



Common App Kickoff

Mr. Montgomery
School Counselor

The Common App

- Over 1,000 participating colleges and universities
 - 300+ public college & universities
- Schools in all 50 States
- 50+ international universities in 15+ countries
- 150+ Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)
- 950+ Test-optional/flexible
- 500+ No application fee

Location ▾

Enter state or country

Region >

Application for first-year students >

Application for transfer students >

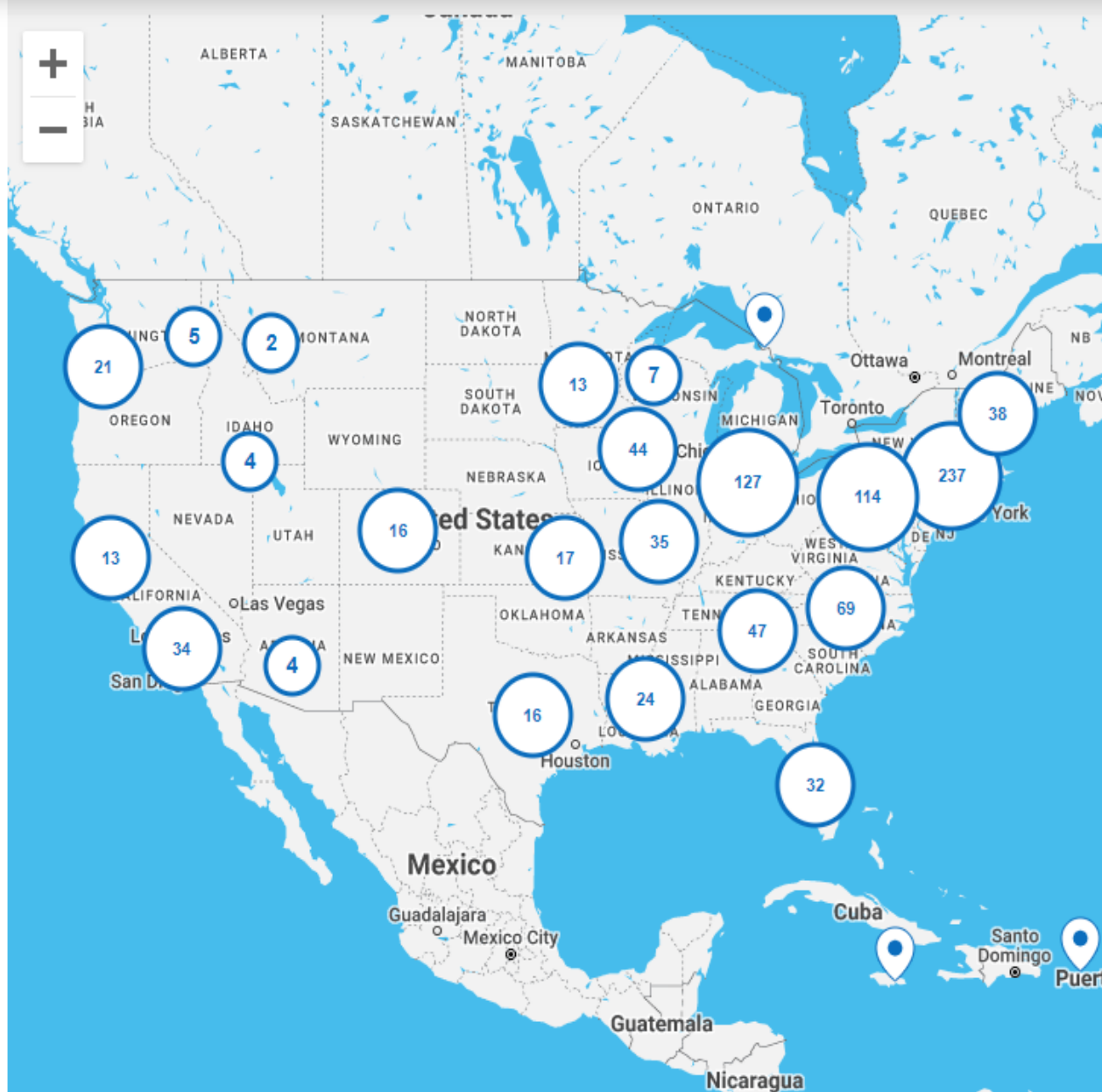
Campus setting >

Financial aid >

Minority serving institution >

Type >

Total Enrollment Size >



1 Adelphi University
Garden City, NY



2 Agnes Scott College
Decatur, GA



3 Albany College of Pharmacy
and Health Science...
Albany, NY



4 Albertus Magnus College
New Haven, CT



5 Albion College
Albion, MI



6 Albright College
Reading, PA



7 Alfred University
Alfred, NY



8 Allegheny College
Meadeville, PA



9 Alma College
Alma, MI



10 Alvernia University
Reading, PA



Common App in New Jersey

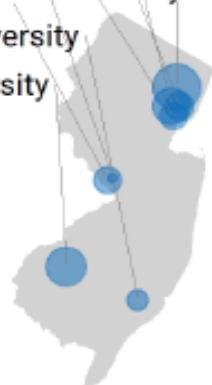
2021–2022

Top receiving institutions nationally from applicants in New Jersey (descending)

- Montclair State University
