

# How the First Year Common App Works

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



## 1 Add colleges

Get started by adding colleges to your list. You can find colleges to apply to in the College Search tab of your Common App account. The College Search tab also has information and links to help you research each college. Almost 900 colleges use Common App! Go to [commonapp.org/explore](https://commonapp.org/explore) to start exploring.

## 2 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 "College Information" page to find this information. You can also use Common App On Track, our mobile companion app, to track deadlines, set reminders, and more.

To start your college application checklist, check out our "My College Requirements" worksheet at [commonapp.org/ready](https://commonapp.org/ready).

## 3 Complete and submit

Answering all the questions in the Common App tab 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.

### 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.