

College Admission Application and Essay

College application requirements are different at each college; students should review the application requirements very carefully. It is important to correctly submit all the pieces required for each application. Students should never hesitate to contact the Admissions Offices of the colleges they are interested in to clarify or obtain more information. Applications will include some or all of the following:

- Application form (online or paper)
- Transcripts
- ACT or SAT scores
- Essays
- Letters of recommendation
- An interview
- An application fee

Some colleges require that students submit elements of the application through an online portal called the Common Application. Other schools require that applications be submitted directly to the Admissions Office, electronically or via postal mail. If the institution is a Common Application member, students can apply to multiple institutions by filling out one application. Keep copies of everything sent to the college, as it could be useful for scholarship applications in the spring.

An application fee may be required in order to submit an application. Some schools may waive the fee if the application is submitted online. Application fee waivers are available to students who qualify. (Students should talk to their LEAF Advisor or Guidance Counselor to see if they are eligible for application fee waivers.)

It is very important to know application deadlines. Generally, students should have applications finished by Thanksgiving. Note that colleges may have earlier deadlines for applications that are to be considered for academic or merit scholarships.