- Rowan University
- Seton Hall University
- Penn State
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Kean University
- The College of New Jersey
- University of Delaware
- Northeastern University
- Stockton University
- New York University
- University of Maryland
- Rider University
- William Paterson University of NJ
- Monmouth University

In-State Applications to NJ Institutions

Montclair State University
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Seton Hall University
Kean University
Rider University
The College of New Jersey
Stockton University
Rowan University



Applications

Applications	7,500	10,000	12,500	15,000	17,500
Montclair State University					
New Jersey Institute of Technology					
Seton Hall University					
Kean University					
Rider University					
The College of New Jersey					
Stockton University					
Rowan University					

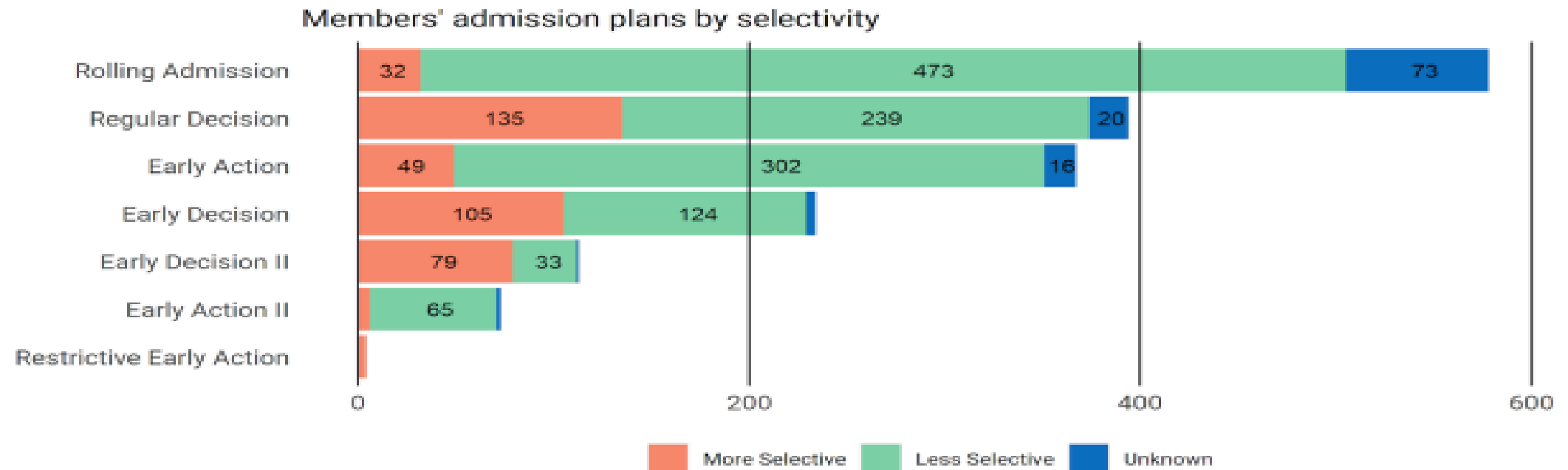
Admission plans available through Common App members

College and university members offered applicants 7 distinct admission plan types in the 2020–21 application cycle. Below, in **Figure 1**, we sort the frequency of plans in descending order of popularity with our members.

