The College Application: An Insider’s View

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Types of Admission Applications

The Common Application

The Coalition Application

Individual Institution Applications
The “Common App” is an organization serving students and institutions by providing an application which can be submitted to over 500 institutions who participate in the Common Application membership.

The Common App thus helps provide access to higher education by allowing students to apply to multiple institutions with one application form.
Pop Up Question!

How many institutions are part of the Common Application?

Over 500!
Individual Institution Application

Some institutions have their own application for general admissions. Other institutions may have their own application for special programs, scholarships, or academic departments.

Make sure to check each schools’ webpage.
Coalition Application
COALITION for ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, and SUCCESS

VIRTUAL LOCKER

COLLABORATION PLATFORM

APPLICATION PORTAL
Pop Up Question!

How many institutions are part of the Coalition Application?

90!
Affordability

Coalition schools represent a range of public schools with low-cost, in-state tuitions and private schools committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all their admitted domestic students.
Coalition Benefits for Students and Families

• A single platform to plan, build, organize, and refine a student’s application to a variety of excellent institutions.
• Confidence that if admitted to any Coalition school, they will be offered a responsible financial aid package and have a strong likelihood of college success.
• Coalition schools can be trusted to meet their committed to access and outcomes.
Coalition Benefits for Mentors & Counselors
Using the Platform

- Free college planning tools to aid mentors and counselors in their work with students.
- Free platform for online storage of college planning and application materials
- The Coalition represents schools that can be recommended on access, affordability, and success.
- A single location for researching schools, organizing materials, and at the appropriate time applying to Coalition schools.
- The Coalition platform emphasizes credential and application security, ensuring a dependable submission process.
Coalition Benefits for Students

- Central site for students to begin the college search and planning process.
- Online space for students to collect academic documents, record extracurricular activities, and log observations, reflections, and ideas.
- A platform that is user-friendly and fully responsive, allowing students and families to engage through any computer, tablet, or mobile device.
- Students can choose appropriate items from their Lockers to use in their applications to Coalition and non-Coalition schools.
- Online platform for students to engage their support network (parents, mentors, counselors) to view items from their Locker and provide advice and guidance to the student.
- One application platform allowing for application to a wide range of public and private colleges and universities from one site.
Pop Up Question!

Who benefits from using the Coalition?

Parents | Mentors
Counselors | STUDENTS
Components of the Application

Most colleges require several basic elements:

**Application Form:**
Demographic Information, Family Educational Background, Residency

**Application Fee:**
Are there waivers or exemptions available?

**High School Transcripts**

**Test Scores:**
SAT, SAT II, Subject Test, ACT, Test Optional

**Letter(s) of Recommendation:**
How many? From whom?

**College Essay(s)**

**Activity Sheet or Resume**

**Short Answer Questions**
Types of Review

- Holistic and Committee Review
- Data Driven
- Open Enrollment
26 FACTORS

- High school achievement
- Grades in academic subjects
- Progression of performance
- Rank in class (actual or percentile)
- Written expression of ideas (essays)
- Gender
- SAT I or ACT scores
- Work experience
- Extenuating circumstances
- Recognition of special achievement
- Socio-economic background
- Breadth of life experiences
- Extracurricular activities
- Special talents and skills
- Community involvement
- Community service
- Demonstrated leadership
- Academic endeavors outside the classroom
- Quality of coursework
- Residency status
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Family educational background
- Learning differences
- English as a second-language / Language spoken at home
- Geographic origin
# Application Deadlines

## Understanding the types of deadlines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Decision</td>
<td>• Binding contract.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Action</td>
<td>• Non-binding, but still provides benefits of applying early.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>• Non-binding, priority consideration for merit scholarships, special programs, &amp; admissions.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <strong>UMD uses a priority deadline (November 1st)!</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Decision</td>
<td>• Final deadline. No special benefits or extra consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolling</td>
<td>• No fixed deadline, notifications come depending on school policies.</td>
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</tbody>
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Meeting Application Deadlines

- Meeting an application deadline means submitting **ALL** of the required documents by the stated date—not just the application form.

- Most institutions will accept documents as meeting the deadline as long as they are **postmarked** by the required date.

- Submitting applications and documents **early** is the best way to be sure that they are meeting the deadline.

- Although many early deadlines are not until November or December, most institutions begin accepting applications as early as August or September!
Checking Your Application Status

What is the next step after submitting your application? Checking its status!

• Checking on your application status is just as important as meeting an application deadline

• Checking your status allows you to verify that all of your submitted materials have been received

• Most institutions offer several options to check on your application’s status
Pop Up Question!

What are three ways you can check your application status?

Email | Call | Tracker
### Admissions Decisions

#### Understanding the types of decisions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Decision Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>• Admitted for Fall Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>• Admitted for Spring Term; Freshman Abroad, Freshman Connection, Community College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waitlisted</td>
<td>• From Spring to Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denied</td>
<td>• Not offered admission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I’ve completed my applications. Now what?

Relax!

Send any important updates to the schools where you applied (ex. mid-year grades, new awards or achievements)

Check your email. Some decisions may be released electronically. If your email changes, make sure you’ve notified all the schools where you applied.

Have patience!
Examples of UMD Applicants

What do you think was the decision of these applicants?

Student A
- 4.1
- 1500 New SAT
- President of Red Cross Club, National Math Honor Society, Salvation Army Club & Anime Club and involved in several other extracurricular activities
Examples of UMD Applicants

What do you think was the decision of these applicants?

Student B
- 3.9
- 29 (1380 New SAT)
- 1 C freshman year
- 3 sport athlete, Girl Scout, involved in several religious groups, SADD, Executive SGA representative, went on mission trips, mentor, many hours of community service
Examples of UMD Applicants

What do you think was the decision of these applicants?

Student C
- 4.19
- 2 C's junior year
- 1300 New SAT
- Participated in a food drive for two years, multiple honor roll awards and multiple attendance awards
Helpful Hints

• Most institutions post their updated application each year around August 1st—it’s never too early to get started!

• Don’t be afraid to ask for help!
  • Have a teacher, friend, or parent proof-read your essay or résumé

• Make sure you give your guidance counselor, teacher, or coach plenty of time to write your recommendation letter.
  • Remember, they probably have other students asking, too!
  • At least two weeks is appreciated, three-four weeks if possible.
Good luck with your applications!

Questions?