



Prospective Parents: Frequently Asked Questions

What is Minds Matter of Los Angeles (MMLA)?

MMLA 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 three-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.

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 8:30am to 2:30pm every Saturday from September to May and participate in two summer college programs, after their sophomore and junior years. 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.

How are sessions held during COVID-19?

Due to COVID-19, Minds Matter sessions have shifted to a virtual platform, using Google Classroom and Zoom as online tools for students and volunteers until further notice. If your child does not have access to technology, MMLA can help provide the necessary resources.



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, one of which is the parent orientation. 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 program 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