

INTRODUCTION FOR PARENTS

Your child depends on you, and you can depend on us.

Over the course of a lifetime, someone with a college degree will earn \$1 million more than someone with a high school diploma.

The Common Application is your child's cost-free gateway to college. Last year, over 1 million students used the Common App to apply to college—and one-third of them were the first in their family to go to college.

How can I best help my child?

Regardless of whether or not you've been to college yourself, you have an important role to play in your child's journey to college by helping them imagine what is possible. You also have an army of advocates who want your child to succeed: school counselors, teachers, principals, coaches, community mentors, college admission officers, and financial aid advisors. They will offer their advice freely and generously, so don't be afraid to reach out and use their expertise.

Why should my child use the Common Application?

With more than 800 member colleges and only one application, the Common Application is comprised of a rich and diverse membership – colleges that are public, private, large, small, secular, and religious. No other college application system matches the diversity of institutions accessible through the Common Application.

How does the Common Application work?

Colleges request a large amount of information from applicants, and we simplify the process by collecting much of that information all in one place. This prevents students from repeating the details of their background, education, activities, and testing over and over again for every school on their list. It also enables students to stay on top of deadlines and manage school-specific tasks – without leaving our system. Start now by visiting commonapp.org.

College is more affordable than you think. Visit fafsa.ed.gov for help.