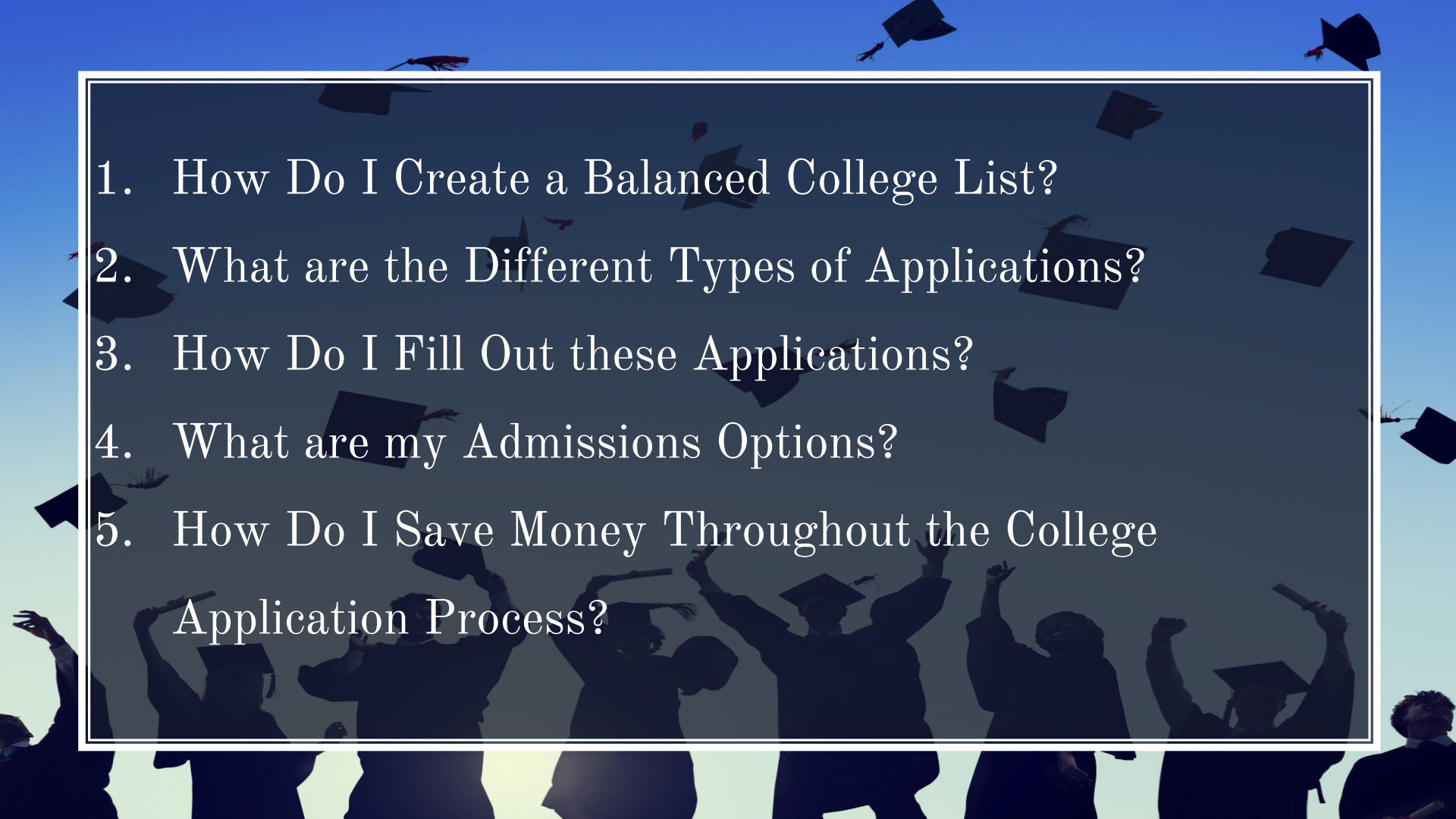
The Ultimate
College Application
Checklist



1. How Do I Create a Balanced College List?
2. What are the Different Types of Applications?
3. How Do I Fill Out these Applications?
4. What are my Admissions Options?
5. How Do I Save Money Throughout the College Application Process?

CREATING A BALANCED COLLEGE LIST

Reach. Match. Safety.

