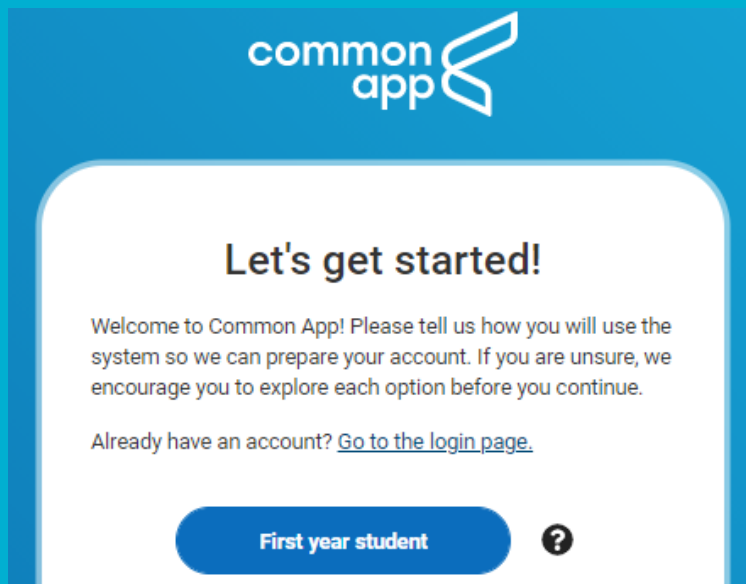


# Top 10 Common App Tips

**#1 - Create your account today and play with it, the app will be less scary.**



Which best describes you? I am: \*

- Applying as a first-year student and plan to start college in 2020 or 2021
- Planning to start college in 2022
- Planning to start college in 2023 or beyond

Clear Answer

Please review the following:

- Common App may share my contact information with colleges that I am considering applying to so they may communicate with me prior to the submission of my application (you can change the response later within your account settings).
- Common App may communicate with me by email, phone or text message about my account, information relevant to the college admissions process, and my college experience (you can change this response later within your account settings).
- By checking this box, I agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) (unless I am under the age of 18, in which case, I represent that my parent or legal guardian also agrees to the Terms of Use on my behalf).\*

Back

Create Account

# Tip #2 - Get the specifics in the Profile right, don't rush, check if you're not sure



## Profile

✓ Personal Information

Address

Contact Details

Demographics

Geography

Language

Citizenship

### Citizenship

Select your citizenship status\*

U.S. Citizen or U.S. National



Social Security Number, required if applying for financial aid via FAFSA

XXX-XX-XXXX

Continue

# Tip #3 - Education: time to learn all the details about how we grade that you never wanted to know

## Current or Most Recent Year Courses

Please list all courses you are taking this academic year. If you are not currently enrolled, please list courses from your most recent academic year.

How many courses would you like to report?\*

7



Please select the course scheduling system your institution is using.\*

Semester

Trimester

Quarter

Clear answer



## Grades

Graduating class size (approx.)\*

530

Class rank reporting

Exact

Decile

Quintile

Quartile

None

Clear answer

GPA Scale reporting

4

# Tip #4 - Decide if you're Test Optional, see if you only self-report scores or need to send from SAT/ACT

**Tests Taken** ▼

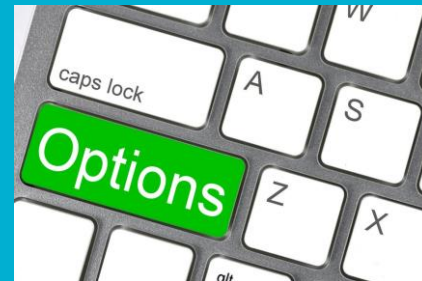
In addition to sending official score reports as required by colleges, do you wish to self-report scores or future test dates for any of the following standardized tests: ACT, SAT/SAT Subject, AP, IB, TOEFL, PTE Academic, and IELTS?\*

Yes  
 No

[Clear answer](#)

Indicate all tests you wish to report. Be sure to include tests you expect to take in addition to tests you have already taken.\*

SAT (March 2016 or after) × ▼



You fill this in first THEN choose if you are test optional on the college tab. Say "No" if you already know you won't submit scores.

