



What's new with Common App: 2025–26 updates for counselors

Michaela Alcorn, *Manager of Counselor Engagement*

Meredith Lombardi, *Director of Education & Training*

Registration stats

as of May 15, 2025

Role		
Independent educational consultant	898	37%
Counselor/ director at a public school	725	29%
Counselor/ director at an independent school	443	18%
Other	130	5%
Counselor/ director at an international school	120	5%
CBO advisor/ director	67	3%
Non-profit organization	53	2%
District/ state/ country coordinator	18	1%
Transfer advisor	2	0%
Total	2456	

Top 5	
States	Countries (non-US)
California	India
New York	Canada
Florida	China
Texas	United Arab Emirates
Massachusetts	Australia, Singapore, UK

300+ questions received in advance

Top 10 categories

- Activities
- Account rollover
- SCOIR integration
- General updates
- Supplemental essays
- Rec system
- Testing
- Direct admissions
- Course entry
- New UI

What we'll cover in the webinar

- Common App year in review
- 2025–26 system enhancements
 - First-year app UI updates
 - Account rollover
 - Essay prompts
 - Additional information question changes
 - New responsibilities and circumstances question
 - Citizenship question
 - ACT test reporting changes
 - Self-reported transcripts (C&G / STARS)
 - School form updates
 - New integration partners
 - Transfer app updates

- Common App initiatives
 - Direct admissions
 - Scholarship matching
 - Community colleges
- Advising tools and resources

Many thanks to all the contributors:

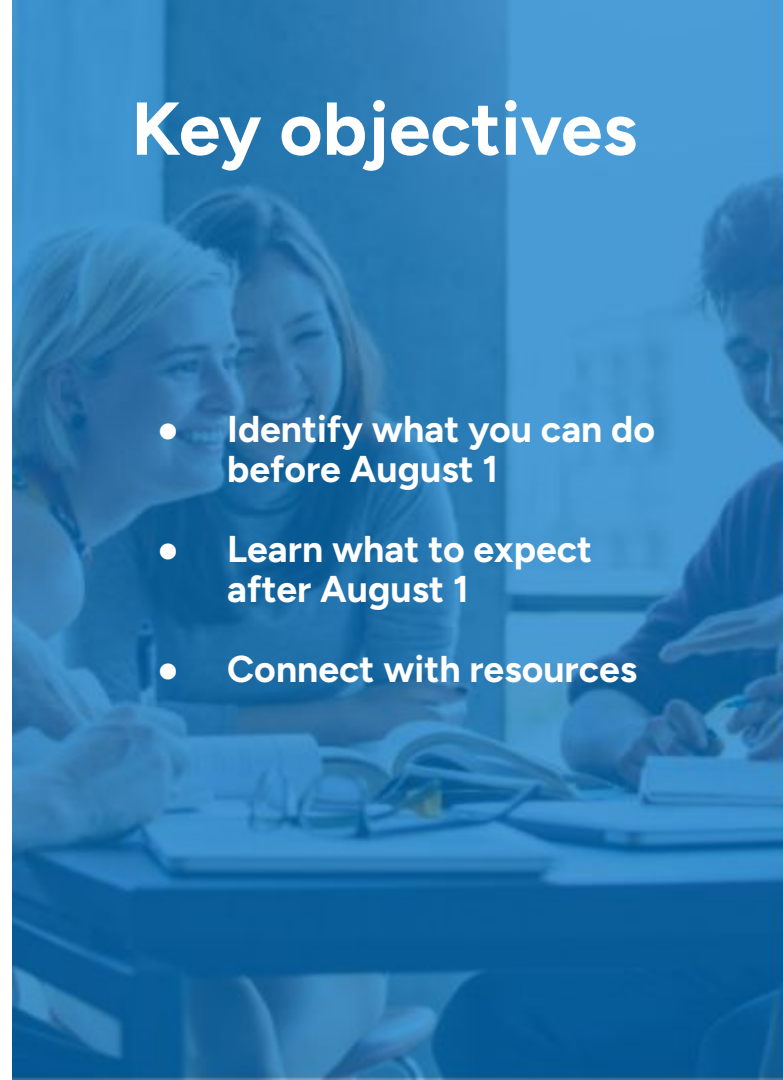
- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| ● Natasha | ● Jason M. |
| ● Samantha | ● Ariana |
| ● Meagan | ● Kyran |
| ● Emma | ● Ryan G. |
| ● Amy | ● Michelle S. |

Agenda

- Common App year in review
- 2025–26 system enhancements
- Common App initiatives
- Advising tools and resources
- Your questions

Key objectives

- Identify what you can do before August 1
- Learn what to expect after August 1
- Connect with resources



Thank you for submitting questions in advance!

What we heard:

- General updates
- Direct admissions
- Scholarships
- Resources
- Courses & Grades / SRAR usage
- Writing supplements
- Activities section limitations
- 20 college limit max

**Share your
enhancement
suggestions with
Common App's
product team.**

ideas.commonapp.org

Common App year in review

MISSION

Common App is a nonprofit membership organization committed to the pursuit of access, equity, and integrity in the college admission process.

VISION

Be the trusted source to access, afford, and attain opportunity for all.

MOONSHOT

By 2030, Common App will close its equity gap in students pursuing post-secondary opportunities



Common App member institutions

2024–25

1K+

Member
institutions

300+

Public
members

600+

Charge no
application fee

50

U.S. states, DC, and
Puerto Rico

50+

International
members

15+

Countries outside
the U.S.

commonapp.org/explore

This year so far

2024–25 as of May 1

1.5M

Unique first-year
applicants
(+5% y-o-y)

100K

Unique
counselors

10.1M

First-year apps
submitted
(+8% y-o-y)

26.2M

Total forms
submitted
(+4% y-o-y)

Forms submitted

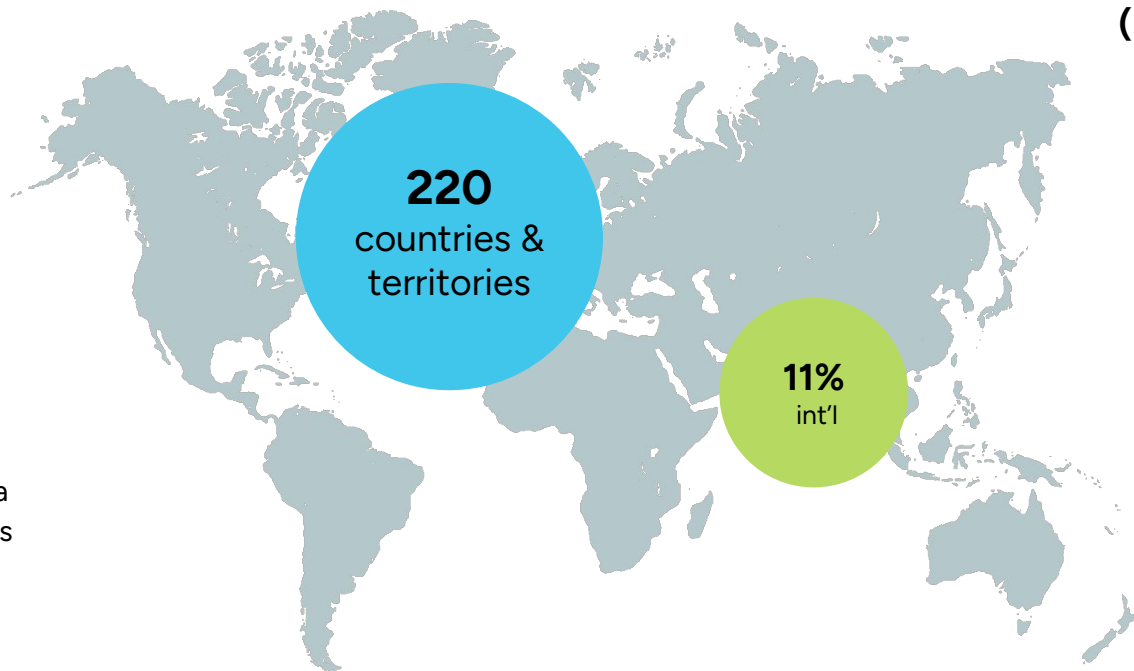
- **8.5M:** School reports
- **184K:** ED1 + ED2
- **3.4M:** Fee waiver
- **7.2M:** Counselor recommendations
- **1M:** Optional report 1 + 2
- **5.8M:** Midyear report
- **132K:** Final report

