

Types of College Applications



Early Decision

Students who apply Early Decision will apply usually before November (check the school website for application deadline date). Students will hear back by December if they have been accepted.

Early Decision acceptances are **BINDING**, meaning an applicant **MUST** enroll at that school if offered admission. All other submitted applications must be withdrawn immediately.



Early Action

Early action is another type of application deadline that tends to be in November or December. Similar to early decision, students who apply via early action hear back from schools sooner. The difference is EA acceptances **aren't** binding.



Regular Decision

Students can also choose to apply by a school's regular decision deadline, which can be as early as Nov. 30 at certain colleges but is typically Jan. 1. Students who apply regular decision generally hear back from schools in mid-to-late March or early April.

Bluffton High School Counselors recommend that you apply and submit your applications No Later Than October 31st!!

College application day will be held on November 3rd. You will be able to sign up in October. Application fee waivers will be available from the College of Charleston, Coastal Carolina, Limestone, Winthrop and USCB to name a few.

Rolling Admissions

Schools with rolling admissions evaluate applications as they receive them and release admissions decisions on an ongoing basis. These schools may have a priority filing date, but they generally don't have a hard cutoff date for applications. The institutions continue accepting them until all spots in the incoming class are filled.



College Applications

All colleges and universities use a platform of their choosing. Some have their own application, while others use the Common Application, Coalition Application, Applyweb, or another platform. Please use the platform in which they ask you to use.

What you will need:

- Name, address, social security number, high school information
- Copy of transcript since some schools require you to self-report your grades
- Resume of accomplishments/extracurricular activities

The Common Application Application Guide

<https://www.commonapp.org/apply/first-year-students>



Common Application Essay Prompts

Below are a few CommonApp essay prompts from the past few years:

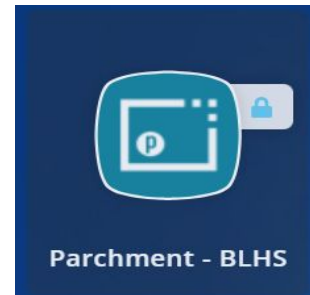
- Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, please share your story.
- The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- 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?
- Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging 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?
- 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.

Letters of Recommendation

- Letters of Recommendation are not always required, therefore if it is not required, do not send one!
- The Common Application will inform you if you will need a LOR and how many.
- If you require a Letter of Recommendation, be sure to complete your BRAG Sheet in the Google Classroom.
 - Request LORs from teachers WEEKS in advance of your deadline.
 - Provide teachers with Brag Sheet
 - Write teacher/recommender a THANK YOU note for their time and assistance.

Transcripts

- On Friday, August 25, 2023, students were emailed, to their school email account, their Parchment account setup instructions. Students must set up their Parchment account to order transcripts.
- Do NOT order transcripts to colleges until AFTER you have submitted your application. If the admissions office receives your transcript before your application, and do not have any records to tie it to, they will discard the transcript.
- You can find the Parchment Icon on your Classlink.
- If you are applying through the CommonApp, Transcripts will be uploaded through the CommonApp Counselor Portal.



Resources

USNews.com/education

<https://www.commonapp.org/counselors-and-recommenders/common-app-ready>