



September 2026 Edition

The Argo COMPASS

COMPLETING THE COMMON APPLICATION

If you are planning to apply to college using the Common Application, now is the time to get started! The Common App allows you to complete one application and use it to apply to multiple colleges and universities.

STEP 1: CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

Go to the Common Application website and create your account. Use an email address that you check regularly and will continue to use throughout the college application process.

Once your account is created, begin working through the different sections of the application. You will be asked to provide information about:

- Personal and family information
- Your high school and academic history
- Your courses and grades
- Activities and extracurricular involvement
- Honors and awards

- Work experience
- Test scores, if applicable
- College-specific questions
- Your personal essay

You do not have to complete everything in one sitting. The Common App allows you to save your progress and return to it later.

STEP 2: ADD COLLEGES

Use the Common App's college search feature to find the schools you are interested in applying to. Add each college to your "My Colleges" list.

Pay close attention to each college's requirements. Some schools may require an essay or additional questions, while others may not. Application deadlines can also vary, so make sure you know the deadline for every college on your list.



STEP 3: COMPLETE COMMON APPLICATION

Before submitting an application, take the time to review everything you have entered. Make sure your name, address, courses, activities, awards, and other information are accurate.

Your activities section is especially important. This is your opportunity to show colleges how you spend your time outside the classroom. Be specific and focus on your involvement, responsibilities, leadership, employment, community service, athletics, or other meaningful experiences.

COMMON APP AND SCHOOLINKS

Completing the application is only part of the process. You also need to make sure your Common App account is properly connected to SchoolLinks so that your school documents can be sent to the colleges you are applying to.

STEP 4: CONNECT TO SCHOOLINKS

This is an important step for Argo students!

Once you have created your Common App account, you need to connect it to SchoolLinks. This allows the Counseling Office to properly send your school documents to the colleges on your application list.

In SchoolLinks, make sure your college application information matches the information you used for your Common App account. You will need to identify that you are applying through the Common Application and complete the required steps to establish the connection.

Do not assume that adding a college to the Common App automatically tells SchoolLinks that you are applying there. Make sure the colleges you are applying to are also entered correctly in SchoolLinks.

schoolinks 

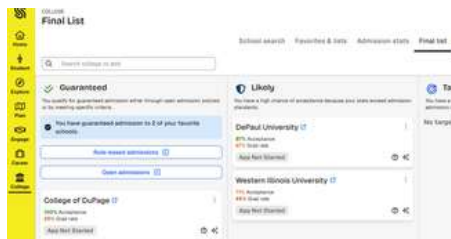
STEP 5: TRANSCRIPTS, ETC.

Once your Common App and SchoolLinks accounts are connected, use SchoolLinks to request the documents that need to be sent from Argo.

Depending on the college and your application, these may include:

- Your official high school transcript
- Counselor forms
- Letters of recommendation
- School reports
- Other required school documents

If a college requires a letter of recommendation, make sure you give your recommender enough time to complete it. You should also provide your recommender with your brag sheet and any other information they need to write a strong letter on your behalf. out on the opportunities.



FINAL REMINDER

Submitting your Common Application does not mean your college application process is completely finished.

You are responsible for completing the application and submitting it by the college's deadline. The Counseling Office is responsible for sending the school documents that are required from Argo.

BONUS: SCHOOLINKS RESUME BUILDER

Need a resume but don't know where to start? SchoolLinks has a resume tool that can help!

The SchoolLinks resume builder allows you to create a professional-looking resume by pulling information from your student profile. You can include your education, work experience, extracurricular activities, volunteer work, awards, skills, and other accomplishments.

Even if you are not looking for a job right now, every high school student should have a current resume. Your resume can be useful when applying for jobs, internships, scholarships, colleges, career programs, and other opportunities.

proven track record of excelling in collaborative team settings.	
WORK EXPERIENCE	Administrative Assistant FieldCore, Inc. APELDOORN, NETHERLANDS 09/2017 – 10/2018 • Assisted Finance Manager with administrative tasks including answering phone calls, responding to emails, and welcoming clients • Managed traveling schedule, organized documents, and coordinated meetings • Enhanced administrative procedures and processes to optimize efficiency • Worked closely with management team to develop weekly and monthly reports • Prepared polished presentations, proofread speeches, and completed additional duties as needed.
EDUCATION	Gymnasium Barlaeus Gymnasium 09/2016 – present APELDOORN, NETHERLANDS • Achieved a GPA of 3.97, ranking in the top 2% of the Programme. • Participated in Aerobics Society, Fitness Society, and Tennis Club activities.
SKILLS	~ LANGUAGES Dutch Native German Native English Professional ~ COMPUTER SKILLS Microsoft Office ProofHub, Netsuite Trello, Slack ~ INTERPERSONAL SKILLS Patience Timecamp, StudioCloud Communication Skills Good Team Player

Starting your resume while you are still in high school makes it much easier to keep track of everything you accomplish. As you gain more experience, you can continue adding to and updating your resume.

