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# COLLEGE PROCESS

## JUNIOR CLASS MEETING



- 📌 Finding the Best Fit
- 📌 The Application Process
- 📌 The Common Application

# YOUR COUNSELOR

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# FINDING THE BEST FIT

- Academics:
  - Major/minor programs
  - Research
  - Large classes/small seminars
  - Liberal Art Curriculum
- Location:
  - Do you want to be close to your family or far away?
  - Do you prefer a rural, urban, or suburban setting?
  - Do you care about the location's climate?
- Size:
  - Do you want a close-knit college experience where everyone knows, or knows of, everyone else?
  - Or, do you want to attend a big school so you'll always have the chance to meet new people?

# FINDING THE BEST FIT

- Public/Private:
  - Do you have a preference for public or private school?
  - Public schools tend to have more students from that state than private schools
    - is that a plus or a minus?
- Housing:
  - Do you want to live on campus all four years?
  - Would living off campus in the surrounding area be affordable?
  - Is it more expensive to be on campus, relying on the school's housing and meal plan?
- Social Life:
  - Do you want to attend a school with prominent Greek life?
  - Do you want a school that has more of a social scene on campus or off campus?
  - How do you like to spend your weekends?
  - Do you want to be with a similar or diverse student body?

## FINDING THE BEST FIT

- Athletics:
  - Is a strong school athletic program important to you?
  - Do you want a lively, sports-crazed atmosphere?
  - Are you uninterested in or put off by sports?
- Extracurricular Activities:
  - Are there certain clubs or extracurricular activities that you want to join?
  - Do you want to play intramural sports?
- Finances:
  - How much can your family or you realistically afford to spend per year?

# UNDERSTANDING COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- Start investigating college websites
- Visit colleges when you can
- Read the information colleges send you
- Admission is not a “Trophy” or a “Prize” – look for a good fit
- It is not the college you attend, but what you do once you get there that counts
- Colleges require a good deal of independent initiative and personal responsibility in order to be successful.

# HOW MANY SCHOOLS? (BALANCED LIST)

**Dream School:** a school you would like to attend but where your chances of acceptance seem slim.

**Reach School** – a school where your chances are possible - some students with credentials like yours have been admitted.

**Safety School** – a school that seldom rejects candidates with your credentials (at least one in state for KEES money)

Admission Options: Non – Restrictive Plans			Restrictive Plans	
Regular Decision	Rolling Admission	Early Action (EA)	Early Decision (ED)	Restrictive Early Actions (REA)
Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.	Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.	Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution’s regular response date.	Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.	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, they have until May 1 to confirm.
Notified: Mar 15 – April 1	Notified: Within weeks	Notified: Varies, usually Nov. – Dec.	Notified: Varies, usually Nov. – Dec.	Notified: Varies, usually Nov. – Dec.
Non-Binding	Non-Binding	Non-Binding	Binding	Non-Binding



