# Common App Tips

Class of 2023



The Common App is used for many private and out of state public colleges.

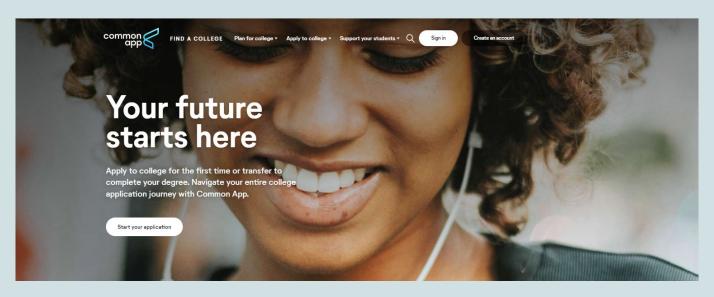
This application is NOT for UCs or CSUs.

Read through these TIPS to assist with completion of your application.

This is NOT a page by page instruction, these slides assist with Carlmont specific guidelines.

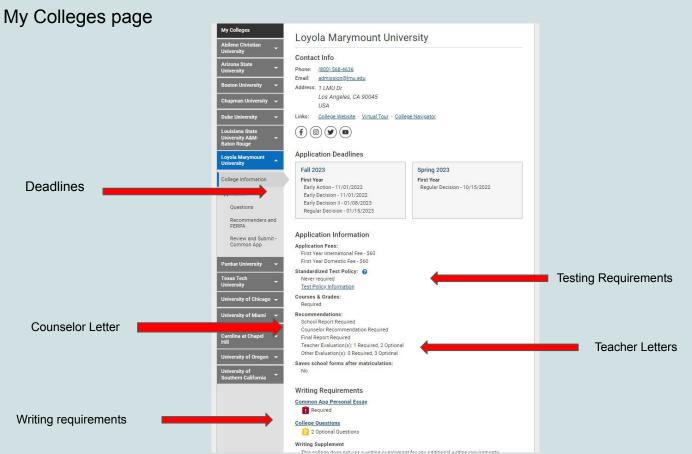
## **Create Your Account**

https://www.commonapp.org/



Your name should be your legal name, also matching your legal name in Infinite Campus and your College Board account and/or ACT account (if you are submitting the exams). Do not use nicknames.

## After creating an account and adding a college





Note: The Final Report is your final transcript after you graduate. If your college only needs a School Report, email your counselor to send it.

## My Colleges Tab - Questions

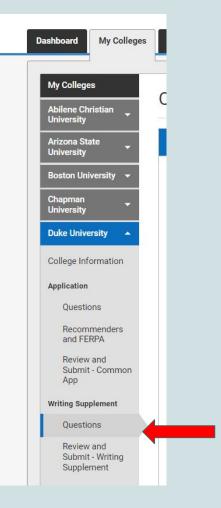
Dashboard My Colleges

My Colleges **Abilene Christian** University Arizona State University Boston University College Information Application Ouestions Recommenders and FFRPA Review and Submit - Common App Chapman University **Duke University** 

Some colleges will require a supplemental essay, short questions or long questions. It could be located in the Questions Section on the My Colleges Tab.

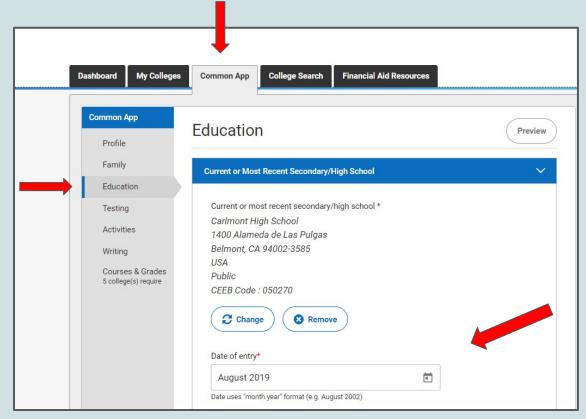
Schools that use demonstrated interest will ask if you have made contact with an admissions representative. If you have attended a college visit at Carlmont (or virtual) that is considered a contact. Mrs. Rasor will have the name of the admissions representative if needed.

Some colleges will have their Writing Supplement designated separately.



## **Education Page of the Common App**

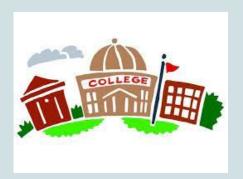
Prior to completing the FERPA and Matching your Naviance account with Common App, parts of the Education Section need to be completed.