Log in to SchoolLinks and look for the Resume tool to get started.

If you need help creating or improving your resume, stop by the College and Career Center.

FAFSA: THE FINANCIAL AID FIRST STEP

If you are planning to attend college, you have probably heard the word **FAFSA**. FAFSA stands for the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**, and it is one of the most important forms you will complete during the college application process.

The FAFSA helps the federal government, colleges, and states determine whether you qualify for financial assistance to help pay for college. This assistance can include federal grants, work-study, and federal student loans. Many colleges and states also use information from the FAFSA when determining their own financial aid.



What Do You Need?

Before starting the FAFSA, students and their contributors (usually a parent) will need to create or have an FSA ID, which is their account and electronic signature for federal student aid.

You may also need information such as:

- Social Security numbers
- Federal tax information
- Records of certain income and assets
- Information about the colleges you are considering

The FAFSA now uses a...

...process that allows tax information to be transferred electronically from the IRS for many applicants, making the application easier than it used to be.

THE FAFSA PROCESS

1. Create your FSA ID.

The student and required parent contributor(s) should create their own FSA IDs. Do not share your FSA ID or password with anyone.

2. Start the FAFSA.

Complete the FAFSA online and carefully follow the instructions. Make sure you are completing the FAFSA for the correct academic year.

3. Invite your parent or contributor.

If you are a dependent student, your parent or other required contributor will need to complete their portion of the FAFSA. They will use their own FSA ID to access and sign the form.

4. List your colleges.

Add the colleges you are considering to your FAFSA. The information will be sent to those schools so they can determine your eligibility for financial aid.



5. Review and submit.

Carefully check the information before submitting the FAFSA. Both the student and required contributors must complete... their portions and provide the necessary consent and signatures.

6. Review your FAFSA information and financial aid offers.

After your FAFSA is processed, you will receive information about your eligibility for federal student aid. Colleges will use your FAFSA information to create financial aid offers. Make sure you review these offers carefully and compare the actual cost of attending each school.



Don't Wait Until the Last Minute!

The FAFSA opens October 1st!

Completing the FAFSA can take some time, especially if you are completing it for the first time. Start early! Some financial aid programs have limited funds or their own deadlines, so submitting the FAFSA as soon as possible can be important.

If you have questions or need help completing the FAFSA, stop by the College and Career Center. We will have FAFSA resources and workshops available to help students and families through the process.

ARGO VISITS NORTHWESTERN

On Tuesday, September 8th, Argo Community High School juniors and seniors with a 4.0 GPA visited Northwestern University. The trip gave students a firsthand look at university life while helping them learn more about the college experience and the opportunities available after high school.

Students began the day with a bus ride to Northwestern, and then they attended a presentation that covered basic information about the university, its academic programs, and its many resources. The presentation introduced students to the expectations of college and showed them what Northwestern offers both inside and outside the classroom.

Following the presentation, a Northwestern student led the group on a campus tour. Students explored the university grounds, learned about campus, and discovered resources that support students throughout their education at Northwestern University. They also enjoyed the campus atmosphere and its beautiful views of Chicago.

Having a current student serve as the tour guide gave the group a valuable perspective on campus life. Students were able to hear honest opinions and firsthand experiences from someone who attends Northwestern...

...This helped them better understand what it is like to balance academics, activities, responsibilities, and social life as a college student. The visit showed students that college can be an exciting and rewarding next chapter. It also reminded them that reaching their goals requires hard work, preparation, and commitment. Students learned that the college process involves more than choosing a school. It may also...



...include maintaining strong grades, completing the Common Application and FAFSA, researching programs, and touring different campuses.

One of the most memorable parts of the trip was hearing students talk with one another during the tour. Many expressed excitement about college and their futures, making comments such as, "I really want to go here" and "I am going to apply here." Their smiles and conversations reflected a noticeable increase in motivation to work hard and complete the steps needed to attend college.

Experiences like this help students connect their current academic efforts with future college and career opportunities. By visiting a university in person, students can better understand college...



...expectations, imagine themselves on campus, and make informed decisions about life after high school.

UP NEXT: NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

This week the Argonauts will head to Northeastern Illinois University.

NEIU is a public university located on Chicago's North Side. With more than 120 undergraduate and graduate majors and minors, NEIU offers students plenty of options while maintaining a relatively small student-to-faculty ratio.

Some of NEIU's most popular areas of study include:

- Computer Science
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Biology
- Business
- Accounting
- Criminal Justice
- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary Education
- Liberal Arts and Humanities

NEIU also recently introduced a Bachelor's degree in Artificial Intelligence, making it the first public university in Illinois to offer an undergraduate AI major.