

Common Application Tips

Education Section

Current or Most Recent Secondary School

◎ **Date of entry**

August 2020.

If you transferred, enter the date you began attending Seattle Prep.

◎ **Graduation date**

May, 2024

◎ **Please indicate if any of these options will have affected your progression through or since secondary school. Check all that apply.**

Check “No change in progression” – even if you are considering a gap year – you can approach a college later about gap year plans.

Other Secondary High Schools

If you've attended Prep since 9th grade, the right answer is **zero**.

If you transferred to Prep, read on...

You must respond to this question: “Please provide details about why you left each of the above secondary/high schools (250-word maximum)”.

- If you switched schools voluntarily, the worst thing you can do here is to be overly critical of your former school. Don't claim that all the teachers were bad or that none of the other students were committed to academics. If the fit wasn't good, you can be honest about it without being overly negative. Draw a contrast between your former school and your new school. What does the new school offer you that the old one didn't?
- For most students, just a short paragraph of explanation should be enough, such as, “My father got a new job and our family had to relocate.” Don't go on longer than necessary.

Colleges & Universities

◎ If you have ever taken coursework at a college or university, please indicate the number of colleges:

Choose zero unless you have taken a college course—online or on campus—from a college OR are taking Writing for College for UW credit. (*Important note: Only complete this section if you are taking this Dual Enrollment classes for UW credit, do NOT complete if you chose to not pay for the UW credit*). This does not include AP courses taken at Prep.

Check **Dual Enrollment** if you will take Writing for College Fill in the date range (Aug 2023– Dec 2023).

Leave the Degree Earned blank.

Grades

Don't attempt to fill out this section without a current copy of your official high school transcript. It's very important that the information you enter here matches your official record.

◎ **Graduating class size**

195

◎ **Class rank reporting**

Seattle Prep does not rank so choose NONE

◎ **GPA scale**

4

◎ **Cumulative GPA**

Enter your weighted GPA from your transcript if it is higher.

◎ **GPA weighting**

Check the unweighted box if you have no AP's before senior year. If you had AP classes junior or sophomore year, check the weighted box.

Current or Most Recent Year Courses

You can find your schedule for both semester 1 and 2 in Veracross.

◎ **How many courses would you like to report?**

Count the courses listed for senior year on your transcript.

◎ **Please select the course scheduling system your institution is using.**

Semester system.

◎ **Course title**

- Use class names exactly as they appear on your transcript. Don't write "Senior English" if your transcript says, "Satire and Comedy."
- For the Course level, list your academic classes as **College Prep** (use regular/standard for PE and Art) unless they are AP, Honors, Accelerated (Chemistry only) or Dual

Enrollment (Writing for College only). It is ok to designate Writing for College as Dual Enrollment even if you are not taking it for UW credit.

- Most senior courses at Prep are Full Year. You will check the individual First/Second Semester boxes if that's the full length of the course.
- **List the courses in descending order of difficulty.** This lets you impress the admissions officer immediately. List AP courses at the top. Then, move to honors courses, followed by regular classes (solids, followed by electives). If you don't have any honors or AP classes, list any of the five academic solids first: English, math, science, foreign language, or social science. Then, list any electives.

Honors

If you have received any honors related to your academic achievements beginning with the ninth grade, please indicate number of honors. If you received more than five, please add the five most important to you. Don't worry if you don't have any. Prep does not award many academic honors prior to graduation. Two we do offer are Induction into National Honors Society and the Ignatian award "Intellectually Competent".

Community-Based Organizations (CBO's)

Notice that it's asking only about *free* programs. Don't list any program that you paid to attend or ones provided by Seattle Prep. Rainier Scholars would be an example of a CBO.

Testing Section

This is an optional section. It is completely acceptable to leave this entire section blank on the Common App. We encourage you to use this space to report strong AP scores (4's or 5's). If you wish to share SAT or ACT scores with a college, you can report them here, but be sure to remove them before you submit your common app to colleges that you don't want to see your scores. Some colleges will require you to send official scores directly from your College Board or ACT account. Others will accept self-reported scores from the Common App but will ask you to send official scores later if you enroll.

To see a college's testing policy (including whether they require official scores or not) go to the My Colleges section and choose the college you want more information about. You will see a Standardized Test Policy listed and a link. Be sure to use the link in order to get the most up to date information! It will take you directly to that school's webpage with more details on their standardized test requirements and any changes due to COVID.