# WISH LIST ITEMS TO CONSIDER:

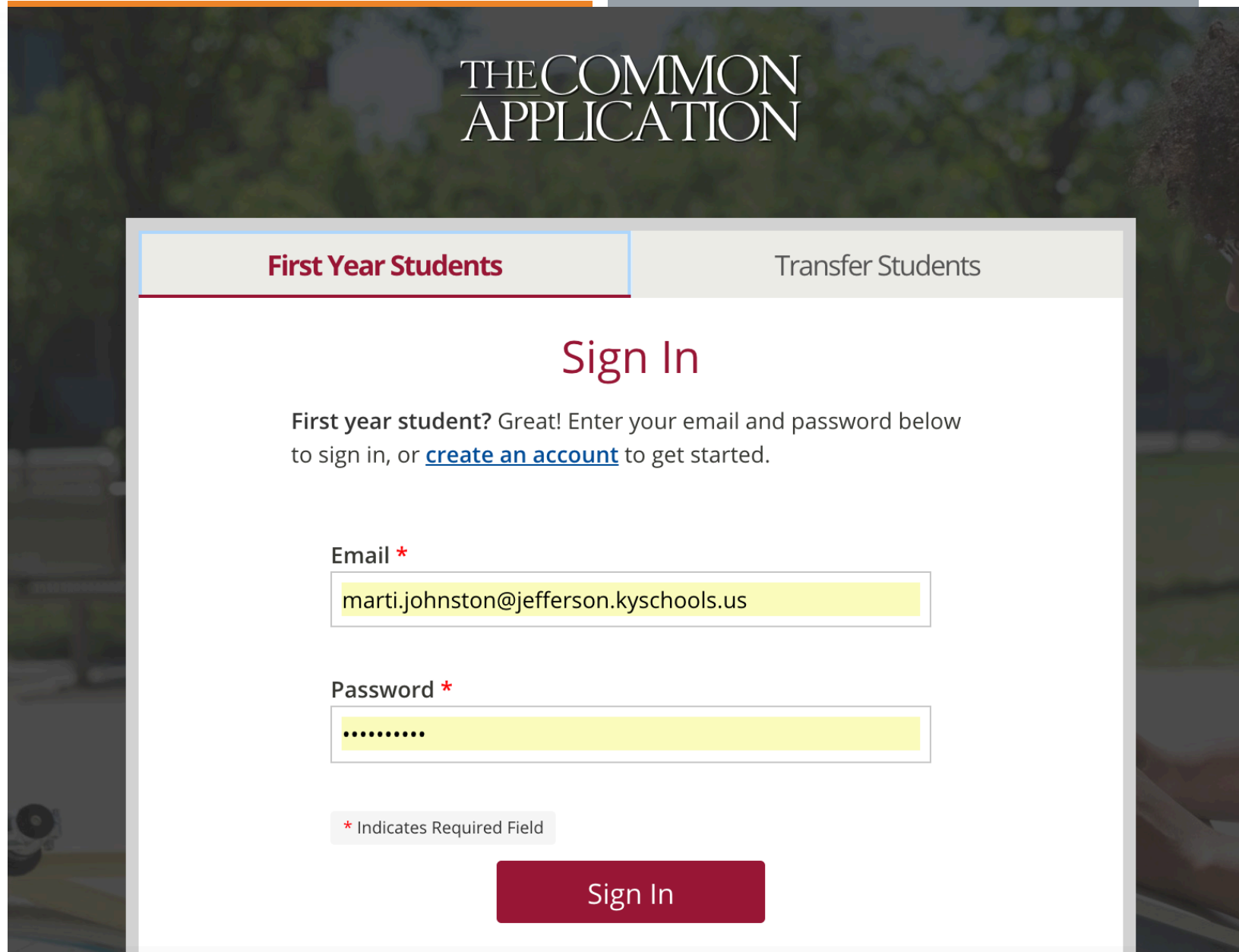
- Honors Colleges
- Travel/Study Abroad
- Renewable Scholarships
- Research at the Freshman Level
- Study Communities – Housed by Majors/Areas of Interest
- Rock Star Effect – One of the top students on a public school campus vs. one of the top students on an ivy/competitive campus with other top students.
- Freshman level courses taught by full professors, not graduate assistants (GA's)

# ADMISSION OFFICES LISTEN TO ....

- Engineering School – wants more women
- Mathematics Professors – want to see conceptual creativity
- Social Scientists - students who will push issues and provoke discussions
- Biology Researchers – want at least some students who are genuinely interested in biology rather than studying it as a stepping-stone to medical school.
- Student Life – leaders who will run for student organizations; writers for student newspaper; actors to walk to stage; athletes; just plan nice kids who will make the residence hall a fun place.
- Administration – wants geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic diversity.

# THE COMMON APPLICATION

[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)  
(over 800  
colleges/universities)



The screenshot shows the Common Application Sign In page. At the top, the 'THE COMMON APPLICATION' logo is displayed. Below the logo, there are two tabs: 'First Year Students' (which is selected and highlighted with a blue border) and 'Transfer Students'. The main heading is 'Sign In'. Below this, a message reads: 'First year student? Great! Enter your email and password below to sign in, or [create an account](#) to get started.' There are two input fields: 'Email \*' with the value 'marti.johnston@jefferson.kyschools.us' and 'Password \*' with masked characters '.....'. A legend at the bottom left states '\* Indicates Required Field'. A red 'Sign In' button is at the bottom right.

THE COMMON  
APPLICATION

First Year Students      Transfer Students

Sign In

First year student? Great! Enter your email and password below to sign in, or [create an account](#) to get started.

Email \*

Password \*

\* Indicates Required Field

Sign In

## College Search

[Dashboard](#)[My Colleges](#)[Common App](#)[College Search](#)[Financial Aid Resources](#)

Criteria

Criteria

Application Requirements

College or City Name

Separate multiple search terms with a comma, e.g.: Washington, Boston

Country

Select

US State

Select

Distance from ZIP

Select

Select

Miles from

00000-0000

Term

☐ Fall 2019

☐ Spring 2019

☐ Other 2019

Deadline on or after

mm/dd/yyyy

Application Fee

☐ No fee for domestic applicants (U.S. Citizens)

☐ No fee for international applicants (Non-U.S. Citizens)

Writing Requirements

☐ Do not require the Common App personal essay

☐ Do not require additional college-specific essays

Standardized Test Policy

☐ Always Required

☐ Sometimes Required

☐ Never Required

☐ Flexible

☐ Ignored

[app.org/ca4app#!/s/CollegeSearch](#)

