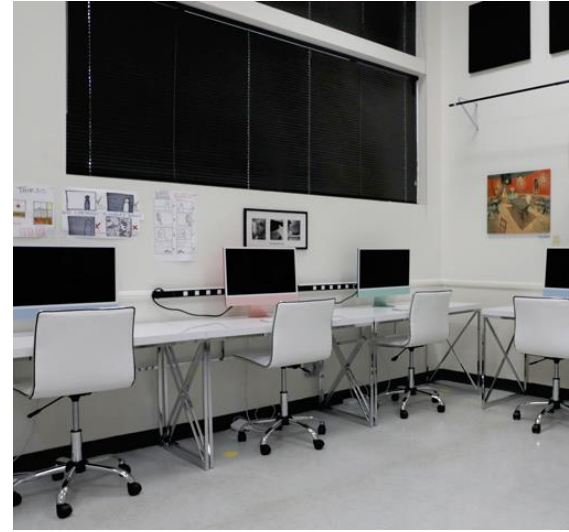
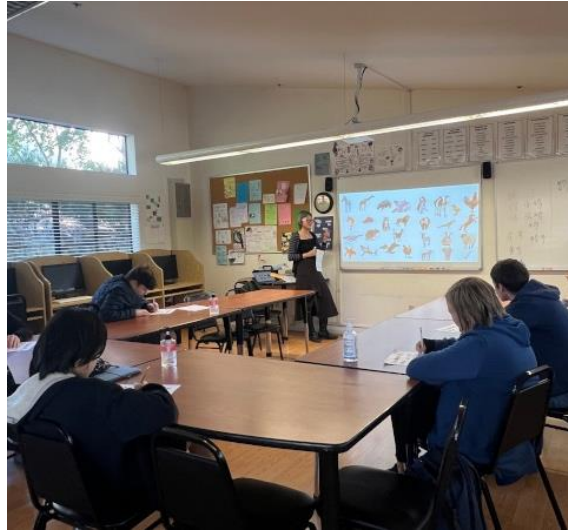
**Besant Hill School**  
8585 N Ojai Rd, Ojai, CA 93023,  
United States

UC Santa  
Barbara

UCLA

UC Irvine

UC San Diego



## A Unique Student Pathway for University Acceleration

- In partnership with **Ventura College**, Besant Hill School offers dual enrollment courses starting from **Grade 10**.
- Students can earn up to **2 years of college credits** during high school.
- **Guaranteed pathway** for qualified students: Save up to **2 years of college time & tuition** and enroll directly as a **university junior**.



1

Learn Like a College Student  
In High School

2

Earn up to two years of college  
credits

3

Compete for Top 30 U.S. Universities

4

Full Credit Transfer to UCLA & UCB

5

Skip Ahead. Graduate 2 Years Faster

Dual Enrollment courses are highly recognized as indicators of strong applicants by top universities such as **Princeton, MIT, Stanford, Columbia, and the UC System.**



Select Language



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We look for students with intellectual curiosity, who have pursued and achieved academic excellence. We also look for students with strong personal and extracurricular accomplishments.

As you prepare your application, help us to appreciate your talents, academic accomplishments and personal achievements. We'll ask for your transcript and recommendations, and we will want to know more than just the statistics in your file. Tell us your story. Show us what's special about you. Tell us how you would seize the academic and nonacademic opportunities at Princeton and contribute to the Princeton community. Above all, please write in a style that reflects your own voice.

## Courses

We expect applicants to have taken courses in the following, if possible: English, mathematics, foreign language, laboratory science and history. (Full details are given on the [Before You Apply page](#).) In addition, we look for applicants who have challenged themselves with honors, advanced placement (AP) and dual-enrollment courses available to them. We evaluate International Baccalaureate (IB), A-Levels or another diploma within the context of the program's curriculum.

# UC Advantage: Higher GPA + Full Credit Transfer

## Boost Your UC Admission GPA

Dual enrollment courses earn weighted GPA points (same as AP/Honors), increasing competitiveness for University of California admissions.

## Full Credit Transfer to UC

College credits earned through the Besant Hill dual enrollment program are fully transferable to the University of California system.

The screenshot shows the 'Dual enrollment' page on the University of California Counselors website. The page is titled 'Dual enrollment' and provides guidance for high school students. A red box highlights the following text:

UC-transferable college courses that fall within the A-G subject areas, including those completed through dual enrollment, will earn an extra point in the UC first-year admission GPA calculation - within our maximum honors points limitations - if completed with a letter grade of C or better. Refer to the [Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions](#) for more information about honors points and the GPA calculation.

