Unit 4
College Applications
5 Things You Need to Know About College Admission
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1. You can get in. Really.
   College admission isn't as competitive as you might think. Fewer than 100 colleges in the U.S. are highly selective, which means they accept less than 25 percent of applicants. Close to 500 four-year colleges accept more than 75 percent of applicants. And open-admission colleges accept all or most high school graduates.

2. You are more than test scores.
   Colleges care most about the work you've done in high school. They look for students who have earned strong grades in challenging courses. They also try to learn about your character by looking at what you do outside the classroom. Take advantage of opportunities like the application essay and college interview to show a more complete picture of who you are.

3. You are in charge.
   This is your big future—you're in the driver's seat. Stay focused on what's important to you and what you want to get out of the college experience. College planning can feel overwhelming at times, but if you take charge and stay focused on your goals, you can make it work for you.

4. You are unique.
   You should base your choice on how well a college fits your needs. Don't worry about how it's ranked on a list or how famous it is. The effort you put in and the opportunities you take advantage of once you get there matter more than the college you go to. Once you graduate from college, your achievements and skills will matter most.

5. You are not in this alone.
   Family, teachers and friends are a great resource. Discuss your plans to go to college with them and ask for help and advice. Make an appointment with a school counselor or your principal to talk about the application process, colleges that will suit you and options for financial aid.
Deciding on How to Apply
Ways to Apply

1. Directly to each college individually through their website
2. Common App
How Will You Know What Application Process to Select

1. Check and see how your colleges want to receive applications.
   For Example: Oakland University only accepts direct applications
   University of Michigan only accepts Common App
   Wayne State accepts both

2. Make a list of where you want to apply and how each institution accepts applications. (You can find this information on the university website, or Naviance will tell you under the "colleges I'm thinking about" tab).

3. The number of institutions that use Common App Vs. the number of direct applications will help you determine if it is worth your time to use Common App.
Common Application Pro's and Con's

• Common App basically has anything that any college will want to know about you so obviously this is a more time-consuming process.

• Common App requires essays and letters of recommendation.

• If you are applying to 4-5 schools that allow direct applications or Common App it would probably be easier to just do those 4-5 applications direct and not set up a Common App account.

• If you are applying to a school that requires common app then you would use the common app for the others that allow you to choose.

• If you are applying to University of Michigan, you will have to use common app so that decision is done.
Tips for Preparing Your College Application
Correctly submitting all the different pieces of your college application is like a test — one you can easily pass. While the process may seem complicated, a little organization and attention go a long way. Watch Estelle's Story "When it felt impossible, I broke it into steps."
Information Needed

Regardless of the format, colleges often ask for the following on the application form. Make sure you have this information ready before you begin the application process.

• **Personal Information**– Your name, email address (this time do not use your school email address), phone number, high school, college credits already earned, standardized test scores, citizenship information, social security number, date of birth, list of classes you are taking your senior year and your GPA.

• **Extracurriculars**– Explain what you’ve done outside of class, and how much time you devoted to it. In addition to traditional extracurricular activities, remember to include part-time jobs or other obligations like taking care of siblings.

• **Summer Activities**– Explain summer jobs, internships, or other enrichment opportunities.

• **Essays** – Submit the essays that you’ve written. (Not all applications require an essay)

• **Honors/AP**– List any honors you’ve received along with the context. How many students competed for the honor? How many students received it? Why is it important?

• **Application fee** – Pay for your application to officially submit it. If the cost is too high, speak with your guidance counselor or the college's financial aid office; fee waivers are often available so that you can submit the applications for free.

• **Standardized Test Scores** – In addition to listing your SAT and/or ACT scores on your college application, you will be required to submit official score reports. These must come sent directly from the College Board (SAT) or the ACT to the college. You can select colleges to receive your scores while you are registering to take the tests, or you can do it later when you get your scores back. Many colleges also ask that you submit results for AP or SAT Subject tests that you’ve taken.
How to Complete a Common App
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There is a lot of information for you to understand and complete in the Common App. This set of resources will help you get organized and start the application process.

Common App toolkit for first time students

For video tutorials on Common App you can subscribe to the common App channel on YouTube. Common App Media on youtube