The **Common Application** (Common App) is a one stop shop for applying to multiple (over 900) colleges through one platform.

Links of interest:

The main common app website is [LINK HERE](https://www.commonapp.org/)

From this site, you are encouraged to explore the links below:

1. First time applicants guide: step-by-step instructions on how to set up your Common App [LINK HERE](https://www.commonapp.org/apply/first-time-students)
2. Want to see the specific writing (essay) requirements for each college? Use this [LINK HERE](https://appsupport.commonapp.org/applicantsupport/s/writing-requirements) to find the specifics
3. Want to see the specific application requirements by college? The Common App website has these!

If you are using the **Common Application**, the window to begin is Aug. 1. Please consider starting this process early as there are several steps and if applicable, the early application deadlines for many Common App Colleges is Nov 1.

**TIPS FOR COMMON APP:**

1. Start early!!! You can create an account and start much earlier than Aug. 1; you will need to roll-over your common app into the 20-21 application on Aug. 1
2. Schedule and visit your Counselor ASAP in senior year. For some colleges, you will need a counselor letter and without a visit from you, your counselor will not be able to provide detail in the letter. Take this step early!
3. Ask the teachers that you are going to use for a letter ASAP. Some of the teachers get a lot of requests for letters- the earlier you ask, the more likely you will get a letter written and on time.
4. Provide your teacher/counselor with a brag sheet. This allows the teacher/counselor to have more specific information about you than just the portion they see of you in school.

**Writing the College Admissions Essay**

Common Application Information:

1. Questions about the Common App? Looking for Advice? [Look here](http://www.commonapp.org/virtual-counselor)
2. [Essay prompts](https://www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts) for the 2020-21 Common Application

Tips on Writing a quality Admission Essay:

1. <https://apps.carleton.edu/admissions/apply/essay_tips/> This is from Carleton University
2. <https://www.nacacfairs.org/learn/apply/EssayTips/> Best tip: Start Early!! This site is from the National Association of College Admissions Counselors
3. College Board: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays/8-tips-for-crafting-your-best-college-essay>
4. <https://www.nvcc.edu/annandale/asc/writing/_docs/writing-college-essays-and-personal-statements.pdf> Powerpoint with advice, tips and expert quotes
5. <https://www.collegeessayguy.com/college-essay-resources> FREE resources from the College Essay Guy; there is a lot here that is free. You do not need to pay for the services.
6. Princeton Review [tips](https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/college-essay)