Other visible text on the page includes:

- Understanding dual enrollment:** Dual enrollment programs are not new, but they continue to generate many questions about how dual enrollment coursework is reported on the UC admission application and how it is used to meet first-year admission requirements. Please keep these points in mind.
  - College courses are college courses, even if they are taught on the high school campus by an approved high school faculty member.
  - Students must report dual enrollment college courses under the appropriate college name on the UC application for undergraduate admission. Dual enrollment courses cannot be reported on the application as high school coursework.
  - California high schools cannot add California community college courses to their UC approved A-G course lists, even though instruction may happen on the high school campus with a high school instructor.
- College course guidelines:** A college course can fulfill an A-G requirement if:
  - The college is accredited by one of the seven former regional accrediting agencies;
  - The course is UC-transferable (exceptions for English and math only);
  - The course is worth at least 3 semester or 4 quarter units (each);
  - The course clearly falls within an A-G subject area; and,
  - The course is taken for a letter grade, and a grade of C or better is earned.

**Extra Points for GPA Calculation:** UC-transferable college courses that fall within the A-G subject areas, including those completed through dual enrollment, can earn an extra point in the UC first-year admission GPA calculation if completed with a letter grade of C or better.

# Student Pathway: Save Up to **2 Years** of College Time and Tuition

Dual Enrollment Program allows students to earn college credits in high school, skip up to 2 years of university, and graduate faster.

	High School at Besant Hill				UC/Top University			
	G9	G10	G11	G12	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Traditional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dual Enrollment Program (DE)			✓ DE	✓ DE	→		✓	✓

*Earn College Credits*

\* Eligible students may join the dual enrollment program as early as 10th grade, earning up to two years of college credits during high school and entering university starting from their junior year.

# Student Pathway Example

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Academic Year	Study Plan	Academic Achievements
<b>Grade 11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dual Enrollment courses (up to 22 credits)</li> <li>▪ High school diploma curriculum</li> </ul>	Earn a college transcript and up to 22 college credits
<b>Summer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete online dual enrollment courses and earn additional college credits (optional)</li> </ul>	
<b>Grade 12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dual Enrollment courses (up to 22 credits)</li> <li>▪ High school diploma curriculum</li> </ul>	Earn Besant Hill High School Diploma+ Earn 44+ college credits and transcript
<b>University Application</b>	Students can potentially save 1–2 years of college, depending on university policies, when applying to the UC system or other top universities.	

\* Eligible students may join the dual enrollment program as early as 10th grade, earning up to two years of college credits during high school and entering university starting from their junior year.

# Student Pathway Example

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

High School Year	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Credits Earned
<b>Grade 11</b>	3 Dual Enrollment Classes (Up to 11 credits)	3 Dual Enrollment Classes (Up to 11 credits)	Up to 22 College Credits
	<i>BHS Classes</i>	<i>BHS Classes</i>	<i>High School Credits</i>
<b>Summer Time</b>	Complete online dual enrollment courses and earn additional college credits (optional)		
<b>Grade 12</b>	3 Dual Enrollment Classes (Up to 11 credits)	3 Dual Enrollment Classes (Up to 11 credits)	Up to 22 College Credits
	<i>BHS Classes</i>	<i>BHS Classes</i>	<i>High School Credits</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>			44+ College credits

Eligible students can start the dual enrollment program in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and graduate with a Besant Hill high school diploma plus up to 44–60+ transferable college credits, saving up to 2 years of college time and cost.

## Who Is This Program For?

- 1 Students who aim to enroll in top U.S. high schools and universities.
- 2 Students who want to shorten the study period and start U.S. college courses early.
- 3 Students seeking a more cost-effective pathway for U.S. high school + undergraduate education.



# Ventura College

A leading public community college in Southern California, serving students for over 100 years.



**1925**

Year Founded

**16,000+**

students (including online learners)

