

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SUA

1) When can I apply to SUA, Aliso Viejo for admission? What are the deadlines?

SUA's application for admission to the first class in 2001 will be ready this April 2, 2000! SUA will accept applications beginning May 3, 2000. Students can apply for either early admission or regular admission, and these are the deadlines:

May 3, 2000: Early admission applications accepted

Oct. 15, 2000: Last day to apply for early admission

Dec. 15, 2000: Early admission acceptances announced

Jan. 15, 2001: Last day to apply for regular admission

March 15, 2001: Regular admission acceptances announced

Students not accepted for early admission will automatically be considered for regular admission.

2) How can I get an application?

There are four ways to get an application:

- a) Go to SUA's web page at www.soka.edu/av/admission
- b) E-mail us at admission@soka.edu and request one.
- c) Call SUA at (888) 600-SOKA or (949) 389-9500 or fax us at (949) 362-3775 and request one.
- d) Write to Soka University, Aliso Viejo, 85 Argonaut, Suite 200, Aliso Viejo, CA, 92656 and request one.

3) What are the requirements for admission to SUA, Aliso Viejo?

SUA, Aliso Viejo carefully considers a number of criteria without a rigid emphasis on any one factor in particular. Applicants are evaluated on the following:

- High school record
- Extracurricular activities or special talents
- Written personal statement
- Recommendations
- Telephone interview
- SAT I or ACT scores (optional for international students)
- TOEFL score (international students)

All applicants to SUA must have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent. Students should have completed a college preparatory program. Applicants who graduate from high schools outside the United States or its territories should have completed a similar high school program that would also qualify them for college and university entrance in their own country. Fluency in English, including listening and speaking, is essential since SUA, Aliso Viejo offers no courses in English as a Second Language (ESL).

4) What is the TOEFL score I must achieve before I can be admitted to SUA, Aliso Viejo?

If English is not your native language, you must submit official results of the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). The minimum TOEFL score for your application

to be considered by SUA is 500 on the paper-based test or 173 on the new computer-based test. Applicants are recommended, but not required, to take the Test of Written English (TWE) and Test of Spoken English (TSE). Both tests are administered by the Educational Testing Service, which also administers the TOEFL exam. An applicant may be granted admission to SUA, Aliso Viejo contingent upon satisfactorily increasing his/her proficiency in English in the year prior to actual enrollment on campus.

5) Does SUA, Aliso Viejo have an entrance exam like they do in Japan that you must pass before you can be accepted?

No.

6) How much does it cost to attend SUA, Aliso Viejo? Is there financial aid?

For the 2001–02 academic year, the cost will be \$24,000, which will include tuition, room and board. SUA is firmly committed to assisting students, both national and international, who could not otherwise afford to attend. SUA will provide financial assistance on the basis of need to admitted students. We do not consider your ability to pay in our admission selection process. The admission application contains details on how to apply for financial aid.

7) What majors and academic programs will SUA, Aliso Viejo offer?

With its first class of 100 freshmen, SUA will offer the Bachelor of Arts degree with a single major in Liberal Arts within which students will pick one of these three concentrations: Humanities, International Studies or Social and Behavioral Studies. In addition to these concentrations, students will find that their curriculum contains a broad range of general education courses, a language curriculum, our Core Curriculum and Learning Cluster courses, in which students learn to research global issues and to propose reasoned solutions to them. SUA's academic program includes an internship/study abroad, in which all students spend a semester in a country where the language they studied at SUA is a principal language spoken. More details can be found on our SUA web page at www.soka.edu.

8) What will a typical class be like at Soka University, Aliso Viejo?

SUA will open with a 5:1 student/faculty ratio. (This will grow to 9:1 as the university matures.) Most classes will be small, seminar-style classes centered on dialogue. Students will study both Western and Eastern perspectives across the curriculum.

9) Will I be able to continue on to graduate school with the Bachelor in Liberal Arts I earn from SUA? Will SUA prepare me for medical school or graduate work in the sciences or other fields?

