



College Application FAQs

College applications can be short (just a page or two) or they can be many pages long. You'll almost always be asked to provide several details about your educational background and plans, and sometimes you'll be asked to share some information about your parents' education, too. You might be asked to provide information to prove your residency in Oregon. You may need to submit an activities resume or an essay.

Many students have questions about the things applications require you to share. This sheet will answer many of them. If we've missed anything, be sure to ask your counselor, teacher, mentor, or a friend who has already completed their applications! These topics are listed in the order they are most likely to appear on applications, but as you'll soon discover – no two applications are the same.

Enrollment Information

What is my entering term and year? Most students will select the Fall semester following senior year; however, choose the summer option if you intend to attend summer school prior to Fall enrollment.

What is my entrance status? The following are definitions for each status.

Freshman: This will be the first college or university in which you enroll after graduating high school. Check this even if you have advanced placement (AP) credit, or have done dual enrollment or dual credit classes (e.g. Eastern Promise or Western Promise), or have earned college credit in high school.

Transfer: If you are graduating high school in the coming year and going directly to college, you are **NOT** a transfer student even if you have college credit.

Non Degree: You want to take college course(s) but are not planning to earn a degree, such as an AA, BA, BS, or similar.

What is my desired major? Under First Choice, you can choose your first choice of majors. You may check "Undecided." Please note that you can change your major during your college program.

Name and ID Numbers

I never go by my full name. Can I just use my nickname? No. You need to provide your full legal name on your college applications. This is one of the ways the admissions office matches up all the supplemental information (transcripts, test scores, etc.) to your application form. Be sure to provide your full name, including your middle name. If you have ever legally used another name (for example, you have changed your last name through adoption), be sure to provide that name in the appropriate section. Most applications do ask if you have a preferred name or a nickname. This is the place for you to indicate the name you want to be called.

Why do they want my Social Security Number (SSN)? You've been told to safeguard your SSN, and that's great advice! However, colleges and universities need a way to match your



admissions application to your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and your social security number is the way to do it. After all, only one person has your SSN, but it's possible that multiple people have your same name.

Why do they also want my Secure Student ID (SSID)? This also helps the office to match your application to other documents in your file. In this case, they want to ensure they get the right transcript matched to your application.

Address

Can I list a Post Office Box? You may list a PO Box, but you will need to provide a physical address even if you use a Post Office Box for your mailing address. Make sure this information is correct. The date the address became your permanent mailing address is the month and year you moved to this location which may even be your date of birth.

What if I am homeless? If you do not currently live somewhere you can receive mail, ask your school counselor if you may use the school's address on your applications.

College Information

What should I list for "current college courses in progress or planned, including the term (to be) taken, course subject and number (example: BIO 1001), credit hours, and college/university?" List any dual enrollment or dual credit courses you are taking. Do not list AP or IB courses.

Citizenship Information

Am I required to answer the question about citizenship? If the application indicates that the question is required, then yes, you must answer this question. This is the primary way in which an institution determines if you should apply as a US citizen or permanent resident or if you are considered an international student for admission purposes. If you are not a US citizen but are a permanent resident and have a permanent residency card, you will be required to provide proof. Some colleges request that you simply provide the number on your card; others require that you submit a copy of the card. You should bring a copy of the card to your CAW event.

What if I am undocumented? In this case, you can still apply to college! In fact, for public universities in Oregon, you may be eligible to pay in-state tuition and for some forms of financial aid. To learn more about the various programs that might be available to you, visit oregongoestocollege.org/undocumented.

If you are applying to a community college, check whether or not international students pay a higher rate for tuition. If so, you may be required to submit your application as an international student.

If you are applying to a private college or university, you should contact them to ask whether you should apply as an international student or as a domestic student. Also ask them if they have any special instructions or tips for completing the application form as an undocumented student. When you make this call, ask if there is someone in the office who is responsible for working with underrepresented students. If there is not, ask to speak with the person who will be reading your application – that's the person who is responsible for reading applications from your area of the state. You do not need to provide your name when you make this call, since you are simply gathering information.



Family Information

What family information am I required to submit? You will need to answer the following required question: Are your father and/or mother living? In addition, many applications will require that you provide contact information for your parent(s) or guardian(s) in case of emergency.

Most colleges will also ask you to provide information about your parent or guardian's educational history and current employment. You should answer these questions as fully as possible, as colleges and universities seek to enroll students from a wide variety of backgrounds. If neither of your parents graduated with a bachelor's degree, you are considered a "first generation student." Many colleges offer special programs for first generation students, and your application is the way they learn if you qualify for them. If you live with a legal guardian, you should answer these questions about your parent(s), rather than your guardian.

Some schools will ask if any relatives – including brothers, sisters, cousins, etc. – have attended the college or university to which you are applying. They will ask for their full legal name and the year they did (or will) graduate.

What if I am a foster youth or no longer live with my parents? Again, colleges and universities use the application process to learn as much about you as possible. They want to ensure they can build a diverse student body, but more importantly, they want to make the best admission decision possible for you. The more they know, the better they are able to determine if their school has the resources necessary to be a good fit for you. So, you should answer questions as fully and honestly as you feel comfortable. You may choose to list your biological parents or your current guardians. You may also use the "additional information" section of the application to provide any details that you want to share but don't fit in the "Family Information" section.

Activities and Interests

Do I have to list all my activities and interests for each college application? If you have a significant number of activities and interests that you wish to include, you might consider putting them on a flash drive to cut and paste to your applications.

Test Scores

Do I have to provide all of my SAT or ACT test scores? If you have taken both the SAT and the ACT, or if you have taken one of these tests two or more times, colleges will generally consider only your best scores. That's true even if you send all of your scores to them. In fact, many of them will combine the highest subscores from each test and add those together to give you the best possible score. As a result, it is often in your best interest to submit scores from all the tests you have taken. *Note that most community colleges do not require applicants to submit SAT or ACT scores to be considered for admission. Likewise, many four-year colleges and universities, including several in Oregon, are "test optional."* For an up-to-date list of these schools around the country, see <http://fairtest.org>.

Campus Specific Information

What additional information will I need to include for each college application? This information varies by educational institution. You can find more information by looking at the campus website.



Miscellaneous Information

If I will not graduate from high school but have earned (or will earn) my GED, can I still apply to a four-year college or university? Of course! Check the admissions websites of the colleges where you plan to apply for any additional requirements. Be sure to bring a copy of your GED scores to the CAW event, as you will likely need to report those on your application.

What types of questions will I be asked about my past criminal activity? Many campuses require students to answer questions about legal infractions. Answering "yes" to one or more of the questions will not necessarily preclude your being admitted. However, your failure to provide complete, accurate, and truthful information can be grounds to deny or withdraw your admission, dismiss you, or subject you to disciplinary sanctions after enrollment. A campus may spot-check records and obtain official court and/or school documentation to ensure accuracy, and these campuses may share pertinent information as needed for the safety of others. Some campuses have a process for conducting criminal background checks on applicants which may or may not happen with regard to your application.

Above all, remember that complete honesty is expected throughout your application.