What is Educational Talent Search?

Educational Talent Search (ETS) is a free pre-college program designed to support students in succeeding in junior high and high school and achieving their goals for pursuing higher education at a community college or university.

What does ETS offer to students?

### Workshops & Academic Counseling

ETS keeps participants and their families informed on the most important pre-college topics, including:

- Preparing for the SAT and ACT
- Completing A-G course requirements for college
- Understanding the college systems
- Choosing a major
- Exploring careers
- Completing college applications
- Applying for financial aid and scholarships

### Field Trips to Colleges

Every college campus is unique. That’s why ETS offers you free opportunities to visit colleges throughout California! Every year, we travel to different CSUs, UCs, private institutions, and community colleges so you can find which campus is best for you.

### Social Network

With ETS, you’ll meet awesome students that share your goals! Our ETS students come from three different middle schools and four high schools, so you’ll be able to connect with students not just from your school but other schools as well.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the costs for these services?

All services provided by ETS are free! ETS is a U.S. Department of Education TRIO program funded through a grant to Cal Poly.

Who is eligible?

Every student in the ETS program must:

- Be a U.S. citizen, have legal permanent residency, or be in the process of applying for legal permanent residency
- Attend one of the target schools*
- Have completed the 5th grade or be at least 11 years old
- Commit to continuing their studies beyond high school
- Commit to attending program workshops and events

Why do I have to provide my income information?

A part of eligibility is determined from the parents’ income information, which allows ETS staff to determine whether the student meets our income guidelines. All of this information will remain completely confidential.

Why is the student’s Social Security Number required?

The Social Security Number is a way to show that the student is a U.S. citizen or has permanent residency, and is used to track students’ educational progress after high school.

Do I have to reapply every year to stay in the program?

No, you don’t have to reapply. Once you are accepted into ETS, you are a participant until the day you graduate high school or choose to exit the program.

Where can a student and/or their families meet with ETS staff?

Outreach counselors/advisors are available at all student school sites on a weekly basis; however, the Cal Poly program’s main office is located in San Luis Obispo.

Which are ETS’s Target Schools?*

The Cal Poly ETS program serves the following local schools:

- Fesler Junior High School
- Kermit McKenzie Junior High School
- Mesa Middle School
- Ernest Righetti High School
- Nipomo High School
- Pioneer Valley High School
- Santa Maria High School