**70+**

programs across Arts, Science, Business & Technology

**1 Hour**

to UCLA & LAX



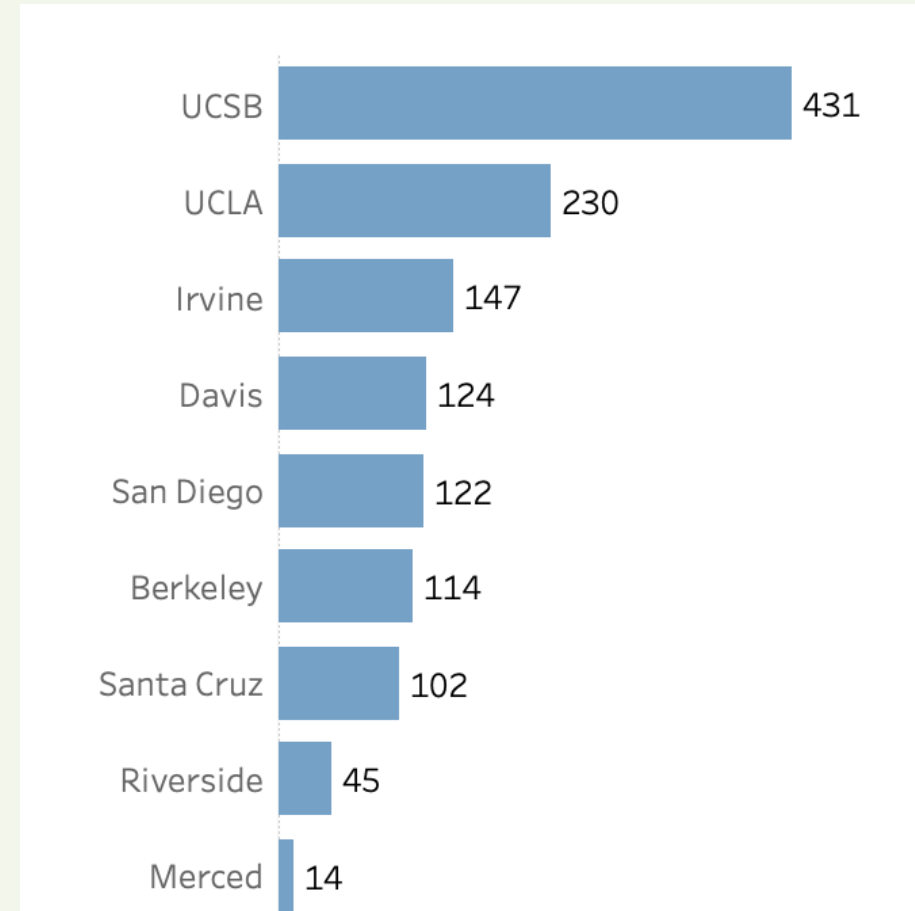
# Ventura College

- A proven pathway to UC universities with consistent transfer outcomes to top-tier campuses
- Officially recognized for transfer excellence as a **Carnegie-designated High Transfer Institution**



Source: Official Ventura College Websites

## UC Transfers at Ventura College from 2014-2024



**COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES**

- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Southern California
- Boston University
- Case Western Reserve
- Chapman University
- Fordham University
- Franklin University Switzerland
- Loyola Marymount University
- Michigan State University
- New York University
- Oberlin College
- Ohio State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Richmond American University London
- Rutgers University
- Saint Mary's College of California
- Santa Clara University
- Syracuse University
- The American University of Paris
- University of California (Davis, Irvine, San Diego, Santa Cruz)
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Connecticut
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Michigan
- University of Washington



**100%**  
College Acceptance

**\$50,000**  
Average of scholarship annually per student

**50+**  
Colleges Visit Campus Annually

## Rigorous College Preparatory Academics & College Planning

- Comprehensive college-preparatory curriculum supported by the school's unique **Instructional Support Program (ISP)**
- ISP helps students build effective learning strategies, with a strong focus on organization and time management for success in high school, university, and beyond
- Individual and small-group academic support provided across core subjects
- Dedicated **College Counseling Office** partners with students and families from day one
- Personalized four-year academic and college plan created for every student
- Faculty educated at top universities such as **Stanford, Brown, Columbia, and more**
- Each year, more than **50 colleges visit** Besant Hill and graduates have been accepted by Stanford, UC Berkeley, UCLA, NYU and Northwestern.



# Personalized Learning Experiences and Signature Programs

Besant Hill has ~100 students and a 1:4 faculty-to student ratio, ensuring that each student's individual needs are identified and met.

- **Capstone Program:** In this program, seniors take their education outside the classroom and further pursue their interests and passions. Recent projects include art shows, environmental sustainability research projects and stage productions.
- **Outdoor Education Program (OEP):** Learning opportunities take place in various settings across California. Students develop life skills through activities such as rock climbing, backpacking and whitewater rafting.
- **Experiential Learning and World Travel:** Faculty members and students create meaningful, curriculum -based trips to support specific educational objectives. Past trips have been to Ecuador, Italy, Cuba, Greece, Australia and Nepal.



## A Global Community with Robust Residential and ESL Programs

Three levels of English as a Second Language (ESL) are offered.

International students work with the ESL Teacher, Director of Academics, and the College Counselor to set future goals and exceed their potential.



