

COMMON APP WORKSHOP (June 2015)

- The Common Application is online college application used by over 500 colleges in the US (most are private colleges).
- If a college accepts Common App or its own application, always use the Common App; it doesn't affect ones chances of admission and makes sending your materials via Naviance much easier.
- Create an account starting August 1st at www.commonapp.org
- Your name on Common App must match name used on SAT/ACT reports and transcripts.
- The Common App makes it easy to apply to several private college but each campus you apply charges an application fee (\$45 to \$95).
- Some colleges waive application fee to encourage more applicants.

GENERAL DEADLINES

- Early Action (EA); Early Decision (ED); Early Action Restrictive, etc. (Nov 1 or Nov 15th)
- Regular Decision: Jan 1st – Feb, 2016; Rolling Admission (as spots fill up)
- Priority Deadlines (for merit scholarships or special programs/majors)

If you are considering applying early and wish to know the benefits and/or disadvantages, make an appointment or drop by during lunch to talk to your counselor.

COMMON APP REQUIREMENTS

___The Common Application has 6 mandatory sections for you to complete:

- 1. Profile (student information)**
- 2. Family Background**
- 3. Education (school/academic information, select "NONE" for ranking)**
- 4. Testing (SAT, ACT, AP, Subject Tests, etc.)**
- 5. Activities (extra-curricular, community service, etc.)**
- 6. Writing (college essay; some colleges can now make this optional.)**
7. Colleges/Special majors may add supplements in addition to sections above
 - Campus-specific supplemental essay(s) and/or portfolio

___FERPA (this is a law that protects student's privacy)

- You must decide if you wish to waive your right to read recommendation letters after you are admitted to a college. We recommend you waive this right.

- To waive your right, log into the Common App and click “Recommenders” and then FERPA. Complete once for all colleges on your Common App list.
- Teachers and counselor cannot send recommendation letters until you waived your right to read their letter.
- No access to change FERPA once a teacher/counselor submits their recommendation letter.

__Teacher Recommendation Letter(s)

- The Common App requires one or two Teacher Recommendations. When you add a college to your Common App account, you will see how many are required.
- Teacher(s) complete an Evaluation Form and attach a recommendation letter.
- Ask teacher(s) in person: from 11th grade core academic areas.
- Teacher’s recommendation deadline is same as your application deadline.
- Teachers are not obligated to work during winter break, so planned ahead.
- For regular (January deadlines), ask teachers no later than second week in November.
- For Early Decision deadlines, ask now or as soon as school resumes (Aug/Sept).
- After you have asked your teachers, log into Naviance, under “college tab” and “colleges I am applying to” page
 - Match your Naviance and Common App account
 - Scroll down to “Teacher Recommendation” and send the teacher request
- If a college only allows one teacher recommendation, communicate with teachers about which colleges (how and by when) he/she should send letter to. See SAMPLES on last page of this handout.
- Ask teacher if they need additional background information (resume/transcript).

__Counselor Recommendation Letter

- School Report (also known as Counselor Recommendation) with an attached recommendation letter and official transcripts are also REQUIRED.
- It is the student’s responsibility to make an appointment with his/her counselor to request a counselor recommendation letter. The appointment allows counselors to learn more about the student before he/she writes a recommendation letter.
- Before appointment, seniors must complete “Recommendation Letter (Common App) Questionnaire” (located in Naviance “about me” tab) and a resume.
- Bring \$5 (cost to send transcripts) and a RESUME to your counselor appointment.

__Official Transcripts

Initial (9th – 11th grade) automatically sent with Counselor Recommendation
 Midyear (7th semester transcripts) electronically sent Feb 1st (automatic)

___ Official Test Scores

- Send from your College Board and/or ACT accounts to each private college.
- Deadline: varies but typically scores must arrive by your application deadline.

___ Scores, recommendations, transcripts can arrive BEFORE you submit Common App.

___ Check if interviews are optional or required. If so, how/when are they scheduled?

CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIPS/FINANCIAL AID

___ Understand the cost to attend a private or out-of-state college

Chapman University	\$45,000 tuition (register for classes)
	\$13,000 dorms
	<u>\$5,000 (books/other)</u>
Yearly Estimated	\$56,000 per year

___ MERIT (academic) scholarships are included with admission offers.

- Chances depend on your academic profile vs. admitted profile.
For example: Students with a 4.0 gpa applying to schools where the average admitted student have a 3.0 gpa, increase their chances of getting a merit scholarship.
- Read merit scholarship offers carefully (many will front load).
- Most merit scholarships reduce the cost to compete with UC cost.

___ Need-based financial aid is based on household income

- Common App allows to you to note if you plan to apply for financial aid
- All students requesting financial aid to help pay for college:
Complete FAFSA between Jan and Feb 2016 online at www.fafsa.gov
Check if another financial aid app or College Board's CSS Profile is required.
- If your parents are divorced and/or remarried, most private colleges require financial background from both households (known as Non-custodial Profile).
- You can "estimate" household income by "estimating" parent financial information. However....
To have an accurate financial aid award package, your parents will need to file their 2015 taxes early (in February).
- Also look for outside scholarship on Naviance or College Board websites.

COMMON APPLICATION 2015-2106 ESSAY PROMPTS (Select one)

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 failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience.
3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma – anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

SAMPLE SUPPLEMENTAL ESSAYS

- How does the University of Chicago, as you know it now, satisfy your desire for a particular kind of learning, community, and future? Please address with some specificity your own wishes and how they relate to UChicago.
- Sports, science, and society are filled with rules, theories, and laws like the Ninth Commandment, $PV=nRT$, Occam's Razor, and The Law of Diminishing Returns. Three strikes and you're out. In English, "I" before "E" except after "C." Warm air rises. Pick any rule, theory, or law and explain its significance to you.

OTHER REMINDERS

- For regular deadlines, it helps to finalize your college list by October.
- Be aware of Early Deadlines (with regards to testing, sending scores, etc.)
- If you add colleges to your list over winter break, or after you have provided due date list to teachers/counselor, let them know so that they can send letters to your additional campuses.
- Give teachers/counselor "Thank You Card" after letters have been sent.
- View when letters/transcripts were submitted on Naviance (college tab)
- Be sure to check your email address and/or admission portal for follow-up.

SAMPLE CHECKLIST

COLLEGE RECOMMENDATION DUE DATES

YOUR NAME _____ STUDENT ID# _____
 EMAIL: _____ CELL PH: _____

COLLEGE	APPLICATION TYPE	HOW TO SEND	Due BY
*TUFTS	*COMMON APP	NAVIANCE	*11/15 (ED)
UC BERKELEY	UC APP	Campus will email Teacher a recommendation LINK	Dec 15
GEORGETOWN	OWN APP	Campus will email Teacher a recommendation LINK	Jan 1
WILLIAMS COLLEGE	*COMMON APP	NAVIANCE	Jan 3
USC	*COMMON APP	NAVIANCE	Jan 10
UNIV OF OREGON	HONORS PROGRAM	US POSTAL SERVICE I will provide a Recommendation Form with stamped envelope addressed to admission.	Feb 1

*I am applying to several campuses via Common App. Please only send to campuses that are on this list.

MY COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

COLLEGE	App Type	Apply by	# of Rec Letters	Scores Sent	Transcript Sent	Notes
TUFTS	Common					
UCLA, Davis, Irvin	UC					
University of Oregon	Own					
UofO Honor's Program						