College	# Applied (2 yrs.)	College	# Applied (2 yrs.)
University of Louisville	1296	Ohio State University	75
University of Kentucky	607	University of Alabama	73
Western Kentucky University	397	Purdue University	69
University of Cincinnati	193	Murray State University	68
Bellarmino University	190	Northwestern	60
Centre College	149	University of N. Carolina	60
Indiana University - Bloomington	140	Boston University	58
Eastern Kentucky University	135	University of Michigan	58
Northern Kentucky University	134	Harvard University	57
Vanderbilt University	127	JCTC	53
Washington University - St. Louis	108	Yale University	52
Miami University - Ohio	82	Case Western	48
University of Chicago	77	New York University	47

College	# Applied (2 yrs.)	College	# Applied (2 yrs.)
DePaul University	45	University of Southern Calif.	35
U. of South Carolina	45	University of Virginia	35
Duke University	44	Tulane University	34
Stanford University	40	Hanover College	33
John Hopkins	38	Cornell University	32
Georgia Institute of Technology	37	Middle Tennessee State University	31
Ball State University	36	Northeastern University	31
Columbia University	35	University of Illinois	31
Emory University	35	Xavier University	31
Indiana University Southeast	35	Massachusetts Institute of Tech.	30
Princeton University	35	Wright State University	30

# THE COMMON APPLICATION

## Dashboard

- Check Requirements
- Deadlines
- Application
- Writing Supplement

Dashboard

My Colleges

Common App

College Search

Financial Aid Resources

My Colleges Requirements

My Colleges (8)	Writing Requirements	Deadline	Application	Writing Supplement	Remove
▶ Bellarmine University		11/01/2018			
▶ Centre College		12/01/2018			
▶ Cornell University		01/02/2019			
▶ Savannah College of Art and Design		07/28/2019			
▶ University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)		06/01/2019			
▶ University of Cincinnati		03/01/2019			
▶ University of Kentucky		12/01/2018			
▶ Yale University		01/02/2019			

# THE COMMON APPLICATION

## School Specific Supplements

Dashboard

My Colleges

Common App

College Search

Financial Aid Resources

Bellarmine University +

Centre College +

Cornell University -

Application

(0 of 3 Completed)

☐ Questions

☐ Recommenders and FERPA

☐ Review and Submit - Common App

Writing Supplement

(0 of 2 Completed)

☐ Questions

☐ Review and Submit - Writing Supplement

Savannah College of Art and Design +



The Ohio State University +

Preview

▼ Writing Questions

Cornell Engineering celebrates innovative problem solving that helps people, communities...the world. Consider your ideas and aspirations and describe how a Cornell Engineering education would allow you to leverage technological problem-solving to improve the world we live in. (Please limit your response to 650 words.) \*

**B** *I* U



Words entered: 0Min: 1 / Max: 650





## Education Section

- Current/Recent Secondary School
- Other Secondary Schools
- Colleges & Universities
- Grades (GPA)
- Current/Recent Year Courses
- Honors (5)
- Community-Based Organizations (3)
- Future Plans

The screenshot shows the Common Application web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Dashboard, My Colleges, Common App, College Search, and Financial Aid Resources. Below this, the 'Common Application' sidebar is visible on the left, with options: Profile, Family, Education (highlighted), Testing, Activities, Writing, and Courses & Grades (0 College(s) Require). The main content area is titled 'Education' and includes a 'Preview' button. A link to 'View Education Tutorial' is present. The Education section lists several categories with expandable arrows: Current or Most Recent Secondary School, Other Secondary Schools, Colleges & Universities, Grades, Current or Most Recent Year Courses, Honors, and Community-Based Organizations (which has a green checkmark). Below these is a 'Future Plans' section with two required fields: 'Career interest' and 'Highest degree you intend to earn', each with a dropdown menu.

Dashboard My Colleges Common App College Search Financial Aid Resources

**Common Application**

- Profile
- Family
- Education**
- Testing
- Activities
- Writing
- Courses & Grades  
0 College(s) Require

**Education** [Preview](#)

[View Education Tutorial](#)

- ▶ Current or Most Recent Secondary School
- ▶ Other Secondary Schools
- ▶ Colleges & Universities
- ▶ Grades
- ▶ Current or Most Recent Year Courses
- ▶ Honors
- ▶ Community-Based Organizations ✓

**▼ Future Plans**

**Career interest \***

Select

**Highest degree you intend to earn \***

Select

# THE COMMON APPLICATION

## Honors (5)

### ▼ Honors

If you have received any honors related to your academic achievements beginning with the ninth grade or international equivalent, please indicate number of honors. If you received more than five, please add the five most important to you. \*

