College Applications 101

Where do we start?
Right here!

HCS Scholars Academy High School
Spring, 2024

Starting the College Application Process

- Choose the colleges you are going to apply to
- Determine what application platform you will use to apply to each college
- Identify deadlines
- Prioritize tasks

WHICH COLLEGES SHOULD I APPLY TO?

- **Research Colleges**
  Naviance Career Guidance Tool/Big Future

- **Colleges Visits**
  College Visit Approval Form

- **Schedule and attend your IGP meeting this summer**
  IGP Scheduling Link

South Carolina Educational Institutions

(arcgis.com)

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

How Many Schools Should I Apply To?

- Reach/Target/Safety Schools
- Application Fees

Starting the College Application Process

- **Common App opens for application submission August 1st**

    Common App Link

- **Questbridge National College Match Application opens August 1st**

    Questbridge Information and FAQ

    Questbridge Match Application Link

- **Individual College Applications**

Early Decision vs. Early Action

Application Deadlines

Early Action—Non Binding

Most deadlines are by November 15 with admissions response by March 1.

Early Decision--Binding

Most deadlines are by November 15 with admissions response by March 1.

Regular Decision

Deadlines are usually in December/January/February or Rolling Admissions.

SC Colleges Early Action Deadlines

October 15 Clemson & USC (Non-Binding)
October 22 Clemson Honors College
November 15 USC Honors College
November 15 CCU Early Action (Non-Binding)
December 15 College of Charleston (Non-Binding)

Information Needed for Applications

Demographics

Basic information -- Social Security #, Driver's License # if applicable, in-state colleges may ask for items to prove residency, etc.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Clubs, Sports, Community Organizations or Affiliations, Summer or Part-time Job Information

Honors or Awards/Recognition Received

List of awards or recognition while in high school for both school and community recognition.

Test Scores

Don't wait to complete application trying for a higher score.

Transcripts
www.needmytranscripts.com

Application Fees or Fee Waivers

Essay Topics for Common App 2024-25 will rollover from 23-24 and will not change.

2023-24 Common-App-essay-prompts

Resources

Writing a strong college essay--Khan Academy

How to Hook Your Reader and Write Better College Essay Openings

Brainstorming your college essay topic

Email Dr. Rabon to schedule an appointment for help planning and writing your essay.

College Essays

Letters of Recommendation

Scholars Academy Staff

- Complete the Google Form for SAHS Staff.
- Make sure each teacher, counselor, and administrator is aware of your request, and the deadline.
- Give them as much notice ahead of a deadline as possible, but **NO LESS THAN 10 BUSINESS DAYS.**
- Your **responsibility** is to follow up with your recommenders.

Community Recommenders

- Make them aware of the deadlines and where they should submit their recommendation.
- Give them as much notice ahead of a deadline as possible, but **NO LESS THAN 10 BUSINESS DAYS.**

<u>Scholars Academy Letter of Recommendation Form</u>

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

We will have a guest speaker during your grade level meeting in the fall for updates on FAFSA.

FAFSA/CSS PROFILE

GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Guidance Google Classroom (m4ldghq)
Invitation Link for Classroom

Guidance Webpage & Emails

Guidance Resources

Additional Questions