The Common App

The first step to applying to college

What is 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 connects you to more schools than any other college application system

    - 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

    - Application deadlines are tracked and the system notifies you when they are approaching

When Should You Start the Common App

- 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

Step 1: Making an Account

- Create a login using an email and password

- Add general information to your profile

    - Personal information

    - Contact details

    - Family background and education

    - 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 is comprised of your high school courses, grades, activities, exam scores and dates, parental information, etc.
- Each school may have their own additional requirements
- The Common App Requirements Grid details the requirements for all colleges in the system
  - It can be found on their website

Other Resources on the Common App Website

- "Virtual Counselor" tab
  - Gives students access to dozens of helpful videos about the general college application process and the process of filling out the Common App, courtesy of expert virtual counselors
  - Includes articles with helpful tips for choosing, applying for, and affording college
  - Provides a section for students to tweet the Virtual Counselors regarding any questions they may have about high school or college

Other Resources on the Common App Website (Cont.)

- "Plan Ahead" tab
  - Composed of four subheadings: Why Go to College, How to Prepare, How to Pay for College, and How to Transfer
    - Why Go to College tab
      - Discusses the personal and financial benefits of college
    - How to Prepare tab
      - Provides a college prep guide detailing the main focuses of middle school, 9th grade, 10th grade, 11th grade, and 12th grade
    - How to Pay for College tab
      - Details tips and resources to start saving for college and ways to apply for scholarships and financial aid
    - How to Transfer tab
      - Explains the process of transferring colleges, understanding credit transfer, and utilizing financial assistance

Links to Resources

- [Apply Here](#)
- [10 College Application Tips](#)
- [College App Tips and Tactics](#)

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Things to Cover in Your Meeting

- Explain what the Common App is, how it is used, and how important it is in the college application process
- Walk through the steps of making an account, adding colleges to the application list, and how to complete the application
- Discuss the other amazing resources offered by Common App, like the "Virtual Counselor" and "Plan Ahead" Tabs