SPORTING CALIFORNIA USA

COLLEGE PATHWAYS WELCOME PACKET

EDUCATION • OPPORTUNITY • EXCELLENCE

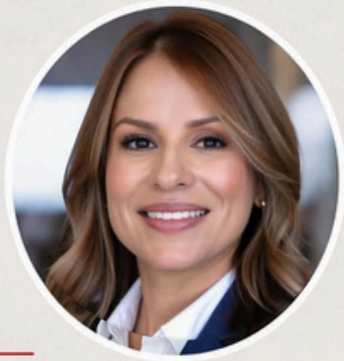


ACADEMIC GROWTH | ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT | CHARACTER LEADERSHIP | COLLEGE PREPARATION | COMMUNITY FAMILY

TOGETHER, BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

PREPARED BY: NICOLE SALAZAR
2026/2027

MEET NICOLE SALAZAR



CPP MANAGER, SPORTING CALIFORNIA USA

Welcome! I'm Nicole Salazar, College Pathways Program (CPP) Manager for Sporting California USA, and I am honored to partner with your family throughout your student-athletes college planning and recruiting journey.

Education has been at the center of my career for more than a decade. I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego) and later completed my Master of Arts in Teaching at the University of Southern California (USC).

My passion for expanding educational access is deeply rooted in my family's story. My father came from a time when higher education was far less accessible for many Hispanic students, yet through resilience, determination, and an unwavering belief in the power of education, he forged his own path to USC and earned his bachelor's degree. Watching his perseverance in the face of systemic barriers instilled in me the belief that education has the power to transform lives and that every student deserves equitable access to the opportunities that can shape their future. Inspired by his example, I have dedicated my career to helping students navigate the college process, remove barriers to opportunity, and ensure that every student—regardless of their background or circumstances—has the guidance, resources, and support needed to achieve their educational goals.

In addition to this role, I am also a College Professor at Mt. San Antonio College, where I teach in the dual enrollment program, helping high school students develop the academic habits, confidence, and skills they need to thrive. Throughout my career, I have worked with students supporting them in academic planning, college readiness, leadership development, and personal growth. Before transitioning into education, I also worked in public relations, managing communications for nationally recognized brands, an experience that strengthened my skills in relationship building, strategic planning, and professional communication.

Beyond my professional experience, I am also a Sporting California USA parent. Three of my children are proud Sporting athletes who share the dream of one day playing collegiate soccer—and perhaps even pursuing the professional game. Walking this journey alongside my own family gives me a unique perspective, allowing me to understand both the excitement and the challenges parents experience throughout the college recruiting process.

As the College Pathways Program Manager at Sporting California USA, I combine my passion for education with my love of athletics to support student-athletes and their families through every stage of the college journey. Whether a student's goal is NCAA Division I, Division II, Division III, NAIA, junior college, or simply finding the college that is the best overall fit, my mission is to ensure every athlete has the knowledge, resources, and confidence to make informed decisions about their future.

COLLEGE PATHWAYS PROGRAM
EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ELEVATE.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
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ABOUT THE COLLEGE PATHWAYS PROGRAM

EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ELEVATE.





GUIDING STUDENT-ATHLETES AND FAMILIES THROUGH THE COLLEGE PLANNING AND RECRUITING JOURNEY

OUR MISSION

To provide every athlete with the knowledge, tools, and opportunities needed to confidently navigate the college recruiting process while encouraging academic achievement, athletic development, and personal growth. Whether your goal is NCAA, NAIA, junior college, trade school, military service, or another meaningful path, we are here to support you.

WHAT WE PROVIDE

- College Recruiting Education
- Grade-Specific Timelines
- Workshops & Seminars
- College Coach Panels
- Scholarship Opportunities
- Educational Resources
- Parent Education & Support
- Recruiting Process Guidance
- Important Deadlines
- College Planning Tools
- Networking Opportunities
- Monthly Updates
- Communication & Resources
- Year-Round Support

WHO WE SERVE

Student-Athletes in Grades 8–12 and Their Families

Together, we prepare today for tomorrow's opportunities.

★ **THIS PROGRAM IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR REGISTERED SPORTING CALIFORNIA PLAYERS ONLY.** ★

EDUCATION

Providing knowledge and resources about academics, recruiting, and college options.

RESOURCES

Access to valuable tools, timelines, templates, and information.

OPPORTUNITIES

Workshops, panels, scholarships, and events that open doors and create connections.

SUPPORT

Year-round education and communication to help families stay informed and prepared.

EMPOWERMENT

Helping athletes and families make informed decisions and take ownership of their future.

AT SPORTING CALIFORNIA USA, WE BELIEVE SUCCESS ★ IS BUILT IN THE CLASSROOM, IN THE COMMUNITY, AND ON THE FIELD. ★

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
We value education and lifelong learning.

ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT
We train with purpose and compete with heart.

CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP
We lead with integrity and inspire others.

RELATIONSHIPS & COMMUNITY
We build connections that last a lifetime.

FUTURE FOCUSED
We prepare for life beyond the game.



MEET YOUR CPP MANAGER
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PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

OUR BELIEFS. OUR COMMITMENT. THEIR FUTURE.

At Sporting California USA, we believe that developing exceptional student-athletes extends far beyond success on the field. While athletic development is an essential part of a player's journey, we are equally committed to helping our athletes grow academically, personally, and as a future leader. We believe that education creates opportunities, and every student deserves access to the knowledge, guidance, and support needed to confidently pursue their goals.

This belief is the foundation of the College Pathways Program. While our coaches are dedicated to helping players reach their highest athletic potential, we recognized that many families also needed guidance navigating academics, the college recruiting process, and the ever-changing landscape of collegiate soccer. The College Pathways Program was created to bridge that gap by providing Sporting California USA families with reliable information, educational resources, and year-round education so that no athlete has to navigate the journey alone. Our goal is to empower student-athletes and their families to prepare early, make informed decisions, and maximize opportunities both on and off the field.

We understand that success looks different for every student. Whether a player ultimately pursues NCAA, NAIA, junior college, trade school, military service, or another meaningful pathway, our commitment remains the same: to help athletes find the right fit and equip them with the tools, confidence, and knowledge to reach their full potential. Through education, meaningful relationships, and collaboration, we strive to create a culture where academic achievement, character, leadership, and athletic excellence work together.

As a growing initiative, the College Pathways Program continues to evolve alongside the needs of our athletes and families. We are committed to expanding our resources, workshops, partnerships, and opportunities each year to ensure we provide the highest level of support possible. Your feedback is an important part of that growth, and we encourage every family to share their experiences, ideas, and recommendations through our annual program survey. Together, we can continue building a stronger College Pathways Program that empowers current student-athletes and creates lasting opportunities for future Sporting California USA families.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT	CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP	ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE	MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS	COMMUNITY & COLLABORATION

Preparing Today. Empowering Tomorrow.

ON THE FIELD. IN THE CLASSROOM. IN LIFE.

COLLEGE PATHWAYS PROGRAM

★ 5 PILLARS ★

The College Pathways Program is built upon five core pillars that guide every resource, workshop, event, and service we provide. These pillars reflect our commitment to developing well-rounded student-athletes by supporting their academic success, athletic aspirations, personal growth, and future planning. Together, they create a comprehensive framework that empowers players and families to confidently navigate the college journey while preparing for success both on and off the field.

01 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We empower student-athletes to achieve success in the classroom by promoting strong academic habits, college readiness, and lifelong learning.

02 INDUSTRY INSIGHT

We provide families with current, reliable information about the college recruiting landscape through workshops, expert speakers, and educational resources.

03 CONTINUOUS LEARNING

Learning doesn't stop after one workshop. Through year-round newsletters, educational events, guides, and resources, families receive communication throughout every stage of the college journey.

04 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

We help student-athletes develop leadership, resilience, communication, confidence, and character. These life skills prepare them for success in college, athletics, and beyond.

05 PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY

We believe success is built through strong collaboration between families, coaches, educators, and mentors. By fostering a supportive community, we ensure every student-athlete has a team invested in their growth and future.

BUILDING TODAY. EMPOWERING TOMORROW.

YOUR PATH. YOUR FUTURE. OUR COMMITMENT.

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

TOGETHER. SUPPORTING TODAY. BUILDING TOMORROW.



» COACH

Sporting California USA coaches are committed to creating a positive environment that supports player development, sportsmanship, and long-term success. Coaches will continue to develop players on the field, encourage academic excellence, provide guidance when appropriate, and collaborate with the College Pathways Program to help student-athletes maximize opportunities at the next level.



» PLAYER

Student-athletes are expected to take ownership of their academic and athletic journey by demonstrating commitment, responsibility, and a willingness to learn. This includes maintaining strong academic performance, attending program events, communicating professionally, embracing feedback, and representing Sporting California USA with character and integrity both on and off the field.



» PARENT

Parents and guardians play a vital role in supporting their child's development. We encourage families to stay informed by attending educational events, reading program communications, asking questions, and partnering with coaches and staff throughout the recruiting process. Our goal is to empower families with knowledge while encouraging student-athletes to gradually take ownership of their college journey.

EDUCATION
CREATES OPPORTUNITY

RELATIONSHIPS
BUILD TRUST

CHARACTER
BUILDS LEADERS

PREPARE TODAY
SUCCEED TOMORROW

ONE CLUB. ONE PATH.
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.

ONE CLUB. ONE PATH. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.



THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS

01

GET NOTICED

Compete with Sporting California USA in league matches, showcases, tournaments, and ID camps where college coaches have the opportunity to evaluate your performance. Get exposure!

02

SHOW INTEREST

As coaches become familiar with you, they may begin following your progress by watching additional games, reviewing your highlight video, evaluating your academics, and learning more about you as a student-athlete.

03

CONNECT

Introduce yourself to college coaches through personalized emails, recruiting platforms, showcases, camps, and conversations. Building relationships and maintaining communication are essential throughout the recruiting process.

04

VISIT SCHOOLS

As mutual interest develops, coaches may invite you to visit campus. Visits can be unofficial (planned by the family) or official (hosted by the college, when permitted), giving you the opportunity to experience the campus, meet the team, and determine if it is the right fit.

05

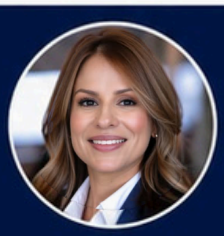
GET AN OFFER

When a coach believes you are a strong fit for their program, they may extend a roster spot, scholarship opportunity, or offer to continue the recruiting process. Every school and division follows its own recruiting timeline, so offers may come at different times.

06

COMMITMENT

Once you have found the right academic, athletic, and personal fit, you can commit to your future college. Continue working hard in the classroom and on the field as you prepare for the transition to collegiate athletics.



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HIGH SCHOOL ROADMAP

SPORTING CALIFORNIA USA

YOUR JOURNEY. YOUR PLAN. YOUR FUTURE.



The journey to college is a process, not a single moment. By understanding the key priorities and milestones for each year of high school, student-athletes and their families can prepare with confidence, make informed decisions, and maximize opportunities every step of the way.

1 FRESHMAN

Focus on developing strong academic habits, improving technical and athletic skills, and exploring potential college pathways. This is the time to establish good routines, begin learning about the recruiting process, and enjoy the game while building a strong foundation.

2 SOPHOMORE

Continue strengthening academics while increasing exposure to college opportunities. Begin researching colleges, attending camps or showcases, and developing recruiting materials such as a player profile and highlight video.

3 JUNIOR

Junior year is often the most active stage of the recruiting process. Student-athletes should communicate with college coaches, attend showcases, narrow their college list, and continue demonstrating academic and athletic excellence.

4 SENIOR

Finalize college decisions, complete applications, and communicate regularly with coaches. Celebrate your accomplishments, prepare for the transition to college, and finish your high school career with confidence and purpose.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE | ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT | CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP | TEAMWORK & COMMUNITY | FUTURE FOCUSED

CPP SCHOLARSHIPS

INVEST IN TODAY. TRANSFORM TOMORROW.

A college education is one of the most valuable investments a student-athlete can make, and scholarships can significantly reduce the financial burden on families. Every year, millions of dollars in scholarship funding go unclaimed simply because students do not apply. We encourage every student-athlete to apply for as many scholarships as possible—regardless of GPA, financial need, or athletic ability—as every application is an opportunity to invest in your future.

MZK SCHOLARSHIP

The MZK Scholarship was established through the Sporting California USA Alumni Association to recognize student-athletes who demonstrate academic excellence, a passion for soccer, and a commitment to pursuing higher education. Each year, one freshman, one sophomore, and one junior are selected to receive a $1,000 scholarship annually through their senior year, provided they remain eligible and active within Sporting California USA. Scholarship funds may be used toward club dues, college ID camps, showcases, and other college pathway expenses, helping student-athletes continue pursuing their collegiate goals.

BETTY WILLIAMS FOUNDATION

The Betty Williams Memorial Scholarship honors the legacy of Sporting California USA co-founder Betty Williams, whose lifelong commitment to developing young athletes continues to inspire our club today. Each year, one deserving high school senior is awarded a $2,000 scholarship to assist with first-year college educational expenses. This scholarship recognizes student-athletes who exemplify academic achievement, leadership, community involvement, dedication to the club, and the character and values that Betty Williams championed throughout her life. Recipients also have the opportunity to serve as ambassadors for the Sporting California USA community, continuing Betty's legacy by inspiring future generations.

OTHER

In addition to Sporting California scholarships, we encourage families to explore local, institutional, community, and national scholarship opportunities throughout high school. Many colleges offer merit- and need-based scholarships, while community organizations, employers, and foundations also provide financial assistance to graduating seniors. Starting your scholarship search early and applying consistently can significantly reduce college costs.

★ APPLY EARLY. APPLY OFTEN. OPEN DOORS TO YOUR FUTURE. ★



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COLLEGE PATHWAYS PROGRAM

FAQ

ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE COLLEGE PATHWAYS PROGRAM.

Q Does the College Pathways Program guarantee my child will be recruited?

