



# COMMON APPLICATION

Mr. Bauer & Mr. Devino

# What is the Common App?

Common App is a non-profit college access organization that helps students apply to college every year. Common App's free college application tool is designed to make applying to college faster and easier. With Common App you only need to use one system to apply to multiple colleges and universities. There are two main parts you fill out: a set of common questions and each college's own specific questions. The best part is you only have to fill out the common questions one time!

Common App is a place for you to learn about the college admissions process, understand how to plan and apply to college, and discover all that different colleges have to offer. It's a hub of information that can guide you through each step of the application journey. It's a resource that connects you with financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

## Whatever questions you might have, we're here to help

**Application guides** to give you step-by-step instructions on completing your application.

A **college roadmap** designed to guide you toward your next destination — no matter where you start.

An **application dictionary** to help you understand the terminology related to college applications.

A **library of FAQs** to answer any question you may have, and a support team that's available **24/7/365**.

## What's next

Visit [commonapp.org](https://commonapp.org) to create your Common App account and start exploring colleges.

## Common App at a glance

- More than 1,000 colleges and universities use Common App
- 250+ public colleges and universities
- 50+ international universities in 15+ countries
- 125+ MSIs
- 500+ without app fee
- 300+ test optional/flexible

# Quickstart Guide to Common App

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## Add colleges

Get started by adding colleges to your list. You can find colleges to apply to in the College Search tab of your Common App account. The College Search tab also has information and links to help you research each college. More than 1,000 colleges use Common App! Go to [commonapp.org/explore](https://commonapp.org/explore) to start exploring.

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## Stay organized

Each college has its own set of specific requirements and supplements. When it comes to tracking this information and staying organized, we're here to help! Use the "Requirements Grid" and each college's "College Information" page to find this information.

To start your college application checklist, check out our "My College Requirements" worksheet at [commonapp.org/ready](https://commonapp.org/ready).

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## Complete and submit

Answering all the questions in the Common App tab is a great way to start your applications. For each college you will:

- Answer college specific questions
- Invite and manage recommenders
- Complete other supplements (if applicable)

After all these sections are complete, you are ready to submit your application! Submission is simple: review, pay (if applicable), and submit.

## How does my application get there?

When you submit we combine your responses from the Common App and college specific questions, as well as any supplements, into one form. Your counselor, teachers, and other recommenders complete their reports and evaluations separately.

As recommenders submit their forms, they will be sent to the college to be added to your application.

# Activities

The Activities section is one of our team's favorite sections of the application. Activities add persona to an application; they demonstrate an applicant's interests outside of the classroom and allow us a glimpse into that applicant's passions, further demonstrating how that individual may enhance our student community.

—Adelphi University (Garden City, NY)

You can add up to ten activities to your application, but that doesn't mean that you need to enter ten. On average, students applying through Common App report 6 activities.

Don't forget, this section is how colleges can get to know more about you. It can show what makes you unique: your pursuits, interests, and passions. Focus on what activities can best tell that story and not on the number you're reporting.

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# Gather your MATERIALS?

- High school information**

You'll need to know things like your high school's CEEB code, GPA scale, and class rank reporting. Check in with your counselor for more details about this information. Ask them for the High School Details information sheet! (Download it at [commonapp.org/ready](https://commonapp.org/ready))

- An unofficial copy of your high school transcript**

You'll be asked to list the courses you're taking this academic year.

Some colleges ask applicants to self report their full academic record in the Courses & Grades section. If you have a college on your list that requires Courses & Grades, you'll need your transcript to complete this section.

- A copy of your test scores and dates**

You have the option to enter scores for standardized exams like the ACT and SAT that you have taken and/or plan to take. Don't forget, you'll still need to send official score reports to colleges that require them.

- Citizenship information**

Social Security Number, if you intend to apply for financial aid via FAFSA (For U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, U.S. dual citizens, U.S. permanent residents, U.S. refugees, and U.S. asylees).

For Permanent Residents: A copy of your green card.

For non-U.S. citizens: U.S. visa type, number, and date issued. If you do not yet have a U.S. visa but intend to apply for one, you can indicate that in the application.

- State of residence information**

If you think you qualify for in-state tuition for a school you might be asked to share more information about your residence in that state.

# Materials continued...

## **Parent information**

You'll be asked to share some basic information about one or more parents, including your parent's occupation and job title, and the education level they received. If your parent attended college, you'll need to know the name and location of the college they attended, as well as what degree they received and when.