1. **Rolling Admission:** allows applicants to submit their application materials at any time during the application season
2. **Regular Decision:** a non-restrictive (ability to apply to other schools) admission plan with deadlines typically occurring in early January
3. **Early Action I (EA):** like Regular Decision however on an earlier timeline, a non-restrictive plan with deadlines generally in November and December, and applicants typically receive an admissions decision in January or February
4. **Early Action II:** similar to Early Action, but offered later in January with admissions decisions released in February
5. **Early Decision I (ED):** a binding (must withdraw all other applications if accepted), single-institution restrictive admission plan with deadlines starting in late Fall
6. **Early Decision II:** similar to Early Decision, but offered later in the application season; the same restrictions apply
7. **Restrictive Early Action (REA):** a non-binding, single-institution restrictive plan more stringent than Early Action but less restrictive than Early Decision, applicants should not apply to different schools using REA and ED at the same time; applicants may apply to other schools using Early Action, Regular Decision, and Rolling Admission

A Common App college or university can offer multiple admission plans in a single season, and most do, offering a combination of Regular Decision, Early Action, and Early Decision options. As seen below in **Figure 1**, generally speaking, the least restrictive and later admission plans were most popular among our less selective¹ members. Less selective schools comprised most of the members offering Rolling Admission, at over 80%. Selective institutions, on the other hand, comprised a larger proportion of members who offered Early Decision (45%) and Early Decision II (80%), while they made up just 6% of institutions with Rolling Admission. Meanwhile, Restrictive Early Action was only offered at our most selective schools, and Early Action II tended to be offered by less selective members. Likely a product of colleges' enrollment management strategies, more restrictive and earlier deadlines were more popular among our selective members.

Figure 1: Least restrictive admission plans were most popular among our less selective members



Note: Members' decision plans are not mutually exclusive.

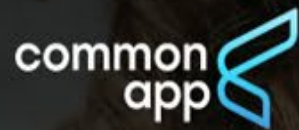
To examine trends over time in the prevalence of various admission plans, we collapse these 7 admission plans into 4 categories, as seen on the next page in **Figure 2**. Early Action includes Early Action I, Early Action II, and Restrictive Early Action; Early Decision contains Early Decision I and Early Decision II. In the 2020–21 season, Rolling Admission was offered at 578 out of 914 active members (63%), Regular Decision at 394 (43%), some form of Early Action at 372 (41%), and some form of Early Decision at 235 (26%). While some institutions like Princeton University changed the availability of certain admission plans in 2020–21, we do not find this pattern consistent when examining our entire membership. Increases, over time, in all 4 grouped plans are attributable, at least partially, to the growth of the Common App membership.²

Important Links

- <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- <https://www.commonapp.org/virtual-counselor>
 - Watch videos
 - Explore top tips
 - Read advice from experts
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/CommonAppMedia>
- Social Media
 - <https://www.facebook.com/commonapp>
 - <https://twitter.com/CommonApp>
- Blog: <http://www.commonapp.org/whats-appening>

Before We Get Started - Rollover

- July 24 – August 1
- **What information will roll over?**
 - All information within the Common App tab:
 - * Profile (9)
 - * Family (4)
 - * Education (9)
 - * Testing (1)
 - * Activities (up to 10)
 - * Writing (Essay, Disciplinary History, and Additional Information)
- **What information will not roll over?**
 - * Answers to college-specific questions
 - * Recommender invitations
 - * Forms submitted by recommenders
 - * Your Release Authorization and FERPA selection
 - * Responses to questions that have been changed or removed

[FIND A COLLEGE](#)[Plan for college ▾](#)[Apply to college ▾](#)[Support your students ▾](#)[Sign in](#)[Create an account](#)

Your future starts here

Apply to college for the first time or transfer to complete your degree. Navigate your entire college application journey with Common App.

[Start your application](#)



Let's get started!

Welcome to Common App! Please tell us how you will use the system so we can prepare your account. If you are unsure, we encourage you to explore each option before you continue.

Already have an account? [Go to the login page.](#)

First year student



Transfer student



Education professional



Parent or other adult



[Need Help?](#)

[System Requirements](#)

[Accessibility Information](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy policy \(updated October 1, 2020\)](#)

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Create your account

Email Address *

Re-type Email Address *

Password *

- ✗ 10-32 characters
- ✗ At least one upper case
- ✗ At least one lower case
- ✗ At least one number
- ✗ At least one special character
- ✗ No space characters

Re-type Password *

- ✗ Passwords must match

Which best describes you? I am: *

- ☐ Applying as a first-year student and plan to start college in 2021 or 2022
- ☐ Planning to start college in 2023
- ☐ Planning to start college in 2024 or beyond

Clear Answer

Please review the following:

