

# Planning for College



June 10, 2014  
K. Dougan

# Topics

- ❖ Some Definitions
- ❖ Preparing in High School
- ❖ Choosing Schools to Apply To
- ❖ College Costs
- ❖ Applying to College
- ❖ Financials
- ❖ Information Packet

4-Year  
College or  
University



Community  
College



Job



Military



Vocational  
School



# What Do I Want To Be When I Grow Up?

❖ BLS Occupational Handbook: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

## By Occupation

- What They Do
- Work Environment
- How to Become One
- Pay
- Job Outlook
- Similar Occupations
- Contacts for More Info

The screenshot shows the BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook website. At the top, there's a dark blue header with the title "OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK" and a search bar. Below the header, a "Home" section welcomes visitors and provides a brief overview of the site's content. A sidebar on the left lists "OCCUPATION GROUPS" including Architecture and Engineering, Arts and Design, Building and Grounds Cleaning, Business and Financial, Community and Social Service, Computer and Information Technology, Construction and Extraction, Education, Training, and Library, Entertainment and Sports, Farming, Fishing, and Forestry, Food Preparation and Serving, Healthcare, Installation, Maintenance, and Repair, Legal, Life, Physical, and Social Science, Management, and Math. The main content area features a blue banner announcing the availability of the 2012-13 handbook in Spanish, with a link to [www.bls.gov/es/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/es/ooh). Below this is a "SELECT OCCUPATIONS BY" section with dropdown menus for "2010 Median Pay", "Entry-Level Education", "On-the-job Training", "Number of New Jobs (Projected)", and "Growth Rate (Projected)", along with a "GO" button. The "FEATURED OCCUPATION" section highlights "Biomedical Engineers" with a photo of two scientists working with a microscope and a brief description of their role, including a link to "view profile".

**OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK**

Search Handbook Go

Occupational Outlook Handbook > Home

Font Size: [A] [A-] [A0]

Welcome to the Nation's premier source for career information! The profiles featured here cover hundreds of occupations and describe What They Do, Work Environment, How to Become One, Pay, and more. Each profile also includes BLS employment projections for the 2010-20 decade.

**OCCUPATION GROUPS**

- Architecture and Engineering
- Arts and Design
- Building and Grounds Cleaning
- Business and Financial
- Community and Social Service
- Computer and Information Technology
- Construction and Extraction
- Education, Training, and Library
- Entertainment and Sports
- Farming, Fishing, and Forestry
- Food Preparation and Serving
- Healthcare
- Installation, Maintenance, and Repair
- Legal
- Life, Physical, and Social Science
- Management
- Math

The 2012-13 Occupational Outlook Handbook en Español is now available!  
¡El 2012-13 Occupational Outlook Handbook en Español está disponible ahora!

[www.bls.gov/es/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/es/ooh)

**SELECT OCCUPATIONS BY**

2010 Median Pay [v] Entry-Level Education [v] On-the-job Training [v]  
Number of New Jobs (Projected) [v] Growth Rate (Projected) [v] GO

**FEATURED OCCUPATION**

*Biomedical Engineers*

Biomedical engineers analyze and design solutions to problems in biology and medicine, with the goal of improving the quality and effectiveness of patient care.

[view profile »](#)



# Definitions

## University - College

- A college offers a collection of degrees in one specific area
- A university is usually a collection of colleges that allows you to earn a degree in many areas of study.
- Public colleges and universities are subsidized by tax money from the state in which they are located and are generally less expensive than private colleges for in-state residents.
- Private colleges are funded through endowments, tuition, and donations. The cost of attending a private college is usually higher than a public university

### St. John's College-Annapolis



### Univ of Maryland-College Park

- College of Agriculture & Natl Resources
- College of Arts and Humanities
- A. James Clark School of Engineering
- College of Information Studies
- ...others



# ...More Definitions

- Major: main focus of study;
- Minor: secondary interest to supplement major or a passion  
Majors require more credit hours in area than a minor
- Undergraduate Degrees
  - Associate (AA-Associate of Arts; AS=Associate of Science) (2-year)
  - Bachelor (BA-Bachelor of Arts) in .....; BS (Bachelor of Science) in .... (~4 yr)
- Graduate Degrees
  - Master (MA-Master of Arts; MS=Master of Science)
- Advanced
  - Doctorate: JD (Juris Doctor aka Law Degree); PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) in .....
- Pre-professional programs are tracks in undergraduate programs that prepare you for a professional degree after your Bachelor. Not a major.
- Liberal arts -includes areas such as literature, history, languages, mathematics and life sciences.