## **A list of academic honors**

You can include up to 5 academic honors you received during high school. You'll need to include the honor's title, when you received it, and the level of recognition you received (regional or national, for example).

## **A list of your activities**

You have the option to enter up to 10 activities you participated in during high school. These activities might include family responsibilities, jobs, volunteer work, clubs, sports, hobbies, and more.

For each activity you'll list: the years of participation, hours per week and weeks per year spent on the activity, position/leadership held, and a brief description.

### **Parent information**

- Occupation
- Job title
- Education level
- Name of college(s) attended
- College location
- Degree earned
- Year degree earned

# What is the FERPA?

Completing the FERPA Release Authorization will grant your high school permission to send those records on your behalf. Here's a quick breakdown of how this process works in the Common App:

The release authorization asks you two questions about your education records under FERPA.

First, you must grant your high school(s) permission to release all requested records. Colleges you apply to may require documents like transcripts or letters of recommendation. Granting your high school(s) this permission allows colleges to receive these records and contact your school with questions.

Second, you will be asked to waive or not to waive your right to review recommendations and other forms.

Waiving your rights lets colleges know that you don't plan to read your recommendations. This helps reassure colleges that the letters are candid and truthful. Some recommenders may only write a letter if you have waived your rights. Check with your counselor or teachers to see if any of them follow such a policy.

## What is an education record?

Education records are documents related to your attendance and performance in school.

For example: grades, transcripts, test scores, school discipline, etc.

# Matching SCOIR account with Common App

## Parents

+ Invite a Parent

Student will be a first-generation college student.

- Yes
- No

You are a first-generation student if neither parent or guardian has received a 4-year college degree.

## Labels

## Active

Invited: 7 months ago

Morgan has logged in 7 times

Most recently logged in on 11/11/2023

## Student Information System

↻ Sync

## FERPA

Release Authorization **Granted**

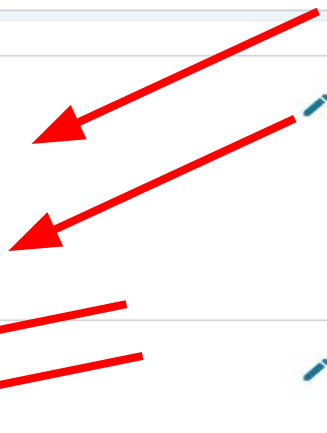
Edited by Christopher Watson on 04/08/2024

Waiver of Rights **Granted**

Edited by Christopher Watson on 04/08/2024

Application ID

Common App ID: —





# Common App Essay Prompts

**Below is the full set of Common App essay prompts for 2024-25.**

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

We will also retain the optional COVID-19 question within the Additional Information section.

# Common App Rollover - August 1, 2024

What is account rollover?

Every year on August 1, Common App gets a refresh. During this refresh, we roll over your account for the new application year.

Account rollover helps us ensure that anyone can create a Common App account and get started at any time. Even if you don't plan on applying for another few months or another few years, you don't have to wait to create an account.

After rollover, you can sign in with your same username and password, but you may notice some changes. Each year we may remove some questions, ask new questions, or make some other adjustments.

Outside of those changes, the following things will stay after account rollover:

- Common App tab responses
- Colleges in your My Colleges list (optional)
- Your past applications (if applicable)

## Rollover continued...

To roll over your account, sign in any time after August 1. We'll ask you a few questions before moving everything over. If you're planning to apply as a first-year student, you can choose to keep your colleges list. If you applied to any colleges last year, a PDF copy of your application will also be available after signing in.

Outside of your college list and any past applications, we are unable to rollover anything else in your My Colleges tab.

When we rollover your account, we delete any responses to college questions or writing supplements. This is because many colleges change their application year over year. Any invitations to counselors, teachers, advisors, and other recommenders are also removed.

[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)



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# Your future starts here

Apply to college for the first time or transfer to complete your degree. Navigate your entire college application journey with Common App.

[Start your application](#)

# Create your account -



**Let's get started!**

Welcome to Common App! Please tell us how you will use the system so we can prepare your account. If you are unsure, we encourage you to explore each option before you continue.

Already have an account? [Go to the login page.](#)

- First year student** ?
- Transfer student** ?
- Education professional** ?
- Parent or other adult** ?

<https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount>

<https://apply.commonapp.org/login>

THE COMMON  
APPLICATION