First-year applicants' home states and countries

2024–25 as of May 1

Top 15 states

- Texas
- New York
- California
- Florida
- New Jersey
- Illinois
- Georgia
- Pennsylvania
- Ohio
- Virginia
- North Carolina
- Massachusetts
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Colorado



Top 15 countries (non-US)

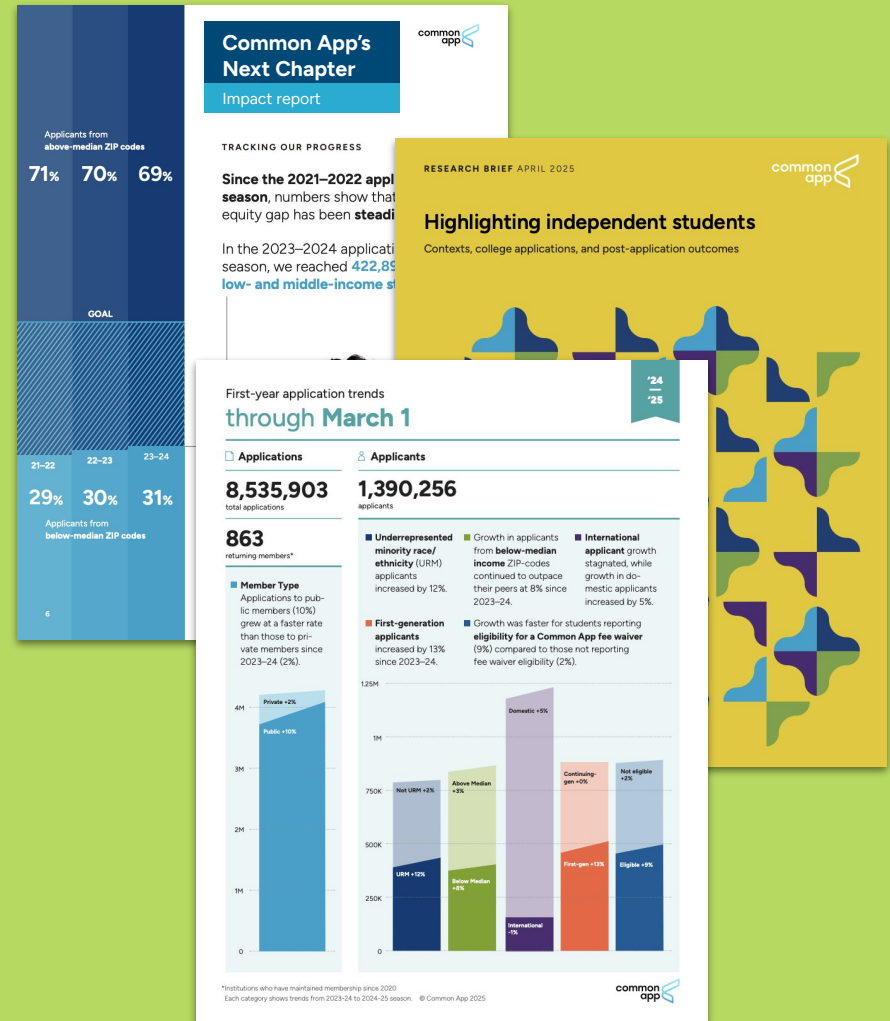
- China
- India
- Ghana
- Nigeria
- Canada
- Pakistan
- Nepal
- Uzbekistan
- Ethiopia
- United Arab Emirates
- Bangladesh
- Saudi Arabia
- United Kingdom
- Viet Nam
- Brazil

Data research and analytics

As an organization serving millions of students and counselors each year, Common App is uniquely positioned to share data and provide insight into the college admissions process.

- Research briefs
- Deadline updates
- State reports

commonapp.org/research



Over 600 colleges still accepting applications

Common App resources

- Filter in the application
- [Requirements grid](#)

NACAC resource

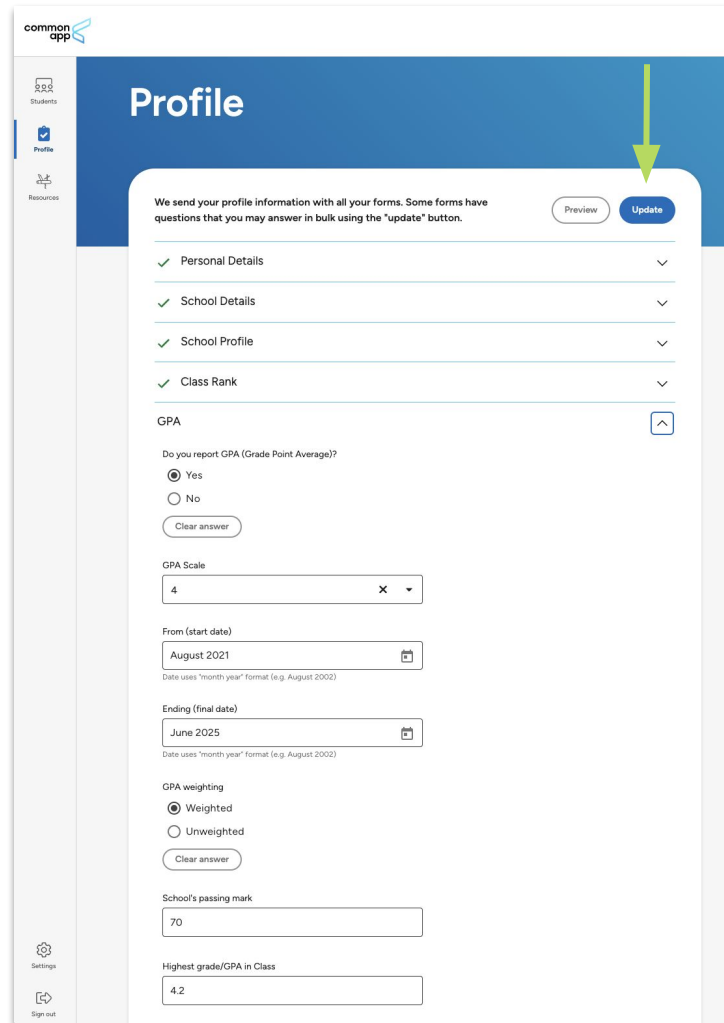
- [College Openings Update](#)



Reminder: Final reports

Profile information can be updated for all students prior to completing final reports

- Class rank (start and end dates)
- GPA (start and end dates)
- Transcript (most recent grades included)



The screenshot shows the 'common app' Profile page. The left sidebar contains links for 'Students', 'Profile', and 'Resources'. The main content area is titled 'Profile' and contains a message: 'We send your profile information with all your forms. Some forms have questions that you may answer in bulk using the "update" button.' Below this message are two buttons: 'Preview' and 'Update'. A green arrow points to the 'Update' button. The profile card lists several sections with expandable/collapsible icons:

- ✓ Personal Details
- ✓ School Details
- ✓ School Profile
- ✓ Class Rank

Below these sections is the 'GPA' section, which includes the question 'Do you report GPA (Grade Point Average)?' with radio buttons for 'Yes' (selected) and 'No'. There is a 'Clear answer' button. Below this is the 'GPA Scale' section with a dropdown menu showing '4'. The 'From (start date)' section has a date picker showing 'August 2021'. The 'Ending (final date)' section has a date picker showing 'June 2025'. The 'GPA weighting' section has radio buttons for 'Weighted' (selected) and 'Unweighted', with a 'Clear answer' button. The 'School's passing mark' section has a text input field showing '70'. The 'Highest grade/GPA in Class' section has a text input field showing '4.2'.

