

NOAC 2024

CU Boulder



SEEK NEW HEIGHTS

Making Your Application Stand Out

A Guide to College Admissions

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Meet Your Trainer

- Wa-la-moot-kin Lodge #336
- Kennewick, WA
- Fun fact:
 - Father of 2 sons who are Eagle Scouts and BOTH are in college this fall
 - Oldest is a Senior at Washington State University.
 - Youngest is a Freshman at Gonzaga University.



Ted Weber



Learning Objectives

OBJECTIVES:

1. Selecting the RIGHT school for YOU!!
2. Timelines
3. Application Process
4. Personal Statements



Selecting the RIGHT school for YOU!!

- Location
- Cost
- Academic Programs
- Climate
- Size
- Campus Culture
- Extra Curriculars



Selecting the RIGHT school for YOU!!

1. Location

- Urban vs Rural
- Home State / City

2. Cost

- Private vs Public
- Debt / Financial Aid

3. Academic Programs

- Major
- Minor



4. Climate

- Winter?
- Spring & Fall?



Selecting the RIGHT school for YOU!!

- Size
 - # of students
 - Average class size
 - Student faculty ratio
 - Lecture vs Seminar
- Campus Culture
 - Ethnicity
 - Race
 - Political Ideology
 - Social Scene
- Extra Curricular
 - Clubs
 - Sports
 - Internships
 - Learning, Living Communities
- Unique Opportunities



Selecting the RIGHT school for YOU!!

- Create YOUR lists
 - Dream List
 - “A” List
 - “Backup” list
- Visit the institutions (in-person and virtually)
 - Organized weekends vs “surprise visits”
 - Summer vs In-session
 - Athletic weekends vs nonathletic weekends





YOUR Application

1. Varies depending on the school.

2. Start a backdated calendar.

3. The Common App

Letters of Recommendation

Your information

Personal Statements (varies on institution)

4. Don't wait until the last minute



Timeline (Regular Decision)

- Start in Aug / Sept. with the “simple stuff”
- Teacher Recommendations in Sept. / Oct.
- Work on YOUR statements Sept. / Oct.
- Review & edit statements Oct. / Nov.
- Submit Applications by Dec. 31 (or when due)
- Sit & wait & wait & wait

(Accelerated for Early Action & Early decision)



Application Process

Varies by Institution and State

Early Decision

Early Action

Regular Decision

Rolling Admission



DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



National Association for
College Admission Counseling
Guiding the way to higher education

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Restrictive Application Plans

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

For a copy of this flyer, please visit www.nacacnet.org



“THE” Common App



834 Institutions use the common app
In 2024

1.3 million unique applicants

7.5 million applications

<https://www.commonapp.org/>



How it works

1

Create your profile

Your Common App profile is your chance to shine. It's everything you want a college or university to know about you – from your academic coursework to your extracurricular activities.

2

Add colleges to your list

Now you get to decide what's most important to you in a college or university. Search through the characteristics and add colleges that align with them.

3

Gather requirements

Once you've decided where you want to apply, make a checklist of everything required. Each college and university is different, so make sure you stay on top of their application requirements.

4

Submit applications

Be sure to take a moment to celebrate this huge accomplishment! And remember to finish the academic year on a high note, apply for financial aid and prepare for the future.



Application Suggestions

- Create a “proper” email address for applications and correspondence
- Start as early as possible
- Gather resources, then enter the information
- Write your essay outside of the application and copy in, when you are ready to submit
- Select teachers who really can speak to your abilities



Personal Statements

- Tell YOUR story
- Don't repeat your resume
- Focus on YOUR interests and experiences
- Ask the question "So What?"
 - Does what you say add to your statement?
- Be honest
- What makes you unique from others
- Be prepared for unique questions for each institution



The Common App, Questions for 24-25

Same as 2023-2024

Full set of essay prompts for 2024–2025.

1. 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.
2. 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?



Personal Statements

4. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
5. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
6. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.



Personal Statements

6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. 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.



Standardize Testing SAT & ACT

Unique to each institution – some moving back to and others moving away from.

Take late Junior Year / Senior Summer

Is a tool that some institutions will use to separate like students

**** Suggest PSAT for National Merit Scholarship**



Resources

- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- <https://www.commonapp.org/counselors-and-recommenders/common-app-ready>
- <https://www.usnews.com/education>



Takeaway Challenge

Are you ready for the next step?

What can you do today (when you get home) to help yourself with this process?

STEP by STEP is much easier than ONE GIANT leap!



Special Thanks



Thank You