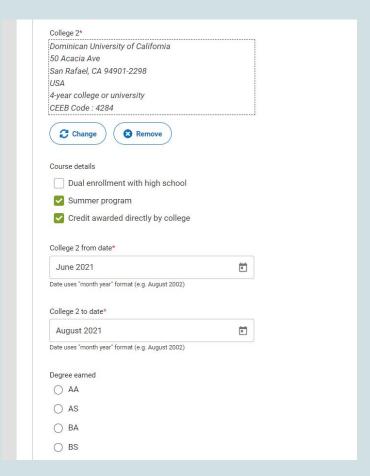
## Education page - Colleges & Universities section

If you took a community college and/or college course during your high school career, indicate it here. All courses taken at a Community College/College (except PE) must be indicated on your application. This section would also include courses that have produced a transcript from an online college or 4 year college.



This example is for a summer course/program that has awarded college credit

Students are required to indicate all college/community college courses (except PE) taken even if the grade is lower than desired.



# Education page - Colleges & Universities section **Dual Enrollment**

The only Dual Enrollment courses at Carlmont are:

Biotechnology 1-2

Biotechnology 3 - 4

Biomanufacturing Field Work

**Marketing Communications** 

In the College/University section indicated as Dual Enrollment. The Common App will not allow the community college and/or college courses/grades and credit earned to be entered. You will only enter the community college and/or college name and the date attended. You can indicate the course taken,the grade earned and credit earned in the additional comments area of the Writing Section.

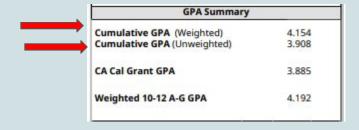


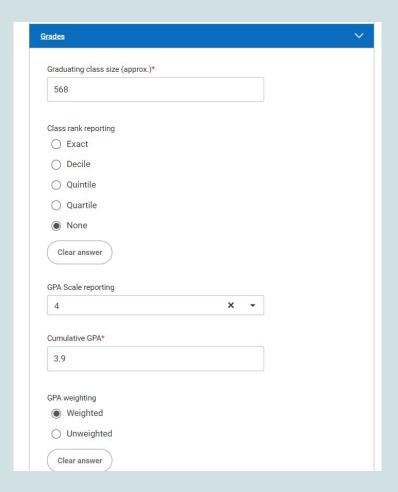
#### **Example of Dual Enrollment**

College 1*	
Skyline College	
3300 College Dr	
San Bruno, CA 94066-1698	
USA	
2-year or community college	
CEEB Code: 4746	
Change     Street     Remove	
Course details	
☑ Dual enrollment with high school	
Summer program	
Credit awarded directly by college	
College 1 from date*	
January 2021	
Date uses "month year" format (e.g. August 2002)	
College 1 to date*	
June 2023	
Date uses "month year" format (e.g. August 2002)	
Degree earned	
○ AA	
○ AA ○ AS	
○ AS	

## Grades Section of the Education Pages

Senior Class size 568 Carlmont does not rank GPA Scale Reporting 4





#### **Current or Most Recent Year Courses Section**

This section is referring to your senior year courses taken at Carlmont:

\*Our course scheduling system is Semester

\*Course schedule should be first semester and second semester for all courses with the exception of American Government and Economics. Those courses are either first semester American Government - second semester Economics (according to your schedule)

\*If you are taking Advanced Dance or Intermediate Dance the only choice is semester ( Use the Additional Comments area in Writing Section to explain it is a quarter course)

\*The indication on your transcript - for course level

P = College Prep

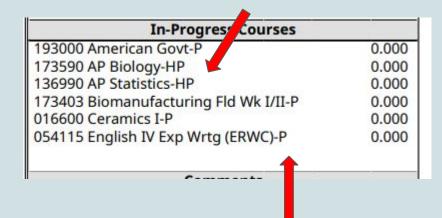
HP = honors/AP

no indication = regular course

\*The following courses indicate accelerated for this section

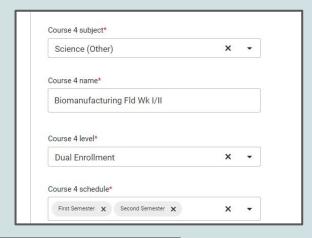
Geometry Enriched Multivariable Calc Alg II/Trig

