Explaining the College Application Process

What is the Common Application?

The *Common Application*, or Common App, is an advanced college application that is used to help prospective college students apply to multiple institutions at one time. While you cannot apply to every single accredited institution by using this single online application, you can apply to hundreds of undergraduate programs throughout the world.

Why should my child use the Common Application?

With more than 800 member colleges, 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*, which is why more than 1 million students, counselors, and teachers rely on it every year.

How does The Common Application work?

Colleges request a large amount of information from applicants, the Common Application simplifies the process by collecting much of that information all in one place. Each member school then has access to this single application, allowing students to stay on top of deadlines and manage school-specific tasks all in one place, without having to complete multiple applications.

Where Can You Apply?

To use this universal application, you must be wanting to attend a member college or university; member schools that accept the application are from the United States and 14 other countries. Simply complete an application at commonapp.org and select the schools you want your application to be submitted to from the list. Keep in mind that the application process for each school will vary, including the fees and the deadlines. This is something you must pay attention to as you add schools.

How Do You Create an Account to Start Your Application?

One of the great things about the *Common App* is that you can start the process as soon as possible by creating your account. This is a step that requires no preparation but that

will help you set up your profile so that you can start to receive alerts and updates via email. Once you provide basic profile information, you can add schools to your list and browse the specific requirements so that you know what to expect. Once added, you can see how one schools application requirements varies from the next. You can even set up a requirements tracker so that you are prepared to submit everything the admissions council wants to see.

What You Will Need to Submit

There might be college-specific requirements, but there are also universal requirements that you are going to need to fulfill before you can submit your admissions application anywhere. These requirements include: high school transcripts, a list of extracurricular activities, entrance exam test scores, test dates and legal guardian information.

Other Features You Can Use

You can do more than just prepare your application and track deadlines through the online college planning app. You can also use the app as a trusted partner in the admissions process by using a virtual counselor tool. It will give you the guidance that you need and the advice that you want when you are choosing a college, applying for aide, or even selecting a major.

Cal State and UC Application

Similarly to the Common AP, Cal State and UC schools respectively each require one app for all member schools. Meaning that an application for any single Cal State school can be used for any other Cal State school; the same process works for all UC schools (one application for any given UC school will work for all UC schools). Please note the following application deadlines: Fall 2019 application process for Cal States runs from October 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018. The Fall 2019 application process for UCs runs from November 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018. Please contact the CMCS counseling department with any questions.