- ☒ Common App may share my contact information with colleges that I am considering applying to so they may communicate with me prior to the submission of my application (you can change the response later within your account settings).
- ☒ Common App may communicate with me by email, phone or text message about my account, information relevant to the college admissions process, and my college experience (you can change this response later within your account settings).
- ☐ By checking this box, I agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) (unless I am under the age of 18, in which case, I represent that my parent or legal guardian also agrees to the Terms of Use on my behalf).*

Back

Create Account



COMMON APP LAYOUT

The Common App is divided into five tabs:

- Dashboard
- My Colleges
- Common App
- College Search
- Financial Aid Resources



[Dashboard](#)

APPLY

[My Common Application](#)

[My colleges](#)

EXPLORE

[College search](#)

[Direct admissions](#)

[Financial aid](#)

[Settings](#)

[Sign out](#)



Andrew Montgomery
CAID 24569369

⚠ Practice account

⚠ This is a practice account. It cannot submit applications to colleges. If you'd like to change your account type, please review our [practice account FAQ](#) for more information.



Good morning, Andrew!

Dashboard

^ My Common Application

0/6 sections complete



[Profile](#)

[Family](#)

[Education](#)

[Testing](#)

[Activities](#)

[Writing](#)

^ My colleges

18 colleges on my list

Help & support

Search FAQs

Search takes you to the student solution center

How can I add a college to My colleges?

To add a college to your account:

Select **College search** from...

[Read full answer](#)

I already submitted, can I change some of my answers?

You can return at any time and change your answer to any question in the My Common...

[Read full answer](#)

College Search

- Search for a college/university directly by name.
- Apply Filters
 - Distance in miles
 - Deadline
 - Application fee
 - Writing Requirements
 - Testing Requirements
 - Letter of Recommendation



Andrew Montgomery
CAID 24569369

⚠ Practice account

College search

[Application requirements](#)

College or City Name

Separate multiple search terms with a comma, e.g.: Washington, Boston

[More filters](#)

25 results

Sort by: College Name ▾

	East Carolina University Greenville, NC - USA	✕ Remove
	East Central University Ada, OK - USA	+ Add
	East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania East Stroudsburg, PA - USA	✕ Remove
	East Texas A&M University Commerce, TX - USA	+ Add

Help & support

Search FAQs

 [🔍](#)

Search takes you to the student solution center

How do I search for a college?

The **College search** section allows you to find the Common App member colleges that interest you. Yo...

[Read full answer](#)

[All help topics](#) [🔗](#)

COMPLETING THE COMMON APP AGENDA

- Profile Section
- Family Section
- Education Section
- Testing Section
- Activities Section
- Writing Section



THE PROFILE SECTION

In the Profile section you will provide some more detailed information about yourself.



My Common Application

Personal Information

Address

Contact Details

Demographics

Language

Geography and Nationality

Common App Fee Waiver

Family

Education

Testing

My Common Application | Profile

Personal Information

Preview

Complete

Legal first/given name*

Andrew

Would you like to share a different first name that people call you?

Yes

No

Clear answer

Middle name

Last/family/surname*

Montgomery

Help & support

Search FAQs

Search takes you to the student solution center

Need Help?

Please use the link below to look for an answer to your question. Answers to most questions can be found in th...

Read full answer

All help topics

Need help?

System requirements

Accessibility information

License agreement

Terms of use

Fraud policy

Privacy policy

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The Common App tab is where you will complete the main sections of your application.



- Click the Preview button to review each section in PDF.
- Check marks indicate you've completed a section.
- Red asterisks indicate a response is required.
- Click Continue to move from one section to the next.

TIPS & BEST PRACTICES

- Use your legal name so that colleges can match your application with standardized test scores and other documents.
- You will have the opportunity to share more about your gender identity.
- Make sure the email address you enter is one you check regularly.

THE COMMON APP FEE WAIVER

- Indicate whether you feel you qualify for an application waiver
- Select the indicator(s) that best apply to you
- Provide your signature
- For more information: [What is a Common App fee waiver?](#)

The screenshot shows the 'Common App Fee Waiver' page. On the left is a sidebar with the 'common app' logo and a menu titled 'My Common Application' containing links for Language, Geography and Nationality, Common App Fee Waiver (highlighted), Family, Education, Testing, Activities, Writing, and Courses & Grades. The main content area is titled 'Common App Fee Waiver' with a 'Preview' button. It states 'In progress' and lists eligibility criteria: being enrolled in a federal free or reduced price lunch program, receiving or being eligible for an SAT or ACT fee waiver, having an annual family income within USDA Food and Nutrition Service guidelines, receiving public assistance, being in a federal, state, or local program for low-income families, living in federally subsidized public housing or a foster home, being a ward of the state or orphan, receiving or being eligible for a Pell Grant, or providing a supporting statement from a school official. A 'Help & support' sidebar on the right includes a 'Search FAQs' box, a 'Need Help?' section with a link to the student solution center, and a link to 'All help topics'.



