

What's new with Common App?

In support of Common App's mission to increase access, equity, and integrity in the college admissions process, we have made a range of enhancements to the first-year application and recommender system and the transfer application for 2023–2024.



First-year application

Account settings

Avatars

Avatars launched in December 2022, allowing students to personalize their application experience.

Account deletion

As of January 2023, students can delete their Common App account in their account settings.

Account type

Beginning in August 2023, students will be able to change their practice accounts to live accounts in their account settings.

My colleges

College logos

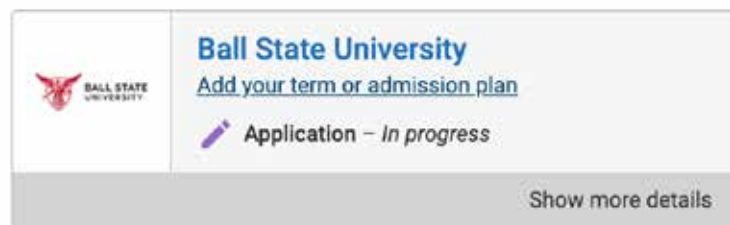
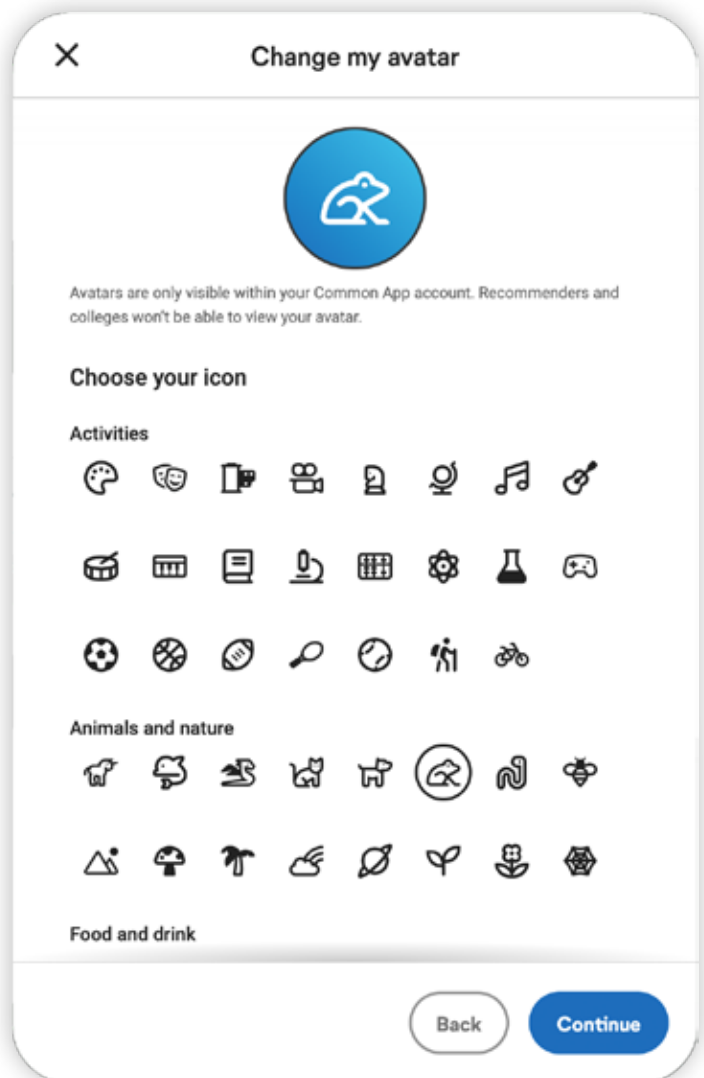
College logos were added to College Search, My Colleges, and the Dashboard in December 2022.

Recommenders and FERPA

In the Recommenders and FERPA section, students can see every recommender type for all colleges, even if a college does not accept certain recommender types. Previously, students only saw a list of the accepted recommender types. Colleges will still specify the number of required vs. allowed recommendations by recommender type.

Advisor invitations

Beginning in August 2023, advisor invitations will roll over from the previous application cycle.