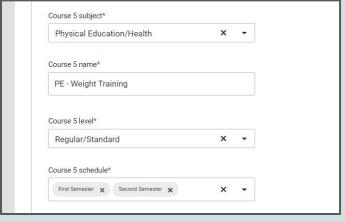
Remember to indicate any Dual Enrollment



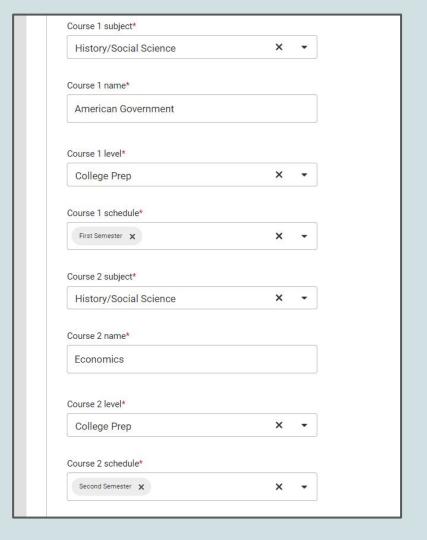
### **Examples of Senior Year Classes**







Enter all your senior courses



## Honors - this page refers to any academic Achievement you have or will earn.

Examples might include (but not limited to)

Seal of Biliteracy(on track to receive)

Math Award

National Merit Semi finalist

National Merit Commended Student

AP Scholar

AP Capstone Diploma(on track to receive)

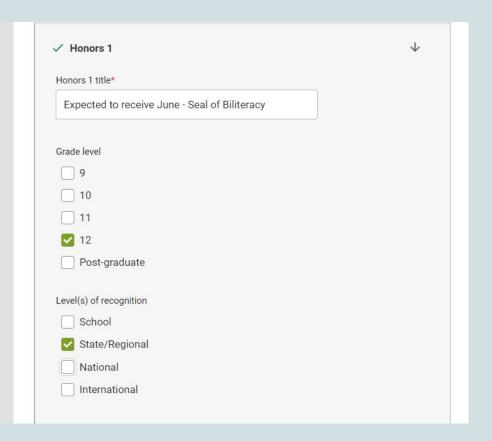
AP Capstone certificate

AP Scholar with Honor

AP Scholar with Distinction

Pacemaker Award



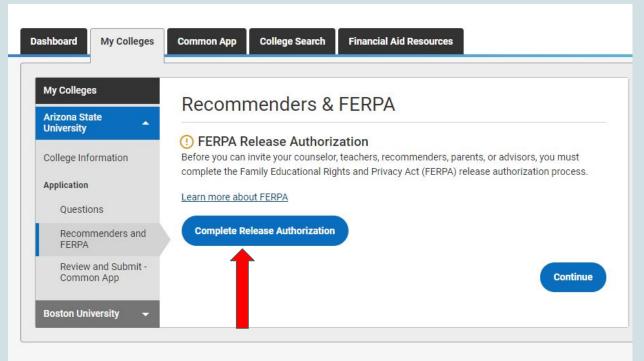


## Next step sign your FERPA

#### **Recommenders and FERPA**



Once one FERPA Authorization is done, it will be applied to all listed colleges Sign the FERPA - this allows Carlmont to send your transcripts and letters. We suggest "Waiving" your rights on the FERP. Waiving your rights informs colleges that you will not read your teacher letters and counselor letters. Colleges do not want you to read your letters. **Very important** step.



#### 1. How does FERPA relate to your college application?

 FERPA regulates the privacy of student education records, which could include your application to the college where you enroll. FERPA also gives you the right to review confidential letters of recommendation provided as part of that application after you enroll.

#### 2. In a moment, you'll be asked if you want to waive the right to review confidential letters of recommendation. What should you know about this waiver?

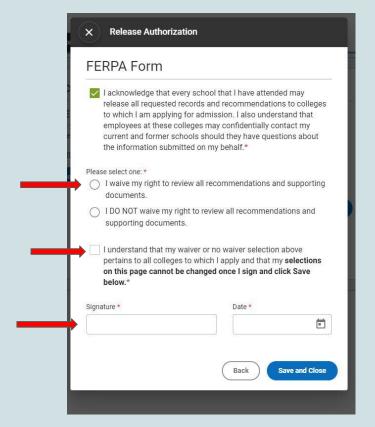
- Waiving your right lets colleges know that you do not intend to read your recommendations, which helps reassure colleges that the letters are candid and truthful.
- Some recommenders may decline to write a letter for you if you do not
  waive your rights. Check with your counselor or teachers to see 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 <u>Help Center</u>.

