



College Applications

Agenda

Today we are going to go over everything you need to know on how to get started in the college application process



Schoollinks & Common App

You will need to get familiar with Schoollinks and Common App. These are the two applications you will live in when applying to Colleges/Universities



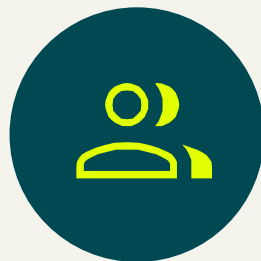
Where to Apply

Use schoollinks as a tool to determine best fit. Filter schools specific to your needs



Add Schools

Add schools to your Schoollinks and Common App accounts.



Letters of Rec

Check to see which schools require letters of rec. Having two letters of rec is usually the perfect number. Communicate with teachers for rec's and give them deadlines.

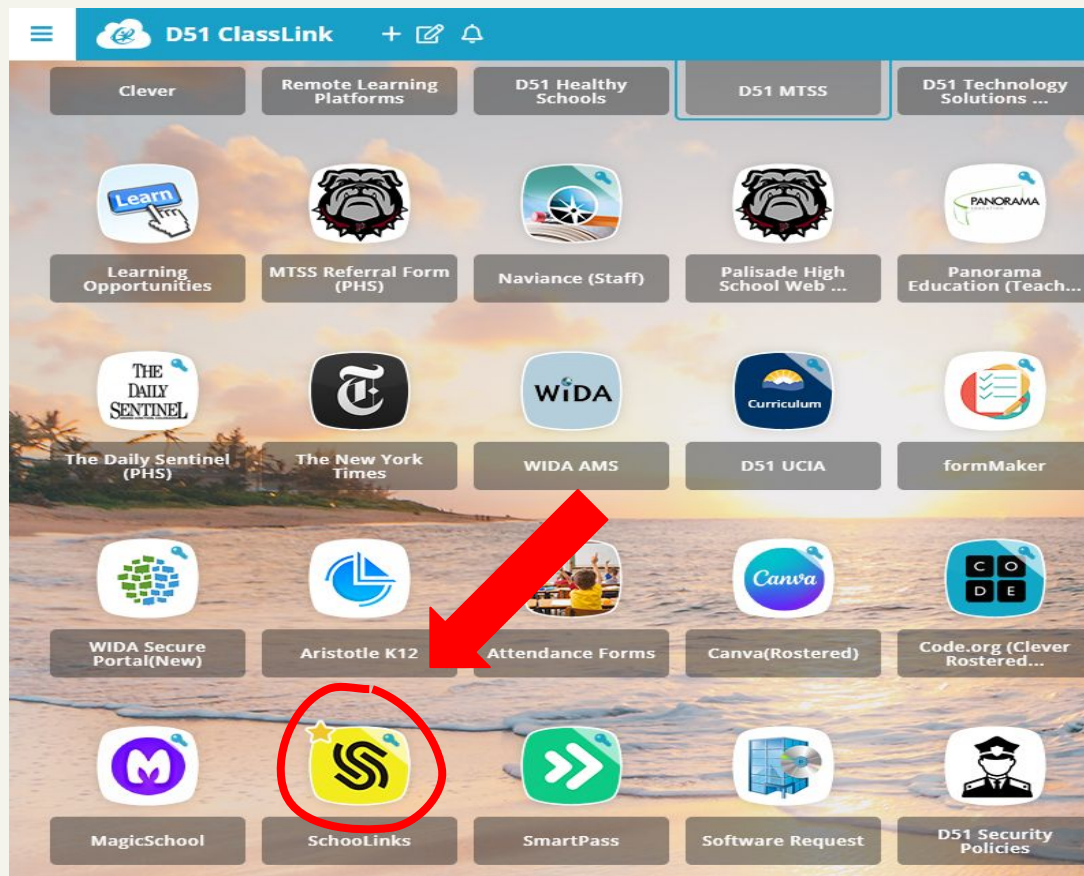


Senior Work Day

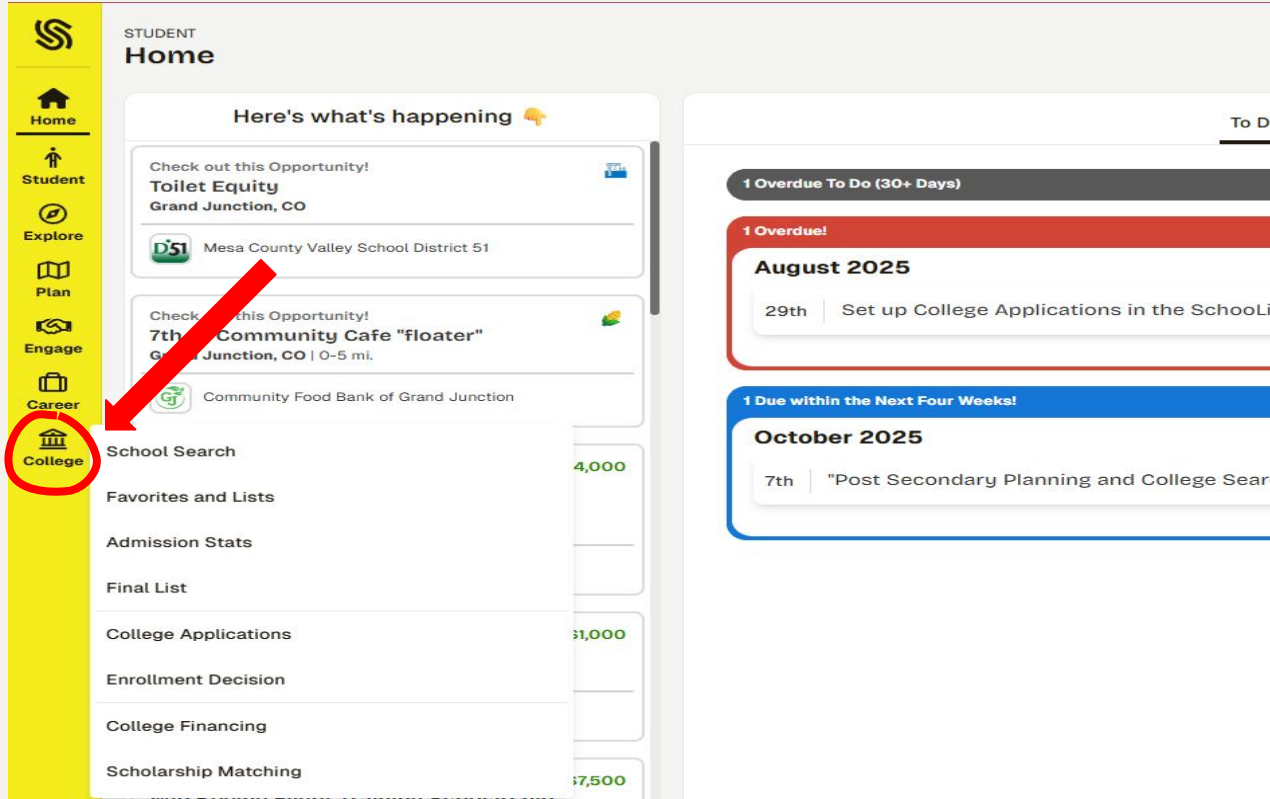
October 7th.

CO Free App Days are October 7th -9th

Step 1: Open up Classlink, go to Schoolinks



Step 2: Click "College" then "School Search" to do research on different Universities



The screenshot shows the 'STUDENT Home' dashboard. On the left is a yellow sidebar with navigation icons and labels: Home, Student, Explore, Plan, Engage, Career, and College. The 'College' icon, which depicts a building, is circled in red. A red arrow points from this icon to the 'School Search' option in the main content area. The main content area is titled 'Here's what's happening' and lists several opportunities, including 'Toilet Equity' and '7th Community Cafe "floater"'. On the right side of the dashboard, there are two sections: '1 Overdue To Do (30+ Days)' and '1 Overdue!' for August 2025, and '1 Due within the Next Four Weeks!' for October 2025.

STUDENT Home

Here's what's happening

Check out this Opportunity!
Toilet Equity
Grand Junction, CO

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Check out this Opportunity!
7th Community Cafe "floater"
Grand Junction, CO | 0-5 mi.

Community Food Bank of Grand Junction

School Search 4,000

Favorites and Lists

Admission Stats

Final List

College Applications \$1,000

Enrollment Decision

College Financing

Scholarship Matching \$7,500

1 Overdue To Do (30+ Days)

1 Overdue!

August 2025

29th Set up College Applications in the SchoolLi

1 Due within the Next Four Weeks!

October 2025

7th "Post Secondary Planning and College Search

School Search: Use the filters available to tailor to your needs.


COLLEGE
School Search


Home


Student


Explore


Plan


Engage


Career


College

School search
Favorites & lists
Admission stats
Final list
College applications
Enrollment decision

Search schools
Search for a location, school, or program...