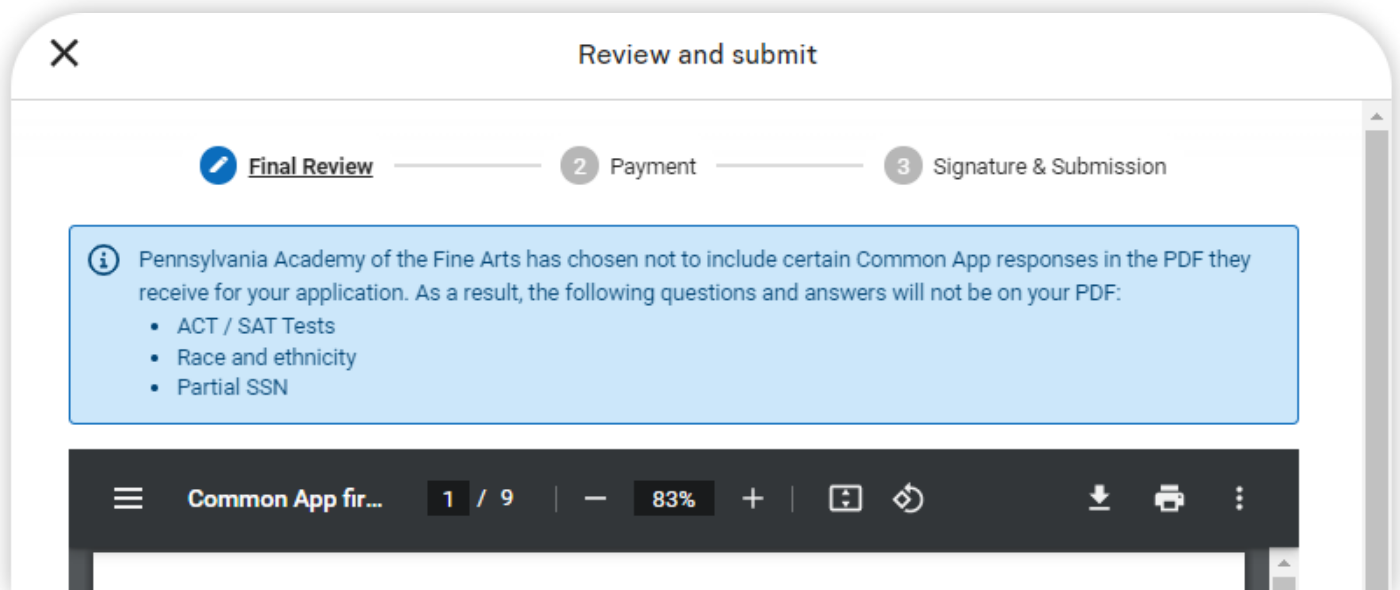
New members

Common App will welcome over 35 new members for the 2023–2024 cycle.

You can see a complete list of these colleges at commonapp.org/blog

Submission

When reviewing the PDF preview of their application before submission, students will see an overview of what, if any, application content has been suppressed (that is, hidden) by the college.



Common App tab

Legal sex options, name, and communication preferences

Evolving the Application is an annual process that assesses and makes evidence-based product changes to promote greater access to postsecondary opportunities for underrepresented students. As a result of this process, Common App will make multiple changes section in support of students.

- The addition of a third legal sex option (“X or another legal sex”)
- Account creation
 - Include different first name field during account creation and account rollover
 - Add ability for students to select which name Common App uses in communications
 - Provide students with more information on-page and in FAQs about how names are shared with third parties.
- Communication preferences
 - Add ability for students to select which name Common App uses in communications
 - Provide students with more information on-page and in FAQs about how names are shared with third parties

For more information on Evolving the Application, visit commonapp.org/evolvingtheapp

Start year

Beginning in August 2023, students will be able to change their start year in their account settings.

Testing

- The 2023–2024 Common App will feature some changes to the testing section.
- Update language for SAT and ACT writing score reporting from “Have you taken...?” to “Would you like to report...?”
- Update ACT writing score range to 2–12 (previously 1–36)
- Remove TOEFL paper test score self-reporting
- Remove the testing section from PDF preview if a college suppresses test scores

Writing

- The Common App essay prompts for the 2023–2024 application cycle remain the same.

You can see the Common App essay prompts at commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts

Financial Aid Resources

The financial aid resources tab will be redesigned based on student feedback, including breaking up content into manageable chunks and improving the notification experience. Some of these updates will arrive after August 1.

First-year recommender system

- Recommenders with multiple roles will be prompted on each log-in to choose which role they would like to use first.

Transfer application

College-specific requirements

- The transfer application will now display which members require offline forms, the mid-year report, and the college report.

Legal sex and name

- The addition of a third legal sex option (“X or another legal sex”)
- Revised name question language to differentiate legal name, the name the student uses, and former names

Writing

- The Common App essay prompts for the 2023–2024 application cycle remain the same.

Race in admissions

In June 2023, the Supreme Court of the United States banned the consideration of race in college admissions. As a mission-driven nonprofit organization, Common App will continue to advocate for increased diversity and equity in college admissions and do our part to help close equity gaps for all underrepresented students in higher education.

- Students will continue to be able to answer the optional race and ethnicity questions as they appear on the first-year and transfer applications.
- Member colleges will be able to hide (or “suppress”) the self-disclosed race and ethnicity information from application PDF files for both first-year and transfer applications and to configure the data imports to recognize or exclude race and ethnicity. Colleges also have the ability to suppress the following data: any or all test information, social security number, date of birth, and gender.
- Common App will continue to use students’ self-reported data for statistical and research purposes. Core to our mission of access, equity, and integrity is a responsibility to provide insights into the national conversation on equity in college admissions by developing best practices, collaborating with like-minded organizations, and sharing the results of our findings.
- Common App’s mission to promote access and equity in college admissions has never been more important. Support for students is at the core of that effort, and we will continue to find ways to enable them to share their lived experiences on the college application.

For more information on race in admissions, visit commonapp.org/race-in-admissions