# Preparing in High School

(It is Never Too Early)

- See info packet handout/check collegeboard.org : what students in each grade should be doing
- Keep a resume/activity list grades 9-12

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	GRADES/DATES	HRS/WK WKS/YR	POSITIONS/AWARDS
Robotics Team				
Sports				
Other School Activities				
Summer Programs/Camps				
Job (paid/unpaid)				
Outreach/Volunteer				
Clubs, Organizations				
Non-School Activities				

*“Courses taken senior year should increase (at a minimum maintain) the rigor of previous years. A **“senior slide”** is an easy rejection by **admissions**.”* - University of Virginia Admissions

# It's the Education Not the College

- ❖ Oprah Winfrey: Tennessee State University
- ❖ Warren Buffett, Billionaire: Univ of Nebraska
- ❖ Stephen King, Author: Univ of Maine

# Choosing Where to Apply

(It's Not Only the Academics)

- Academic Offerings: Narrow or Broad
- Location:
  - How far from home
  - Urban, rural, suburban...for next 4 years
- School size
- Social Fit: Lifestyle, clubs, organizations, athletics, religion
- Admissions Selectivity\*
  - Test scores
  - Other criteria
- Graduation Rate\*

\* May vary from college to college within a university

# Do Your Homework



- \* Look up info - specific to college you are interested in (within a university)
- \* Keep a spreadsheet to compare info; identify pros, cons
- \* Testing requirements- know this early
  - \* SAT, SAT II (subject matter tests) , ACT
- \* Your AACPS requirements to get out (graduate) may not be the same as what your colleges require to get in.

**Get Information SPECIFIC to your area of study within EACH school.**

# College Costs - Definitions

(Should I Buy More Lottery Tickets NOW???)

- COA = Cost of Attendance: Tuition, room, meals, fees, books, supplies, transportation, personal expenses
  - Fixed Costs: Tuition and Fees
  - Variable Costs: Room, meals, books, supplies, personal expenses, travel & transportation, memberships
  - Other Costs to Consider: Insurance (health, car), athletic equipment
- EFC = Expected Family Contribution - is a number that is used to determine a student's eligibility for federal student aid. This number results from the financial information the student provides on his or her Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Financial Need (Eligibility) = Difference between COA and EFC

# College Visits....Why?

(The Brochures Always Look Great!)

- ❖ Many colleges track campus visits...Sign In... Interest counts!
- ❖ Gut reaction counts
- ❖ See student life/talk to students/visit a class
- ❖ Helps answer essay question on “Why this school?”
  
- ❖ If you can't visit....
  - ❖ Virtual web tours, attend high school visits, talk with alumni

# Admission Policies

(College may have more than one type)

- Rolling Admission - apply as early as possible
- Early Decision - Deadline usually Nov 1
  - \* Binding commitment, if accepted
  - \* Usually no financial aid info yet
  - \* Some schools - slightly higher probability of acceptance
- Early Action - Deadline usually Nov 1 (non-binding)
- Regular Decision - Deadline typically Jan 1 or Jan 15

Does deadline mean.....??

