

New Common Application Posted July 1



The Common Application is a not-for-profit organization that makes applying to colleges more convenient for both students and participating colleges. Students are able to complete this single application (online or in print) and use it for any participating school. The same is true for their school report, mid year report, and teacher recommendation forms. However, many institutions also require their own supplemental forms. There is a separate application for transfer students vs. first-year.

The Common App has been redesigned this year with features such as a college search engine and the ability to upload fully formatted college essays. In addition, the number of institutions participating in the Common App has passed 300, and its popularity continues to grow. Membership is limited to colleges that use a holistic approach to evaluating applicants, as opposed to only grades and test scores.

During the 2006-7 year, the millionth Common App was submitted online so there's no doubt that the process is accepted and appreciated! The application has been fine tuned over a 30 year period, and the member institutions all agree to treat it fairly and equally to their other applications, if applicable. Many schools opt to use only the Common Application.

While applying online is recommended, it's a great idea to download a paper copy and begin work on the essay questions. You can also assemble your other information in preparation for submitting your actual application online. Download here:

<https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/DownloadForms.aspx>

Summer is a perfect time to do this, especially since the 2007-8 application was just posted. Meanwhile, here are the 2007-8 essay questions:

- Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
- Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
- Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.
- A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community, or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
- Topic of your choice. ▲



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Did You Know?

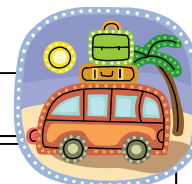
- Most colleges accept about 70% of their applicants.
- Roughly 2/3 of college freshmen are at their first choice school.
- For 2006-7 the average cost for tuition, room and board at public universities was \$12,796 and the same total was \$30,367 for private schools.
- Most counselors believe that student loans are a good investment for typical students. (from a NACAC survey)
- There is a non-profit program called QuestBridge that links bright and motivated low-income students with scholarship opportunities at colleges. Visit them at: www.questbridge.org

Common App Competition?

For the first time, a competitor for the Common App (CA) has emerged! Called the Universal College Application (UCA), it was launched with 13 members including some heavy hitters such as Duke, Harvard, Johns Hopkins and 9 others. One difference is that the UCA intends to enable more public institutions to join. In response, the CA has reduced its member prices and will offer discounted pricing to institutions that use the Common App exclusively. www.universalcollegeapp.com

Interest Rates on Student Loans

Despite the passing of legislation this past January by the Democratically-controlled House, the interest rate on federally-backed loans is still currently fixed at 6.8%. The bill advocates slicing those rates in half over a 5 year period, costing taxpayers \$6 billion in the process. Opponents favor alternative methods of making college more affordable, such as increasing grants for low income students. Still, the bill passed 356-71 in the House. The debate is likely to continue for awhile. ▲



Effective College Visits

You may well spend some serious time and money visiting colleges, and most would agree that it's well worth it. But the visits themselves can be much more effective if you follow some basic tips:

- 1) Put your child in charge of the visits as much as possible. Let him or her take ownership by deciding where and when, calling to research tour options, and making appointments. They are far less likely to resist or disengage if they take the lead.
- 2) Visit the college websites first to help narrow down choices. Summer is a great time for this!
- 3) Schedule the visits for during the school year whenever possible.
- 4) Plan ahead and make appointments. You may be able to get much more out of the time spent there if you know what's available when. Ask the admissions office for advice—contact of this sort can be advantageous as it demonstrates interest in the college.
- 5) Let the child do the talking and asking of questions. This means managing younger siblings if necessary and, above all, resisting the natural parental urge to dominate the conversation.
- 6) Enjoy this unique opportunity to usher your child into adulthood and support his or her ultimate decisions. Keep the attitude upbeat even if some of the visits don't yield a positive reaction. ▲



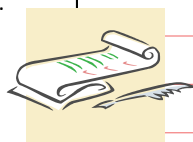
Remaining 2007 SAT and ACT Test Dates

Date	Test	Register By	Late With Fee
September 15, 2007	ACT* in some states	August 10, 2007	August 11-24, 2007
October 6, 2007	SAT & Subjects	September 10, 2007	Sept 11-14, 2007
October 27, 2007	ACT	September 21, 2007	Sept 22-Oct 5, 2007
November 3, 2007	SAT & Subjects	October 2, 2007	October 3-11, 2007
December 1, 2007	SAT & Subjects	October 30, 2007	Oct 31-Nov 8, 2007
December 8, 2007	ACT	November 2, 2007	November 3-15, 2007

Summer Checklist for Junior and Seniors

Juniors

- Fill your summer with resume-building activities.
- Work on your target list of possible colleges.
- Visit websites of colleges that pique your interest.
- Start some prep for and the SAT and/or ACT if you can; (The PSAT is coming!)
- Plan college visits for the upcoming school year.
- Read! Work on your vocabulary one way or another. Make it a family game!



Seniors

- Athletes, register with the NCAA Clearinghouse if applicable.
- Keep up your summer resume-building activities.
- Prep for upcoming SAT and/or ACT tests if you will be taking them this fall. Read! Work on vocabulary.
- Get organized with a bin and folders.
- Download applications and work on essays if current ones are posted.
- Finalize your resume and list of target schools.

Coming for the 2007-8 School Year!

Get in 2 College is launching a new optional addition to its subscription offering. We are developing over 25 separate Mini-Manuals and accompanying PowerPoint presentations that drill into the various college prep and admission topics in more detail than the handbook is able to. Schools that subscribe to this optional add-on will be able to offer this password-protected website to their counselors, students and parents as they wish. You can preview a sample at:

www.getin2college.com/MMPreview.html



Visit our own resource website at: www.getin2college.com/private.htm