Filter by
School Type 2 Campus Admissions Acceptance Sports Degree Type Other
Colorado Public Private

41 Schools

26.5% Grad Rate


Colorado Mesa University
Grand Junction, CO | Public

47.4% Grad Rate


Colorado State University-Fort Collins
Fort Collins, CO | Public

57.4% Grad Rate


University of Colorado Boulder
Boulder, CO | Public

24.6% Grad Rate


University of Colorado Colorado Springs
Colorado Springs, CO | Public

36.8% Grad Rate


University of Northern Colorado
Greeley, CO | Public

46.9% Grad Rate


University of Colorado Denver
Denver, CO | Public

26.9% Grad Rate


Fort Lewis College
Durango, CO | Public

65.7% Grad Rate


Colorado School of Mines
Golden, CO | Public

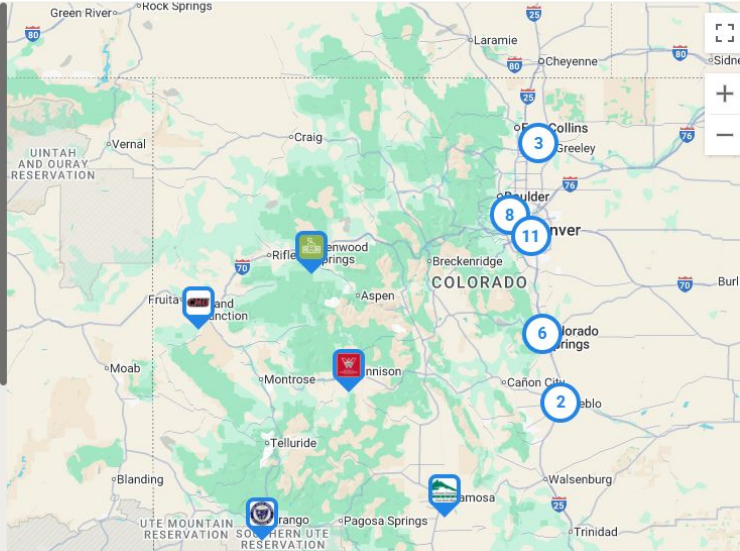
Exit Student Demo

Betty Bulldog

Icons: Home, Search, Mail, Notification, Help, Settings

List Split Map

Sort by Applications from District



Favoriting Schools



COLLEGES

School Profile

Exit Student Demo X



Betty Bulldog



Home



Student



Explore



Plan



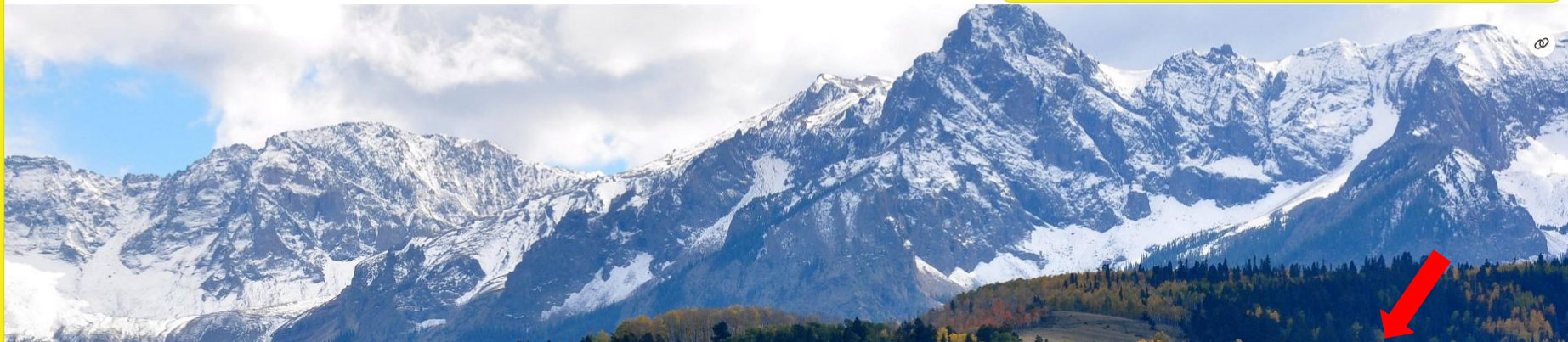
Engage



Career



College

**Colorado Mesa University**

Grand Junction, Colorado | Public



Overview

Current Student Videos

Campus Setting

Student Body

Academics & Programs

Athletics

Student Life

Cost & Financial Aid

Overview

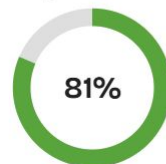
Undergrad degrees offered

Bachelors Degrees

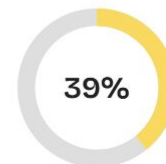
Associates Degrees

Certificate Degrees

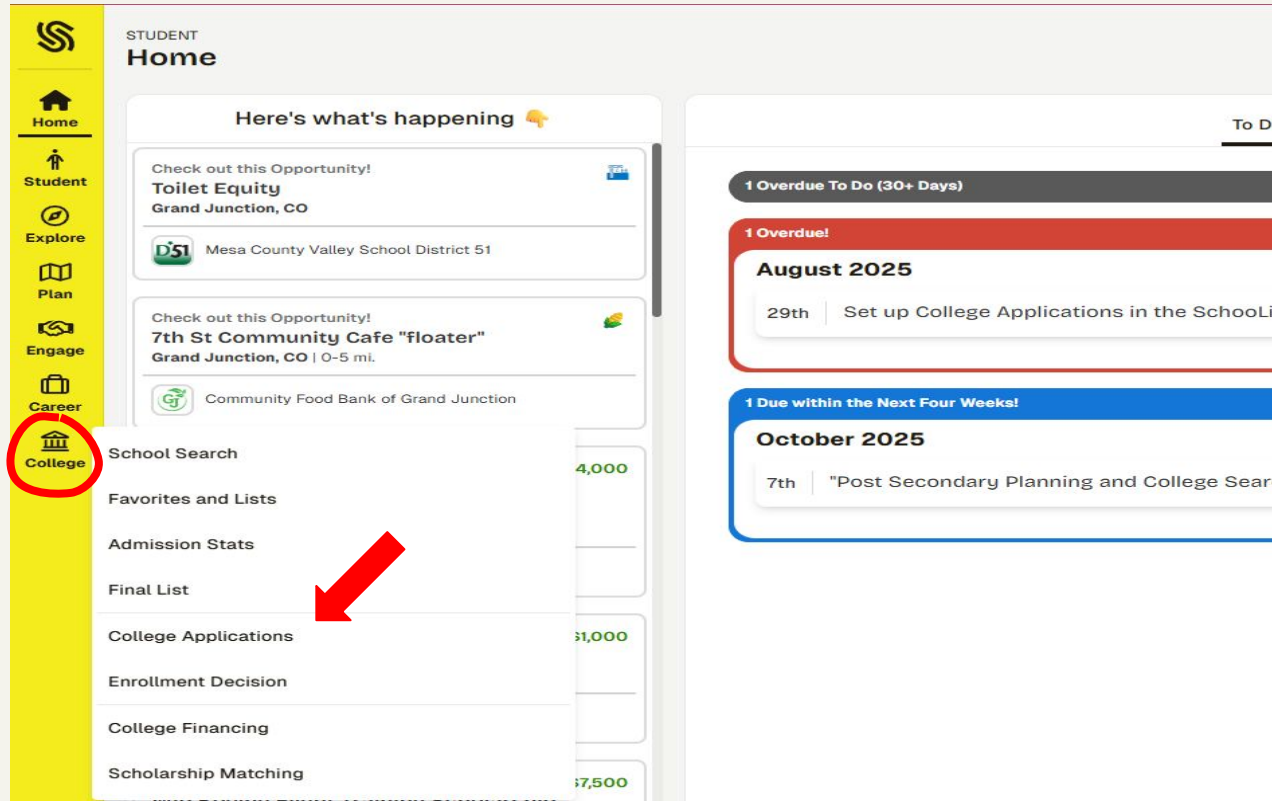
Acceptance rate



Graduation rate



Step 3: Click "College" then "College Application" to add a school you want to apply to



