# Common App transfer application update FAQs

## General information and timelines

**What changes are coming to the Common App transfer application for the 2027–2028 cycle?**

The new transfer application integrates transfer admissions directly into Common App's core platform, bringing first-year and transfer workflows together into a single, unified system for the 2027–2028 application cycle. This change allows member institutions to streamline application management, gain greater control over their data, and strengthen transfer pipelines using the same familiar tools and infrastructure they rely on today.

**When will the new transfer application be available?**

The new transfer application will be available for the 2027–2028 application cycle. You will be able to configure your transfer application in the Control Center as part of the annual updates process in spring 2027.

**When can we start building our application in the new system?**

The annual updates process for the 2027–2028 application cycle typically opens in spring 2027. Once a member has submitted their Member Agreement and Exhibit A in the member portal, they can begin configuring both their first-year and transfer applications.

## Common App & Liaison and transition steps

**How is Common App working with Liaison through this transfer transition?**

Common App and Liaison are collaborating closely to plan and execute a seamless transition for students and member institutions.

**When is the final day students can apply for transfer using the current transfer application on the Liaison platform?**

The final day for students and recommenders to submit information through the current transfer application on Liaison's CAS platform is July 29, 2027 at 5pm ET.

**What will happen to students and recommenders with work in progress not submitted by July 29?**

Students and recommenders whose information was not submitted through the current transfer application by July 29 at 5pm ET must start anew on Common App. Given the change in application platform, there will be no re-applicant process/option for re-applying students in this transitional year.

**What is Common App doing to help mitigate challenges related to the transition?**

In addition to in-app messages in the current transfer application (operated by Liaison), Common App will launch a targeted email campaign in early summer 2027 to notify students and recommenders about the upcoming July 29 closing and August 1st transition and share steps needed for applications and transcripts not submitted before that date.

**What will happen if transcripts from previously attended colleges are sent after the cycle closes?**

As in the current state, transcripts submitted after the cycle's end will not be delivered. We will proactively provide students with transcript instructions as the cycle end approaches. Applicants may be required to have their official college transcripts resent directly to receiving institutions for the 2027–2028 application cycle.

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**Will students and recommenders be able to migrate their information from Liaison to Common App?**

No. Common App will actively communicate with students and recommenders via email and in-platform messaging regarding this change. After July 29, students and recommenders will retain read-only access to their Liaison accounts, but will no longer be able to edit or submit applications within the platform.

**When will I stop receiving transfer applications from the current transfer application on the Liaison platform?**

You will stop receiving transfer student data once the final data files from July 29 have been fully delivered to your institution via SDS (Scheduled Data Delivery System). Just as in the past, the final SDS delivery will be the day after the cycle closes.

**How long will I have access to my transfer data in WebAdmit?**

The final day to access any data from WebAdMIT is August 13. We recommend exporting all necessary data well in advance of that date.

**Can I download my transfer app configuration data from Liaison to help build my new transfer app on Common App?**

Yes, but all transfer application configurations must be exported from the Configuration Portal in WebAdMIT on or before August 13. We recommend exporting your configuration data well in advance of that deadline to assist with building your new application on Common App.

**Will Common App facilitate a historical data migration from Liaison, or must institutions archive past student records independently?**

While Common App will use good faith efforts to provide historic data pursuant to any applicable laws, regulations, and Common App's internal policies and procedures governing data deletion and record retention, members are strongly encouraged to export application records from WebAdmit and maintain those records independently.

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**What does this mean for the relationship between Common App and Liaison?**

Though Liaison will not support the transfer application beginning in the 2027–28 cycle, we look forward to continuing to partner with Liaison in ways that will support students and members.

**Does this mean that Insight is going away?**

There are no changes to Insight for the 2026–2027 cycle. As with previous cycles, your final day to access Insight is the final day of the cycle (July 29, 2027). Common App will share further updates regarding Insight in the future and will notify member institutions well in advance of any decisions or structural changes.

**Will Liaison play any role on the backend with the unified app? Or is the new application 100% in-house?**

No, Liaison will not play a technical or operational role following the launch of the new transfer application.

**Can I keep my Liaison transfer application?**

No. Liaison will no longer support the Common App for transfer application. Institutions using Common App for transfer will set up their transfer applications on the Common App platform.

## Pricing

**How much will it cost?**

Members will continue to pay their annual membership fee. As part of Exhibit A, members select the applications and platform they would like to use. The platform selected will apply to both applications. Members will pay a per-application fee based on the platform they select, just as they do today.

Application fees for the 2027–2028 application cycle are:

- $4.07 for Essential
- $4.79 for Standard
- $5.19 for Custom

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## Application configuration & member setup

**Will there be a sandbox or other environment where we can explore the new application and how it works?**

Similar to the first-year application, you'll be able to preview and test the transfer application in spring 2027.