Yes. Some graduate programs (like medical school, science or math) require more courses in their discipline than you will be able to take at SUA. However, with academic counseling by SUA faculty advisors, students can identify these required extra courses and enroll in them at a nearby college. These additional classes may need to be taken in the summer or in the evening, but classes required for graduate school will be provided by SUA at no additional cost to students. Other graduate programs (such as in law, psychology, sociology) will not require any additional courses. Students interested in graduate study will work closely with a faculty advisor to ensure they meet the

requirements to apply to graduate school.

10) Is SUA accredited? Will it be accredited by the time I graduate?

Soka University of America has received Institutional Approval from the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education, permitting SUA to grant the Bachelor of Arts degree at the Aliso Viejo campus and the Master's degree at the Calabasas campus. SUA will seek accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in May, when it files its Application for Candidacy for Accreditation. The complete accreditation process takes several years. If Aliso Viejo students graduate before SUA is accredited and wish to pursue graduate study, they may do so by working closely with SUA faculty advisors to provide the necessary information to the chosen graduate school.

11) Will SUA, Aliso Viejo have required religion courses in its curriculum?

All SUA students will take one required course in comparative world religions in their freshman year. SUA's curriculum is non-sectarian.

12) Do I need to be a Buddhist or an SGI member to attend SUA, Aliso Viejo?

No. SUA is open to students of all nationalities and beliefs.

13) Will the arts play a major role in SUA, Aliso Viejo student life? Will I have the opportunity to participate in fine and performing arts?

SUA will not offer a degree in the arts. All students will take one class in studio arts. SUA faculty will also support student desires to develop in these areas outside of class time through focused clubs and other student activities. SUA has facilities for ceramics, sculpture, photography, digital photography, computer graphics, printmaking, painting, drawing, individual music study, ensemble, chorus, band and electronic music. Our recreation center has a wood, sprung-floor aerobics and dance room.

14) Will SUA have team sports? What kind of sports? Will there be athletic competition? Will you be an NCAA Division III team?

SUA will have both an intramural and an inter-collegiate competitive team sports program. Although SUA's sports offerings will be limited initially, we will determine which sports to support our first year by listening to our students' desires once they are accepted. SUA has recreation facilities and athletic fields that will support soccer, softball, baseball, tennis, volleyball, water polo, swimming, basketball, racquetball, aerobics, dancing, badminton and weight training. SUA also has exercise equipment and adjacent cross-country running trails.

Surrounding communities provide opportunities for ice skating, ice hockey, sailing, scuba diving, windsurfing, surfing, kayaking, rowing, fencing, golf and horseback riding. When SUA reaches an enrollment of 200–300, we will apply to join our Southern California NCAA division III conference. Until that time, SUA will remain independent and will compete with neighboring colleges and universities outside of a conference structure.

15) Are all the faculty and staff at SUA SGI members?

No. SUA's faculty and staff have been selected based upon their professional ability,

their desire to put the development and happiness of students first, and upon their character and heart.

16) What kinds of jobs are open to students with a Liberal Arts degree?

Liberal Arts graduates are employed in a wide variety of fields. Many educators have begun to recognize a trend in the United States in which corporations and other employers are increasingly looking toward hiring Liberal Arts graduates. Such graduates can absorb and use new information while working and communicating well within a teamwork environment. A Liberal Arts degree, such as SUA's, with a strong emphasis on breadth of learning, on written communication and on the ability to create value within a sea of change and diversity, is becoming the hallmark of a quality education.

17) I want to support Soka University of America. How can I do this?

SUA has started the SUA Millennium Scholarship Endowment to help qualified students attend both SUA campuses (Calabasas and Aliso Viejo). These scholarships will be awarded to admitted students on the basis of need. Contributions to this fund become a permanent legacy to future students, because only the interest from the endowment is used every year for student scholarships. Contributions may be sent to:

**Soka University Millennium Scholarship Endowment
85 Argonaut, Suite 200
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656**

Donors wishing to contribute to the SUA Operating Endowment (to assist with the operation and maintenance of the university) or to the SUA Capital Fund (to help build future academic, residential and performing arts buildings) may address their designated gifts to the same address.