The screenshot shows the 'STUDENT Home' interface. On the left is a yellow sidebar with icons for Home, Student, Explore, Plan, Engage, Career, and College. The 'College' icon is circled in red. A red arrow points to the 'College Applications' option in the dropdown menu. The main content area is titled 'Here's what's happening' and lists opportunities like 'Toilet Equity' and '7th St Community Cafe "floater"'. On the right, there are sections for '1 Overdue To Do (30+ Days)', '1 Overdue! August 2025', and '1 Due within the Next Four Weeks! October 2025'.

STUDENT Home

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College Applications 3,000

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October 2025

7th | "Post Secondary Planning and College Search

College Applications: First Steps/Basic Info

Go back to "Colleges" on the left side and select "College Applications"
It will prompt you to fill out your personal information and fill out the FERPA Waiver.

PERSONAL DETAILS

FEE WAIVER ELIGIBILITY

FERPA WAIVER

Personal information

The following fields will be used by your counselor to complete school documents that are sent to colleges. Please ensure that they are filled out correctly and match what you are using to complete your college applications. Your email address does not need to match your Common App account email.

Birthdate
09/11/07

Home address

Street Address Apt, suite, etc (optional)

City

State Zip/postal code

When you add or update your address here, SchoolLinks will update the address for your account.

Next →

PERSONAL DETAILS

FEE WAIVER ELIGIBILITY

FERPA WAIVER

Do you qualify for an application fee waiver?