THE FAMILY SECTION

The Family section of the Common App provides you with the opportunity to share information about your family.

There are four sections to complete within the Family section.

The screenshot displays the 'My Common Application' dashboard. On the left, a sidebar lists various sections: Language, Geography and Nationality, Common App Fee Waiver (highlighted), Family (with a green checkmark), Education, Testing, Activities, Writing, and Courses & Grades (showing 0 college(s) require). The main content area is titled 'Do you meet one or more of the [Common App fee waiver](#) eligibility criteria?'. It features two radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No', a 'Clear answer' button, and a 'Continue' button at the bottom. Below the question, text explains that UStrive is a Common App partner providing free mentors. A bulleted list of services includes: Apply to college, Navigate the financial aid process, Transition into college, Get your degree, and Find a job after graduation. Another question asks 'Would you like to connect with a UStrive mentor?' with 'Yes' and 'No' radio buttons and a 'Clear answer' button. On the right, a 'Help & support' sidebar includes a search bar for FAQs, a note that search leads to the student solution center, a 'Need Help?' section with a link to 'Read full answer', and a link to 'All help topics'.

common app

My Common Application

Language

Geography and Nationality

Common App Fee Waiver

Family

Education

Testing

Activities

Writing

Courses & Grades
0 college(s) require

Do you meet one or more of the [Common App fee waiver](#) eligibility criteria?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

UStrive is a Common App partner that connects you with free, qualified mentors online. UStrive mentors can help you:

- Apply to college
- Navigate the financial aid process
- Transition into college
- Get your degree
- Find a job after graduation

Would you like to connect with a UStrive mentor?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

Continue

Help & support

Search FAQs

Search takes you to the student solution center

Need Help?

Please use the link below to look for an answer to your question. Answers to most questions can be found in th...

[Read full answer](#)

[All help topics](#)

[Need help?](#) [System requirements](#) [Accessibility information](#) [License agreement](#) [Terms of use](#) [Fraud policy](#) [Privacy policy](#)

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TIPS & BEST PRACTICES

- You can list up to 5 siblings in the Family section (you can list additional siblings in the Additional Information section located in the Writing section).
- For Parent 1 you have the option to indicate that you have limited information about this parent, which will make the resulting fields for that parent not required.
- The options for Parent 2 also include the ability to indicate that you do not have another parent to list.



THE EDUCATION SECTION

In the Education section you'll share information about your current school and coursework.

There are eight sections to complete within the Education section.

The screenshot displays the Common App interface for the Education section. On the left, a sidebar lists eight sections: Current or Most Recent Secondary/High School, Other Secondary/High Schools, Colleges & Universities, Grades, Current or Most Recent Year Courses, Honors, and Community-Based Organizations. The first section is selected and highlighted. The main content area shows the 'Current or Most Recent Secondary/High School' form, which is marked as 'Complete'. The form includes fields for school name, address, city, state, country, public/private status, and CEEB code. Below these fields are 'Change' and 'Remove' buttons. A 'Date of entry' field is set to 'September 2021'. At the bottom, there is a question 'Is this a boarding school?' with a 'Yes' radio button selected. A 'Preview' button is located in the top right corner of the form area. On the far right, a 'Help & support' sidebar contains a search bar for FAQs and a link to 'Read full answer' for a specific question.

common app

My Common Application | Education

Current or Most Recent Secondary/High School

Complete

Current or most recent secondary/high school *

Cherokee High School
120 Tomlinson Mill Rd
Marlton, NJ 08053-2599
USA
Public
CEEB Code : 310761

Change Remove

Date of entry*

September 2021

Date uses "month year" format (e.g. August 2002)

Is this a boarding school?*

Yes

Help & support

Search FAQs

Search takes you to the student solution center

Why can't I find a school or college in the lookup list?
When searching for a high school or a college within your Common App, you may not...

