

Completing College Applications: Common Application

The Common App

The Common App allows you to complete a universal college application that can be submitted to multiple different colleges at once. It is used by over 800 colleges and universities across 20 countries

Benefits of the Common App

- It allows you to apply to multiple schools with just one application.
 - It saves you time and energy that can then be used to make your application even better.
- It connects you to more schools than any other college application system.
- Application deadlines are tracked and the system notifies you when they are approaching.

How to Apply Using the Common App

- Step 1: Make an Account
 - Create a login using an email and password
 - Add general information to your profile (personal information, contact details, family background/education, and test scores).
- Step 2: Add Colleges to your Application List
 - Use the “College Search” tab to search for institutions based on name, location, or deadline.
 - Schools that you are interested in can be added to your “My Colleges” tab.
 - This tab consolidates deadlines, requirements, and progress for each school in one convenient location.
- Step 3: The Application
 - You only submit one general application. It consists of your high school courses, grades, activities, exam scores and dates, parental information, etc. You will also need to complete a common app essay that will be sent to

all the colleges listed.

- The CommonApp has a list of essay topics to choose from, and you have 250-650 words to respond to one prompt. Write an essay on the topic you are most comfortable with.

- Step 4: Supplement Material
 - Each school may have their own additional requirements such as letters of recommendation, additional essays, financial aid documents, SARs, etc.
 - Review all requirements and deadlines carefully.
 - The Common App Requirements Grid details the requirements for all colleges in the system. It can be found on their website [2019-2020 Common App Requirements Grid](#).

Quick Tip

Each year, the updated version of the Common App opens on **August 1st**. It is a good idea to **begin the application** as soon as it opens, **before the start of senior year**. This allows you to begin exploring colleges, drafting essays, and inputting information before classes and homework pick back up.