Reminder: Download your data

Save your student application activity before
the 2024–25 application closes on July 28

Export list includes:

- All colleges students have added
- Decision plans and deadlines
- Submission statuses
 - Applications
 - Writing supplements
 - School forms

recommend.commonapp.org

My students

Student name

Search filters

2 students Sort by: Last name

JJ Jenny Jacobson
No deadline selected
Mid-year 1 of 2

IO Ima O'Donnell
Jul 26, 2025
Mid-year 2 of 4

This year's to-do list

This week Next week **This year**

- School reports**
1 of 2 submitted
- Fee waivers**
1 of 1 submitted
- Early decision 1 agreements**
1 of 1 submitted
- Counselor recommendations**
0 of 2 submitted
- Mid-year reports**
0 of 2 submitted
- Final reports**
0 submitted

Show students

2025–26 system enhancements

Counselor Advisory Committee

James Ash, Needham High School (MA)

Jerome Bennett, Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School (OK)

Kimberly Brown, Wade Hampton High School (SC)

Yvonne Espinoza, Yvonne Espinoza College Counseling Services (TX)

Chaka Felder, Higher Heights Youth Empowerment Programs, Inc. (CT)

Steve Frappier, Westminster School (GA)

Cristan Harris, Hawken School (OH)

Erin Kim, Granada Hills Charter (CA)

Lesley Klecan, St. Mary's School (OR)

Wilson Lee, Singapore American School (Singapore)

Katherine Nerona-Balog, Admit-Ed (KS)

Dexter Padayachee, Sesameed (South Africa)

Kelsey Smith, Philadelphia Education Fund (PA)

Randy Stamm, Hackensack High Schools (NJ)

Jon Young, Belvidere High School (IL)

5

Public schools



5

Independent schools



2

Community-based organizations



3

Independent educational consultants



Interested in serving on the committee or want to nominate a colleague?

Use our [**nomination form**](#).



First-year application UI updates

Coming August 2025

Common App is getting a refreshed application experience that will include an updated visual design, creating a more usable and accessible application experience.

This [blog post](#) includes a full PDF of screenshots illustrating the updated application design.

The screenshot displays the 'My Common Application' interface. On the left is a sidebar with a navigation menu including Profile, Personal Information (highlighted), Address, Contact Details, Demographics, Language, Geography and Nationality, Common App Fee Waiver, Family, Education, Testing, Activities, Writing, and Courses & Grades. The main content area is titled 'Personal Information' and shows a progress indicator 'In progress'. It contains several form fields: 'Legal first/given name' (filled with 'Penelope'), a question about sharing a different first name with 'Yes' and 'No' radio buttons and a 'Clear answer' button, 'Middle name', 'Last/family/surname' (filled with 'Peters'), 'Suffix' (a dropdown menu), another question about a former legal name with 'Yes' and 'No' radio buttons and a 'Clear answer' button, and 'Date of birth'. A 'Preview' button is in the top right. A 'Help & support' sidebar on the right includes a search bar, a 'Need help?' section with a link to 'Read full answer', and a link to 'All help topics'. The footer contains various links like 'Need help?', 'System requirements', and 'Privacy policy', along with social media icons and a copyright notice for Common App, Inc.



 Dashboard

APPLY

 My Common Application

 My Colleges

EXPLORE

 College search

 Financial aid

 Settings

 Sign out

 Penelope Peters
CAID 1234567



Good afternoon,
Penelope!

Dashboard

^ My Common Application

2/7 sections complete

 Profile

 Family

 Education

 Testing

 Activities

 Writing

 Courses & Grades

^ My Colleges

5 colleges on my list

 2 submitted

 3 in progress

 Show colleges

Go to My Colleges

Help & support

Search FAQs

Search takes you to the student solution center

Need help?
Please use the link below to look for an answer to your question. Answers to most questions can...

 Read full answer

[All help topics](#)

Need help? System requirements Accessibility information License agreement Terms of use Fraud policy Privacy policy

    © 2024 Common App

Upon login, students are presented with a personalized view of their My Common Application and My Colleges progress.

Students can take action to work on their applications from the Dashboard, or by selecting a section in the 'Apply' menu header.

My Common Application

Profile

Personal Information

Address

Contact Details

Demographics

Language

Geography and Nationality

Common App Fee Waiver

Family

Education

Testing

Activities

Writing

Courses & Grades

1 college(s) require

Need help?

System requirements

Accessibility information

License agreement

Terms of use

Fraud policy

Privacy policy

My Common Application | Profile

Preview

Personal Information

In progress

Legal first/given name *

Penelope

Would you like to share a different first name that people call you?

Yes

No

Clear answer

Middle name

Last/family/surname *

Peters

Suffix

Do you have any materials under a former legal name? *

Yes

No

Clear answer

Date of birth *

Help & support

Search FAQs

Search takes you to the student solution center

Need help?

Please use the link below to look for an answer to your question. Answers to most questions can...

Read full answer

All help topics

The 'Common App' menu item will be named 'My Common Application,' and will come before 'My Colleges' in the main navigation menu for ease of application completion.

Students will see progress indicators for each section (the 'green checkmark' indicates completion).

© 2025 Common App, Inc.

My Colleges

Overview

North Carolina A&T State University
Submitted

South Carolina State University

University of Iowa

University of Rhode Island
Submitted

Whittier College

College Information

APPLICATION

General

Academics

Contacts

Family

Writing

Recommenders and FERPA

Review and Submit - Common App

My Colleges | Whittier College

College Information

admission@whittier.edu · Phone (888) 200-0369

13406 E Philadelphia St
Whittier, CA 90608
USA

It looks like you're eligible for [direct admission](#) to this college!

Application deadlines

Fall 2025
Early Action · November 15, 2024
Rolling Admission · May 15, 2025

Spring 2025
Regular Decision · October 15, 2024

Links

[College Website](#)

[Admissions Office](#)

[Financial aid](#)

[Virtual Tour](#)

[College Navigator](#)

Direct admission offer details

Based on your application responses, you meet this college's direct admissions criteria! To accept this offer, all you need to do is apply to this college before their latest available deadline. There's no application fee and applying does not mean that you have to enroll.

Before sending you a formal admission offer, this college will verify you meet their admission criteria. For more information about how you were selected or how direct admissions works in general, please use our [direct admissions FAQ](#).

Perks

This college waives the following application requirements:

- Common App Personal Essay
- Counselor recommendation
- Teacher evaluation
- Other recommendations

The following financial aid is also offered as part of this college's offer of direct

Help & support

Search FAQs

Search takes you to the student solution center

Need help?
Please use the link below to look for an answer to your question. Answers to most questions can...

[Read full answer](#)

[All help topics](#)

Need help?

System requirements

Accessibility information

License agreement

Terms of use

Fraud policy

Privacy policy

© 2024 Common App

'My colleges' provides students with information about the colleges they have added.

Students can track their progress on, complete, and submit their college-specific application sections.

© 2025 Common App, Inc.