Read full answer

All help topics

Need help? System requirements Accessibility information License agreement Terms of use Fraud policy Privacy policy

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Adding Dual Enrollment Courses to Application

The screenshot displays the Common App user interface. On the left, the 'My Common Application' sidebar is visible, with 'Colleges & Universities' selected. The main content area shows the 'Colleges & Universities' section, which includes a 'College Lookup' modal. The modal has a search bar with 'rowan' entered, and a list of results: 'Rowan College at Burlington County', 'Rowan College at Gloucester County', and 'Rowan Technical College'. A 'Continue' button is at the bottom of the modal. On the right, there is a 'Help & support' section with a search bar and a 'Need Help?' link.

College Lookup

Search by

College Name

College Name

rowan

Choose college *

- Rowan College at Burlington County
Mount Laurel, NJ, United States of America | CEEB: 2180
- Rowan College at Gloucester County
Sewell, NJ, United States of America | CEEB: 2281
- Rowan Technical College
Morehead, KY, United States of America | CEEB: 0707

Continue

Help & support

Search FAQs

Search takes you to the student solution center.

Need Help?
Please use the link below to look for an answer to your question. Answers to most questions can be found in th...

[Read full answer](#)

[All help topics](#)

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TIPS & BEST PRACTICES

- Check Genesis for a copy of your unofficial transcript.
- Selecting the correct high school ensures that the correct path is followed for your recommendation letter submissions.
- If you are homeschooled, you can search for your homeschool program or association or manually enter the name.
- It's okay to select "Other" or "Undecided" for your Future Plans and Career Interests.



THE TESTING SECTION

In the Testing section you have the option to self-report any scores or future test dates for standardized test you have taken.

In the Testing section
you can self-report
scores from a variety of
standardized tests.

The screenshot shows the 'My Common Application' dashboard with the 'Testing' section selected. The 'Tests Taken' sub-section is active, showing a 'Complete' status. The main content area asks if the user wishes to self-report scores for various standardized tests (ACT, SAT, AP, IB, Cambridge, TOEFL, PTE Academic, IELTS, and Duolingo English Test). The 'Yes' radio button is selected. Below this, there is a section for 'SAT Tests' with a dropdown menu currently showing 'SAT Tests'. The footer contains links for 'Need help?', 'System requirements', 'Accessibility information', 'License agreement', 'Terms of use', 'Fraud policy', and 'Privacy policy'. On the right side, there is a 'Help & support' section with a search bar and links to 'What is Score Choice?' and 'How do I decide which scores to report?'.

common app

My Common Application

- Profile
- Family
- Education
- Testing
- Tests Taken
- SAT Tests
- Activities
- Writing
- Courses & Grades

Tests Taken

Complete

In addition to sending official score reports as required by colleges, do you wish to self-report scores or future test dates for any of the following standardized tests: ACT, SAT/SAT Subject, AP, IB, Cambridge, TOEFL, PTE Academic, IELTS, and Duolingo English Test?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

Indicate all tests you wish to report. Be sure to include tests you expect to take in addition to tests you have already taken.*

SAT Tests X

International applicants: Is promotion within your educational system based upon standard leaving examinations given at the end of high school or equivalent?*

Need help? System requirements Accessibility information License agreement Terms of use Fraud policy Privacy policy

Help & support

Search FAQs

Search takes you to the solution center

What is Score Choice? how does it impact your report? You should self-report your best scores as instructed. [Read full answer](#)

How do I decide which scores to report? The ACT section of the Common App has been updated to accommodate current reporting options. [Read full answer](#)

TIPS & BEST PRACTICES

- The testing section allows you to list tests you plan to take in the future.
- If you do not want to self-report scores to a school, you can change your answer to say you have no scores you wish to report. By clicking “No”, your tests and scores will disappear. Change it back to “Yes”, and they reappear.
- While the Testing section allows you to self-report your scores, you must also send official score reports from the testing agencies to each college you are applying to.

The screenshot shows the 'My Common Application' sidebar on the left with the 'Testing' section expanded and 'SAT Tests' selected. The main content area is titled 'SAT Tests' and includes a 'Preview' button. It contains three sections: 'Number of past SAT scores you wish to report*' with a dropdown set to '1'; 'Would you like to report an SAT essay score?*' with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No' (selected), and a 'Clear answer' button; and 'Number of future SAT sittings you expect*' with radio buttons for '0', '1', '2', and '3'. A 'Help & support' sidebar on the right features a search bar, a FAQ section titled 'How do I report my SAT scores if they are in a different format than shown?', and a link to 'Read full answer'.

