

College Application Options

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What's the best fit for you?

Common Application- one application accepted by over 800 schools. This application allows you to send it to more than one college (you still pay each school's application fee individually). It is a long application, it will take 1.5-3 hours to complete. *This is a good application if you are applying to multiple schools that accept the Common Application.*

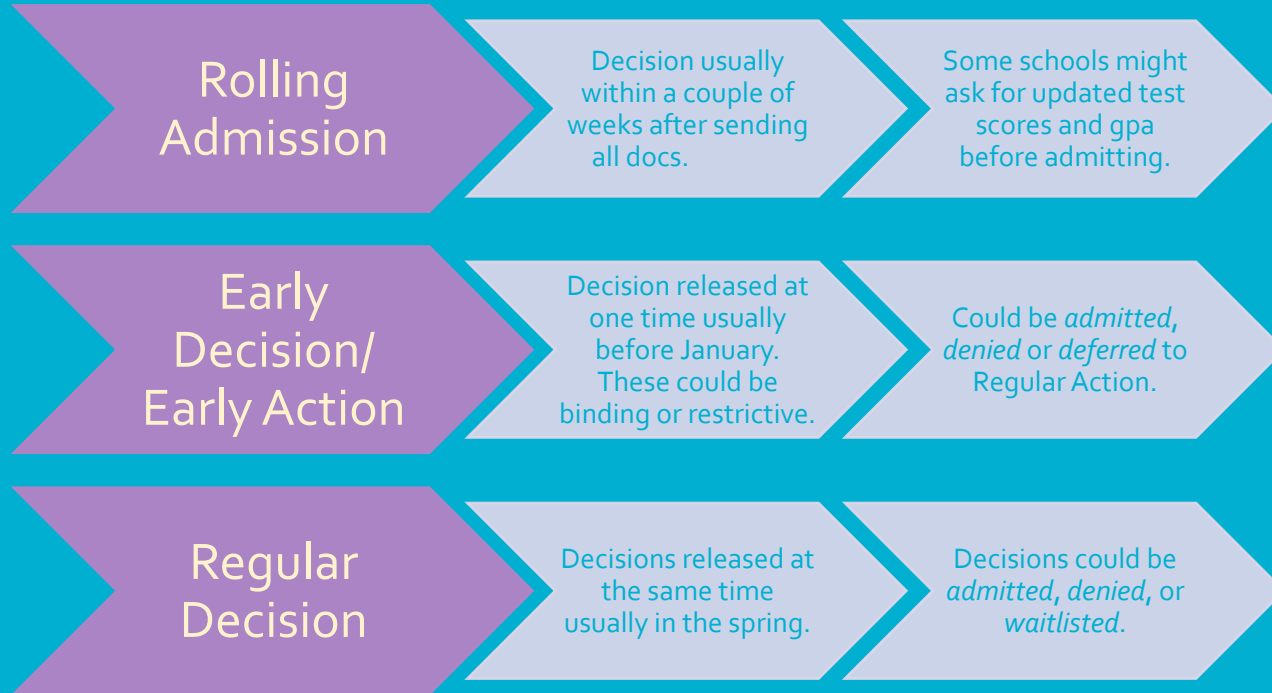
Common Black App- is similar to the Common App but provides students with the opportunity to easily apply to historically black colleges and universities. It is made available to all member institutions for a small one-time fee.

What's the best fit for you?

Applying online directly to a college- If you are applying only to community colleges or public state schools (like SEMO, MU, Missouri State) it is faster to apply directly through their site as these applications are MUCH shorter and easier to complete than the Common Application. Some schools will offer BOTH the option to apply through Common App, Coalition App or directly through their college site.

There is no preference on which platform you use to apply.
Colleges want you to use the platform that is easiest for YOU!

Various admission deadlines/plans



Common Application overview & Tips

www.CommonApp.org (There's an app for that!)

College applications open August 1st of a student's senior year. Students CAN create a Common App account before senior year- but do not enter too much information as it might disappear during the July 31st rollover.

What's on the Common App?

- General Information
 - Parents
 - Activities
 - Honors
 - High School and College Classes
- Essay
 - Seven different prompts.
- Supplemental Questions
- FERPA waiver
- Recommenders

Getting started- www.CommonApp.org

- Create an account, have a copy of your transcript handy, schedule time to work on it. Use a personal email that is appropriate.
- Searchable Help on the [CommonApp.org](http://www.CommonApp.org) site or within the app itself
- [How to Make your Common App a Lot Less Common](#)- tips from College Wise

3 suggested tips

1 | Start early.

You can create a Common App account in the summer before senior year and begin working on it.

Use personal email.

2 | Get help with the essay.

Look over the prompts.

- Think of it as creative writing.
- Brainstorm
- If it is fun to write- it's fun to read!
- If it's optional...do it!

3 | Know the deadlines.

- Become the expert on your college apps.
- When are they due?
- What is ED, EA, EDII?
- How do I submit my letters of rec?
- How many letters should I send?

Let's look at the application!

A brief overview before you get started.

The screenshot shows the Common Application interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Dashboard, My Colleges, Common App, College Search, and Financial Aid Resources. Below these, a sidebar menu is visible with the following items: Common Application (highlighted), Profile, Family, Education, Testing, Activities, Writing, and Courses & Grades (with a sub-note: 3 college(s) require). The main content area is titled 'Profile' and contains a section for 'Personal Information'. This section includes four input fields: 'First/given name*' (containing 'Ivy'), 'Middle name' (empty), 'Last/family/surname*' (containing 'H'), and 'Suffix' (a dropdown menu with 'Choose an option' selected).

Dashboard My Colleges Common App College Search Financial Aid Resources

Common Application

Profile

Family

Education

Testing

Activities

Writing

Courses & Grades
3 college(s) require

Profile

Personal Information

First/given name*

Ivy

Middle name

Last/family/surname*

H

Suffix

Choose an option

```
graph LR; A[Apply] --> B[Send transcripts/test scores]; B --> C[Wait for a decision];
```

Apply

Send
transcripts/test
scores

Wait for a
decision

Letters of Recommendation

...tell me more about you!



3 *suggested* tips (from college students)

1 | Identify who to ask.

Know what your college is looking for. Usually core subject teachers and possibly a non-core teacher or coach. Think of your relationship with the recommender, what did you do that they can specifically highlight?

2 | Provide details.

Recommenders should provide their unique perspective.

Students should provide:

- Tell them what, when, where, how.
- Have a resume ready and give suggestions.

3 | Remind and thank.

- Give PLENTY of time.
- Ask in person
- Follow up by email
- Follow up in person
- Remind them a week before the deadline
- Write a thank you note!

3

Don't ask for a letter unless you KNOW you need one!

Writing a letter is very time consuming and teachers and counselors have limited time.

1

Know
look
submit
a

Think of your relationship with the recommender, what did you do that they can specifically highlight?

- Tell them what, when, where, how.
- Have a resume ready and give suggestions.

- Remind them a week before the deadline you gave them.
- Write a thank you note!

Sending letters and transcripts

All of your letters of recommendation and your transcripts will be sent through Schoolinks

- Monitor when docs/transcripts are sent
- Request letters of recommendation (when applicable)
- Waiving your right on the FERPA- what does it mean?