



# Updated look & feel

**First-year application  
2025-2026**

Updated May 21, 2025

# Introduction





**Thanks for previewing the upcoming look and feel of the first-year application!**

**Here are a few important notes to keep in mind:**


- **This is a preview** of a selection of screens that are meant to assist you in updating your student resources until the updates are live in the application. There may be small adjustments made during the development process.
- These updates will **launch on August 1, 2025** with the new application cycle.
- **Core functionality and workflows aren't changing** for students. Completing and submitting applications remain the same.
- **Account rollover is not impacted**, and students who create accounts prior to August 1 will be able to rollover without concern.
- The **recommender system is not affected** by these updates.


# Dashboard




 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

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

(formerly Common App tab)

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

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

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[Read full answer](#)

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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).



## My Common Application



Profile



Family



Household

Parent 1

Parent 2

Sibling

Education

Testing

Activities

Writing

Courses &amp; Grades

1 college(s) require

In progress

Parents' marital status (relative to each other) \*

With whom do you make your permanent home? \*

Do you have any children?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

Continue

Search FAQs

Search takes you to the student solution center

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All help topics

# Current or Most Recent Secondary/ High School

In progress

Preview

Current or most recent secondary/high school \*

Find school

Date of entry \*

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

Is this a boarding school? \*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

Did or will you graduate from this school? \*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

Please indicate if any of these options will have affected your progression through or since secondary/high school. Check all that apply. \*

☐ Did or will graduate early

☐ Did or will graduate late

## Help & support

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## My Common Application



Profile



Family



Education



Current or Most Recent  
Secondary/High School

Other Secondary/High Schools

Colleges & Universities

Grades

Current or Most Recent Year  
Courses

Honors

Community-Based  
Organizations

Future Plans



Testing



Activities



Writing



Courses & Grades

1 college(s) require



## Tests Taken

 In progress

In addition to sending official score reports as required by colleges, do you wish to self-report scores or future test dates for any of the following standardized tests: ACT, SAT/SAT Subject, AP, IB, Cambridge, TOEFL, PTE Academic, IELTS, and Duolingo English Test? \*

☐ Yes☐ No

Clear answer

International applicants: Is promotion within your educational system based upon standard leaving examinations given at the end of lower and/or senior secondary school by a state or national leaving examinations board? (Students studying in the US typically answer no to this question.)

☐ Yes☐ No

Clear answer

Continue

## Help &amp; support

Search FAQs

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## My Common Application



✓ Profile



✓ Family



✓ Education



^ Testing



Tests Taken



✓ Activities



✓ Writing



✓ Courses &amp; Grades

1 college(s) require



## Activities

In progress

Reporting activities can help colleges better understand your life outside of the classroom.

Examples of activities might include:

- Arts or music
- Clubs
- Community engagement
- Family responsibilities ([learn more](#))
- Hobbies
- Sports
- Work or volunteering
- Other experiences that have been meaningful to you

Do you have any activities that you wish to report? \*

☐ Yes☐ No

Clear answer

Continue

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## My Common Application



Profile



Family



Education



Testing



Activities

Activities

Responsibilities and Circumstances

Writing

Courses &amp; Grades

1 college(s) require



# Personal Essay

In progress

Some colleges require submission of the personal essay with your Common App. You may submit a personal essay to any college, even if it is not required by that college. If not required by a college, you will be given the option during submission to include your essay or not for that college. \*

☒ I understand

Here is the current list of colleges on your Dashboard and whether they require the Personal Essay.

## Required

- University of Rhode Island
- Whittier College

## Not Required

- North Carolina A&T State University
- South Carolina State University
- University of Iowa

The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades, and test scores? Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so. (The application won't accept a response shorter than 250 words.)