College search

Application Requirements

College or city name

Separate multiple search terms with a comma, e.g.: Washington, Boston

More filters

1108 results

Sort by: College name

	Aberystwyth University Aberystwyth, Ceredigion - GBR	+ Add
	Abilene Christian University Abilene, TX - USA	+ Add
	Adams State University Alamosa, CO - USA	+ Add
	Adelphi University Garden City, NY - USA	+ Add
	Agnes Scott College Decatur, GA - USA	+ Add
	Air Force Academy USAF Academy, CO - USA	+ Add
	Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane IFRANE - MAR	+ Add
	Alaska Pacific University Anchorage, AK - USA	+ Add
	Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Albany, NY - USA	+ Add
	Albertus Magnus College	+ Add

Help & support

Search FAQs

Search takes you to the student solution center

Need help?

Please use the link below to look for an answer to your question. Answers to most questions can...

Read full answer

[All help topics](#)

Students will find 'College search' in the 'Explore' main menu header, through which they can search for, learn about, and add colleges to their 'My colleges' list.

Dashboard

APPLY

My Common Application

My Colleges

EXPLORE

College search

Financial aid

Settings

Sign out

Penelope Peters
CAID 1234567





Financial aid



Types of financial aid



Scholarships

Matches



Resources



How to apply for financial aid



Financial aid | Scholarships

Matches

Based on your Common App tab responses, we think you'd be a great match for the following scholarships.

2 available matches

Burger King Scholars Program

Deadline: December 16, 2024

Up to \$60,000

Equitable Excellence Scholarship Program

Deadline: December 18, 2024

Up to \$20,000

0 deadlines passed

All matched scholarships are still available.

Help & support

Search FAQs



Search takes you to the student solution center

Need help?

Please use the link below to look for an answer to your question. Answers to most questions can...

Read full answer

All help topics

In the 'Financial aid' section of the 'Explore' main menu section, students will find opportunities to learn about financial aid and apply for scholarships.

© 2025 Common App, Inc.

Account rollover

The 2024–25 Common App will close to students, counselors, and recommenders:

- **First-year app:** July 28, 5 pm ET
- **Transfer app:** July 29, 5 pm ET

The Common App launches on August 1 each year, but students don't have to wait until then.



Username and password

remain the same.



What rolls over?

- A student's college list
- Answers to questions in My Common Application
 - Profile
 - Activities
 - Family
 - Writing
 - Education
 - Courses & Grades
 - Testing
- Advisor invitations

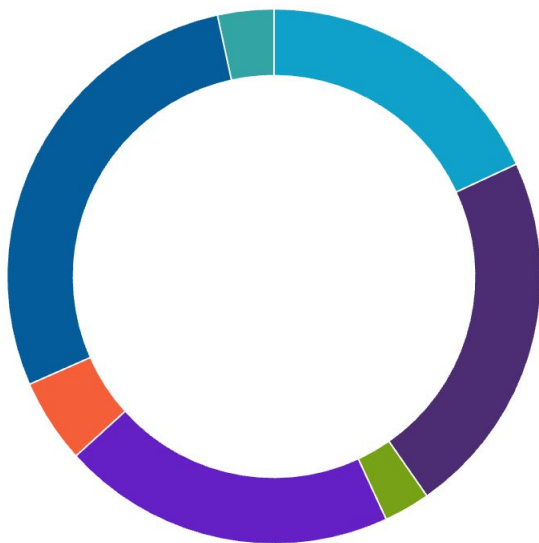


What does NOT roll over?

- Responses to questions that are edited or removed
- Direct admissions offers, scholarship matches
- My Colleges question responses
 - College-specific questions
 - FERPA release authorization
 - Recommender invitations (counselors, teachers, other recommenders)

[Account rollover FAQ](#)

2025–26 essay prompts remain the same

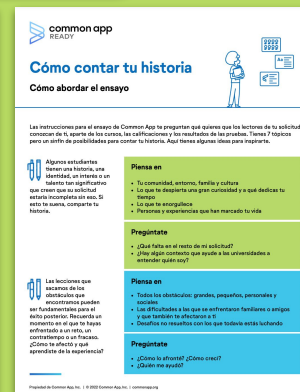
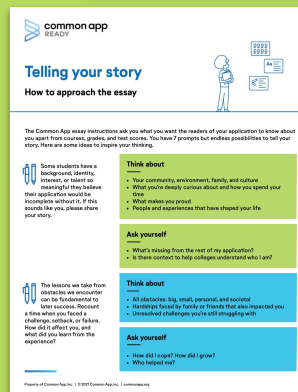


- Background, identity, interest, or talent (18%)
- Facing adversity (22%)
- Challenging an idea (3%)
- Personal growth (20%)
- Intellectual curiosity (5%)
- Topic of your choice (28%)
- Gratitude (3%)

commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts

Essay resources

- [Web link](#)
- [Blog post](#)
- [Video tutorial](#)
- [Common App resources](#) (English and Spanish)



Additional information question changes

The Additional information question word count maximum is changing from 650 words to 300 words

In the 5 most recent application cycles:

- The average (mean) # of words / student responding to this question has remained below 300
- The midpoint (median) # of words / student responding to this question has remained below 200

Current question (max 650 words)

Do you wish to provide details of circumstances or qualifications not reflected in the application?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

2025–26 revised question (max 300 words)

Would you like to share any additional details or qualifications not reflected in the application? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

Additional information question changes

The Community disruption question (with reference to COVID-19) is becoming a “Challenges and circumstances” question

The word count will remain 250 words max

In the 5 most recent application cycles:

- The # of students responding to this question has dropped from 300K (2020–21 app cycle) to 100K (2024–25 app cycle)
- The average # of words / student responding to this question has remained below 200

2025–26 revised question (max 250 words)

Sometimes a student's application and achievements may be impacted by challenges or other circumstances. This could involve:

- Access to a safe and quiet study space
- Access to reliable technology and internet
- Community disruption (violence, protests, teacher strikes, etc.)
- Discrimination
- Family disruptions (divorce, incarceration, job loss, health, loss of a family member, addiction, etc.)
- Family or other obligations (care-taking, financial support, etc.)
- Housing instability, displacement, or homelessness
- Military deployment or activation
- Natural disasters
- Physical health and mental well-being
- War, conflict, or other hardships

If you're comfortable sharing, this information can help colleges better understand the context of your application. Colleges may use this information to provide you and your fellow students with support and resources.

Would you like to share any details about challenges or other circumstances you've experienced?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Student context inventory pilot

In partnership with the Harvard Graduate School of Education's initiative, Making Caring Common, the Student Context Inventory gives students the option to tell colleges more about their circumstances and responsibilities in a checklist-style within college-specific sections of the application.

- 2022–23: 12 participating colleges, 196,000 applicants reached
- 2023–24: 23 participating colleges, 277,000 applicants reached
- 2024–25: 40 participating colleges, 461,000 applicants reached

After a 3-cycle pilot, the question will be added to the common portion of the application for the 2025–26 cycle.



New question: Responsibilities and circumstances

The newly required **Responsibilities and circumstances** questions in the Common App **Activities section** will give admissions readers insight into the significant commitments and circumstances that have shaped a student's academic journey and extracurricular involvement

Two sections:

1. Household responsibilities
2. Circumstances

common app

Common App

Profile

Family

Education

Testing

Activities

Responsibilities and circumstances

Writing

Courses & Grades

0 college(s) require

Common App | Activities

Preview

Responsibilities and circumstances

In progress

Sometimes academics and activities are impacted by household responsibilities or other circumstances. Sharing this information with colleges can help them better understand the context of your application. You may repeat information you already provided elsewhere in your Common App.

