

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

- APPLICATIONS
- DEADLINES
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
- TEST SCORES
- ESSAYS
- TRANSCRIPTS

Applications

- College Specific
 - University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
 - University of Iowa
- Create online account
- Have information ready
- Take the time to answer all questions completely
- Self-reporting grades
- List most important activities first
 - May need to create an activities resume

Common Application

- Over 500 schools nationwide
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- Marquette University
- www.commonapp.org
- Will need a letter of recommendation from School Counselor
- Will need at least 1, probably 2 teacher recommendations
 - Make sure you have your counselor and teacher email addresses
- At least 1 essay required
- Dashboard shows when letters and application are received by colleges
- Mid year reports (They look at 7th semester grades)

Coalition Application

- Over 90 colleges and universities are accepting these applications.
- Only a few are requiring this as the only application they will accept.
- Similar to the Common App.
- Allows for more information to be uploaded to your account.
- Schools like U of I will accept it, but will not use the extra information or the letters of recommendation.
- There is no advantage of choosing one type of application over another if a school has multiple options.

Deadlines

- **Regular Decision**
 - Last apply by date for a school
 - Non-binding
- **Early Action/Priority Action**
 - Applications are sent in early and usually are reviewed early
 - Non-Binding
 - Can be as early as October 15
- **Rolling Admission**
 - Applications are reviewed as they come in
 - No set deadline, when the class is full, applications stop
 - Non-Binding
- **Early Decision**
 - Contract with one college to attend there if accepted
 - Binding, must withdraw all other applications if accepted
 - May hurt financial aid award
- **Restrictive Early Action**
 - Student may be restricted from applying Early Action or Early Decision to other schools, but will have until May 1st to confirm enrollment.

Letters of Recommendation

- Only ask for them if they are needed
- Give the teacher/counselor a copy of your completed Recommendation Info. Form
- Allow at least 2 weeks for teacher/counselor to write the letter
- Try to ask different teachers (Science and English, not 2 English)
- Try to ask someone from junior and/or senior year
- Coaches and outside people can be supplementary
- Do not send more than required unless the college allows it
- Do not send them to schools who do not ask for them
- They are confidential and are sent directly to the school

Test Scores

- Illinois is giving the SAT this spring (No need to register online for this.)
- You can still take the ACT on a Saturday (You will need to register online.)
- Most colleges will accept either test
- Be sure to check with your schools to see which one(s) they will accept
- SAT is through the College Board: www.collegeboard.org
- ACT is online too: www.actstudent.org
- You will need to send your “official” scores from the website to each college
- Superscoring
- Some schools are test-optional now

Essays

- Common App essays are online already
- Spend time constructing the essay
- Bring it to the English Literacy Lab during lunch hours in S237
- Try to write about something unique to you
- Don't try to use too many "Thesaurus" words
- Focus on personal growth, overcoming a challenge, etc.

Transcripts

- Transcripts include classes, grades, test scores, activities, class rank percentiles, etc.
- Official Transcripts are sent electronically through www.parchment.com
- There will be a small fee for each transcript sent
- No transcripts need to be sent to self-reporting schools
- No transcripts need to be sent to Common App schools
 - They will be uploaded with the Counselor Recommendation

Thank you!

The background is a dark blue gradient with a field of small white stars. Overlaid on this are several technical diagrams. In the top right, there is a large circular gauge with concentric rings and numerical markings from 80 to 210. In the bottom right, there is a diagram with two concentric circles and a dashed arrow pointing clockwise. In the bottom left, there is a diagram with two concentric circles and a dashed arrow pointing counter-clockwise. In the top left, there is a partial circular diagram with a dashed arrow pointing clockwise.