

The Common Application

The Common Application is a general application for admission to 517 member colleges and universities in 47 states and the District of Columbia, as well as Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. Most of the schools included on the Common Application are private schools. Most state schools are NOT included on the Common Application, though there are some exceptions.

Click [here](#) to see the member colleges and universities.

Elements of the Common Application

1. College list

As students select colleges they are interested in, the Common Application will provide the information of that particular college or university and the information the applicant will need to complete. Once they have chosen, the college advisor will be able to check in to see what information needs to be completed.

2. Personal information

3. Family information

4. Academics

5. Standardized test scores (though official tests scores need to be sent from the agency directly to the college)

6. Résumé

The résumé should include school and co-curricular activities as well as any work or volunteer experience.

7. Writing sample

You will need to write a roughly 250 word essay. Some schools require other writing supplements. Once you have chosen to apply to a particular college, the Common Application will provide any relevant supplemental writing requirements.

8. Application fee

Payment is required before the application can be sent.

9. School forms

You will provide email addresses to the Common Application for recommendations from your teacher and counselor (which is your advisor). Your advisor will provide a school profile and vital information to the selected colleges. Your advisor will also be able to see what colleges have been selected and track the progress of your application.