Please select which responsibilities you spend 4 or more hours per week doing.*

☐ Assisting family or household members with tasks such as doctors' appointments, bank visits, or visa interviews

☐ Farm work or unpaid work for a family business

☐ Interpreting or translating for family or household members

☐ Managing family or household finances, budget, or paying bills

☐ Providing transportation for family or household members

☐ Taking care of sick, disabled, and/or elderly members of my family or household

☐ Taking care of younger family or household members

☐ Taking care of my own child or children

☐ Working at a paid job to contribute to my household's income

☐ Other

☐ None of these

Please select which circumstances you've experienced.*

☐ Commuting 60 minutes or more to and from school each day

☐ Experiencing homelessness or another unstable living situation

☐ Living without consistent heat, power, water, or access to food

☐ Living without reliable or usable internet

☐ Living independently or living on my own (not including boarding school)

☐ None of these

Citizenship question

Students will see updated choice options and hint text for the citizenship status question

- U.S. permanent resident will include the clarifying term 'green card holder'
- Introducing new U.S. resident choice option
 - Collapses two previous choice options
 - Encompasses a variety of statuses including but not limited to:
 - U.S. refugee or asylee
 - DACA, Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), or Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
 - Undocumented students
 - Students eligible for noncitizen U.S. federal aid
 - Student whose status is pending

Common App | Profile

Geography and Nationality

Preview

In progress

Select your citizenship status *

☐ U.S. citizen or U.S. national

☐ U.S. dual citizen

☐ U.S. permanent resident (green card holder)

☐ U.S. resident

☐ Citizen of a non-U.S. country

U.S. resident encompasses a variety of statuses including but not limited to:

- U.S. refugee or asylee
- DACA, DED, or TPS
- Undocumented students
- Students [eligible for noncitizen U.S. federal aid](#)
- Student whose status is pending

If your status is pending for any of the noted examples, please select "U.S. resident".

This does **not** include international students. If you are an international student currently residing in the U.S. and the listed statuses do not apply to you, please select "Citizen of a non-U.S. country".

Clear answer

ACT self-reporting changes

As of April 2025, the ACT Science section has become optional for the online administration of the test.

Beginning in August, students in Common App will have the option to self-report scores for:

- ACT with science and writing
- ACT with science
- ACT with writing
- ACT without science or writing

The order of the subsections will also be updated to reflect the order as they appear on score reports.

Common App | Testing

ACT Tests

[Preview](#)

[In progress](#)

Number of past ACT scores you wish to report*

☐ 0

☒ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4

☐ 5

[Clear answer](#)

Highest composite score*

- Choose an option -

Highest composite date*

Date uses "month day, year" format (e.g. August 1, 2002)

Highest math score*

- Choose an option -

Highest math date*

Date uses "month day, year" format (e.g. August 1, 2002)

Would you like to report an ACT science score?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

[Clear answer](#)

Highest science score*

- Choose an option -

Highest science date*

Date uses "month day, year" format (e.g. August 1, 2002)

Highest English score*

- Choose an option -

Highest English date*

Date uses "month day, year" format (e.g. August 1, 2002)

Highest reading score*

- Choose an option -

Highest reading date*

Date uses "month day, year" format (e.g. August 1, 2002)

Would you like to report an ACT writing score?*

☒ Yes

☐ No

[Clear answer](#)

Highest writing score*

- Choose an option -

Highest writing date*

Date uses "month day, year" format (e.g. August 1, 2002)

Number of future ACT sittings you expect*

☐ 0

☒ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

[Clear answer](#)

Future testing date 1*

Date uses "month year" format (e.g. August 2002)

[Continue](#)

Self-reported transcripts

Some colleges ask students to self-report the grades they've earned in the courses they've taken.

This can be in Common App (Courses & Grades) or through STARS (the Self-reported Transcript and Academic Record System, formerly known as SRAR or SSAR).

In 2024–25:

- 66 colleges used Courses & Grades ([Courses & Grades FAQ](#))
- 36 colleges used STARS ([STARS FAQ](#))

2025–26 updates

- FAQs with list of participating colleges will get updated
- Common App member colleges using STARS will be encouraged to include language on:
 - College information page in the app
 - Post-submission messaging

Counselor forms updates

School profile, School details/information

The community disruption question will replace reference to COVID-19 with a bulleted list of community disruption examples

- Natural disasters
- Pandemics or disease
- Protests
- Teacher strikes
- Violence or school shootings
- War, conflict, or other hardships
- Other community disruptions

School report, Curriculum

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma candidate question will include the IB Career-related Programme

The screenshot shows a digital form titled "School report" with a status of "In progress". On the left is a vertical sidebar with progress indicators for various sections: "Student info" (FERPA waived), "School report" (In progress), "Early decision agreement" (Submitted), "Fee waiver" (Submitted), "Counselor recommendation" (In progress), "Optional report" (Not yet available), "Optional report 2" (Not yet available), "Mid-year report" (Not yet available), and "Final report" (Not yet available). The main content area is titled "School report" and includes a "Preview" button and a "Review and submit" button. It contains sections for "Class Rank", "GPA", and "Curriculum". The "Curriculum" section includes a dropdown menu for course selection and a highlighted question: "Is this student an IB Diploma Programme candidate or IB Career-related Programme candidate?*" with radio button options for "Yes" and "No", and a "Clear answer" button. Below this are two more questions: "Is the applicant an Advanced Cambridge (AICE) Diploma Candidate?*" and "Is the applicant an AP Capstone Diploma candidate?*", each with "Yes/No" radio buttons and "Clear answer" buttons. A "Continue" button is located at the bottom right.

Student info
FERPA waived

School report
In progress

Early decision agreement
Submitted

Fee waiver
Submitted

Counselor recommendation
In progress

Optional report
Not yet available

Optional report 2
Not yet available

Mid-year report
Not yet available

Final report
Not yet available

School report ⓘ
In progress

Preview Review and submit

Class Rank

GPA

Curriculum

In comparison with other college preparatory students at your school, the applicant's course selection is*

- Choose an option -

Is this student an IB Diploma Programme candidate or IB Career-related Programme candidate?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

Is the applicant an Advanced Cambridge (AICE) Diploma Candidate?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

Is the applicant an AP Capstone Diploma candidate?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

Continue

College and career readiness integration partners

BridgeÜ

CIALFO

kuder®

maialearning

Major
Clarity

mefa
pathway YOUR PLAN
FOR THE FUTURE®

NAVIANCE
BY POWERSCHOOL

OVERGRAD

parchment®

Pathful explore

SchoolLinks

unifrog

XAP

xello

you
science

New 2025-26 integration
partners

Jobready 360

LetiÜ

SCOIR

Recommender invitations

Students invite and assign recommenders in My Colleges.

When students attend a school using one of Common App's integration partners to submit school forms, their Common App will prevent them from inviting their counselor and teacher recommenders. Students do this in the platform their school uses.

Students are still able to invite 'other recommenders' and 'advisors' from their Common App account.

Recommenders and FERPA

Complete

Recommenders are people who will submit forms to colleges on your behalf. This page shows which recommender types this college needs. Each college will have different requirements.

✓ FERPA Release Authorization

[View Details](#) ▾

Invite recommenders

Use this section to invite and then [assign recommenders](#) to this college. You'll need to assign recommenders for each college on your list.

Invite Recommenders

✓ Counselor

Your school is **using Score** for transcripts, school reports, and teacher recommendations. Please contact your counselor directly and they will provide instructions specific to your school regarding these documents. If your counselor wishes to submit forms via mail, you can download forms that can be completed on paper and mailed to each institution to which you apply.

✓ Teacher

Your school is **using Score** for transcripts, school reports, and teacher recommendations. Please contact your counselor directly and they will provide instructions specific to your school regarding these documents. Once your teachers submit their recommendations online you will see the status below. If your teacher(s) wish to submit forms via mail, you can download the Teacher Evaluation PDF Form that can be completed on paper and mailed to each institution to which you apply.

✓ Other recommender

Please select and assign the Other Recommender(s) below whose recommendation(s) will be submitted to this college on your behalf. You must invite an Other Recommender using the 'Invite Other Recommender' link before you can assign them for this college.