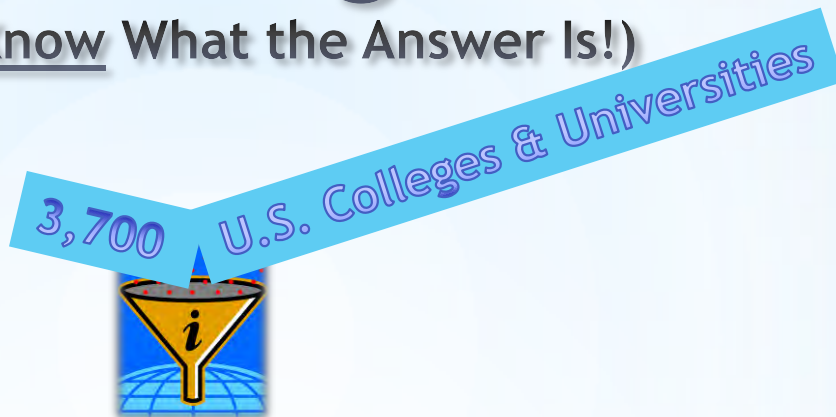
☐ Received by date?

☐ Post-mark date?

Know your application deadlines

# Applying to College

(If You Don't Apply...You Know What the Answer Is!)



## Mix of Schools on Your Short List

2	Dream	Average Accepted Applicant has a <u>higher</u> academic profile than you
3	Just Right	Average Accepted Applicant has a <u>similar</u> academic profile than you
2	No Problem	Average Accepted Applicant has a <u>lower</u> academic profile than you
7		

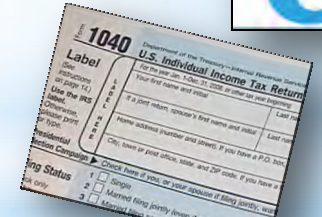
# Applying to Colleges - Some Costs

- ❖ Chesapeake HS cost per transcript request - \$2
- ❖ College Application Fee \$60-\$90 each
- ❖ Sending SAT, ACT Scores to colleges (2014-get some free)
- ❖ Sending college course transcripts to colleges
- ❖ Sending AP scores
- ❖ Etc.....

**Fee waivers may be available based on need**

( Get a Calendar with BIG Blocks for Each Day )

- 

[illegible]

# Applying to College

## (There's an Ap for that!)

Get familiar with what each college requires

- Common Application (**not every college uses it**)
- Common Application Supplement
- School- specific applications



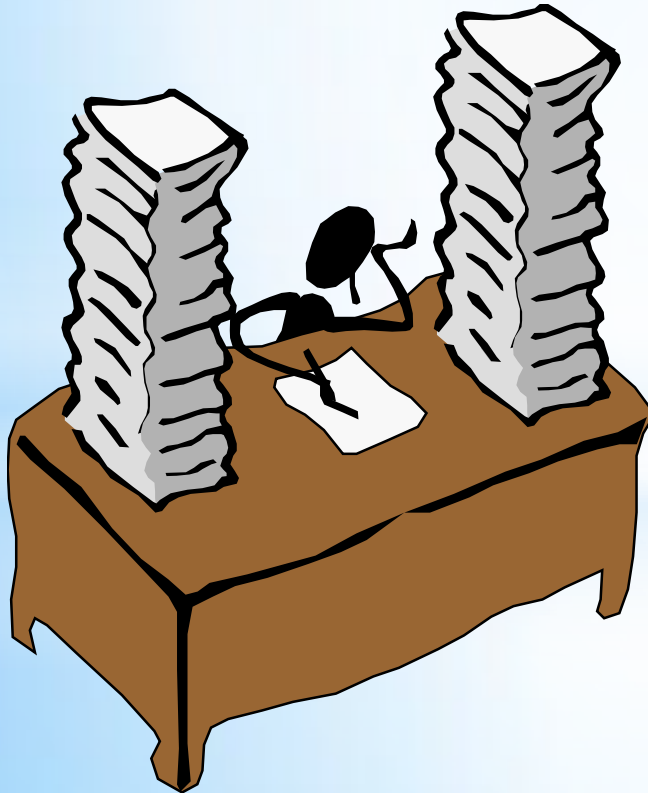
- Example in Packet
- Usually available on-line in August
- Get it mostly done before school starts!!!

# The Application Essay

(Where's WALDO???)

- This is your opportunity to SHINE!