A No. College recruitment is highly competitive and depends on many factors, including athletic ability, academic performance, character, positional needs, and the individual decisions of college coaches. Our role is to educate, prepare, and empower student-athletes throughout the process.

Q Is this a one-on-one recruiting service like NCSA?

A No. The College Pathways Program is an educational resource designed to provide workshops, newsletters, recruiting guidance, college coach panels, and tools that help families navigate the recruiting process. While we offer guidance and resources, families are ultimately responsible for managing their child's recruiting journey and communication with college coaches.

Q Should we also use NCSA or another recruiting service?

A That decision is entirely up to your family. Some student-athletes choose to use recruiting platforms such as NCSA to increase their exposure and organize recruiting information, while others successfully navigate the process independently. The College Pathways Program complements these services by helping families understand the recruiting process and make informed decisions.

Q When should my child begin preparing for college recruitment?

A Preparation should begin as early as middle school or freshman year of high school. Building strong academic habits, developing soccer skills, and understanding the recruiting process early gives student-athletes more opportunities as they progress through high school.

Q How can parents best support their child during recruitment?

A Stay informed, encourage academic success, attend educational events, and allow your student-athlete to take increasing ownership of the recruiting process. The best outcomes happen when families provide support while helping students develop independence and confidence.

Q How will the College Pathways Program support our family throughout the year?

A Families will receive year-round access to educational workshops, college coach panels, monthly newsletters, scholarship information, recruiting resources, and guidance designed to help student-athletes prepare for college opportunities both on and off the field.



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EDUCATE ★ EMPOWER ★ ELEVATE

CLASS OF 2026

CONGRATULATIONS



ARIA BURROLA



MIA RUFFALO



ALEJANDRO QUINTERO

Athlete of the Year and MZK Scholarship Recipient



ELYSSE SALCEDO



COLE DOUGHTY



MYRA PARTIDA

Scholarship Recipient



SAMANTHA CRAWFORD



OLIVIA MARTIN

Heart of the Team



WILLIAM HIDALGO



RAFA RAMIREZ

Most Likely To go Pro



DANIEL LOPEZ-MENDOZA



SOPHIA DAILY



VALENTINA RONGA



CLAIRE CASTRO



SOPHIA TOVAR



DIEGO ANASTACIO



PEYTON BOWSER



NALIA KEYS



ISAI FUENTES



SCARLETT RIVERA



BRYAN ARZAYUS

LIFE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE COACHES PANEL 2026 -COED

Come learn about the college recruiting process directly from men's and women's College Soccer coaches

DONT MISS IT

Monday, August 31st 6pm
MT. SAC - Heritage Hall
1100 N. Grand Ave., Walnut, CA 91789

What You Will Learn

- Understand how the recruiting process works.
- Learn what college coaches look for beyond athletic ability.
- Connect and network with college coaches.
- Real Advice. Real Insight!



Nicole Salazar
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COLLEGE PATHWAYS
ATHLETE CHECKLIST

YOUR JOURNEY. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR ACTIONS TODAY.

The College Pathways Program is here to educate, equip, and empower you. Use this checklist to stay on track, take advantage of every opportunity, and build your path to success on and off the field.

☐	**ATTEND WORKSHOPS**	Participate in all CPP workshops to gain valuable knowledge and recruiting insights.
☐	**ATTEND COLLEGE PANELS**	Learn directly from college coaches and get your questions answered.
☐	**FOLLOW OUR INSTAGRAM**	Stay up to date on events, reminders, resources, and important announcements.
☐	**REGISTER ON SPROCKET**	Make sure you are registered on Sprocket to receive all program communications.
☐	**ATTEND SHOWCASES & IDs**	Expose yourself! Attend showcases, ID camps, and college events to get noticed.
☐	**APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**	Take advantage of club and external scholarship opportunities. Don't leave money on the table!
☐	**STAY ORGANIZED**	Keep Track of deadlines, documents, and your academic and athletic progress.
☐	**COMMUNICATE**	Reach out to college coaches and the schools you're interested in. Build those relationships.
☐	**REGISTER WITH THE NCAA**	Create your NCAA Eligibility Center account and stay informed on eligibility requirements.
☐	**BE PROACTIVE & ENGAGED**	The more involved you are in the process, the more opportunities will open.

YOUR EFFORT TODAY CREATES YOUR OPTIONS TOMORROW.
The more steps you take, the more doors that open.
BE ACTIVE. BE PREPARED. BE RECRUIT READY.



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KEEP IN TOUCH



Stay connected with the Sporting California USA College Pathways Program for the latest updates, resources, events, and important college recruiting information. Follow us on Instagram and participate in our workshops, newsletters, college panels, and program opportunities throughout the year. Together, we can continue building a supportive community that helps every student-athlete prepare for success on the field, in the classroom, and beyond.



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