

APPROVED
COLLEGE
APPLICATION

What is a college application?

- A college application is the process that individuals take in order to get accepted into a university.
- Many schools use the [Common App](#), which is a website in which you can apply to multiple colleges with the same application.
- Many universities' applications are not on [Common App](#) and require you to visit their individual website to apply. To find college's individual websites, search the university name on Google.

How many should I fill out?

- The [recommended number](#) of college applications to fill out is 3-8, but this also depends on your budget. Applications cost money to send, so make sure you add up the total cost before filling out the application.
- It's never a good idea to put all your eggs in one basket and only apply to one college.
- It's also unnecessary to apply to more than about 8 colleges, as long as you're [choosing the right colleges to apply to](#).
- You should always apply to one safety school (one you are almost guaranteed to get into) and one reach school (one that you may not get into because it is above your academic level).
- When choosing a safety school, look for colleges where your high school academic performance is within the 75th percentile. When choosing a reach school, pick one that your high school academic performance is below the 25th percentile. You never know what the admissions boards are looking for that year, and you may just get into a dream or reach school!
- Remember: quality is more important than quantity. It is better to spend more time on fewer applications than it is to spend less time on many applications.





How do I decide which schools I want to apply to?

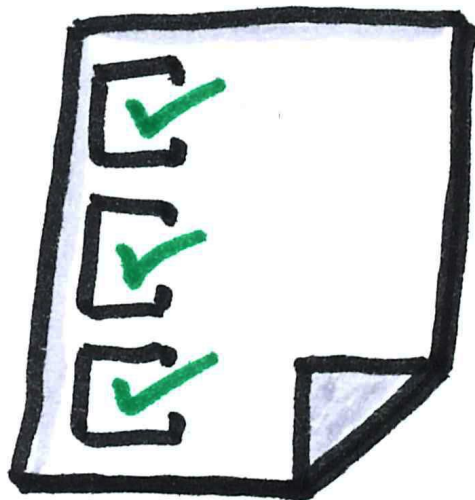
- Look for schools that have majors or academic programs you are interested in. It is not necessary for you to know what you want to major in before you apply to colleges, but if you have a specific path in mind, it is important to make sure a prospective school has this major or program.
- Academics are not the only aspect of universities that you should pay attention to. Make sure the social scene and university culture/values at the school are right for you.
- Make sure that you can afford the school or can access financial aid in order to pay for the school. Expensive is not necessarily better.
- Location is important. Determine how far you want to be from home, whether you want an urban setting or a rural spot, and think about the region of the country you are interested in living in for the next four years!
- Visit the college if you are able to. You can research universities online, but you can also set up a college visit or tour to get more information. If you are not able to visit, look on the college's website for a virtual tour.
- Talk to people and ask them questions! Ask your family members, teachers, guidance counselors, people from your extracurricular programs, etc. about their college experience and ask them if they have advice for you!
- For more information on how to narrow down your search, [click here](#).
- You can research all of your different college options on [this website](#), which allows you to compare your test scores and high school GPA against current college students to determine which schools are right for you.
- Once you have an idea of some colleges you are interested in, check out [this website](#) to see how your academic performance lines up.

Do college applications cost money to fill out?

- Almost all colleges require a fee to apply. This is to determine how serious applicants are, especially since applying can be made easy through the Common App.
- Fees generally range from about [\\$30 to about \\$80](#) per application and this money is nonrefundable, even if you do not get into the university.
- You may qualify for a fee waiver. Here is a [list of colleges that accept application fee waivers](#). You can also search the list by using the search bar to look up the college you are looking for.

What documents will I need for my application?

- Colleges want to see [your high school transcripts](#). Many high schools provide these for free, but yours may charge you a small fee, so make sure to ask your guidance counselor how to send your transcript to the schools you're applying to.
- Colleges also want to see your test scores. If you took the SAT, SAT subject tests, and/or ACT, make sure to send your test scores to the universities you are applying to. To find out how to send these scores, [follow the directions on this site](#).
- Many colleges also require letters of recommendation. Make sure you pay attention the specific guidelines, but in general, these can be letters from coaches, teachers, club leaders, bosses, religious group leaders, or other similar mentors. Ensure that you give the person writing your recommendation enough time to write a great letter - don't wait until the last minute! For more information on letters of recommendation, [check out this website](#).



Is that it?

- Make sure you know the deadline for your application! Each application may have a different deadline, and it is important to submit your application and the additional required materials before this date.
- Some universities may require an interview. Here are some [tips to nail that interview](#).
- Many colleges require personal essays. This is not something to stress about, but instead is an awesome opportunity to show them more about you!

Essay writing tips:

- Write about something important to you and be yourself. The colleges want to see who you are, not who you think they want you to be.
- Reflect on the experience you're writing about in your essay instead of just retelling the story.
- Start earlier than you think you need to! That'll give you time to ask teachers, mentors, or guidance counselors to proofread. Be ready to write multiple drafts.
- Answer the question being asked and use this opportunity to tell the admissions officer something they won't know about you from the other parts of your application.
- You can check out more tips [on this website](#) and [on this website](#).
- Check out these useful websites for inspiration from others' successful college essays:
 - [125 College Essay Examples for 13 Schools + Expert Analysis](#)
 - [Sample College Application Essays](#)
 - [Top 147 Successful College Application Essays](#)

More links:

- [College application checklist](#)
- [What colleges want in an applicant \(everything\)](#)