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

Continue



## Match Naviance to your Common App (after signing FERPA)

Matching allows teachers and counselors to send your letters, school reports and transcripts electronically to your colleges.

Slides on Matching were sent to all seniors on August 31. They are stored in your Naviance account and also listed on the College and Career page of the Carlmont website.

Click Here to access the Matching your Naviance to Common App slides

## **Testing section**

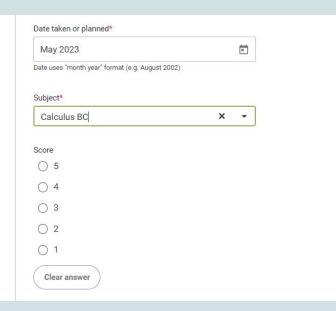
- This section is to indicate exams taken and future exams
- Most college are test optional know your requirements
- If you did not do well on an SAT/ACT and the college is test optional, you might choose not to indicate your score
- Most colleges would want to see AP scores of 3 and above (know your college preference)
- If you indicate the exam was taken, you will need to send it to the college from your College Board or ACT account.

### ✓ Tests Taken **AP Subject Tests** Number of AP Tests you wish to report, including tests you expect to take\* X -Date taken or planned\* May 2022 Date uses "month year" format (e.g. August 2002) Subject\* Biology Score 0 5 0 2

Clear answer

Example AP exam taken

### Example AP Exam planned



#### Example of SAT taken

AT Tests		
Number of past SAT scores y	ou wish to report*	
1	x -	
Have you taken the SAT essa	y?*	
○ Yes		
No		
Clear answer		
Number of future SAT sittings	s you expect*	
<u>0</u>		
O 1		
O 2		

#### **SAT Scores**

- -Download your Score Report from your College Board account
- -Enter the information from to report to your application

490	×	•
Evidence-based reading and writing	date*	
		Ė
August 20, 2022  Date uses "month day, year" format (e.g. A	ugust 1, 2002)	
	ugust 1, 2002)	_
Date uses "month day, year" format (e.g. A		•



### SAT Score Report

Imagood Student 100 Main Street Anytown, MA 00000-0000

#### Your Total Score

50th Nationally Representative

SAT User Percentile Sample Percentile

#### Section Scores

490 | 200-800 Your Evidence-Based Reading and Writing

**520** | 200-800 Your Math Score

Sample Percentile 49th SAT User Percentile

44th Nationally Representative

Sample Percentile

57th Nationally Representative

35th SAT User Percentile

You've scored below

Standard English

You've met

the benchmark!

**Test Scores** 

22 | 10-40 Reading

27 | 10-40 Writing and Language 26.0 | 10-40

#### Cross-Test Scores | 10-40

Analysis in History/Social Studies

Subscores | 1-15

Command of

Heart of Algebra Problem Solving

Words in Context

Expression of Ideas

Analysis in Science

Test Center Number: 12345 CB Student ID: 12345678 High School Code: 123456 High School Name: John F. Kennedy **High School** 

#### Am I on Track for College?

Look for the green, yellow, or red symbols next to your section scores. They let you know if your scores are at or above the benchmark scores. Benchmarks show college readiness. If you see green, you're on track to be ready for college when you graduate.

If you score below the benchmark, you can use the feedback and tips in your online report to get back on track.

Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: 480

#### How Do My Scores Compare?

A percentile shows how you scored, compared to other students. It's a number between 1 and 99 and represents the percentage of students whose scores are equal to or below yours.

For example, if your Math percentile is 57, that means 57% of test takers have Math scores equal to or below yours. The Nationally Representative Sample Percentile compares your score to the scores of typical U.S.

SATe User Percentile compares your score to the scores of students who typically take the test.

#### How Can I Improve?

To see which skills are your strongest and what you can do to boost your college readiness, go to your full report online and look for Skills Insight™

#### What Are Score Ranges?

Test scores are single snapshots in time-if you took the SAT once a week for a month, your scores would vary. That's why score ranges are better representations of your true ability. They show how much your score can change with repeated testing, even if your skill level

remains the same. Colleges know this, and they get score ranges along with

scores so they can consider scores in contaxt Your online score report shows your score ranges.