Honors 1 title \*

Grade level

☐ 9☐ 10☐ 11☐ 12☐ Post-graduate

Level(s) of recognition

☐ School☐ State/Regional☐ National☐ International[Back](#)[Continue](#)

## Testing Section

Students can include  
ACT, SAT, SAT Subject  
Tests, & AP Scores

### Common Application

- ☐ Profile
  - ☐ Family
  - ☐ Education
  - ☒ Testing
  - ☐ Activities
  - ☐ Writing
- 
- ☐ Courses & Grades  
1 College(s) Require

## Testing

[Preview](#)[View Testing Tutorial](#)

### ▶ Tests Taken



### ▼ ACT Tests

Number of past ACT scores you wish to report \*

Have you taken the ACT Plus Writing test? \*

☐ Yes☐ No[Clear](#)

Number of future ACT sittings you expect \*

Highest composite score \*

Composite date \*

## Activities (10)

- Activity Type
- Position/Leadership
- Describe Activity
- Grade Levels
- Timing of Participation

☐ Testing

☒ Activities

☐ Writing

☐ Courses & Grades  
0 College(s) Require

▼ Activity 1

Activity type \*  

Student Govt./Politics

Position/Leadership description and organization name, if applicable \*  

Student Council - Secretary

Please describe this activity, including what you accomplished and any recognition you received, etc. \*  

Responsibilities included: Keep records of member volunteer hou

Participation grade levels \*

☐ 9

☐ 10

☒ 11

☒ 12

☐ Post-graduate

Timing of participation \*

☒ During school year

☐ During school break

☐ All year

Hours spent per week \*  

3

Weeks spent per year \*  

36

I intend to participate in a similar activity in college. \*

☒ Yes



# THE COMMON APPLICATION

## Writing Section (250 – 650 words)

**Common Application**

- ☐ Profile
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Testing
- ☐ Activities
- ☒ Writing
- ☐ Courses & Grades
  - 0 College(s) Require

**Writing**

Preview

[View Writing Tutorial](#)

**▼ Personal Essay**

Some colleges require submission of the personal essay with your Common Application. You may submit a personal essay to any college, even if it is not required by that college. If not required by a college, you will be given the option during submission to include your essay or not for that college. \*

☐ I understand

Here is the current list of colleges on your Dashboard and whether they require the Personal Essay.

Required	Not Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Centre College</li><li>• Cornell University</li><li>• University of Cincinnati</li><li>• Yale University</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bellarmine University</li><li>• Savannah College of Art and Design</li><li>• University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)</li><li>• University of Kentucky</li></ul>

- ☐ 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.
- ☐ 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?
- ☐ Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- ☐ Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma—anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
- ☐ Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- ☐ 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?
- ☐ 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.

## Common Application

☐ Profile☐ Family☐ Education☐ Testing☐ Activities☒ Writing☐ Courses & Grades

1 College(s) Require

## Writing

[Preview](#)[▶ View Writing Tutorial](#)

▶ Personal Essay

▶ Disciplinary History

### ▼ Additional Information

Do you wish to provide details of circumstances or qualifications not reflected in the application? \*

☒ Yes☐ No[Clear](#)

You may use the space below to provide any additional information you wish to share. \*

**B*****I*****U**

# OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES

- Overcoming personal adversity/unusual hardship
- Alumni connection
- Demonstrated Interest
- Geographic Consideration: ( in-state resident, from school with few applicants)
- Cultural awareness/experiences (Different languages spoken)
- First generation to go to college from family
- Low-economic family background
- Underrepresented minority (for reporting purposes only)
- Faculty/staff connection
- Military veteran/Peace Corps



# WHAT INFORMATION WILL ROLL OVER? (AND WHAT WON'T?)

## INFO THAT WILL ROLL OVER:

- Answers provided in the six sections of the Common App Tab:
  - Profile
  - Family
  - Education
  - Testing
  - Activities
  - Writing

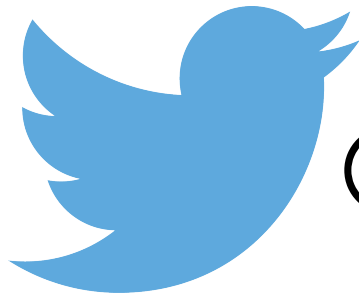
## INFO THAT WILL NOT ROLL OVER:

- Answers to college-specific questions
- Recommender invitations
- Forms submitted by recommenders
- Your Release Authorization and FERPA selection
- Responses to questions that have been changed or removed

# COUNSELOR'S ONLINE RESOURCES

Counseling Website:

[www.dupontmanualcounseling.com/](http://www.dupontmanualcounseling.com/)



@dmhsguidance

Scholarship Website:

[gomanualgo.weebly.com/](http://gomanualgo.weebly.com/)