**Tip #5 - Put your favorite Activities first, be specific on what you personally did, active (volunteering) is better than passive (belonging to a club that only has meetings)**



✕ Preview Activities Section

## Activities

Art

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 11,12             | Summer Art Counselor, Temple Rodef Shalom   |
| Break             |   |
| 30 hr/wk, 6 wk/yr | Taught 50 campers grades 5-6 in stenciling, painting, and sculpture through interactive projects. Gave feedback to campers and parents. |

# Tip #6 - Make the Writing section all about what you want to say, you're not just answering questions

## Additional Information

Community disruptions such as COVID-19 deep and long-lasting impacts. If you need those impacts. Colleges care about the eff  
safety, family circumstances, future plans



This and the "Additional Info" short answers are like free space - use them if you can!



## Disciplinary History

## Personal Essay

Some colleges require submission of the personal essay with your Common App. 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.\*

# Tip #7 - Before you do this section, find out what the colleges want and strategize



✓ I have read and understood the FERPA Release Authorization explanation above.\*

## Recommenders & FERPA

✓ FERPA Release Authorization

[View Details](#) ▾

### Invite Recommenders

Recommenders are people who will submit forms a

[Invite Recommenders](#)

### ⚠ Counselor

You must invite a school Counselor who will comple

[Invite Counselor](#)



Tip #8 - Don't stress the "intended major" question, just pick your top interest or "Undecided"

## Questions

✓ General

### Academics

In this section of the application, you will make decisions about your program of interest and the campus you would like to attend. Please begin by choosing the type of degree you would like to complete.

Type of Degree\*

Baccalaureate (4-year)



! Intended Major/Program of Study\*

- Choose an option -

Please complete this required question.



## Virginia Commonwealth University

[Add your term or admission plan](#)


 [Application](#) – *In progress*

Show more details ▲

### Application Status


 [Common App](#) – *In progress*

 [Questions](#) – *In progress*


 [Recommenders and FERPA](#) – *In progress*

### Writing Requirements

[Common App Personal Essay](#)

 Required

### College Questions

 Additional Details

Applicants who select Cinema or Art History in the Academics section v  
question.

### Writing Supplement

This college does not use a writing supplement for any additional writin

# Tip #9 – Use your Dashboard to plan ahead

Application Requirements

**Do this!!**



# Tip #10 - Don't do 10 tips in 30 minutes, it's too much, so here's this great new feature from tip #9

## Application requirements

Scroll for more information

Download requirements grid

Search

My Colleges Or

All Colleges

| College name ↑                              | Institution ? | Deadlines  |      |    |            |     |            | App fees ? |       | Common App ? |     | Supplements ? |    | Test policy |
|---|---------------|------------|------|----|------------|-----|------------|------------|-------|--------------|-----|---------------|----|-------------|
|   | Type          | ED         | EDII | EA | EAI        | REA | RD/Rolling | US         | Int'l | PE           | C&G | Portfolio     | WS |             |
| Clemson University                          | Coed          |            |      |    |            |     | 5/1/2021   | \$70       | \$70  |              | ✓   |               |    | Always Requ |
| George Mason University                     | Coed          |            |      |    | 11/15/2020 |     | 2/1/2021   | \$70       | \$80  |              |     |               | ✓  | Sometimes   |
| Penn State                                  | Coed          |            |      |    | 11/15/2020 |     | 7/28/2021  | \$65       | \$75  |              |     |               |    | Sometimes   |
| University of Lynchburg                     | Coed          | 11/15/2020 |      |    | 10/15/2020 |     | 7/27/2021  | \$0        | \$0   |              |     |               |    | Ignored     |
| University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | Coed          |            |      |    | 10/15/2020 |     | 1/15/2021  | \$85       | \$85  | ✓            |     |               |    | Never Requi |