

GUIDED TOUR OF THE COMMON APPLICATION

TIGER UNIVERSITY 2018



Common App Training

A Common Application Tour

Getting Started: (00:14)

Dashboard: (00:49)

My Colleges: (03:06)

Common App: (03:41)

College Search: (04:03)

Financial Aid Resources: (04:27)

Help: (04:45)

PRESENTING THE STUDENT

- Universities are looking for distinctive applicants that will enrich/enhance the academic community with dynamic leadership, social, cultural, and ethnic diversity, and academic or artistic brilliance. What is the message that you want to create with the Common Application?
 - This is a student who has challenged themselves - they have taken advantage of academic opportunities - the most rigorous educational options - the most challenging coursework available in that community.
 - The student has distinguished themselves in the context of a rigorous course of study: present the quality and quantity of coursework, grades, test scores, honors/awards, extensive leadership and service. Present themselves as having a diversity of interests and experiences.
 - Present a consistent, application-wide message that this student has integrity and character. That they are unique, distinctive, a person of influence and a “game-changer.” They possess special, desirable, unique skill sets; extensive leadership, service experiences, internships. They are artistic, athletic, civic, cultural, religious, have interests that set them apart.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO START THE COMMON APPLICATION

- Create a special college application email address
- Copy of high school transcripts and any college transcripts
- Copy of ACT/SAT/AP/IB test scores with dates
- Student's Resume or Brag Sheet
- Contact information for Teacher and Counselor recommendations
- Student's intended college major or course of study
- List of Colleges that you will apply to. It is normally a \$75 per school application fee with the Common Application but can range between \$20 to \$90. Each school has a different application fee.
- There is a fee waiver within the application that is approved by your school counselor.
- Your private college application list should be 5-15 schools.
- Due dates vary depending on college so be sure to note the different due dates.

STUDENT BRAG SHEET OR RESUME

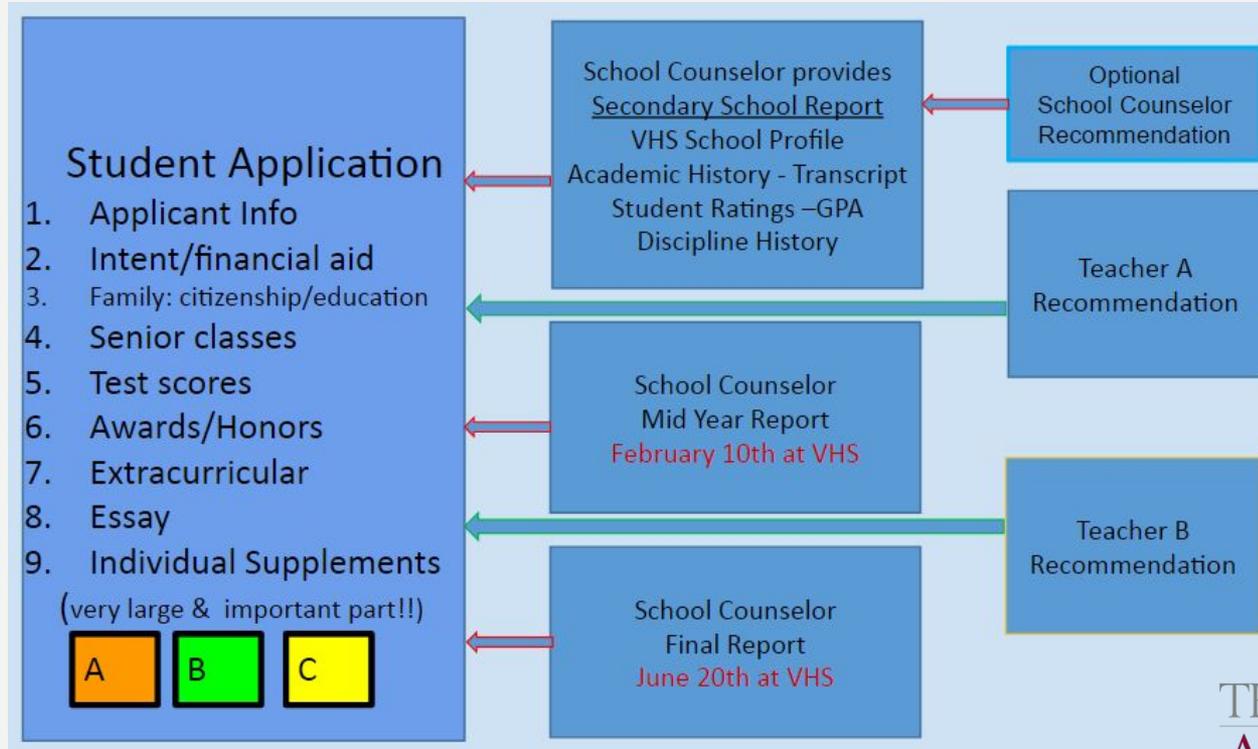
- Will want to provide a copy of your Brag Sheet to Counselors and Recommenders at least 2 weeks prior to application due date.
- Includes:
 - List of honors and awards: NHS, CSF, IB/Val Tech/AVID, AP Scholar, National Merit, Academic Decathlon, Boys/Girls State, Mock Trial Lead Attorney
 - Leadership experiences can include: Club leadership, team captain, first chair orchestra, Scouts, Jr.High counselor at church, committees, boards
 - Service activities: school - civic - religious (include total hours)
 - Membership: teams, clubs, job, civic groups, religious. Some examples are: Boy Scouts, Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, California Conservancy
 - Fine arts/performing arts: band, orchestra, martial arts, choir
 - Travel: missions trips, educational tours, teaching English, medical missions, orphanages, Habitat for Humanity.
 - College classes, summer programs, residential programs and internships.
- Brag Sheets can be found on the VHS website on the bottom of the College and Career Center page or in the College and Career Center.