Recommender types accepted by this college:

- Arts Teacher
- Clergy
- Coach
- College Access Counselor
- Employer
- Other

Required: 0 Optional: 3

Invite Other Recommender

Advisor

An advisor can be anyone assisting you with your application. They can review your application and give you personalized feedback. You may invite up to 3 advisors. **Advisors do not submit any forms on your behalf. Colleges will also not receive any information about your advisor(s).**

Invite Advisor

2025–26 transfer app updates

Nationality Information

- Updated choice options and hint text for the Citizenship Details question

Other Information

- Responsibilities and Circumstances checklist question added
- Additional Information question updates
 - Challenges and Circumstances question
 - Removed reference to COVID-19
 - No change to character limit (1,250 characters max)
 - Additional details question
 - Character limit updated from 3,500 to 1,500 characters max
- Added link to our [Transfer Resource Center](#) as a resource for parenting students

Responsibilities and Circumstances

Sometimes academics and activities are impacted by household responsibilities or other circumstances. Sharing this information with colleges can help them better understand the context of your application. You may repeat information you already provided elsewhere in your Common App.

* Please select which responsibilities you spend 4 or more hours per week doing.

- ☐ Assisting family or household members with tasks such as doctors' appointments, bank visits, or visa interviews
- ☐ Farm work or unpaid work for a family business
- ☐ Interpreting or translating for family or household members
- ☐ Managing family or household finances, budget, or paying bills
- ☐ Providing transportation for family or household members
- ☐ Taking care of sick, disabled, and/or elderly members of my family or household
- ☐ Taking care of younger family or household members
- ☐ Taking care of my own child or children
- ☐ Working at a paid job to contribute to my household's income
- ☐ Other
- ☐ None of these

* Please select which circumstances you've experienced.

- ☐ Commuting 60 minutes or more to and from school each day
- ☐ Experiencing homelessness or another unstable living situation
- ☐ Living without consistent heat, power, water, or access to food
- ☐ Living without reliable or usable internet
- ☐ Living independently or living on my own (not including boarding school)
- ☐ None of these

Additional Information

Sometimes a student's application and achievements may be impacted by challenges or other circumstances. This could involve:

- Access to a safe and quiet study space
- Access to reliable technology and internet
- Community disruption (violence, protests, teacher strikes, etc.)
- Discrimination
- Family disruptions (divorce, incarceration, job loss, health, loss of a family member, addiction, etc.)
- Family or other obligations (care-taking, financial support, etc.)
- Housing instability, displacement, or homelessness
- Military deployment or activation
- Natural disasters
- Physical health and mental well-being
- War, conflict, or other hardships

If you're comfortable sharing, this information can help colleges better understand the context of your application. Colleges may use this information to provide you and your fellow students with support and resources.

* Would you like to share any details about challenges or other circumstances you've experienced?

☐ Yes ☐ No

* Would you like to share any additional details or qualifications not reflected in the application?

☐ Yes ☐ No

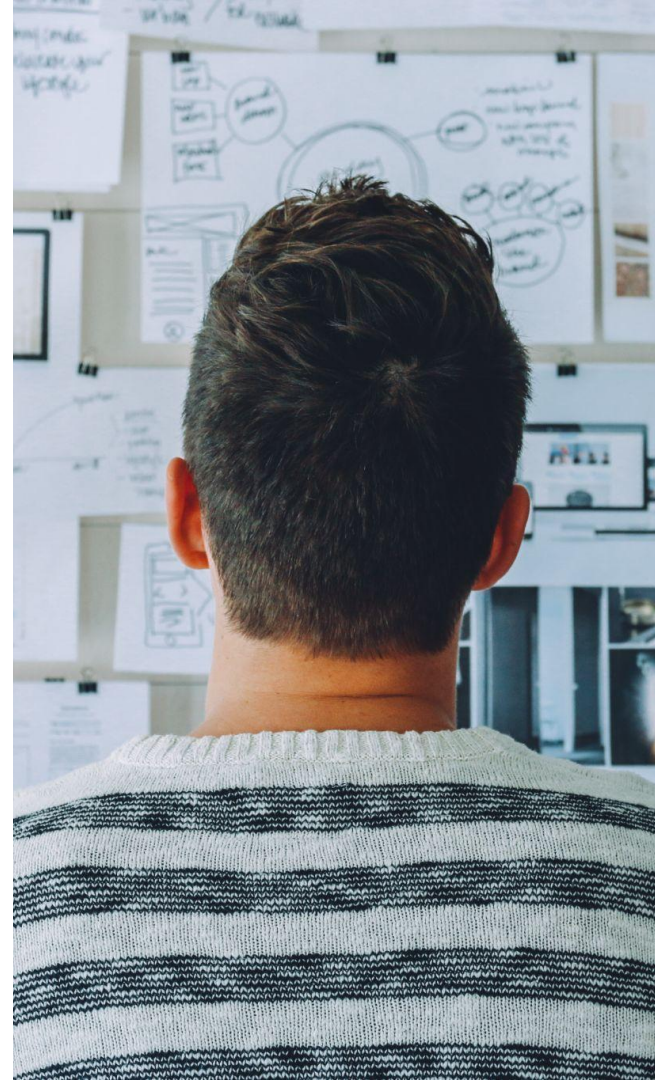
Common App initiatives

Progressing towards our moonshot goal

We're encouraged about the progress we've made to help more students from low- and middle-income communities with their postsecondary goals. We're continuing to find ways to make the college application process more simple, logical, and joyful, including:

- An expanded direct admissions program
- A new scholarship matching partnership
- Including community colleges that primarily award Associate's degrees in our membership

[Common App's Next Chapter: Impact report \(April 2025\)](#)



Direct admissions

Common App Direct Admissions provides proactive admission offers from partnering member institutions to **first-generation and low- and middle-income students**, so they feel worthy and welcomed on a college campus.

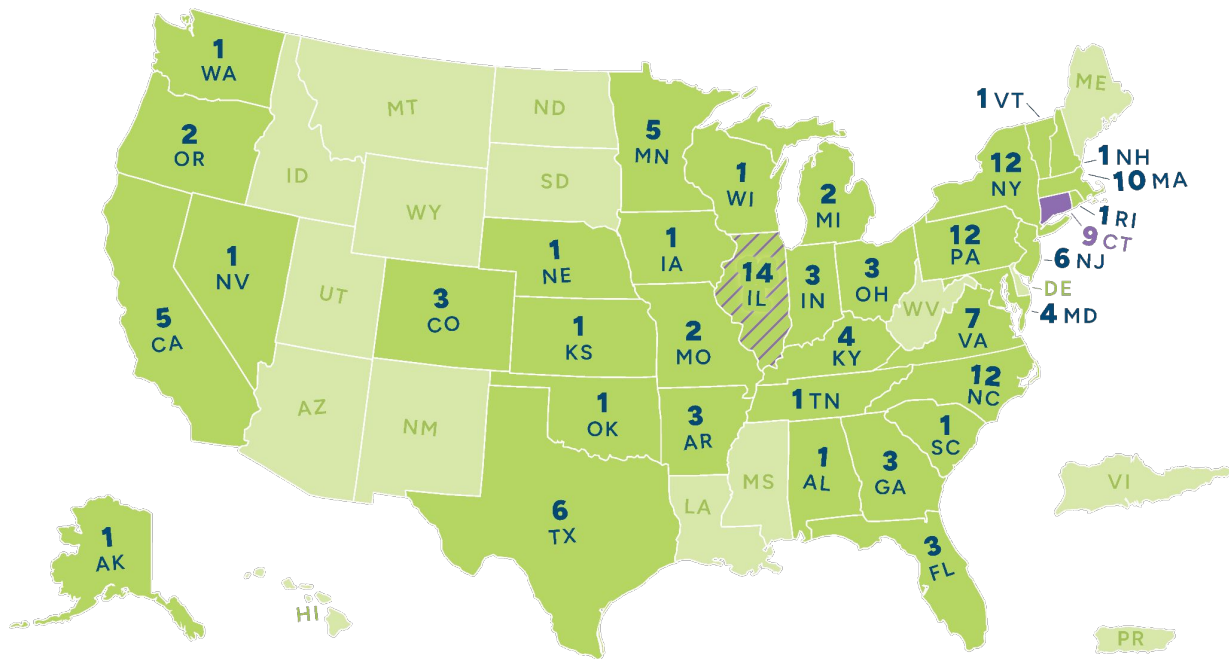
To receive a Direct Admissions offer, students answer questions related to eligibility criteria.