What Do I Look for in a College?

1. Majors & Degrees Available
2. Location
3. Cost & Financial Aid Opportunities
4. Admissions Rate & Criteria
5. Graduation Rate
6. Class Sizes
7. Internships & Hands-on Opportunities
8. Campus Facilities
9. Academic & Career Support Resources
10. Job Placement Rates

CollegeData.Com

Match by Preferences

Help

Select your preferences for college location, size, gender mix, type of institution, entrance difficulty, freshman satisfaction, graduation rate, cost, financial need met, student debt, merit aid, sports, student background, and academic programs. For best results, start with the match criteria that are most important to you.

LOCATION

City

State
Select up to 16 states

- No Preference
- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas

Region
Select up to 3 regions

SIZE, GENDER, INSTITUTION TYPE

Student Body Size

- No Preference
- 25,000+
- 17,000-24,999
- 10,000-16,999

Gender Mix

- No Preference
- Coed
- Women only
- Men only

Public/Private

No Preference

ADMISSION

Entrance Difficulty

- No Preference
- Most Difficult
- Very Difficult
- Moderately Difficult
- Minimally Difficult

OUTCOMES

Freshman Satisfaction

No Preference

Graduation Rate

No Preference

COST

Cost of Attendance

No Preference

FINANCIAL FRIENDLINESS

Financial Need Met

No Preference

Student Debt

No Preference

Merit Aid

Include Only Students Without Financial Need

No Preference

SPORTS

Find colleges with intercollegiate teams in the sports you are interested in. Check the Club Sports box to include club level teams in addition to varsity.

Include Club Sports

Women's Sports

- No Preference
- Archery
- Badminton
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Cheerleading
- Crew
- Cross-Country Running
- Equestrian Sports

Men's Sports

- Squash
- Swimming And Diving
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Track And Field
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Volleyball
- Water Polo
- Weight Lifting
- Wrestling

STUDENT BACKGROUND

Find colleges with the level of representation of students from particular backgrounds that you specify.

	No Pref	≥2%	≥5%	≥10%	≥20%	≥40%	≥50%	≥75%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
African-American	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Asian/Pacific Islander	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Hispanic	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
International	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE/MAJOR

Select up to 3 disciplines or majors. Check the box if you want colleges that offer all disciplines/majors you select.

Include Only Schools That Offer All My Choices

- No Preference
- AGRICULTURE & AGRICULTURE OPERATIONS
  - Agricultural & Domestic Animal Services
    - Equestrian/Equine Studies
  - Agricultural & Food Products Processing
  - Agricultural Business & Management
    - Agricultural Economics
  - Agricultural Mechanization
  - Agricultural Production Operations

How Do I Create a Balanced List?

Your list should be diverse in at least these three ways:

SELECTIVITY

It's important to have a variety of schools in your college list. Applying only to safety schools means you may not be exploring your full potential & applying only to highly selective schools leaves you without any backup options.

TYPE OF SCHOOL

There are a few different categories to consider when creating a balanced college list. While you should definitely focus specifically on what you look for in a college, make sure to keep your options open. Look for variety.

REGION

You may be certain that you want to stay close to home. You may be certain that you want to go out-of-state. In either case, it is important to apply to a couple of schools in a different region. Things may change during your senior year so once again, make sure to keep all your options open.

Selectivity

Safety	Target	Reach
You are confident that you will be accepted because your test scores, grades, and activities fall above their 50th percentile/greatly exceed their average. (3-4)	These schools are a great match for you. Your test scores, grades, and activities fall at least within the 50th percentile. (3-5)	These schools are highly selective. Your test scores, grades, and activities fall below the average/50th percentile. Some schools are so competitive, they are considered reach schools regardless of grades and test scores. Each year they are forced to deny students with perfect academics. (3-4)

Type of School

Public	Private
- Funded by state governments - Tend to be big, sometimes huge	- Funded by tuitions & private contributions - Tend to be smaller

College	University
- Typically only offer undergraduate degrees	- Typically offer both graduate (med/law school) & undergraduate programs

Big	Small
- Over 15,000	- Less than 5,000

Liberal arts	Research-based
- Tend to be small - Low student-to-faculty ratio - Focus on well-rounded education	- Dedication to education & producing knowledge through professor's research - Courses offered in both large lectures & small seminars

