

Applying to CIVITAS: Requirements & To-do Items

Please read the following information before starting the online application. Students who do not/cannot meet these requirements should not apply to the academy.

Academic Record Requirements

- A 3.0 grade in both English and Social Studies
- Satisfactory citizenship grades (B or higher) in **ALL** classes; minor, if any, infractions/incidents requiring disciplinary action
- No excessive attendance issues
- Verification of these requirements (examples: transcripts and report cards)

Recommendation Requirements

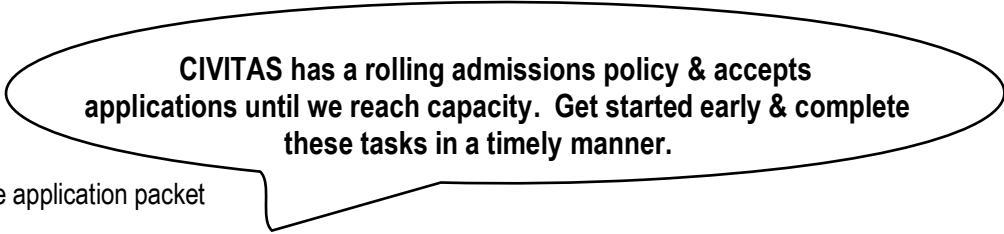
- **1 recommendation form must be completed by a current teacher**
- **The other form can be completed by an adult of the student's choice (coach, pastor/rabbi, club adviser, etc.).**
- Family members CANNOT complete a student's recommendation form.
- Recommending adults should submit the completed form to CIVITAS via email or traditional email.

Participation Requirements/Contract & Permission to Apply

- Includes student and parent participation requirements
- Student and parent signatures required

Value Civic Engagement

- **CIVITAS students should WANT to be civically engaged and informed**
- **CIVITAS students WANT to become advocates and activists**
- **CIVITAS students WANT to improve their communities through service learning**



CIVITAS has a rolling admissions policy & accepts applications until we reach capacity. Get started early & complete these tasks in a timely manner.

1. Complete the online application at <https://riocivitas01.wixsite.com/civitas> or download, complete, and submit the application packet documents if applying late in the year.
2. Download the application documents on that same website
3. Provide your recommenders with the appropriate forms
4. Submit required documents: Permission to Apply/Participation Contract, copy of transcript or grade reports from 7th and 8th grade

Once all forms have been submitted, students will be emailed an invitation to interview. Check emails regularly. At the interview appointment, students will be questioned about their interest in this specialized program and have a chance to ask the interview panel questions they have about CIVITAS and life at Rio in general. In addition, students will write a spontaneous response to a current topic.

Shortly after completing the interview, students will be notified of acceptance. If there are more than 35 qualified students per class, a waiting list will be established. Placement on the waiting list will be determined by the criteria outlined above.

Submit completed forms (screenshots are fine) via email or traditional mail to:

RIO AMERICANO HIGH SCHOOL, ATTN: Nina Seibel, CIVITAS Coordinator
4540 AMERICAN RIVER DR. SACRAMENTO, CA 95864
nseibel@sanjuan.edu

Applying to CIVITAS Frequently Asked Questions

• CAN I BE IN BAND, SPORTS, STUDENT GOVERNMENT, ETC?

Yes, CIVITAS will not interfere with any of these activities, but will require students to be well organized and establish priorities for the use of their time.

• WILL CIVITAS HELP ME GET INTO A COLLEGE?

For college admissions, the most important factors seem to be grades and test scores. Admissions officers look at the whole student and appreciate well-rounded applicants. No one can say for sure if CIVITAS can help you get into a college, but completing additional courses with a specialized curriculum, community service-learning hours, an internship, and a senior advocacy project would be a positive addition to any student's profile.

• DO INTERNS GET PAID FOR THEIR WORK?

CIVITAS internships are unpaid positions, but several students have been offered paying jobs after completion of their internships.

• DO CIVITAS STUDENTS GET SOMETHING SPECIAL WHEN THEY GRADUATE?

During Senior Awards Night in May, CIVITAS students are presented a white graduation cord to distinguish them as CIVITAS scholars during their graduation ceremony

• CAN STUDENTS JOIN CIVITAS DURING JUNIOR YEAR?

No, the latest students can join the Academy is during their sophomore year. Making up the missed classes and completing the 100 hours of volunteer service before the internship process starts would be too challenging and time consuming.

• DO YOU HAVE TO LOVE POLITICS TO BE IN CIVITAS?

CIVITAS is a political studies AND public service academy. So, the answer is yes and no. Students don't need to be passionate about politics; however, they must be open to learning about politics and volunteering for political organizations and campaigns. Politics is a primary focus of the Academy, but it's not the only area of focus.