- Create a Common App account
- Indicate their U.S. permanent residence
- Enter their GPA and GPA scale
- Respond to the Common App fee waiver question
- Provide highest education level of parent(s)

commonapp.org/directadmissions

Direct admissions: Participating colleges

2024–25



136

Participating institutions

44

Public institutions

Out of the participating colleges:

- 80%+ offer perks like waived requirements
- 60%+ extend offers beyond state borders
- 100% waive application fees

* Includes our partnerships with state programs

2024–25 program impact

(As of March 15, 2025)

712K+

First-generation or low- and middle-income students who **received** at least one direct admissions offer

22%

Students that added at least one institution **they weren't already considering** after receiving an offer

3 in 4

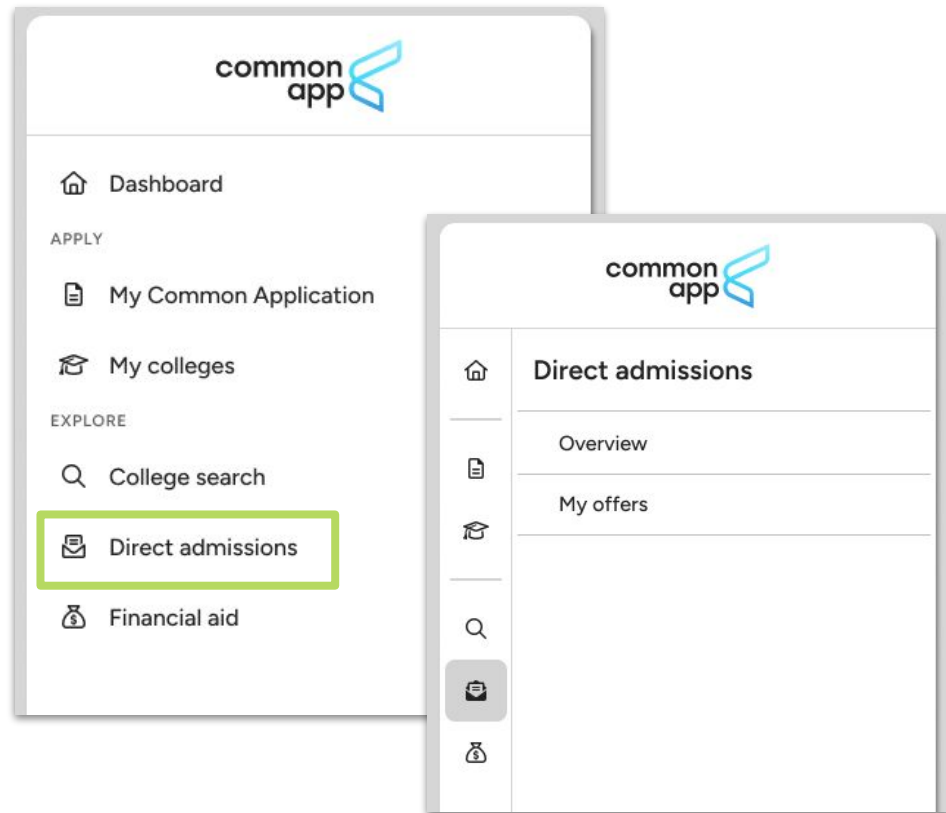
Students who chose to add an institution after receiving the direct admissions offer **ended up actually applying**



Students with greatest barriers (fee waiver eligible, URM, first-gen) are **~2x more likely to engage**

2025–26 direct admissions updates

- An enhanced student experience to make it easier for students to understand and engage with direct admissions offers
- Offers will start to go out in September
- List of participating colleges will be released late August/early September



Direct admissions resources for students, families, and counselors

Resources will be updated in Fall 2025

- [Direct Admissions list of participating colleges](#)
- [Direct admissions offer details by college](#)
- [Common App Direct Admissions webpage](#)
- [Common App Direct Admissions: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Pilot findings](#)

Direct admissions offer details by college

This companion resource breaks down all the college-specific perks and other details for direct admissions offers on Common App. For more information on what direct admissions is and how it works on Common App, please use our [direct admissions FAQ](#).

Search for a college

> Albertus Magnus College

✓ Allegheny College

Direct admissions offer details

Perks

This college waives the following application requirements:

- Counselor recommendation
- Teacher evaluation

The following financial aid is also offered as part of this college's offer of direct admissions:

All students will receive \$25,000 - \$42,000 per year in [merit-based aid](#). Please submit your [FAFSA](#) for any additional need-based aid.

Through our [Commitment to Access Program \(CAP\)](#), Allegheny College will cover 100% of tuition for Pennsylvania and Ohio students from families earning a total income of \$50,000 or less.

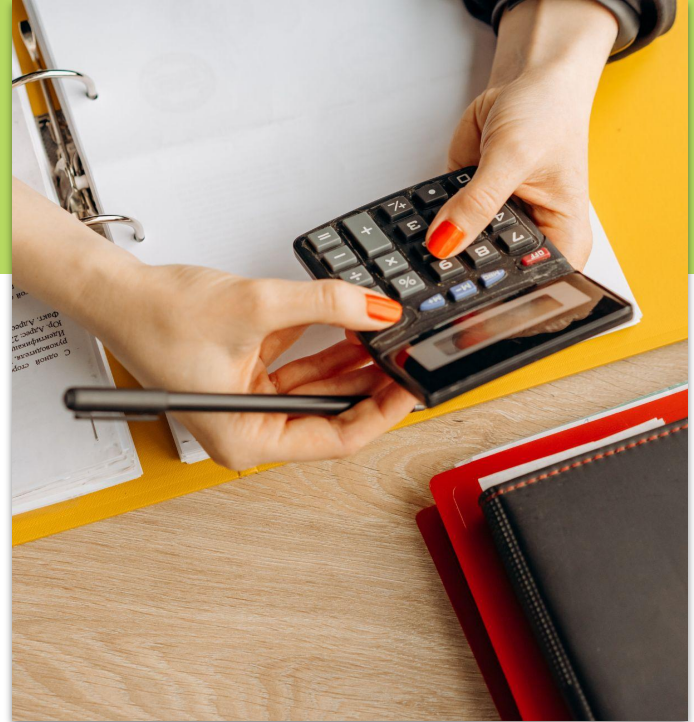
Additional resources

- [Explore colleges profile](#) - Learn more about what this college has to offer

> Arcadia University

Scholarship matching

In partnership with Scholarship America and the National Scholarship Providers Association, our scholarships program connects students with scholarship opportunities they're eligible for based on their Common App data, helping scholarship partners better reach and serve underrepresented students.



Our scholarship matching pilot successfully drove student action on financial aid opportunities

In close partnership with Scholarship America, Common App piloted in-app scholarship matching in 2023–24.

The pilot drove

2x

Increase in application rates of students with high financial need to participating scholarship partners

18%

Increase in first generation applicants to participating programs



\$4.8 million

Awarded to students with high financial need

We greatly expanded our scholarship matching program in 2024–25

Added a **new partnership** with the National Scholarship Providers Association

Expanded scholarship matching to students **across the United States**

Enabled students to **match before submitting** a college application

	2023–24		2024–25
Students reached	89K	➤	1.5M
Median matches per student	2	➤	14
Scholarship programs	4	➤	1,646

Scholarship matching experience

Who can match?