Region

West Coast
Rocky Mtns.
Great Lakes
Northeast
Midwest
Mid Atlantic
Southwest
Southern
Southeast

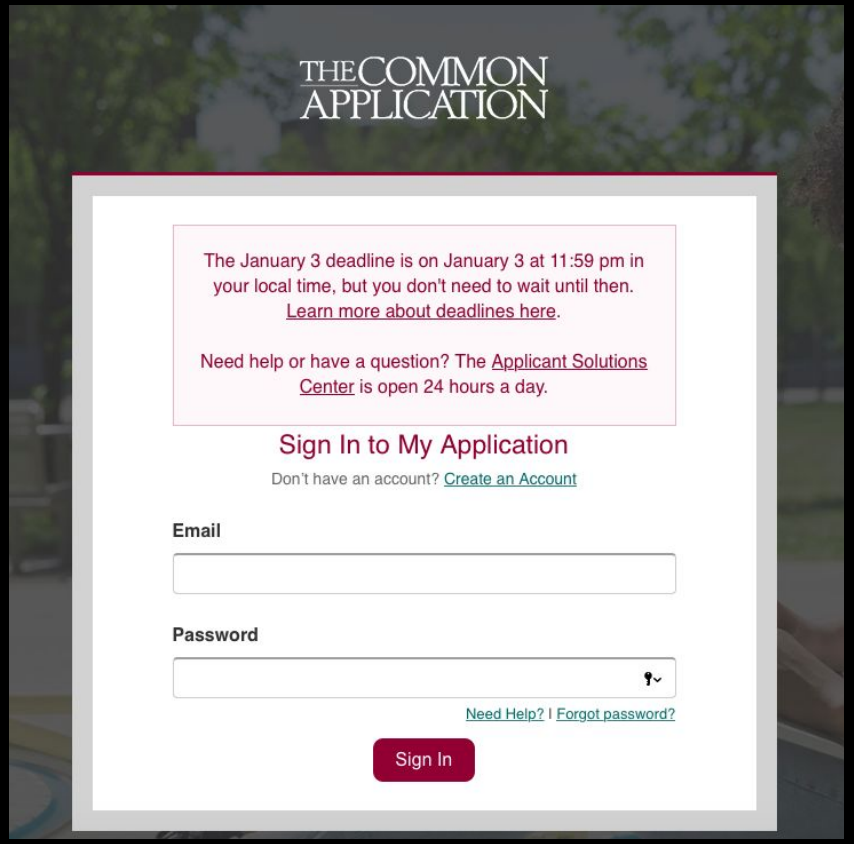
TYPES OF APPLICATIONS

Common App. Coalition. Universal App. State Apps.

The Common Application

It is the oldest and most well-known of the application providers. It is accepted by more than 600 colleges and universities.

https://apply.commonapp.org



Brown University −

Application
(0 of 3 Completed)

- ☐ Questions
- ☐ Recommenders and FERPA
- ☐ Review and Submit - Common App

Colgate University +

Franklin & Marshall College +

Northwestern University +

Princeton University +

Smith College +

University of Chicago +

University of Michigan +

Contact Info

Phone: (401) 863-2378
Fax: (401) 863-9300
Email: admission@brown.edu
View College Website

Box 1876
Providence, RI 02912
USA

Application Deadlines

Fall 2017

First Year
Early Decision - 11/01/2016
Regular Decision - 01/01/2017

Required

Application Fees :
First Year Domestic Fee- $75
First Year International Fee- $75

First Year Test Policy:
Always Required

Recommendations Required:
School Report
Counselor Recommendation
Mid Year Report
Final Report
2 Teacher Evaluation(s)
0 Other Evaluation(s)

Writing Supplement Required:
Not Required

Personal Essay Required:
Required

Saves School Forms After Matriculation:
Yes

Instructions and Help

What timezone will display on my application submission?
Submission for all applications is recorded in Eastern Time. That is the submission time visible to ... [+]
[more]

Where are the application requirements for a specific school listed?
Click on the name of the school in the My Colleges tab to view the requirements for that school. ... [+]
[more]

