

College application packages usually require the following components:

Completed application form	Two letters of recommendation from teachers
High school transcript	A personal statement and supplemental essays
SAT/ACT score reports	Résumé
Dual credit/AP scores	Application fee (can range between \$25-\$90)

Ready, Set, Go!

- Finalize the list of colleges and universities to which you will apply.
- Visit each school – preferably while school is in session.
- Understand all application requirements for each school. Follow directions carefully.
- Take or retake the SAT/ACT. Send scores to colleges of interest.
- Ask two teachers in major subject areas for letters of recommendation.
- Prepare final drafts of your essays.
- Have someone you trust proofread all application materials.
- Check all application deadlines and submit your materials on time.
- Be sure to include any required fees with your applications.
- Confirm that all of your college application materials have been received by each school to which you applied.

Terms to know:

Common Application: A standard application form accepted by all colleges that are members of the Common Application association. You can fill out this application once and submit it to any one — or several — of the nearly 700 colleges that accept it.

Deferred Admission: Permission from a college that has accepted you to postpone enrolling in the college. The postponement is usually for up to one year.

Early Action: An option to submit your applications before the regular deadlines. When you apply early action, you get admission decisions from colleges earlier than usual. Early action plans are not binding, which means that you do not have to enroll in a college if you are accepted early action.

Early Decision: An option to submit an application to your first-choice college before the regular deadline. When you apply early decision, you get an admission decision earlier than usual. Early decision plans are binding.

Registrar: The college official who registers students. The registrar may also be responsible for keeping permanent records and maintaining your student file.

Regular Decision: is the normal process by which students apply by published deadlines, with promise of receiving an admissions decision no later than April 1 of their senior year.

Rolling Admission: An admission policy of considering each application as soon as all required information (such as high school records and test scores) has been received, rather than setting an application deadline and reviewing applications in a batch. Colleges that use a rolling admission policy usually notify applicants of admission decisions quickly.

Sample Essay Prompts (Source: commonapp.org)

Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

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.

Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

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 you learn from the experience?