**English**

- English I
- English II
- English II Honors
- English III/IV
- English III Honors
- AP English
- Creative Writing

**ESL (English as a Second Language)**

- ESL Literature (Level One)
- Language Acquisition Through Community Learning (Level One)
- ESL Writing (Level One)
- American Literature (Level Two)
- English II (ESL Level Two)
- American Studies (Level Two)
- Advanced Composition (Level Three)
- ESL Support (Level Three)

**World Languages**

- French I, II, III
- AP French
- Spanish I, II, III
- AP Spanish

**Social Science**

- Cultural Geography
- World History
- World History Honors
- U.S. History
- AP U.S. History
- Philosophy (semester)
- Global Issues (semester)
- Psychology
- AP Human Geography

**Mathematics**

- Math I
- Math II
- Math III
- Math IV
- Math IV Honors (Pre-Calculus)
- AP Calculus
- AP Statistics

**Science**

- Science (general)
- Environmental Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Botany
- AP Biology
- Marine Biology
- Introduction to Computer Science

**Arts Performing Arts**

- Music Ensemble I
- Music Ensemble II
- Guitar Ensemble
- Music Theory
- Acting
- Performing Arts (survey)
- Chamber Singers

**Visual Arts**

- Studio Art
- Advanced Studio Art
- Ceramics
- Art History
- Film (Screenwriting & Film Production)
- Bookmaking and Publishing



## Outdoor Education & Experiential Learning

- Outdoor education is a **core part of the Besant Hill experience**, fostering connection to nature, sustainability, cultural awareness, and physical well-being.
- The **Outdoor Education Program (OEP)** has been part of the school for over 30 years, helping students cultivate environmental stewardship and lifelong outdoor skills.
- Activities include **weekend excursions**, such as **3-day adventures** across California and Ojai's surroundings.
- Annual and popular trips include skiing (e.g., **Mammoth**) and camping/hiking adventures to destinations like **Big Sur, Yosemite, Goleta, and Lake Casitas**.
- Students participate in activities such as **kayaking, fishing, rock climbing, and hiking**, building teamwork and confidence.



## Community Service & Civic Engagement

- Students are expected to complete a **minimum of 15 hours of community service each academic year.**
- Activities include volunteering with **Ojai Land Conservancy, local charities, and Ventura beach clean-ups.**
- Students also support local organizations like **animal shelters, senior centers, and the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts.**



## Community & Celebration Events

- All-School Beach Day
- All-School Fall Trip
- All-School Prom
- Family Weekend
- Spring Arts Festival (with art show, concert, and musical)
- Winter Variety Show
- Lunar New Year Celebration
- Día de Los Muertos Celebration



## Academic & Leadership Opportunities

- Humanities & International Week
- Math & Science Week
- Model United Nations (MUN)
- UCSB Speaker Series
- Art Galleries & Museums visits (e.g., Getty, The Broad, LACMA)



## Trips & Travel

- **International Experiential Education Trip to England**
- **Spring Break College Tour** — multi-day college visits designed for juniors and sophomores to tour multiple campuses with guided sessions.
- **Annual Ski Trip** and other outdoor excursions are part of school traditions.

**Besant Hill students are traveling to LONDON & PARIS for their 2026 International Trip!**

Besant Hill emphasizes participation, teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal growth —with **all ability levels welcome** thanks to a no-cut policy.

### Sport Teams

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Volleyball

### Fitness & Physical Activity Programs

- Aquatics & Swimming
- Circuit Training
- Dance
- Surfing
- Weightlifting
- Yoga, Hiking, Rock Climbing and other fitness activities

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### Athletic Facilities:

- Basketball Court
- Tennis Court
- Swimming Pool
- Volleyball Court
- Soccer Field
- Outdoor Gym
- 3 mile Trail for Hiking & Running
- Dance & Yoga Space
- Access to Golf Course
- Beach for Surfing & Swim





## Boarding Residence

Besant Hill's residential life offers a supportive, close-knit boarding community with comfortable living spaces, on-site faculty mentorship, and a strong balance of independence, wellness, and connection. **99% of faculty and their families live in the dorms as dorm parents.**

### Boarding Facilities & Support Includes:

- Single-gendered dormitories
- **Double rooms** with built-in desks, closets and shelving space
- Comfortable study and social spaces in each dorm
- Laundry and kitchen facilities in every residential building
- Farm-to-table food catered to students with a full salad bar and hot meal options for every meal
- Close to **basketball, volleyball & tennis courts, pool, and gym**
- 24/7 staff supervising and support





## Weekend Activities

- Outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and swimming in scenic Ojai area
- Extended outdoor excursions across California, Big Sur, Yosemite, Lake Casitas, and the annual ski trip to Mammoth.
- Community service weekends with activities like Ojai Land Conservancy projects and Ventura beach clean-ups.
- Cultural and educational outings to museums and university lectures (e.g., UCSB) in Southern California.
- Social and recreational excursions including shopping and beach trips to places like Ventura, Santa Barbara, or Santa Monica.



Open Grades for Applications: 9-12, Post Graduate

Language Requirement:

- All tests accepted

Application materials\*:

- Online application
- 3 years of transcripts

Interview: Required

Tuition: **\$81,500** (*Boarding and meals included. Scholarships may be available.*)

*\*Additional materials might be required for students enrolled in the Dual Enrollment Program. Please contact Amerigo Admissions for more information.*



# Besant Hill School

Thank you!



Scan this code to learn more about  
Besant Hill School!