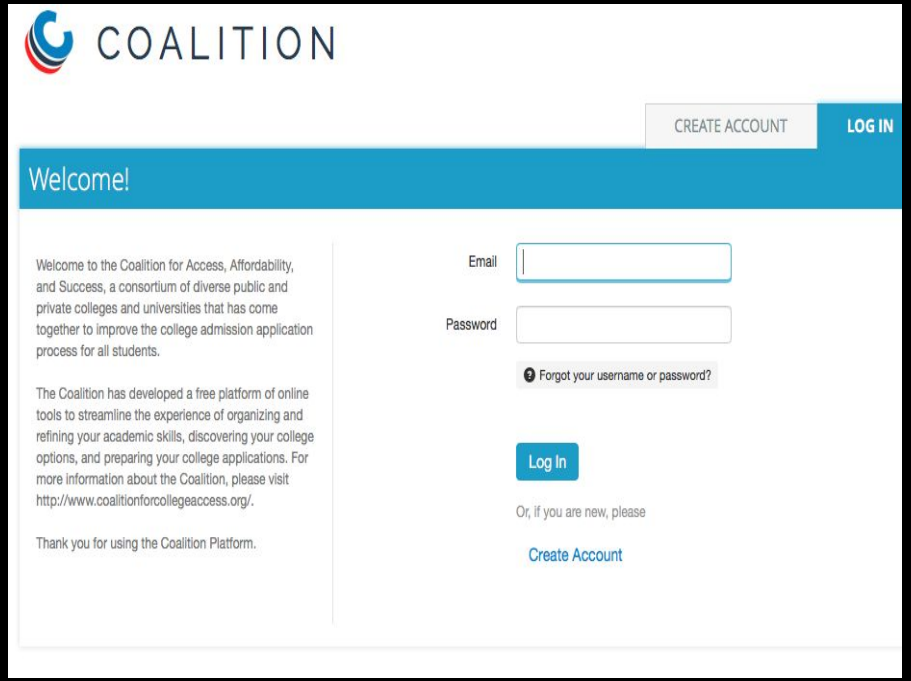
Deadline Information
The application deadline is at 11:59 PM of the stated deadline da ... [+]
[more]

Can schools see the My Colleges list?
A school cannot view any other schools on your My Colleges list and does not receive any informatio ... [+]
[more]

The Coalition for Access, Affordability, & Success

It is the newest application service provider, launching its first application in 2016. Its more than 90 member institutions must meet affordable tuition requirements, have a six-year graduation rate of 70 percent or higher, and provide need-based financial aid.

https://www.mycoalition.org/app#/home/overview



Overview

Start your profile

Fill in some information about yourself that will be used by your college applications. You can always add and change profile information as needed.

Add to your locker

Add documents, music, video, and any other files that represent your learning experience. The items in your locker won't be shared with anyone unless you choose to make them available.

Invite contacts

Collaborate on your application process with counselors, teachers, parents, and more. Send a request to anyone you'd like to add as a contact in the system.

