



What is the Common Application?

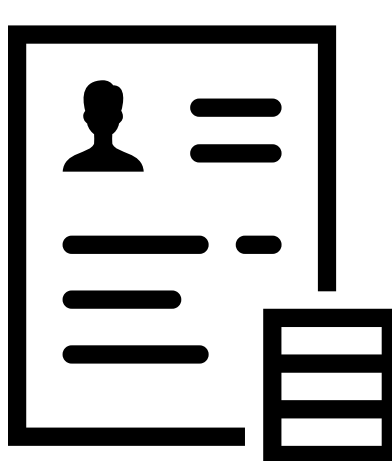
The Common Application is a single, online application that students can submit to any participating school, rather than having to fill out a new application for every school individually. However, nearly half of all schools participating in the Common Application also require students submit a supplemental application specific to that college or university.



How does the Common Application process work?

The Common Application can make applying to colleges significantly easier for students, allowing them to compile the information all their schools want to know in one place. Hundreds of colleges use and accept the Common Application, so thousands of high school students, transfer students and those returning to college use it each year. Learn how the application works and walk through the process step-by-step below.

1. Applicants create a Common Application profile at CommonApp.org, where they can then add and remove the colleges they want to apply to and track application deadlines.
2. Fill out a Common Application form, which includes general information all colleges want to see such as name, address, extracurriculars, etc.
3. Add any supplemental applications requested by the colleges. These supplements typically have questions or essay prompts specific to their schools or programs.
4. Instead of filling out the same information again and again on separate applications, applicants submit the same Common Application to all of their chosen schools.
5. Colleges receive the Common Application (and any additional materials requested, such as a transcript). Their admissions officers review these applications.
6. Using the Common Application and other information (such as on-campus interviews or submitted portfolios), the schools can decline, accept, or wait-list applicants. The applicant, if they applied for financial assistance through FAFSA or school-specific scholarships, will also learn about their financial aid offers.



What Tips Can Make Filling Out the Common App Easier?

Don't wait until 11:59 p.m. on Jan. 1 to finish applications as some students do, experts say. Schools will still accept applications that are a few minutes late, according to Common App representatives, but the stress that comes with fighting against the clock – and the increased potential for typos and other mistakes – isn't worth it.

Besides starting early, experts encourage students to take advantage of the Common App preview that allows students to review their application prior to submission.

Students can also assign advisers who can see parts of an application and the progress they've made.