The cost of applying to colleges can add up! Some colleges waive application fees for students who demonstrate financial need.

To see if you qualify, check off any boxes that apply to you.

- ☐ Student has received or is eligible to receive an ACT or SAT testing fee waiver.
- ☐ Student is enrolled in or eligible to participate in the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch program (FRPL).
- ☐ Student's annual family income falls within the income Eligibility Guidelines set by the USDA Food Nutrition Service.
- ☐ Student is enrolled in a federal, state or local program that aids students from low-income families (e.g., TRIO programs such as Upward Bound).
- ☐ Student's family receives public assistance.
- ☐ Student lives in federally subsidized public housing, a foster home, or is homeless.
- ☐ Student is a ward of the state or an orphan.

OR

- ☐ None of the above apply.

In Common App and Coalition you can **request a fee waiver through your MyCoalition or App profile**. For other applications, we'll help you see if you qualify and request a fee waiver your counselor if you do.

← Back

PERSONAL DETAILS

FEE WAIVER ELIGIBILITY

FERPA WAIVER

Complete the FERPA waiver

You might be asking yourself "What's FERPA?" Don't worry, you're not alone! Here's what you need to know:

How does FERPA relate to your college application?

- FERPA gives you the right to review letters of recommendation if you are enrolled in college that saves the recommendations, OR you are 18 or older.

To waive or not to waive?

- Waiving your right lets colleges know that you don't intend to read your recommendations, which helps reassure colleges that the letters are candid and truthful.
- If you choose not to waive your right, some recommenders may decline to write a letter for you, and some colleges may disregard letters submitted on your behalf.

Still unsure how to respond?

- That is 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. You can also read our [FERPA Help Article](#).

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

Select one:

- ☒ I waive my right to review all recommendations and supporting documents submitted by me or on my behalf.
- ☐ I DO NOT waive my right to review all recommendations and supporting documents submitted by me or on my behalf.

Your Signature
Betty Bulldog

☒ I understand that my waiver or no waiver selection above pertains to all colleges to which I apply and that my selections on here cannot change after submitting this form.

Sign Waiver

College Applications: FERPA/What is it?

✓ PERSONAL DETAILS

✓ FEE WAIVER ELIGIBILITY

✎ FERPA WAIVER

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Sign Waiver

- You want to waive your rights for FERPA so we can send letters of rec and transcripts.
- When you waive your rights you are telling Universities that you do not have access and cannot see any letters of recommendation that have been sent for you. They want to be sure that these letters are authentic and students haven't had an opportunity to alter them.
- If you do not waive your rights it essentially makes it impossible to send those documents to Universities.

Step 4: Add Applications!



COLLEGE

College Applications

Exit Student Demo

Betty Bulldog

School searchFavorites & listsAdmission statsFinal listCollege applicationsEnrollment decision

BoardList

Search for an application by name

Comments0

+ Add application

Recommendation tracker

Fulfilled Pending Declined

View all requests

common app

CONNECTED

Log in →

Unlink account

Application setup COMPLETE

Personal details

Fee waiver eligibility

FERPA waiver Review

Incomplete

→

Completed & pending

→

Accepted

Add an application to request transcripts and counselor docs.

Complete the student checklist to mark an application completed.

Add a result to a mark a completed application as accepted.

Type in a school you want to apply to and add application.

Add application

Select a college to add:

Q

western s

X



Western Colorado University



Georgia Southwestern State University



Northwestern State University of Louisiana



Missouri Western State University

Choose application status:



In progress



Completed & pending



Accepted



Denied



Waitlisted



Deferred



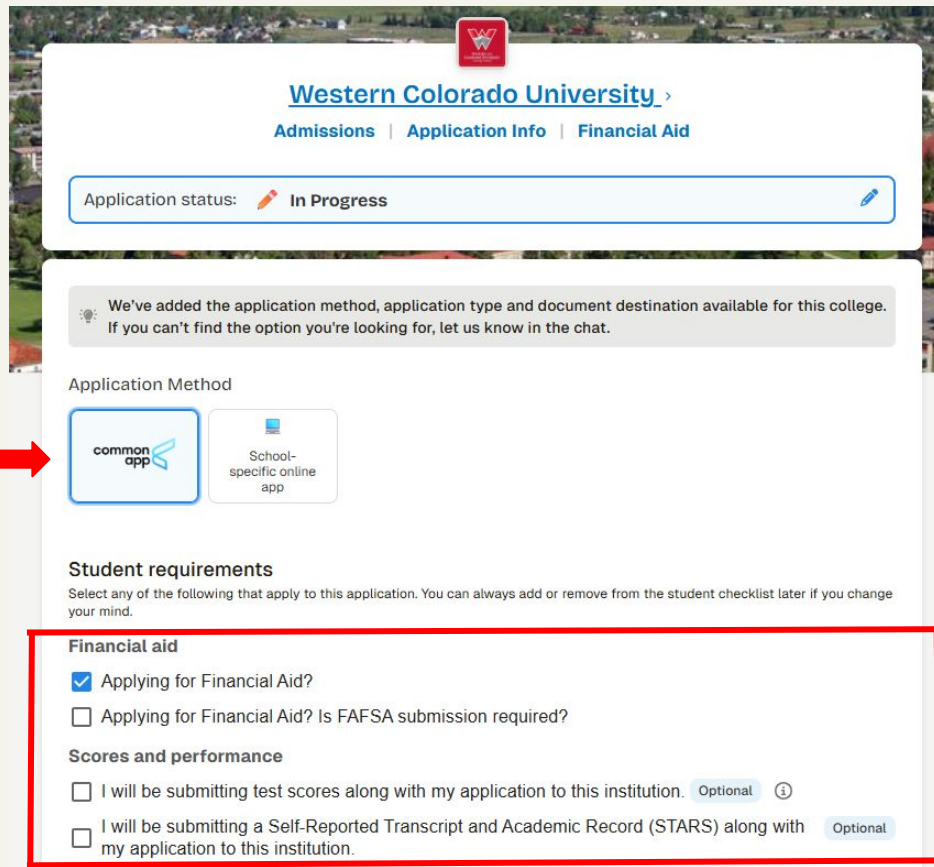
Withdrawn

Cancel



Add application

Choose application method. If Common App is an option ALWAYS choose it!



Western Colorado University >
Admissions | Application Info | Financial Aid

Application status: In Progress

We've added the application method, application type and document destination available for this college. If you can't find the option you're looking for, let us know in the chat.

Application Method

Student requirements
Select any of the following that apply to this application. You can always add or remove from the student checklist later if you change your mind.

Financial aid

☒ Applying for Financial Aid?
☐ Applying for Financial Aid? Is FAFSA submission required?

Scores and performance

☐ I will be submitting test scores along with my application to this institution. Optional ⓘ
☐ I will be submitting a Self-Reported Transcript and Academic Record (STARS) along with my application to this institution. Optional

Financial Aid (FAFSA) and SAT scores are very important.

- Most students will need to file for FAFSA which will help you cover some of the cost for school. It is dependent on your parent/guardian's income so each student receives a different amount of money.

- SAT Scores: A lot of schools are test optional, which means that if you did not do well on your SAT or you don't meet their SAT standards you can choose test optional without penalty to your application.

- ONLY include your SAT score if you meet their requirement or above. It will penalize you if you submit them and you haven't met their requirement. Even if its by a few points.

Link to common app & create an account



First Year Students

Transfer Students

Sign In

First year student? Great! Enter your email and password below to sign in, or [create an account](#) to get started.

* Indicates required fields.

Email *

Password *

☐ Show password

[Forgot password?](#)

Sign in

Need help?

[Visit the Applicant Solutions Center.](#)

Follow the prompts in filling out your personal information to create your account.

*Use your personal email not your school email! You might need to use this after graduation and your school email will disappear.

Once you are in your dashboard should look like this. Click on "My Colleges"



Dashboard

APPLY

My Common Application

My Colleges

EXPLORE

College search

Direct admissions

Financial aid



Good morning, Kelsie!

Dashboard

My Common Application

0/6 sections complete

Profile

Family

Education

Testing

Activities

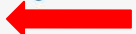
Writing

My Colleges

Type in a school you want to apply to and add application.

Sort my colleges by: College Name ▼



Western Colorado University
[Add your term or admission plan](#) 
Application – In progress

Show more details ▼

Click "Add your term or admission plan"

- Select First Year Student
- Fall 2026
- Your admission plan type

This information communicates with schoolinks so we know when you application date is.

It's easier to add all your schools in Common App because they will all transfer over to Schoolinks.

General

 In progress

The questions on this page are being asked by Western Colorado University

Student status*

First-Year Student X ▼

Preferred start term*

Fall 2026 X ▼

Preferred admission plan*

Rolling Admission X ▼

Do you have a Western-specific fee waiver code?*

No X ▼

Do you intend to pursue need-based financial aid?*

☒ Yes
☐ No

Clear answer

Decision Types

There are **FOUR** different types of decision types. It is important to know what each one entails before committing to it.