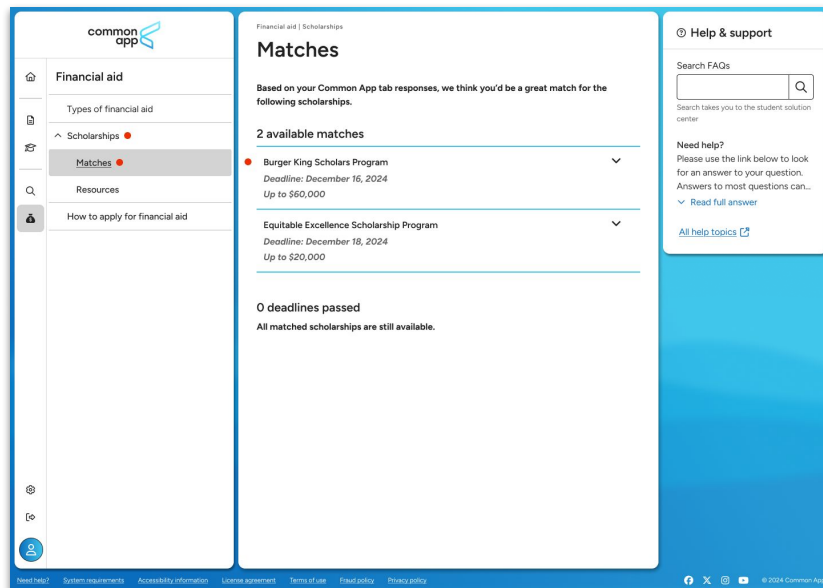
Students who have a permanent address in the United States can match. Students in Colorado can opt in on account creation.

How do students match?

1. After creating a first-year account, students should complete the profile, education, and activities sections of their Common App
2. Students will be notified of matches in the Scholarships section
3. Students can apply for programs on the scholarship providers' sites

What types of programs will students see?

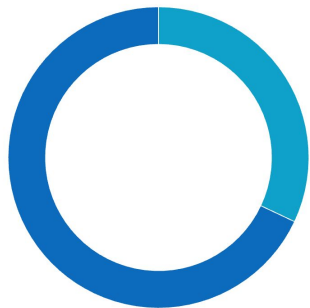
Students may match with opportunities offered by private scholarship providers or state grant programs. Some programs are national, while many are local.



Engagement continues to be strongest among first-generation, low-income students

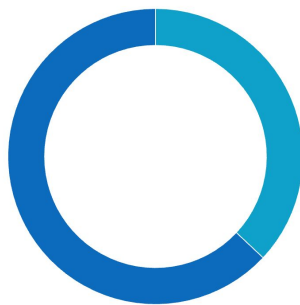
32%

Of **all students** who matched acted on at least one opportunity



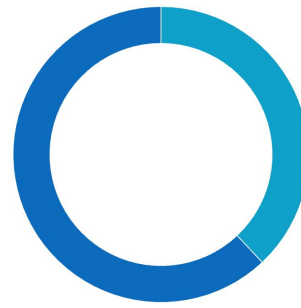
37%

Of **first-generation students** who matched acted on at least one opportunity



38%

Of **below median income students** who matched acted on at least one opportunity



The future of scholarship matching

We're exploring opportunities to provide an even stronger student experience with scholarships, including:

- Displaying more information about opportunities, like requirements
- Matching based on additional criteria to connect students with more programs
- Providing students with tools to manage their matches and find the strongest fits



Welcoming community colleges

As of January 2025, students can now apply to Common App's first cohort of community colleges.

-  Black Hawk College (IL)
-  Carl Sandburg College (IL)
-  Rend Lake College (IL)
-  Sauk Valley Community College (IL)

Additional community colleges will be available in the 2025–26 application cycle in Illinois and other states.

-  Lincoln Land College (IL)
-  Oakton College (IL)
-  Triton College (IL)
-  + more to come!

Students can find community college filters on commonapp.org and in the application.

commonapp.org/blog

Advising tools and resources

Online advisor resources

- Create a practice student account
- Sign up for the monthly counselor newsletter
- Request a free map poster
- [Recommender guide](#)
 - Letter writing resources
 - Developing a School Profile
- Counselor and student [video tutorials](#)
- [Student handouts](#) in English and Spanish

commonapp.org/advisors

Supporter resources



EXPLORE COLLEGES

Help your students search, explore, and virtually tour over 1,000 Common App member colleges across the globe.

[Explore >](#)



ORDER A COMMON APP MAP

Request a free national or regional map poster of Common App member colleges for your office or classroom.

[Get a map >](#)



CREATE A PRACTICE ACCOUNT

Create a Common App practice student account as an education professional to familiarize yourself with the ins and outs of navigating the application.

[Create an account >](#)



TUTORIALS

Check out Common App's YouTube channel for video tutorials that walk students through different sections of the application.

[Visit our YouTube channel >](#)



ACCESS RESOURCES

Discover our toolkit of college application resources in English and Spanish.

[View the toolkit >](#)



VIEW RESEARCH

Follow application trends and learn key insights from our research briefs and state reports.

[Dive into the data >](#)



FREE TRAINING

Request in-person and virtual training for schools, districts, and organizations. These sessions can be tailored for your specific audience.

[Request training >](#)



STAY INFORMED

Keep up with all things Common App and get our monthly digest of news and updates.

[Sign up >](#)



GET HELP

Need help? You're not alone. Get 24/7 support when you need it.

[Go to the help center >](#)

24/7/365

Help when you need it!

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Known issues
- Requirements grid
- Writing requirements resource
- Application PDFs
- Community-based org (CBO) list *
- Request training
- Contact support

appsupport.commonapp.org
recsupport.commonapp.org

The screenshot shows the 'common app Recommender solutions center' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'common app' logo and the text 'Recommender solutions center'. A 'Create an account' button is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar is a blue header section with the text 'How can we help?' and a search bar labeled 'Search FAQs' with a 'Search' button. The main content area has two tabs: 'Home' and 'Contact us'. Under the 'Home' tab, there is a section titled 'Popular FAQs' with a list of five questions, each followed by a downward arrow icon. To the right of the 'Popular FAQs' section is a 'Helpful resources' section with a list of links: 'Common App Ready toolkit', 'Counselor newsletter', 'Direct Admissions with Common App', 'Live colleges', 'Writing requirements', 'Known issues', 'Student support', and 'Transfer student support'.

common app Recommender solutions center

Create an account

How can we help?

Search FAQs Search

Home Contact us

Popular FAQs

Why don't I see a student's name in my list? ▾

Why haven't I received a recommendation invitation message? ▾

I am a counselor or recommender. How do I create my account? ▾

What is an advisor? ▾

How does a student remove a recommender from their list of recommenders? ▾

Helpful resources

Common App Ready toolkit
Counselor newsletter
Direct Admissions with Common App
Live colleges
Writing requirements
Known issues
Student support
Transfer student support

* **CBO requests** must be submitted by **June 1** to be included in the upcoming cycle. Any requests after June 1 will be reviewed for the following year.

Connect with #commonapp online or on the road



@CommonApp
@ReachHigher
@BetterMakeRoom



@CommonApp
@ReachHigher2020
@BetterMakeRoom



Common App
Reach Higher



@BetterMakeRoom



@CommonApp
@ReachHigher
@BetterMakeRoom



@CommonAppMedia
@BetterMakeRoom

Questions

Michaela Alcorn

malcorn@commonapp.org

Meredith Lombardi

mlombardi@commonapp.org

Contact 24/7/365 support when you need it

appsupport@commonapp.net (*application questions*)

sfsupport@commonapp.net (*recommender questions*)