



Common App Tips & FAQs



[AXS Companion to Common App](#)

- Keep your college list and admission plan (i.e. Early Action or Regular Decision) up to date in your Common App account so your recommenders can keep up with deadlines for materials.
- AFHS approximated graduating class size -**649**. Class Rank reporting - **Exact** GPA scale- **4 Weighted**
- Use the Applications Requirement Grid to keep track of deadlines, application fees, recommendations needed, etc.

College name ↑	Institution ?	Deadlines						App fees ?		Common App ?		Supplements ?		Minimum standard test required ?			Recommendations			
	Type	ED	EDII	EA	EAI	REA	RD/Rolling	US	Int'l	PE	C&G	Portfolio	WS	Test policy	SAT/ACT tests used	Int'l	TE	OE	MR	CR
Appalachian State University	Coed			11/1/2023			7/26/2024	\$65	\$65	✓				Sometimes required	SAT without Essay or ACT without Essay	See website	0	0		
Brown University	Coed	11/1/2023					1/3/2024	\$75	\$75	✓		SR	✓	Never required	See website	See website	2	0	✓	✓
Duke University	Coed	11/1/2023					1/2/2024	\$85	\$85	✓		SR	✓	Never required	See website	None	2	0	✓	✓
East Carolina University	Coed						4/1/2024	\$75	\$75	✓				Ignored	See website	See website	0	0		
Elon University	Coed	11/1/2023		11/1/2023			1/10/2024	\$60	\$60	✓				Sometimes required	SAT without Essay or ACT without Essay	IELTS or TOEFL or Duolingo	0	0		✓

- Make the most of your activity section, within 150 words
- Keep the big picture in mind- what do you want colleges to know about you after reviewing your application?
- Submit when you are ready, by YOUR deadline, do not wait on recommenders or counselor reports



College Essay Tips



[How to present your best self. How to approach certain prompts and prompts to avoid.](#) Click here or use the QR code!

- ★ Answer the question!
- ★ Be authentic
- ★ Share your personality
- ★ Consider how the question specifically relates to **you** and make your essay about you
- ★ Brainstorm and take notes first
- ★ For your first draft, just write
- ★ Structure matters
- ★ Be creative, tell your story well
- ★ Be honest
- ★ Proofread and make corrections
 - Try reading the essay out loud to yourself to catch mistakes
- ★ Feedback is essential

“Common App College Essay” = Specific University “Personal Statement”
(These both just mean longer written response)

English Class Essays vs. Personal Statements

English Class Essays

- **Purpose:** To make an argument and support with evidence.
- **Thesis** is often explicit, and appears in first paragraph.
- **Tone:** More analytical, often examining a specific text.
- **"I" statements:** ❌
- **Vulnerability:** ❌
- Help you understand how a student thinks.

Personal Statements

- **Purpose:** To demonstrate the values, skills, qualities, and interests you'll bring with you to a college campus.
- **Thesis** is often implied or not stated at all. If one does appear, often at/near end.
- **Tone:** More casual, personal-you are the "text."
- **"I" statements:** ✅
- **Vulnerability:** ✅
- Help you understand how a student thinks, feels, works, plays and lives.



[Common App First Year Essay Prompts, Getting Started Video](#)