Early Decision



Early Action



Regular Decision



Rolling Admission

- **Binding:** If you are accepted as an Early Decision applicant you **MUST** attend the college.
- Only do this if you are 100% committed to the Institution.
- You can still apply to other institutions under non-binding Early Action or Regular Decision but can only apply to one school Early Decision. If you get accepted into that Early Decision school you must withdraw all other applications.

- **Nonbinding:** You receive an early response to your application but **DO NOT** have to commit to the college until the normal reply date.
- You would do this if you know you want to go to a school no matter what and want to show schools that interest.

Most Common

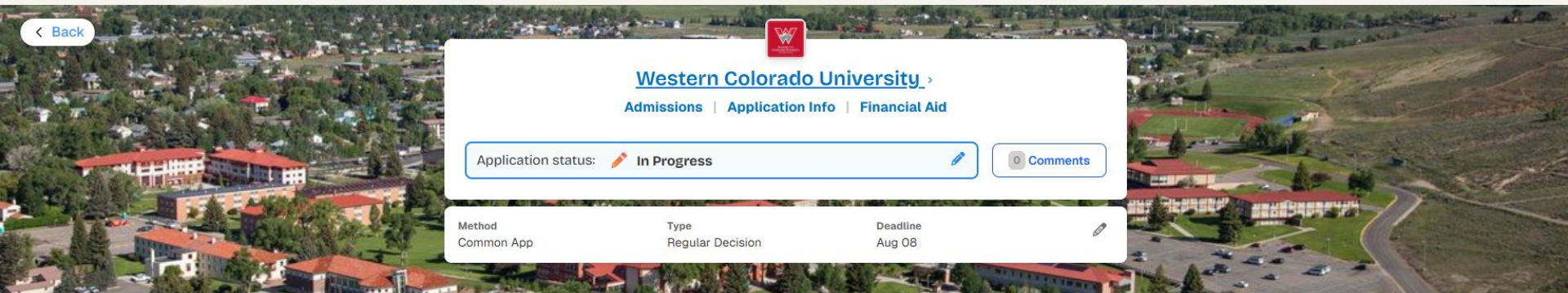
- You receive an acceptance letter and then decide which school you wish to attend. You have until the end of April to accept

Rare.

- Colleges review applications as they are sent in. There is no hard deadline. You will typically see that these schools let you submit applications up until July.

After you have added one school in Common App go back to schoolinks and refresh your page.

Once you have added the school you can see requirements.



Student checklist

Mark all complete ☑

Submit Application on Common App



[Complete on Common App](#) →

Financial Aid Application

Complete and submit your Financial Aid Application for this school.

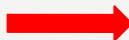


⊕ New Student Requirement

TEACHER EVALUATIONS

Remember to update your student profile and communicate with your teachers before adding them as a recommender on SchoolLinks.

3 Optional



⊕ Request Teacher Evaluation

COUNSELOR DOCUMENTS

All required documents are determined by Common App and automatically requested from counselors. Students must contact their counselor to request inclusion of optional documents.

→ School Report (General)

🕒 Requested 09/12/2025 by Betty Bulldog



→ Counselor Recommendation (General)

Not needed



Mid Year Report (General)

Not needed



⊕ Request Counselor Document

Anything with an Orange border means it is required!

[< Back](#)



Johns Hopkins University >

[Admissions](#) | [Application Info](#) | [Financial Aid](#)

Application status:  **In Progress** 

0 [Comments](#)

Method Common App	Type Missing	Deadline Sep 30	
----------------------	------------------------	--------------------	---

Student checklist

Test Scores ☐ ...

Johns Hopkins University requires standardized testing. As part of our holistic review process, submitted scores will be taken into consideration within the context of your broader application. We will review self-reported or official test scores as part of the application. If you self-report your scores, and you are admitted and choose to enroll, you will be required to send official score reports.

☐ Submit Application on Common App

[Complete on Common App →](#)

 New Student Requirement

Mark all complete ☒

TEACHER EVALUATIONS

Remember to update your student profile and communicate with your teachers before adding them as a recommender on SchooLinks.

2 Required

 Add Recommender

Required 

 Add Recommender

Required 

COUNSELOR DOCUMENTS

All required documents are determined by Common App and automatically requested from counselors. Students must contact their counselor to request inclusion of optional documents.

School Report (General) 

 Requested 09/23/2025 by Betty Bulldog

Counselor Recommendation (General) 

 Requested 09/23/2025 by Betty Bulldog

Mid Year Report (General) 

 Requested 09/23/2025 by Betty Bulldog

 [Request Counselor Document](#)

Teacher Letter of Rec Request & Process

- Make sure you ask the teacher IN PERSON if they can write you a letter. If they say yes, then add them in schoolinks.
- Be mindful of who you ask. If you are interested in majoring in Nursing for example, it would make sense to ask a Math and Science teacher for a rec instead of a Social Studies teacher.