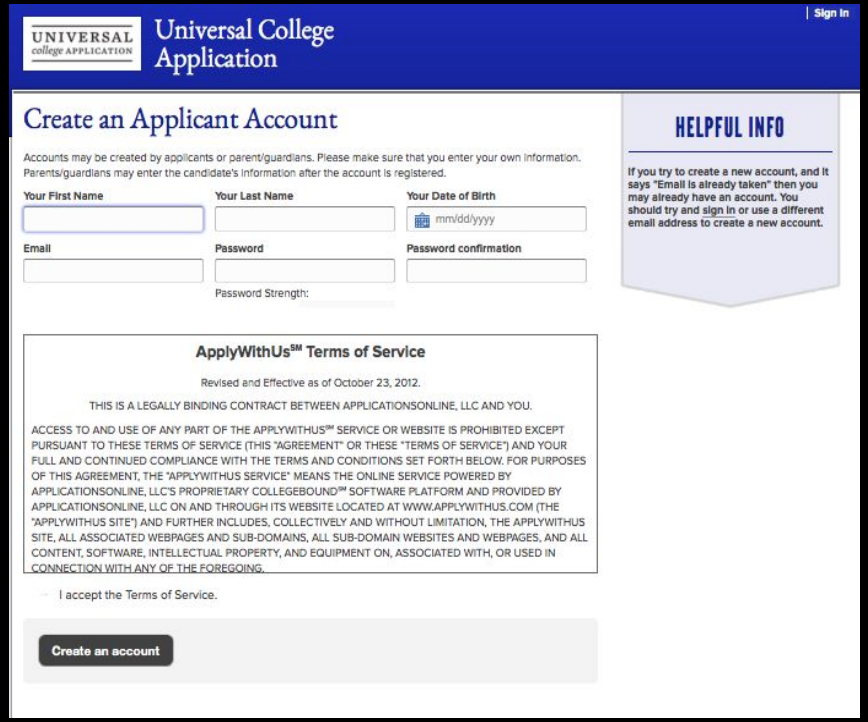
Build your college list

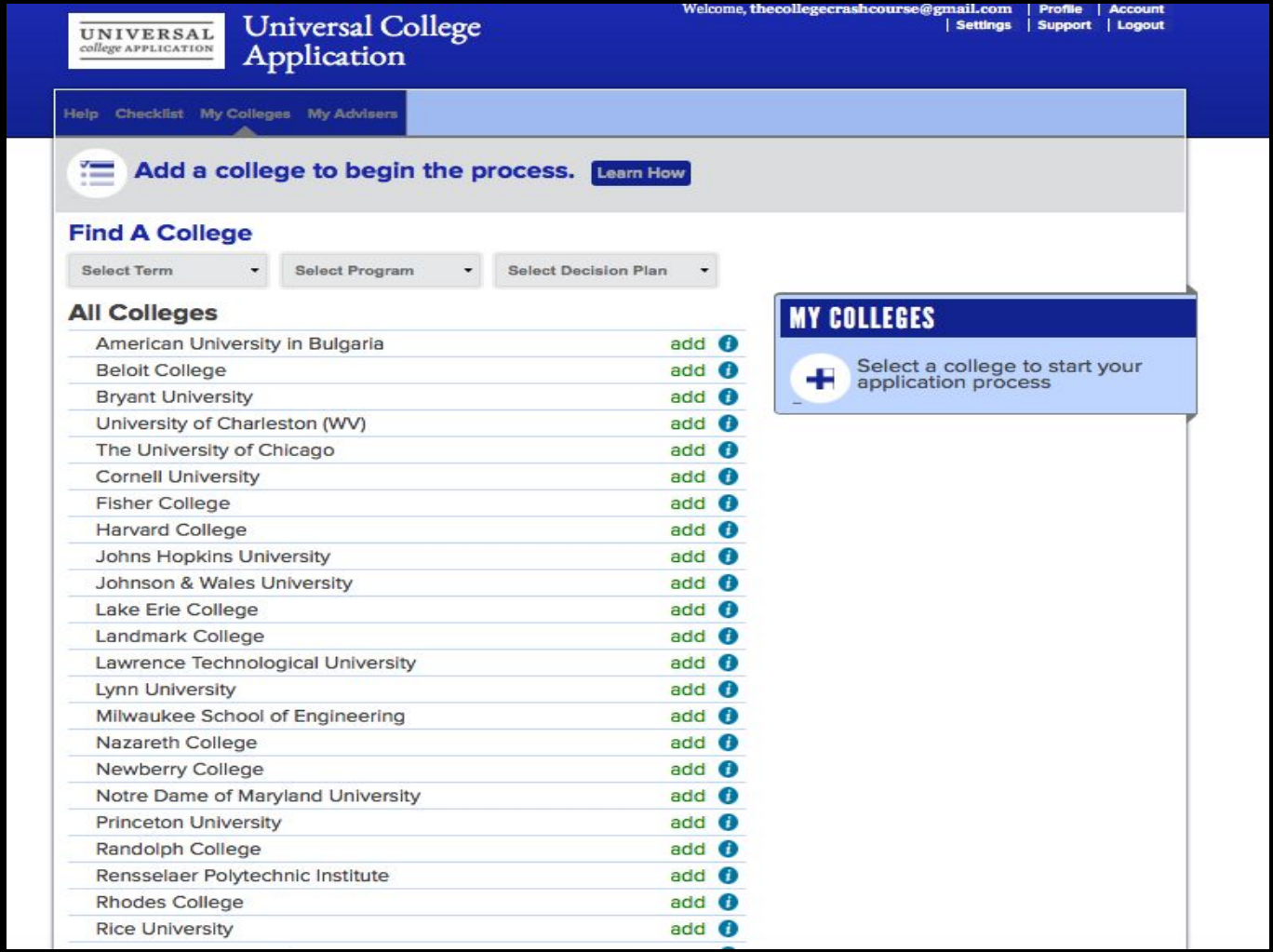
Make a list of the college you're interested in. You can always add or remove colleges to this list at any time.