APPLICATION

WWW.COMMONAPP.ORG

THE COMMON APPLICATION IS A COMPILATION OF SEVERAL DOCUMENTS



COMMON APP: PROFILE

- Personal Information
- Address
- Contact Information
 - Be sure to review this as it will be the main form of communication
- Demographics
 - Not required but you do need to check the affirmation section that states you have completed this section to your satisfaction
- Geography
 - Information on students birthplace
- Language
 - Languages that the student is proficient in
- Citizenship
- Scholarship Information
 - If the student is interested in being connected with scholarships
- Common App Fee Waiver
 - Counselors will verify eligibility of the student

COMMON APP: FAMILY

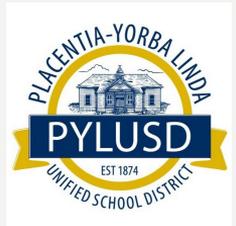
- Household
 - Parent marital status, information based on who the student lives with
- Parent 1/ Parent 2 Information
 - List parent name, country of birth, occupation, and education level
- Siblings
 - Can list up to 5 siblings
 - Asks the siblings name, age, relationship, and educational level

COMMON APP: EDUCATION

- Current School
 - Will need Counselor Name, title, email address, and phone number
- Other High Schools
- Community Based Organization
 - If you received assistance with the application process
- Educational Interruptions
- Colleges and Universities
 - If student has taken a college course at a college during high school
- Grades
 - Class Rank: None (PYLUSD does not rank)
 - Graduating Class size: 667
- Current Courses
- Honors
 - List up to 5 honors related to your academic achievements
 - The theme here is the student's most distinctive awards and honors.
- Future Plans
 - Career interest and highest degree looking to earn

PYUSD SCHOOL BOARD DECISION TO ELIMINATE USE OF CLASS RANK

- Use of rank penalizes students - university admissions staff do not have to look at entire application - review whole student application - could use rank as a shortcut - “Valencia, you tell us who your best student is?”
- Determination of rank is imprecise and can be discriminatory. The criteria used to determine rank is not always the most important criteria for evaluating top students. Example: taking extra classes “waters down” the GPA and thus penalizes the ambitious student.
- Statistically, class rank is only valid with a “neighborhood” school. Magnet programs have a disproportionate number of high ranking students. (Example: VHS currently has 116 seniors with over a 4.0 GPA).
- The Common Application School Report allows counselor to identify the top GPA in the class - which identifies the top student GPA but does not penalize others.



COMMON APP: TESTING

- Students will manually enter the tests they have taken.
 - When self reporting scores students:
 - Pick the type of test(s) they will be reporting
 - Once the type of test is picked there will be a drop down for the specific test(s) chosen
 - Need highest scores on each test and date taken
 - Will need to send Official test scores to each college



COMMON APP: ACTIVITIES

- Can list up to 10 activities- list by importance to you
 - Activity Type, Organization name, leadership position, description of and accomplishments within the activity, grade participated, timing of participation within the year, hours spent a week, and weeks spent per year
- This should be a comprehensive list of all “out of class” activities - everything of value that the student does: clubs, club sports, music, music recitals, volunteerism, boy scouts, martial arts, church, temple, political, coaching, teaching, counseling, mentoring younger children, entrepreneurial activities, committees, missions trips, educational trips. Lighter weight activities such as hobbies (sewing, online gaming, etc.) and gym memberships can be used only if you are struggling to find ten.

COMMON APP: WRITING

- The essay is very important but often neglected by busy seniors. Must be on topic and should have gone through formal draft reviews. Value of adult eyes and perspectives. Cannot spend too much time and energy on the essay.
- For the Personal Essay, students need to pick 1 of 7 available prompts (250-650 words)
 1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
 2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
 3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
 4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
 5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
 6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
 7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.
- Additional information section is for you to share relevant information about yourself that is not captured elsewhere in the application.

COMMON APP: COURSES AND GRADES

- Self-reporting student's grades is a new section as of last year.
- There are currently 20 schools that utilize the courses and grades section. Students should have a copy of their transcript with them when entering the courses and grades as information needs to be inputted exactly as it is shown on the transcript.
- Remember Valencia High School is on the semester system and for each course students pass they receive 5 credits per semester.
- Counselors will still submit the student's transcript through the School Report section even if the student manually enters their courses and grades. This is why it is important to enter information exactly as it is written on your transcript.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Some schools may require additional information, this can be found under the Dashboard or My College tab:
- Recommendations: Will want to “Invite and Assign” counselor, teachers, or other recommenders. Should have the recommender’s email address so the forms are emailed directly to them, otherwise it will need to be done offline using paper forms. Must assign your recommenders to each school you want them to complete the recommendation for.
- FERPA: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Protects the privacy of student academic records. Gives consent to the HS to release records to colleges you are applying to. Only needs to be completed once and will be applied to all schools on the Common App.
- Supplements: Like the essay, very important and can be lengthy. Each school will have their own requirements in this section. This is where you convince the specific college that you will be a good fit for their school and that you will make a dynamic contribution to their campus academic community.

COMMON APP

REMINDER: DUE DATES ARE DIFFERENT FOR EACH COLLEGE SO BE SURE TO KEEP TRACK USING THE DASHBOARD TAB.

WWW.COMMONAPP.ORG

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvI8Y0DbUFY>

QUESTIONS?