SELECT TEACHER

ADD DETAILS

Select a teacher to complete a recommendation for **Western Colorado University**.
Your selected teacher will receive an invitation to fulfill your recommendation on Schoolinks.

Q torfin

Torfin, Andrew atorfin@d51schools.org

Don't see your teacher listed? [Add them manually](#)

 Counselor recommendations are automatically requested if required by the college. [Common App](#).

Cancel

Next →

✓ SELECT TEACHER

ADD DETAILS

Teacher information

First name

Last name

Email

Subject

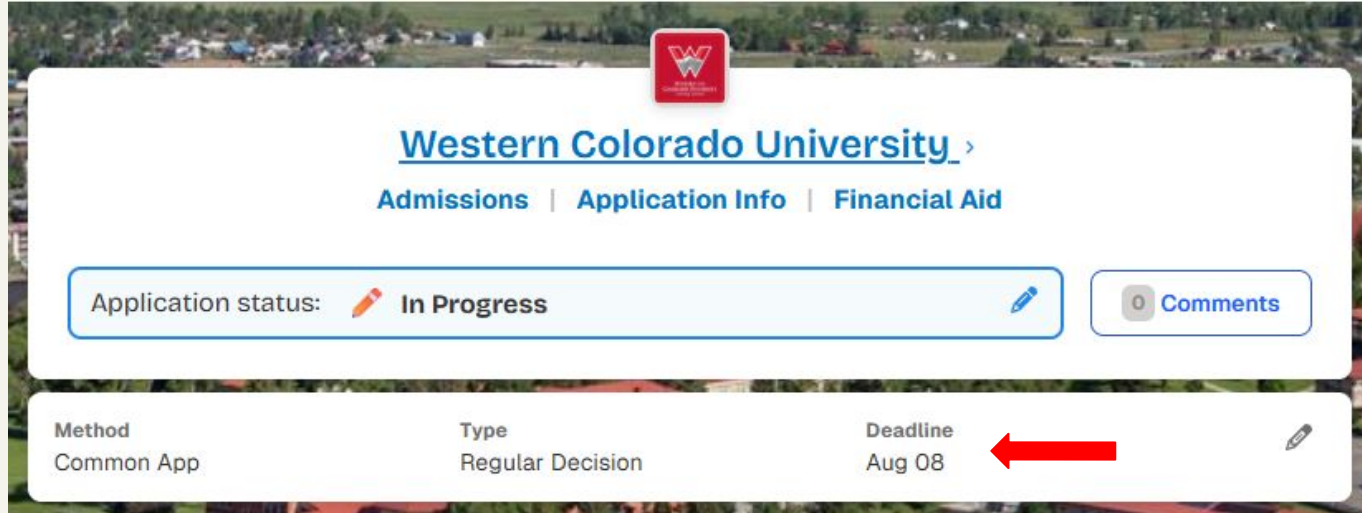
Add a message to your teacher (Optional)

Custom message

← Back

Add recommender

Make sure your Deadline is visible!



The screenshot shows the Western Colorado University application portal. At the top is the university's logo and name, "Western Colorado University", with a dropdown arrow. Below the name are three links: "Admissions", "Application Info", and "Financial Aid". The main section displays the "Application status: In Progress" with a pencil icon for editing. To the right is a "Comments" button showing 0 comments. Below this is a table with application details:

Method	Type	Deadline	
Common App	Regular Decision	Aug 08	

It is important for teachers to know your deadline so they know how much time they have to write your letter of rec. You can update your decision type in your common app account.

Application Progress

Once you have added a school and connected to common app you can go back to "college applications" and see it in the "Incomplete" column. You can click the pencil for each school and edit what you need or add teachers for letters of rec. Once you have completed your application it will go to the second column under "completed & pending". When you get acceptance letters you will move it to "Accepted" and then let us know which Institution you are choosing.

COLLEGE

College Applications

Exit Student Demo

Betty Bulldog

School searchFavorites & listsAdmission statsFinal listCollege applicationsEnrollment decision

BoardList

Search for an application by name

Comments0

+ Add application

Recommendation tracker

FulfilledPendingDeclined

View all requests

common app

CONNECTED

Log in →

Unlink account

Application setup

COMPLETE

Personal details

Fee waiver eligibility

FERPA waiver

Review

1 Incomplete

Edit an application below to request recommendations or update checklist.

Western Colorado University

Unknown

Regular Decision | Aug 8

0/2

0 Completed & pending

Complete the student checklist to mark an application completed.

0 Accepted

Add a result to a mark a completed application as accepted.

Senior Work Day:
October 7th

CO Free App Days
October 7th-9th