The Universal College Application

It is similar to the Common Application. Colleges using the service do not have to require essays or letters of recommendation. It has about 30 member colleges.

https://uca.applywithus.com/apply




UNIVERSAL college APPLICATION
Universal College Application
Welcome, thecollegecrashcourse@gmail.com | Profile | Account | Settings | Support | Logout
Help Checklist My Colleges My Advisers
Add a college to begin the process. Learn How
Find A College
Select Term
Select Program
Select Decision Plan
All Colleges
American University in Bulgaria add
Beloit College add
Bryant University add
University of Charleston (WV) add
The University of Chicago add
Cornell University add
Fisher College add
Harvard College add
Johns Hopkins University add
Johnson & Wales University add
Lake Erie College add
Landmark College add
Lawrence Technological University add
Lynn University add
Milwaukee School of Engineering add
Nazareth College add
Newberry College add
Notre Dame of Maryland University add
Princeton University add
Randolph College add
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute add
Rhodes College add
Rice University add
MY COLLEGES
Select a college to start your application process

State-Based Applications

They are hosted by some public state university systems to allow students to apply to multiple campuses within the system.

https://admissionservices.rutgers.edu/ugrad/

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

What is the semester for which you are applying?

◯ Fall 2017 ◯ Spring 2017 ◯ Summer 2017

What will be your applicant type at the time of enrollment?

◯ First Year

- You are currently enrolled in high school, or
- You are **not** currently enrolled in high school and will **not** have completed 12+ college credits (or 4 college courses) before enrolling at Rutgers.

◯ Transfer

- You have already graduated from or have left high school, and
- You will have completed 12+ college credits (or 4 college courses) prior to enrolling at Rutgers.

How many college credits will you have completed at a postsecondary institution prior to enrollment at Rutgers? (Do not include any credit earned by exam such as AP or IB credit in this number).

◯ 0 ◯ 1 to 11 ◯ 12 to 23 ◯ 24 to 44 ◯ 45 to 59 ◯ 60 to 119 ◯ 120 or more

Will you be attending full time or part time?

◯ Full time ◯ Part time

THE APPLICATION
EXPLAINED
Accepted

Personal Info	Education	Extracurricular Activities	Letters of Recommendation	Essays
Contact Information	Transcripts/GPA	Educational Prep Programs	Academic	Personal Statement
Demographics	Test Scores	Volunteer/ Community Service	Counselor	Supplements
Family Education	Awards & Honors	Work Experience	Other	Other
Financial Information	Academic Interests/Major	Other Extracurriculars		

ADMISSIONS OPTIONS

Early Decision

Early Action

Regular Decision

Early Decision

Early decision plans are BINDING — a student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend the college.

- Apply early (usually in November) to first-choice college.
- Receive an admission decision from the college well in advance of the usual notification date (usually by December).
- Agree to attend the college if accepted and offered a financial aid package that is considered adequate by the family.
- Apply to only one college early decision.
- Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans.
- Withdraw all other applications if accepted by ED.
- Send a nonrefundable deposit well in advance of May 1.

Early Action

Early action plans are NONBINDING — students receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May 1.

- Apply early.
- Receive an admission decision early in the admission cycle (usually in January or February).
- Consider acceptance offer; do not have to commit upon receipt.
- Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans.
- Give the college a decision no later than the May 1 national response date.

Benefits & Drawbacks of Early Admissions

Benefits:

- Reduced waiting time
- Saved time and expense of submitting multiple applications
- In some cases, there are slightly higher admission rates for ED applicants.
- Applications can be deferred & considered for RD.