You can configure your new transfer applications from scratch, or you can request a 1-time copy and paste of your current first-year application and adjust your member screens as needed to support transfer students.

**How will we configure the new transfer application?**

This is one of the benefits of the new transfer application. You will configure both the first-year and transfer applications in the Control Center.

**Will the Control Center work the same way?**

Yes. Configuring application requirements and custom member screen questions will work the same way in the Control Center. You'll use the same workflows, but you'll also be able to configure transfer-specific requirements and member screens.

**Will I have to create a completely new transfer application, or will I be able to move my current application into Common App?**

You will have the option to request a 1-time copy and paste of your current first-year application into your transfer application, which you can then further configure within the Control Center. You are encouraged to download a copy of your current transfer application from WebAdmit if you would like to compare your current first-year and transfer applications.

**Will I still be able to have program-based applications as I do with the current transfer application?**

You will be able to use member screen questions and logic, if applicable, to ask students questions specific to programs or majors. You will also be able to configure multiple term admission plan combinations to have unique deadlines for transfer students.

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**Will we still be able to configure who can use the Common App fee waivers? Do we need to have the same configuration for first-year and transfer students?**

Yes. The updated Common App fee waiver configuration process will be available for the new transfer application. You can configure different policies for first-year and transfer students.

**Will there be a change to the account creation process?**

All students will create their accounts in the same place, and the account creation process will largely be the same. When they create their account, students will indicate if they're applying to start college for the first time, or if they're applying to transfer. Then they'll be asked when they plan to transfer.

**Will the Common App questions for first-year and transfer students be the same?**

While the majority of core questions and sections across My Common Application will be the same, the education section is tailored specifically to each student type. Because transfer students have unique post-secondary experience, the education section will ask about the colleges they've attended and the credits they've earned.

**If I use the same question for first-year and transfer, will I need to update that question twice within Control Center if I'm making an edit?**

Yes. Because first-year and transfer applications have separate configuration spaces within the Control Center, any shared member screen questions must be updated independently in both locations.

**Will we be able to edit details on the application throughout the cycle?**

As a best practice, we discourage making large changes to your member screen and/or configuration after students begin their application since it can be confusing to students.  However, we understand some minor changes may come up throughout the year.

For both the first-year and transfer applications, the Control Center allows members to make low-risk, post-live edits to the application directly. High-risk edits require assistance from your member services representative and may need review by Common App's management and technology teams.

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Additional details on post-live edits can be found in the member solutions center.

## Essays & writing supplements

**Will the separate writing supplement functionality be available for transfer?**

No, the writing supplement won't be available for the transfer application. Based on your platform type, you will be able to configure any member-specific writing questions for transfer students in your member screen.

**How will the essay portion work? Will it be part of the My Common Application section? Will it be different for transfer students?**

Transfer students will have access to the standard Common App personal essay prompts within the writing section in My Common Application, just like first-year students. The essay prompts will be the same for first-year and transfer students.

Additionally, depending on your platform type, members can add transfer writing sections to their member screens using the question bank or custom questions, just like with the first-year application.

## Application cycles & deadlines

**How will we extend a deadline for a transfer student?**

You will be able to extend a deadline for transfer students in the Control Center the same way that you do for first-year students today.

**My institution accepts applications for the current fall enrollment term after the application goes live on August 1. Can I configure my application to allow students to apply for a fall enrollment term with a deadline after the July cutoff date?**

Yes. While both first-year and transfer applications close briefly just before the annual August 1 launch, you will be able to configure application deadlines occurring after August 1, 2027 (extending beyond the cutoff date in the current cycle) and after August 1, 2028 (extending beyond the cutoff date in the subsequent cycle).

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**Can a student apply to 2 different terms at the same institution within one application cycle?**

Students will only be able to apply to an institution 1 time within the same application cycle using the Common App.

**Will application deadlines and application plans for transfer function just like first-year?**

Yes, you will be able to set your own deadlines and admission plans just as you do in the first-year application. Early decision and early admission for juniors, however, will not be available for transfer.

## Transcripts & academic history

**How will transfer students submit their transcripts?**

For the 2027–2028 application cycle, transfer students must have their official college transcripts sent directly to the institution(s) to which they are applying. Common App will not collect, process, or centrally manage official college transcripts.

**Do you plan to allow students to request college transcripts within Common App in the future?**

For the 2027–2028 application cycle, transfer students must have their official college transcripts sent directly to the institution(s) to which they are applying. Common App is evaluating other transcript submission options for future cycles.

**How will members receive high school transcripts from transfer students?**

Similar to current processes, you must work directly with transfer students to collect high school transcripts. Common App will not collect or deliver high school transcripts for transfer students.

**Will the new transfer application include a coursework entry feature similar to the current transfer application?**

Specific features for student coursework in the new transfer application are currently under active review.

