How the first-year Common App works

A quickstart guide for students using the first-year Common App

1 Create your account

To set up your free Common App account, visit commonapp.org and enter a valid email address, password, and contact information.

2 Add colleges

Get started by adding colleges to your list. You can find colleges to apply to under "college search" in your Common App account. College search also has information and links to help you research each college. More than 1,100 colleges use Common App!
Go to commonapp.org/explore to start exploring.

3 Stay organized

Each college has its own set of specific requirements and supplements. When it comes to tracking this information and staying organized, we're here to help! Use the requirements grid and each college's information page to find this information.

To start your college application checklist, check out our "My College Requirements" worksheet at commonapp.org/ready

How does my application get there?

When you submit we combine your responses from the Common App and college specific questions, as well as any supplements, into one form.
Your counselor, teachers, and other recommenders complete their reports and evaluations separately.

As recommenders submit their forms, they will be sent to the college to be added to your application.

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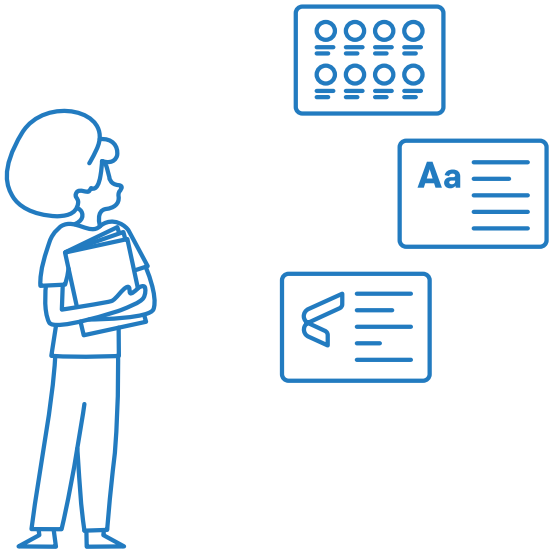
4 Complete and submit

Answering all the questions in My Common Application is a great way to start your applications. For each college you will:

- Answer college specific questions
- Invite and manage recommenders
- Complete other supplements (if applicable)

After all these sections are complete, you are ready to submit your application! Submission is simple: review, pay (if applicable), and submit.



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