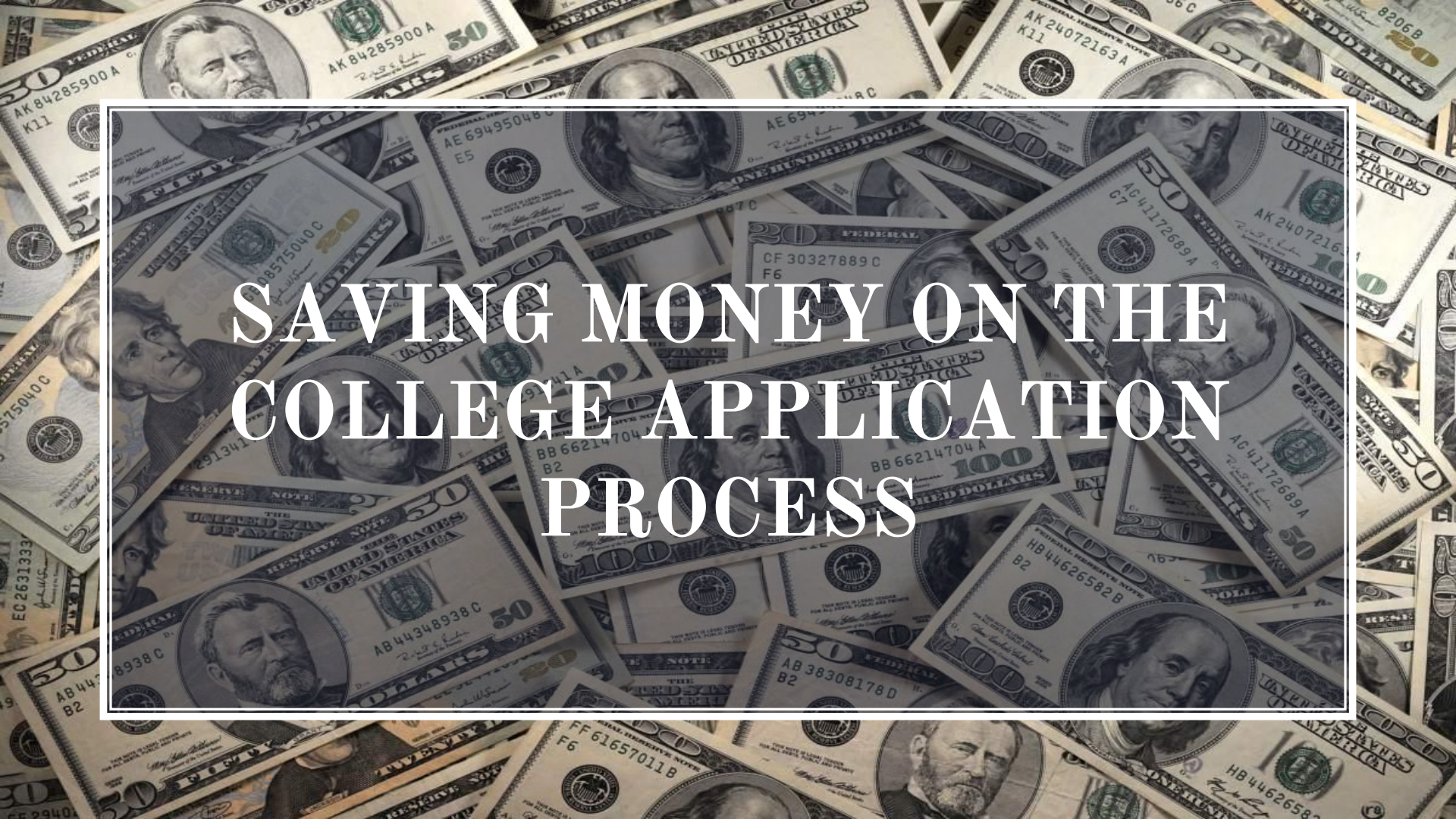
Drawbacks:

- Additional pressure to decide early
- Inability to compare financial aid packages
- Time crunch for other applications
- Senioritis

Regular Decision

Most applicants apply through Regular Decision.

- Deadlines vary from institution to institution.
- There will be different deadlines for financial aid and other requirements.
- You are required to make your final college choice by May 1.


SAVING MONEY ON THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

College Application Fees

Fee waivers are provided by:

- the Common App if you qualify for free/reduced lunch
- College Board if you qualified for SAT fee waivers
- NACAC if you meet their economic need indicators
- Questbridge finalists receive fee waivers for their 36 partner colleges
- Certain schools provide school specific fee waivers
- Guidance Counselors

Thanks!

Any questions?

Contact us at thecollegecrashcourse@gmail.com