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**If a student previously applied as a first-year student, will their original high school transcript be attached to their transfer application?**

No. Only high school transcripts and school reports submitted during the active application cycle will be delivered through Common App. If your institution requires a high school transcript for a transfer student, you must request it directly from the student.

## Data management & SDS

**When can I gain access to the new 2027–2028 data catalog?**

A preview of the full 2027–2028 transfer data catalog will be available in spring 2027. You can preview the Education section data on our website.

**Will the transfer application data schema and PDFs match the first-year application?**

Yes, the overall data structure and PDF format for the transfer application will be the same as the first-year application. There will be some minor changes to the data fields. Though files will be delivered separately, members will get their transfer application data the same way they get first-year application data in the Control Center, and eligible members can continue to use our Scheduled Delivery Service (SDS).

**Will prospect and suspect data for transfer be available in the same way as first-year?**

Yes, you will be able to receive prospect and suspect data through SDS and in the Control Center.

**Will member institutions be able to receive transfer SDS delivery earlier in the process?**

Common App is currently evaluating SDS workflows and timelines as part of the effort to unify the first-year and transfer application experiences. Detailed information regarding updated SDS processes and schedules will be shared this spring.

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**Are you working with CRMs (Slate, Ellucian, Element 451, Admissions Pros, etc.) to make sure they can help us with this transition?**

Yes. Common App will continue working closely with all major admissions CRM partners to update global export templates and ensure full alignment with the new transfer data catalog.

## Analytics & reporting

**Will Common App's Control Center analytics be available for the transfer application?**

Yes. Transfer application data will be integrated into Control Center analytics. This will give your institution comprehensive visibility into your transfer suspect, prospect, and applicant data alongside your first-year metrics.

**In Control Center analytics, will first-year and transfer data be combined in reports?**

Analytics charts in the Control Center will provide separate views of first-year and transfer data. The separation allows for more meaningful tracking of your funnel data, as well as the inclusion of more specific filters to examine each population.

**As a custom member, will I be able to create peer benchmarking groups for transfer similar to those offered for first-year?**

We don't anticipate offering benchmark groups for transfer data in the first year of the new transfer application. Benchmark data is valuable when there is enough consistency to create meaningful and relevant comparison groups. We will explore the potential for transfer benchmark groups as we gain a better understanding of the new transfer application and data trends.

## Student accounts - account creation, rollover

**Will a transfer student be able to see their first-year Common App account information and applications?**

Transfer students will be able to roll over their first-year Common App account from a previous cycle. Once rolled over, students can access

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previous My Common Application responses as well as previously submitted applications.

**What happens if a student creates a transfer account, but my institution classifies them as a first-year student?**

In the Control Center, you will have the option to display your institution's definition of a transfer student on your college info page. If a student creates the wrong account type, they can contact the solutions center to request a switch from transfer to first-year—provided they have not yet submitted their application. After an application has been submitted, the student account type cannot be changed until the next application cycle.

**If students can roll over an account from first-year to transfer, does that mean their Common App ID will stay the same?**

Yes, their Common App ID will stay the same.

**How will the new transfer application address concerns about increases in fraudulent applications?**

Common App continuously enhances platform security to identify and mitigate fraudulent behavior. Recently, a mandatory email account verification feature was introduced during account creation to deter bad actors. By aligning the first-year and transfer application account creation workflows, the new transfer application will immediately benefit from these protection measures and all future platform security enhancements.

## Recommendations

**Will recommender forms be delivered separately for first-year and transfer applications?**

Yes. While first-year and transfer recommender files will be delivered in separate batches, you'll receive and manage transfer recommendations in the Control Center using the same workflow. Recommender PDFs will follow a structure similar to first-year files, and eligible institutions can continue using our Scheduled Data Delivery (SDS).

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**Will transfer students be able to submit high school recommender or counselor contact information so school reports can be automatically sent to institutions?**

No. As with current processes, Common App will not collect or manage high school reports for transfer students. Member institutions must work directly with students to collect any required high school reports or related documentation.

## Future features

**Will there be a Common App Direct Admissions transfer option?**

Direct admissions for transfer students will not be available for the 2027–2028 application cycle. However, Common App is exploring transfer direct admissions models and consulting with advisory groups to inform the design and future rollout.

**Will the new transfer app include scholarship opportunities similar to the first-year app?**

Scholarships for the new transfer application will not be part of the 2027–2028 application cycle. Common App is exploring opportunities for future cycles.

**Is Common App working with any entities on transfer credit evaluation?**

Common App is exploring possible partnerships and implementation of transfer credit evaluation solutions. We know this has historically been a fragmented solution space, with new emerging technology and service providers offering innovative, AI-based solutions. We are currently running pilots and connecting with these organizations.

**Will Common App develop a centralized transcript process?**

We are evaluating options for future cycles that optimize transcript efficiency and make the experience easier for students and members.

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