THE ACTIVITIES SECTION

The Activities section gives you the opportunity to share with colleges any activities you participated in throughout high school.

You can report up to ten activities within the Activities section.

This screenshot shows the 'Activities' section of the Common App. On the left is a sidebar titled 'My Common Application' with a menu including Profile, Family, Education, Testing, Activities (selected), Responsibilities and circumstances, Writing, and Courses & Grades. The main content area is titled 'Activities' and includes a 'Preview' button. It states 'In progress' and explains that reporting activities helps colleges understand a student's life outside the classroom. A list of examples includes Arts or music, Clubs, Community engagement, Family responsibilities, Hobbies, Sports, Work or volunteering, and Other experiences. A question asks if the user has activities to report, with 'Yes' selected. A 'Clear answer' button is at the bottom. A footer bar contains links for Need help?, System requirements, Accessibility information, License agreement, Terms of use, Fraud policy, and Privacy policy.

common app

My Common Application

- Profile
- Family
- Education
- Testing
- Activities
- Responsibilities and circumstances
- Writing
- Courses & Grades

Activities

Preview

In progress

Reporting activities can help colleges better understand your life outside of the classroom. Examples of activities might include:

- Arts or music
- Clubs
- Community engagement
- Family responsibilities ([learn more](#))
- Hobbies
- Sports
- Work or volunteering
- Other experiences that have been meaningful to you

Do you have any activities that you wish to report? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

Need help? System requirements Accessibility information License agreement Terms of use Fraud policy Privacy policy

This screenshot shows the 'Responsibilities and circumstances' section of the Common App. The sidebar is identical to the previous screenshot, with 'Responsibilities and circumstances' selected. The main content area is titled 'Responsibilities and circumstances' and includes a 'Preview' button. It states 'In progress' and explains that sharing household responsibilities helps colleges understand a student's context. It asks the user to select responsibilities they spend 4 or more hours per week doing. A list of checkboxes includes Assisting family or household members with tasks such as doctors' appointments, Farm work or unpaid work for a family business, Interpreting or translating for family or household members, Managing family or household finances, budget, or paying bills, Providing transportation for family or household members, Taking care of sick, disabled, and/or elderly members of my family or household, and Taking care of younger family or household members. A footer bar contains links for Need help?, System requirements, Accessibility information, License agreement, Terms of use, Fraud policy, and Privacy policy.

common app

My Common Application

- Profile
- Family
- Education
- Testing
- Activities
- Responsibilities and circumstances
- Writing
- Courses & Grades

Responsibilities and circumstances

Preview

In progress

Sometimes academics and activities are impacted by household responsibilities or other circumstances. Sharing this information with colleges can help them better understand the context of your application. You may repeat information you already provided elsewhere in your Common App.

Please select which responsibilities you spend 4 or more hours per week doing. *

- ☐ Assisting family or household members with tasks such as doctors' appointments, bank visits, or visa interviews
- ☐ Farm work or unpaid work for a family business
- ☐ Interpreting or translating for family or household members
- ☐ Managing family or household finances, budget, or paying bills
- ☐ Providing transportation for family or household members
- ☐ Taking care of sick, disabled, and/or elderly members of my family or household
- ☐ Taking care of younger family or household members

Need help? System requirements Accessibility information License agreement Terms of use Fraud policy Privacy policy

TIPS & BEST PRACTICES

- You can change the display order by using the up and down arrows on each activity.
- While you can add up to 10 activities, but you should not feel obligated to list 10 activities.
- You can also list family responsibilities and jobs within this section.
- If you wish to delete an activity, move it to the bottom of your activity list. Once it is the last activity listed, you will see the icon to delete it.

THE WRITING SECTION

The Writing section contains the Common App personal essay, as well as your disciplinary history and any additional information you may want to provide to colleges.

There are two sections to complete within the Writing section.

common app

My Common Application

- Profile
- Family
- Education
- Testing
- Activities
- Writing
 - Personal Essay**
 - Additional Information
- Courses & Grades
 - 0 college(s) require

Personal Essay

Preview

In progress

Some colleges require submission of the personal essay with your Common App. You may submit a personal essay to any college, even if it is not required by that college. If not required by a college, you will be given the option during submission to include your essay or not for that college.*

☐ I understand

Here is the current list of colleges on your Dashboard and whether they require the Personal Essay.