## Activities page





List activities in order of importance to you

This section is not only volunteering, sports, clubs - it includes employment, family obligations and other meaningful activities. For example if you attend a one time seminar that interests you, add it to your application. If you take care of siblings or grandparents, include that responsibility.

If you participated in an activity but it ended because of Covid, add that comment to your application.

Do not use acronyms in the organization name - unless it is very common for example YMCA can be used.

In the "Describe this activity" they want to know your involvement more than what the activity is. For example, you do not have to describe Football, but you can describe your participation - Daily practice starting at 6am, and such. Talk more about you than the activity. Did you have a leadership role? Leadership does not need to be officially named. For example it can be you were in charge of reminding teammates of practice updates, that shows leadership.

## Writing page

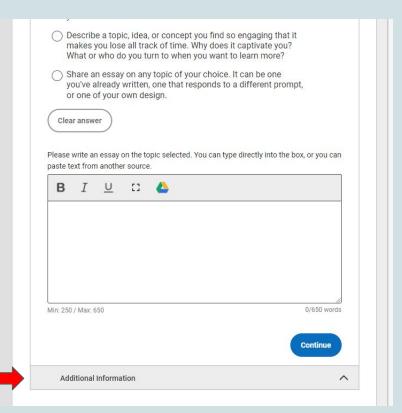


Most colleges will require the Common App personal essay. This is one essay will be sent to all your Common App colleges. Write your essay in a google doc and cut and paste it into your application. Student should spend time brainstorming, planning, writing, editing and finalizing the essay. The essay should NOT be over edited by adults. Colleges want to hear the student's voice. Most college websites will have webinar, support and/or information on the personal essay.

#### Instructions

The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades, and test scores? Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so. (The application won't accept a response shorter than 250 words.)

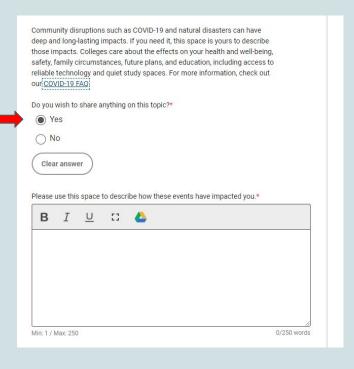
## Additional Information (on the bottom of the Writing page)



This is NOT another space to write a Personal Statement. The following pages are suggestions to include if applicable. These are just suggestions. If there is something else you would like the college to know that is <u>not</u> mentioned in another part of the application, this is your opportunity.

### COVID 19 response - This is not a required section.

## When you click yes, the box will appear.

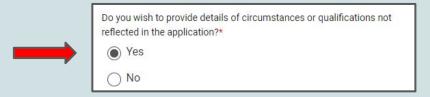


### Response instructions

COVID-19 has affected students in dramatically different ways. If you need it, the COVID-19 and natural disaster question in the Additional Information section is a place for you to describe the impact of these events.

The question is not intended to be an extra essay. There's also no need to describe how your school responded to these events. Your counselor will have an opportunity to discuss impacts like closures, online instruction, and grading policies. Instead, consider how these events may have impacted you, your family, and your learning environment.

### Additional Information - Not a required section, but it can be used as another opportunity to tell the college more about yourself

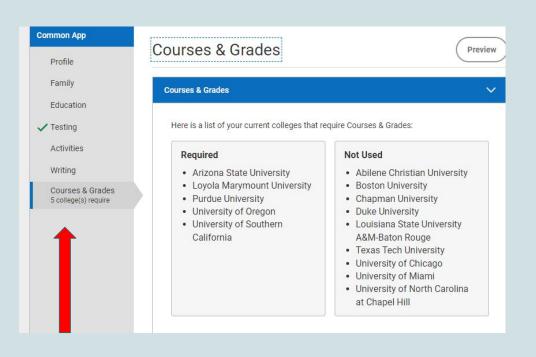


#### Suggestions if it pertains to you:

\* I participated in the Biotechnology Institute (BTI) program in 10-12th grade. BTI is a small learning community focused on science and technology. Core BTI classes include science-themed English and social studies, as well as yearly lab science courses, which receive dual enrollment credit from Skyline College. Because of my enthusiasm for science, I chose to participate in this college-prep cross-curricular program, even though it precluded my ability to take Advanced Standing (AS) and AP courses in English and history. \*Indicate any reason why your grades dropped, do not repeat yourself if you addressed this in your Personal Statement (e.g. family struggles, concussion, health issues etc)

