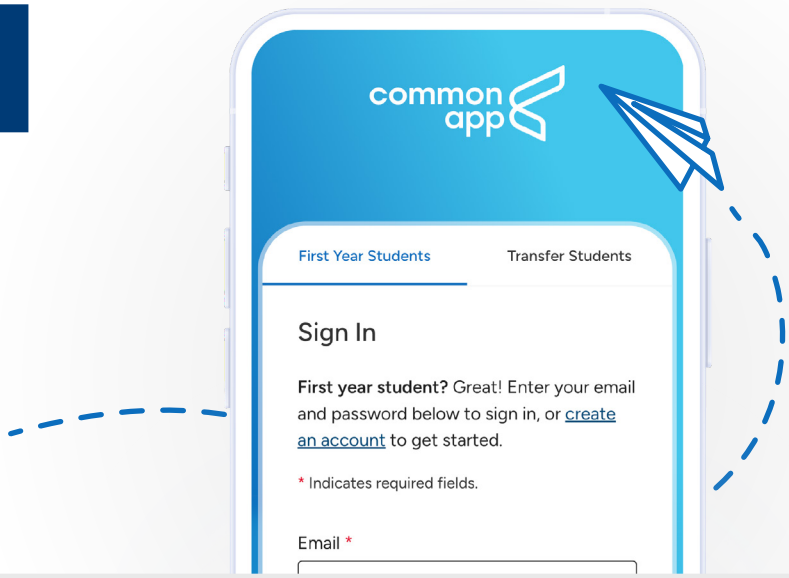
2026–2027

What's new with Common App?

Common App is continuing to evolve the application to expand access to higher education for all students. Stay informed about upcoming changes as you prepare to support your students throughout the 2026–2027 academic year.



First-year application

Common App fee waiver options

Colleges that charge an application fee will clearly designate their decision to accept the Common App fee waiver – all students, U.S. students only, or no students.

English proficiency test reporting

Self-reporting fields in the testing section now reflect changes in the Duolingo English Test, Pearson Test of English, and TOEFL so applicants can accurately provide results.

Logic from My Common Application

Colleges can now use logic to tailor their specific questions based on a student's answers in the **My Common Application** section, reducing redundancy by eliminating duplicate questions.

Account verification

In order to improve account security, students will be required to verify their email address upon account creation or when changing the email address in their account.

Citizenship status clarification

Revised U.S. residency language and guidance to make the citizenship question easier for students to answer correctly.

Improvements for independent learners

In the **family** section, Common App will use the FAFSA definition of an independent student. Learners who meet that definition will no longer answer questions about parents or siblings, and will see a new question about their first-generation status.

The **activities** section will be renamed to **activities and experiences**. These changes make the application more inclusive of independent students, broadening beyond high school-age life experiences.

NOTE

FAFSA defines an independent student as one of the following: at least 24 years old, married, a graduate or professional student, a veteran, a member of the armed forces, an orphan, a ward of the court, or someone with legal dependents other than a spouse, an emancipated minor or someone who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Streamlined mid-year reports

Recommenders now have a textbox option, in addition to a document upload, to provide updates in the mid-year report form.

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Transfer application

Mobile-first, responsive application design

The redesigned platform has been optimized for mobile devices, maintaining a consistent experience across desktop, tablet, and phone.

Enhanced guidance with “What’s Next” nudges

New “What’s Next” cards highlight outstanding tasks such as adding recommendations or submitting applications, providing proactive guidance to keep applicants on track.

Reduced application errors and guesswork

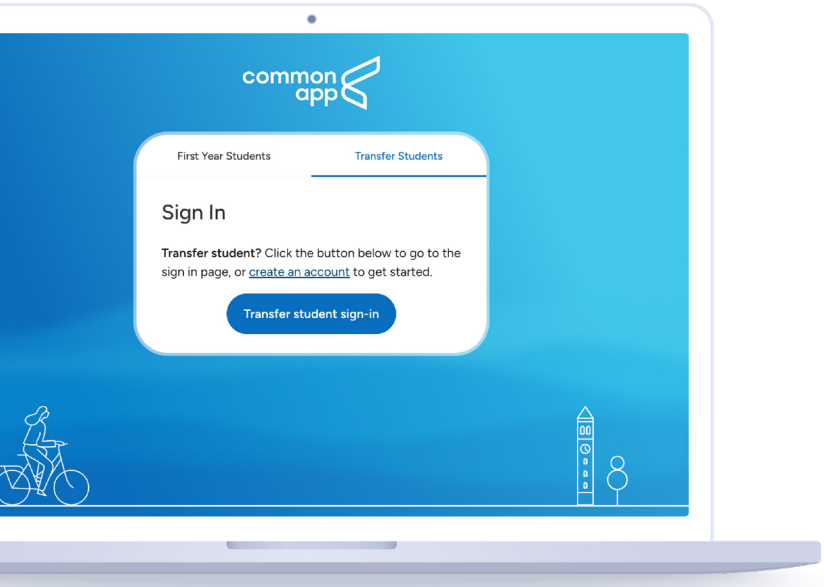
Program requirements are now displayed upfront during program browsing so students know required materials before starting an application. A document upload preview allows students to verify files before submitting.

Clearer application progress

A new “Save and Continue” button, interactive status indicators for each section, and an “I’m Done Adding” button help applicants identify missing or unanswered questions and track their overall application progress.

Centralized application status

The Dashboard and Check Status features have been merged into a single location, providing a centralized hub for students to track progress and manage applications.



Watch the ‘What’s new with Common App?’ webinar recordings for more information

go.commonapp.org/whats-new

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