Required	Not Required
- Drexel University - East Carolina University - Iona University - Monmouth University - Rowan University - Rutgers University - Stevenson University - The College of New Jersey - University of Delaware	- Clemson University - College of Charleston - East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania - Montclair State University - Penn State - Temple University - University of Pittsburgh - West Chester University of Ohio

Help & support

Search FAQs

Search takes you to the student solution center

I already submitted, can I change some of my answers?

You can return at any time and change your answer to any question in the My Common...

[Read full answer](#)

[All help topics](#)

[Need help?](#) [System requirements](#) [Accessibility information](#) [License agreement](#) [Terms of use](#) [Fraud policy](#) [Privacy policy](#)

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TIPS & BEST PRACTICES

- You may submit the Personal Essay to any college, even if it is not required by that college.
- Carefully review each prompt before selecting one.
- Proofread your essay before submitting your application.
- Use the Additional Information section to share information about yourself that is not captured elsewhere in your application.

Essay Prompts

2025-2026 Common Application Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. 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?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. 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?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that 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?
7. 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.

THE FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES SECTION

The Financial Aid Resources section provides general information for financial aid, planning for college costs, and exploring scholarships via college board.



Using your Common App Information to apply for scholarships

Use your Common App information to easily apply for scholarships

Once you submit an application in Common App, you will be guided to connect your accounts so we can transfer your Common App application information to your new Scholarship Search profile.

1. Connect to Scholarship Search in the Financial Aid Resources tab of your Common App.
2. Log in to your Scholarship Search account, or register for a new account.
3. Give permission for Common App to access and transfer your data to Scholarship Search.

That's it! You'll be notified when the transfer is complete and will be taken back to your Common App account. Learn more about connecting your Common App with Scholarship Search at appsupport.commonapp.org.

Next Steps

Applying

- **Deadlines**
 - Dashboard
 - 11:59PM in your local time zone
- Release Authorization and FERPA selection
- Requesting Letters of Recommendation
- Requesting Transcripts

Testing

- Sending SAT/ACT scores
- SAT Dates
 - September 13th (deadline = September 2nd)
 - October 4th (deadline = September 23rd)
 - November 8th (deadline = October 28th)

Visit Campuses

Financial Aid

FERPA Release





My colleges

Overview

▼

Clemson University

▼

College of Charleston

▼

Drexel University

▼

East Carolina University

▼

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

▼

Iona University

▼

Monmouth University

▼

Montclair State University

 **This is a practice account.** It cannot submit applications to colleges. If you'd like to change your account type, please review our [practice account FAQ](#)  for more information.

My colleges | Clemson University | Application

Recommenders and FERPA

 In progress

Recommenders are people who will submit forms to colleges on your behalf. This page shows which recommender types this college needs. Each college will have different requirements.

 **FERPA Release Authorization**

Before you can invite your counselor, teachers, recommenders, parents, or advisors, you must complete the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) release authorization process.

[Learn more about FERPA](#)

Complete Release Authorization

Continue

Help & support

Search FAQs



Search takes you to the student solution center

Can I submit my application before my recommenders submit their forms?

You are allowed to submit your application before your...

▼ [Read full answer](#)

Why am I unable to assign an Other Recommender to a school?

You will only be able to assign an Other Recommender if a...

▼ [Read full answer](#)

[Need help?](#) [System requirements](#) [Accessibility information](#) [License agreement](#) [Terms of use](#) [Fraud policy](#) [Privacy policy](#)

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FERPA cont.

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Release authorization

review these confidential letters of recommendation. What should you know about this waiver?

- Waiving your right lets colleges know that you do not intend to read your recommendations, which helps reassure colleges that the letters are candid and truthful.
- Some recommenders may decline to write a letter for you if you do not waive your rights. Check with your counselor or teachers to see if any of them follow such a policy.

3. Still unsure how to respond?

- That's OK. Many students are. Before you move on, take a moment to discuss your decision with your counselor, another school official, or your parent/legal guardian. For more information about FERPA, visit the [Help Center](#).

☒ I have read and understood the FERPA Release Authorization explanation above.*

Continue

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FERPA Form

☒ I acknowledge that every school that I have attended may release all requested records and recommendations to colleges to which I am applying for admission. I also understand that employees at these colleges may confidentially contact my current and former schools should they have questions about the information submitted on my behalf.*

Please select one: *

☒ I waive my right to review all recommendations and supporting documents.

☐ I DO NOT waive my right to review all recommendations and supporting documents.

☐ I understand that my waiver or no waiver selection above

Back

Save and Close

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