

UNIT 3



College Applications



5 Things You Need to Know About College Admission

You can
get in.
Really.

1

College admission isn't as competitive as you might think. Fewer than 100 colleges in the U.S. are highly selective, which means they accept less than 25 percent of applicants. Close to 500 four-year colleges accept more than 75 percent of applicants. And open-admission colleges accept all or most high school graduates.

You are
more than
test scores.

2

Colleges care most about the work you've done in high school. They look for students who have earned strong grades in challenging courses. They also try to learn about your character by looking at what you do outside the classroom. Take advantage of opportunities, like the application essay and college interview to show a more complete picture of who you are.

You are
in charge.

3

This is your big future—you're in the driver's seat. Stay focused on what's important to you and what you want to get out of the college experience. College planning can feel overwhelming at times, but if you take charge and stay focused on your goals, you can make it work for you.

4

You are
unique.

You should base your choice on how well a college fits your needs. Don't worry about how it's ranked on a list or how famous it is. The effort you put in and the opportunities you take advantage of once you get there matter more than the college you go to. Once you graduate from college, your achievement and skills will matter most.

Family, teachers, and friends are a great resource. Discuss your plans to go to college with them and ask for help and advice. Make an appointment with your school counselor to talk about the application process, colleges that will suit you, and options for financial aid.

5

You are
not in this
alone.

Deciding on
How to Apply



Ways to Apply



1. Directly to each college individually through their website



2. **common
app** 

How will you know what application process to select?



1. Check and see how your colleges want to receive applications.
For example: Oakland University only accepts direct applications. University of Michigan only accepts Common App. Wayne State accepts both.
2. Make a list of where you want to apply and how each institution accepts applications.
3. The number of institutions that use Common App vs. the number of direct applications will help you determine if it is worth your time to use Common App.



Tips for Preparing Your College Application



Take it **one step at a time**

Correctly submitting all the different pieces of your college application is like a test—one you can easily pass. While the process may seem complicated, a little organization and attention go a long way. Watch [Estelle's story](#) “When it felt impossible, I broke it into steps.”



Tips for Preparing Your College Application



Gather Information Needed

Regardless of the format, colleges often ask for the following on the application form. Make sure you have this information ready before you begin the application process.

- **Personal Information**—Your name, email address (this time do **not** use your school email address), phone number, high school, college credits already earned, SAT scores, citizenship information, social security number, date of birth, list of classes you are taking your senior year, and your GPA.
- **Extracurriculars**—Explain what you've done outside of class, and how much time you devoted to it. In addition to traditional extracurricular activities, remember to include part-time jobs or other obligations like taking care of siblings.
- **Summer Activities**—Explain summer jobs, internships, or other enrichment opportunities.
- **Essays**—Submit the essays you have written. (Not all applications require an essay)
- **Honors/AP**—List any honors you've received along with the context. How many students competed for the honor? How many students received it? Why is it important?
- **Application Fee**—Pay for your application to officially submit it. If the cost is too high, speak with your counselor; fee waivers are available, if you qualify, so that you can submit the applications for free. [See if you qualify](#)
- **Standardized Test Scores**—In addition to listing your SAT and/or ACT scores on your college application, you will be required to submit official score reports. These must be sent directly from College Board (SAT) or the ACT to the college. You can select colleges to receive your scores while you are registering to take the tests, or you can do it later when you get your scores back. Many colleges also ask that you submit results for AP or SAT subject tests that you've taken.

How to Complete a Common App



There is a lot of information for you to understand and complete in the Common App. This set of resources will help you get organized and start the application process.

[Common App toolkit for first time students](#)

For video tutorials on Common App, you can subscribe to the Common App channel on YouTube.

[Common App on YouTube](#)

