Understanding College Applications
LHS Senior Guidance Night 2018

www.commonapp.org

The **Common Application** is accepted by over 700 universities across the United States and including many international universities. Some colleges are Common Application exclusive, meaning they will only accept the Common Application, whereas others will give a student the option to use the common application or an alternate application. Students who plan to use the Common Application should <u>only create 1 account</u> as they must link their common application account to the Lynbrook Family Connection account to allow for the submission of transcripts, recommendation letters, and school reports. The Common Application is divided into two parts – the general portion of the application and school specific supplemental information.

Common errors on the Common App:

- Students should use an appropriate, professional email address on the application
- For information to be included in the 'education' section of the general common app, refer to the 'common app tip sheet' provided online (LHS does no weight GPAs nor do we rank students)
- Students should spend time carefully entering information regarding extracurricular information; treat this portion of the application formally and thoughtfully as this is typically the first document a college reviews. Feedback given by many admission counselors is that students tend to be too informal in this section of the application
- The FERPA waiver must be completed before a student can link common app to Family Connection and can only be accessed after the education section is completed. *Note: if a student chooses NOT to waive his/her rights, many LHS teachers may choose to NOT send a letter of recommendation. Once you submit the FERPA, your response cannot be changed.*
- Supplemental question, if they exist, are found in the college specific section, not in the general application
- The common app is a smart app meaning your responses could trigger additional questions in the application, for example, indicating interest in an Honors program or impacted majors may add additional short answer questions.

www.csumentor.edu

The Fall 2017 **California State University** application is open from **October 1 – November 30**. Students must create an account and complete the application to be considered for admission to any of the 23 CSU campuses.

- Even though all CSU campuses use this one application, students must activate and send a separate application to each CSU campus.
- Students can have multiple applications started (same questions, different campuses), **but are STRONGLY encouraged to complete one application from beginning to end.** If a student does this, when subsequent applications are started, the information will pre-populate into the new application.
- The CSU application does not require recommendation letters or transcripts
- Students self-report all academic information – it is helpful to have your transcript in front of you when entering to reduce errors
- Students MUST send official test scores through the College Board or ACT (refer to your lavender handout)

New Coalition Application – http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/students.html
Currently being accepted by approx. 90 colleges with more to come in future years. Not a lot of information on how this is being read or how it impacts admission. University of Washington, University of Maryland, and University of Florida are all Coalition App exclusive.

The University of California application opened on August 1st. Students may create and work on the application and personal insight statements (essays)**,** but submission occurs from **November 1 – 30** (don't wait until the last minute). It is the only application for admission students need for the UC system and students cannot have alternate versions of the application. Imbedded in the application is also a section that allows students to select up to 16 scholarship programs which they hope to be considered for and, in most cases, the application/essay for admission double as the scholarship application.

Common errors of the UC app:

- Students should use an appropriate, professional email address on the application
- Students should spend time carefully entering information regarding extracurricular information; treat this portion of the application formally and thoughtfully as this is typically the first document a college reviews. Feedback given by many admission counselors is that students tend to be too informal in this section of the application
- Utilize all space provided: answer the personal insight prompts thoughtfully, but if you feel that there is more information to share regarding your experience and education, please use the 'addition comments' box which allows students up to 550 additional words.
- Academic concerns including schedule conflicts, being limited by LHS, lower grades, using online programs to supplement coursework – can be addressed in the 'Addition Comments' section in 'Academic History'
- Students cannot tailor the personal statements so keep this in mind especially if you are selecting completely different majors at different UC campuses
- Non A-G coursework can be entered and reported in the 'activities & activities' section of the application including: Chinese school, online classes, LHS non A-G courses such as Principles of Business
- California State ID number or SSID – this is not the Lynbrook student ID number, but a random number assigned to every student in the state of California. This can be found on your transcript and in Family Connection.

FAST Apps – some colleges recruit students based on academic profiles reported through the ACT or College Board Organization. Students using this special application are still encouraged to submit transcripts and/or recommendation letters even if they are optional to maximize admission and/or scholarship opportunities. If a student submits a 'fast app' instead of the common application, please make certain you indicate this in the Family Connection account so that the forms get sent to the correct place. (examples: Drexel and UOP)

UT Austin (and all public universities in Texas) require students to meet a requirement that students at LHS do not have – visit https://admissions.utexas.edu/explore/prerequisites/general-requirements and review the 'CLAIMING AN EXEMPTION' section

Pomona College – Pomona requires a 'School Report Supplement' which can be downloaded here - http://www.pomona.edu/admissions/apply/how-to-apply.aspx. Students should contact the Pomona Admissions office and request a form be sent to his/her recommender.

Accelerated/Combined/Honors programs – Oftentimes, these 'special' programs do require supplemental material and or supplemental recommendation and transcript packets to be mailed to the 'special program' in addition to the general admission office. Please PRINT a copy of the 'special' instructions and include in the folder.
For example – UC Santa Barbara has a College of Creative Studies that requires supplemental material that is different for each emphasis: [*https://ccs.ucsb.edu/how-to-apply*](https://ccs.ucsb.edu/how-to-apply)

Many out of state colleges have their own application system (Penn State, University of Illinois, and University of Washington) as well as some private universities (MIT, Georgetown, and Embry Riddle Aeronautical Univ.)