

# College Application FAQs

Here are some common questions that we get from students during the college application cycle. This is the same information that we communicated to students and parents in our college information nights, college advising meetings, and during collaboration periods. We thought it may be useful to combine this information in a cohesive and easily accessible document for your reference.

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## Questions regarding college applications

### What should I know about the differences between the CSU, UC, Common App & Out-of-State Applications?

#### CSU

- Self reporting schools - no need to request transcripts
- Send test scores to CSU Mentor

#### UC

- Self reporting schools - no need to request transcripts
- Send test scores to one UC

#### Common App

- Transcripts will be included in the counselor school report - no need to request transcripts
- Rank - Jesuit does not rank
- Class size is 269
- Grading is on a 4.0 Weighted scale
- Send test scores

#### Out of State Public

- Transcripts needed - request through Naviance
- Texas! Apply as soon as possible - they have hard deadlines and will cancel your application if all documents are not in by the deadline

## Questions regarding requesting college documents

### How do I request transcripts?

Transcript requests are not needed if you are applying to a CSU, UC or through Common App. All other schools, transcripts are requested through Naviance as we send them electronically.

### How do I get a letter of recommendation from my counselor?

Letters of recommendation are an extremely important part of any private university application. Counselors are required to write letters of recommendation for each student that indicates that they will be applying through the Common Application or some other application portal for private schools.

**Students need to inform counselors of their intent to apply to a private university in a timely manner (please refer to the application request deadline grid below).** Seniors must turn in their **College Document Request Form** (bright yellow) with the required documents submitted to Naviance

(the Student Self-Assessment, Parent Brag Sheet, etc) **before** a counselor will begin working on their college application documents.

| If application is due in:        | Request recommendation by: |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| November (early action/decision) | September 29               |
| December                         | October 27                 |
| January                          | November 17                |
| February                         | January 10                 |

**Teachers must be afforded the same deadlines!**

**IMPORTANT:** Once you have personally asked your teacher/counselor for a recommendation, you **MUST add them to your list of recommenders in the Common App**. Until you make this crucial step, teachers/counselors will **not** start your letter. Furthermore, you **MUST** add your teacher/counselor to the Common App **PRIOR** to the deadlines stated above in order to have your materials transmitted to your colleges of choice in time.

**How do I add teachers and counselors to my common app for their letters of recommendation?**

- On the Common App, you can add teachers and counselors to your list of recommenders once you have completed up to the “Grades” tab in the “Education” section of the Common Application.
- After you complete through the “Grades” tab, you can click on one of the universities you are applying to under the “My Colleges” tab
- Click on “Recommenders and FERPA”
  - Complete the FERPA Waiver
  - Click on “Invite and Manage Recommenders”
  - Add both your teacher and counselor recommenders (make sure that you use the @jesuithighschool email address)
  - An email will be sent to all of your recommenders

*We are strongly urging you to complete this task in the Common Application immediately after personally asking your teachers for a letter, so that there is no delay in getting your recommendations completed and submitted.*

**Will we be using Naviance for requesting letters of recommendation?**

No we will not be using Naviance for requesting letters of recommendation. Please use the Common App to make this request or whatever the private university application(s) requires (such as SendEdu).

**What happens if I don’t get all of my letter of recommendation requests in on time, or if I don’t submit all of my materials to my counselor (such as the Student Self Assessment, resume, etc)?**

As long as counselors have at least some form of written communication that you have a pending application, they will submit a letter and the official documents regardless of whether or not forms are actually turned in. **HOWEVER**, counselors strive to write the best possible letters for their students in every situation. If documents are not submitted in a timely manner or turned in at all, that will severely impact the counselor’s ability to write a standout letter of recommendation. Also, the counselor may not be able to submit your application materials (including the letter of recommendation) on time.

**Should I wait until the counselor/teacher submits their materials before I send my application?**

No! Your application should be submitted by your deadline regardless of teacher or counselor submissions

**MISC College App questions**

**Is there an advantage to applying early action? Early decision?**

According to most universities, there is no significant advantage to applying in early action (beyond, perhaps, just getting an earlier decision from the university). So when applying early, you need to make sure that your application is the best it's going to be (in terms of test scores and first semester senior grades). You also want to be sure that the school doesn't make the early action decision the final decision, and that they will roll you into regular decision if they don't accept you early. Typically you can apply to multiple schools in early action.

According to most universities, there is a slight advantage to applying early decision. However, you still need to be competitive and need to be absolutely sure that you want to attend there, since it is binding. You can only apply to one school using the early decision contract.

**My application isn't due until May/June. Does that mean that I can wait until then to submit my app materials?**

If a college lists its application deadline sometime from April-June, there is a pretty good chance that that college is accepting apps on a **rolling admissions** basis. Where most schools set a deadline and wait until that time to start reviewing applications, schools who are accepting application on a rolling basis review applications as they come in. This means that space will start to fill-up early as eligible students get their applications in early. As time goes on in the admissions cycle, it gets more competitive for the remaining spots. Do not wait to submit your application if you are waiting on test scores. Just get it in so they can start reviewing your application with what you have. To be considered for financial aid, students should apply by February.

**What is an SSID?**

When you fill out your UC App, you will come across a question asking for your SSID. It is a public school student ID number. You can simply ignore that question.

**Do I have to file a FAFSA?**

Every family should file a FAFSA - even if you think you make too much money. Access your FAFSA starting Aug 1st. Complete and submit shortly after that

**What is the CSS Profile?**

Many private universities will require their applicants to also fill out a CSS profile in order to get non-federal financial aid. It's done through College Board. You can find more information about CSS profiles at:

<https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>

Below is the link for the schools that require the CSS Profile

<http://css-profile.com/schools-require-css-profile/>

**Should take SAT II Subject Tests?**

They are required for very competitive universities and programs. Please check with all of your schools to see if they require a subject test. UC schools require them for some majors.

**What is Cash for College Workshops?**

- Free workshops at local public schools or libraries
- Help with FAFSA and other financial questions

**Other helpful tips:**

Take a moment to write a thank you note or personally thank your recommenders for writing a letter on your behalf.