- \*Indicate any reason why your grades dropped, do not repeat yourself if you addressed this in your Personal Statement (e.g. family struggles, concussion, health issues etc)
- \*State the reason if there was a course you could not take at CHS (example class was full etc)
- \* Indicate if you are/were enrolled in Intermediate or Advanced Dance, that is a quarter class
- \*If you took Algebra in middle school and/or Geometry and/or a world language if you do not repeat the course in 9th grade \*Indicate any community college or college courses here, the course title the units earned the grade, including Dual Enrollment. Use your college transcript for this data.
- \*If required to list courses from 9th 11th grade Life Skills, world studies 1 and PE are quarter classes
- \*Any other information you would like the college to know about you that is nowhere else on your application.
- \*If you ran out of room on the activities page, include it here.

Courses & Grades Not all colleges will require this section. Enter your high school grades 9th - 11th. Do not include college/community college/middle school grades in this section. Use your current transcript (located in Infinite Campus) to complete this section. DO NOT complete your data entry from memory. If your application deadline is after senior first semester grades are posted in mid- January, you would include those grades. If your application deadline is before 1st semester senior grades are posted, you will indicate NO to the following question: Do you have 12th grade courses on your transcript with official grades?



\*We are a semester school

\*Our grading scale is A-F

\*Almost all of our courses are College Prep or Honor/AP.

\*The indication of College Prep or Regular or AP/Honors is on your transcript

P = College Prep

HP = honors/AP (we offer 6 honors courses)

No indications means it is a regular class (example Life Skills)

\*The following courses indicate accelerated for this application

AS English I Algebra II/Trig Geometry Enriched

AS English II Multivariable Calc

\*For World Studies 1 indicate the credit was 2.5

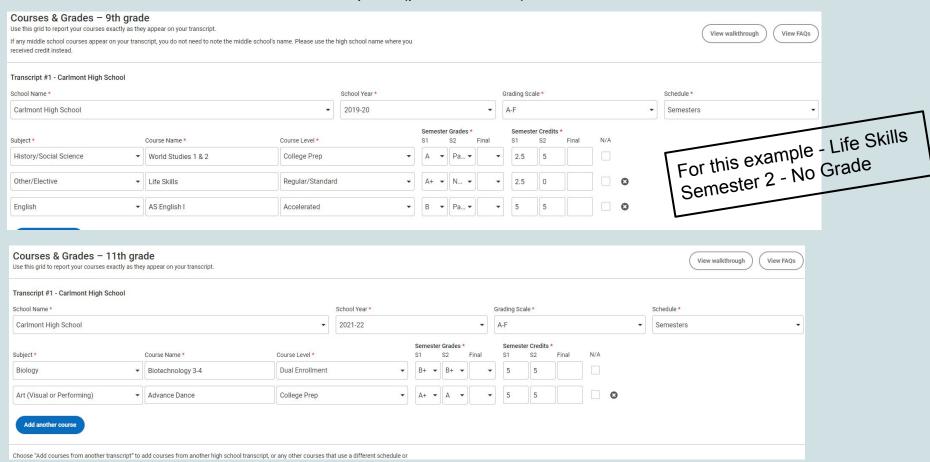
\*For World Studies 2 indicate semester 5.0 credits.

\*Life Skills indicate semester 2.5 credits

\*Leave Final Grade blank

\*Leave Final Semester Credits blank

### Examples (partial entries)





Within the Common App are very helpful tutorial videos also instructions and help with instructions on the right side of each page. Mrs Rasor and your counselor are always here to assist.

If you delete a college off your Common App please delete it off your Naviance account.

Finding reliable information: Please do not rely on information that you have googled. If you need information, ask Mrs Rasor. Colleges have webinars and information on their website. You can also reach out directly to your admission officer for accurate information.

Detailed steps from Common App https://www.commonapp.org/apply/first-year-students

Before submitting make sure you click through each section to confirm the information is complete. **Once you submit, it can not be reopened**. I encourage you to have Mrs Rasor review your application before you submit.



Seniors do you have questions??
Ask Mrs Rasor in your College & Career Center nrasor@seq.org