- ☒ Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- ☐ The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did

## Help & support

Search FAQs

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## My Common Application



Profile



Family



Education



Testing



Activities

Writing

Personal Essay

Additional Information

Courses & Grades

1 college(s) require



# Courses & Grades

In progress

Here is a list of your current colleges that require Courses & Grades:

## Required

- South Carolina State University

## Not Used

- North Carolina A&T State University
- University of Iowa
- University of Rhode Island
- Whittier College

I can access a copy of my transcript(s) or official grades \*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

Continue

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## My Common Application



Profile



Family



Education



Testing



Activities

Writing

Courses & Grades

1 college(s) require

Courses & Grades



# My colleges



## My Colleges



### Overview



✓ North Carolina A&T State University

Submitted



✓ South Carolina State University



✓ University of Iowa

✓ University of Rhode Island

Submitted

✓ Whittier College



My Colleges

## Overview

Application requirements

Sort by: College name ▾



### North Carolina A&T State University

Spring 2025, Regular Decision

Application – Submitted



Show more details ▾



### South Carolina State University

[Add your term or admission plan](#)

Application – In progress



Show more details ▾



### University of Iowa

[Add your term or admission plan](#)

Application – In progress



Show more details ▾



### University of Rhode Island

Spring 2025, Regular Decision

Application – Submitted



Show more details ▾



### Whittier College

[Add your term or admission plan](#)

Direct admissions offer

Application – In progress



Show more details ▾

## Help & support

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

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

Need help?

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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

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Students will find information about colleges they have added.

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## General

The questions on this page are being asked by Whittier College

Preferred start term \*

Preferred residence during your first year? \*

Do you intend to pursue need-based financial aid? \*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

Are you a graduate of The Broadoaks School in Whittier, CA?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

Continue

Search FAQs

Search takes you to the student solution center

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[Read full answer](#)

[All help topics](#)



## 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

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Recommenders and FERPA

Review and Submit - Common App





# Review and Submit - Common App

You are ready to review and submit your application to Whittier College! The submission process includes the following steps:

## 1. Review your application

Review a PDF preview of your application.

Whittier College requires your personal essay.

Whittier College has chosen not to include certain Common App responses in the PDF they receive for your application. As a result, the following questions and answers will not be on your PDF:

- ACT / SAT Tests
- AP / IB / Cambridge / SAT Subject Tests
- Partial SSN
- Race and ethnicity

## 2. Pay the application fee (if not waived)

If this college charges a fee and you do not have a fee waiver, you will need to pay the application fee before submitting your application.

Application payment will take you to a secure, third-party payment service. Once you have paid the application fee, you must return to Common App to complete your submission.

⚠ Your application will not be submitted until you complete your signature and affirmations.

## 3. Submit your application

Complete your signature and affirmations to submit your application.

[Review and Submit](#)

## Help & support

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✓ [Read full answer](#)

[All help topics](#)



## 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


# College search




 Dashboard


 APPLY


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 My Colleges


EXPLORE

 College search

 Financial aid

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 Sign out

 Penelope Peters  
CAID 1234567

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

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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.

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# Financial aid



Financial aid

Types of financial aid

Scholarships

How to apply for financial aid

Home

Documents

Profile

Search

Wallet

Settings

Help

Account

Financial aid

## Types of financial aid

Financial aid can help you afford the total cost of attending college. For even more terms and information, check out the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid resources on the [types of financial aid](#).

Grants and scholarships

Grants and scholarships are free money that you do not have to pay back. They can come from the U.S. federal or state government, a college, or a private organization. This type of aid can be renewable, meaning that you receive a fixed amount over a specified period of time. The amount can also be adjusted based on other factors, such as maintaining a certain Grade Point Average (GPA).

The [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) is a great way to apply for grants and scholarships. You can also [look up your state grant agency](#) and explore financial aid opportunities provided by your state government. You may be eligible for state financial aid even if you're not eligible for U.S. federal aid.

Loans

Work-study

If you need more help or if you would like to find more resources, please visit our [paying for college page](#).





Help & support

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

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# 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

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Financial aid



Types of financial aid



Scholarships



Resources



How to apply for financial aid



# Thank you!

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Have further questions or need application support?  
Contact our [Solutions Center](#) or email [appsupport@commonapp.net](mailto:appsupport@commonapp.net).