College Admissions Officer



# Application Essay Tips

	Do's	Don't
1	Answer the Question! Get to the point.	Don't Ramble. Don't solve world problems.
2	Think of an opening "hook" to get reader's attention	Don't tell a story without a purpose.
3	"Show" by using words <i>(When I saw the large grey shadow near our boat break the surface of the water, I knew I was hooked.)</i>	"Tell" <i>(My name is Joe and I am interested in marine biology)</i>
4	Use the word "I" often or at least write in the first person. (I, we, me, us...)	Don't write in third person (He, she, it)
5	Keep an "idea log"	
6	This is YOUR work...not parents, internet, or friends. (..but they can review)	Don't Plagiarize
7	Allow time for multiple drafts and time between drafts. Get others to review.	Don't start the night before you need to mail your application

# Common Application Essay Prompts

## 2013-2014 - Choose one (250-650 words)

- ❖ Some students have a background or story that is so central to their identity that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

Don't spend too many words discussing your failure

- ❖ *Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what lessons did you learn?*

- ❖ Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
- ❖ Describe a place or environment where you are perfectly content. What do you do or experience there, and why is it meaningful to you?
- ❖ Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

Colleges may have their own essay requirements

# Financials - FAFSA Form

## Free Application for Federal Student Aid

([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov))

[Example in packet](#)

- \* Get parent PIN & Student PIN anytime
- \* Review a paper copy to know what info is needed
- \* BEWARE of companies who charge to file FAFSA for you

**FAFSA™** July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014  
Federal Student Aid PROUD SPONSOR BY THE AMERICAN MIND™  
FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

**Step One (Student):** For questions 1-31, leave blank any questions that do not apply to you (the student). OMB # 1845-0001

Your full name (exact name on your Social Security card) If your name has a suffix, such as Jr. or III, include a space between your last name and suffix.

1. Last name 2. First name 3. Middle initial

Your mailing address  
4. Number and street (include apt. number)  
5. City (and country if not U.S.)  
8. Your Social Security number  
Your driver's license number  
11. Driver's license number  
13. Your e-mail address notified by e-mail. You have an e-mail address

**Step Four (Parent):** Complete this step if you (the student) answered "No" to all questions in Step Three.

Answer all the questions in Step Four even if you do not live with your parents. Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, aunts and uncles are not considered parents on this form unless they have legally adopted you. If your parents are living and married to each other, answer the questions about them. If your parent is single, widowed, divorced, separated or remarried, see the Notes on page 9 for additional instructions.

58. What is your parents' marital status as of today?

Married or remarried ☐ Divorced or separated ☐  
Single ☐ Widowed ☐

59. Month and year they were married, remarried, separated, divorced or widowed.

MONTH YEAR

What are the Social Security Numbers, names and dates of birth of the parents reporting information on this form?  
If your parent does not have a Social Security Number, you must enter 000-00-0000. If the name includes a suffix, such as Jr. or III, include a space between the last name and suffix. Enter two digits for each day and month (e.g., for May 31, enter 05 31).

60. FATHER'S/STEPFATHER'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 61. FATHER'S/STEPFATHER'S LAST NAME, AND 62. FIRST INITIAL 63. FATHER'S/STEPFATHER'S DATE OF BIRTH

64. MOTHER'S/STEPMOTHER'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 65. MOTHER'S/STEPMOTHER'S LAST NAME, AND 66. FIRST INITIAL 67. MOTHER'S/STEPMOTHER'S DATE OF BIRTH

For Form 1040EZ, see Notes page 2.

# FAFSA - Why?

**\*FROM PARENT**  
**(ASSETS + INCOME) ÷ # of undergrad children = Parent Contrib**  
**3% - 6%      X %**

**+**

**\*FROM STUDENT**  
**(ASSETS + INCOME) ÷ # of undergrad children = Student Contrib**  
**20%      > X%**

**=**

**\*Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**  
**Used by Government and colleges for Financial Aid**

\* Current Federal Methodology

# Expected Family Contribution

- EFC may NOT be the only money that your family will have to contribute.
- READ your financial award letter carefully. Sample from Drexel.

<b>Total Drexel &amp; Other Aid</b>	\$ 28,500
Endowed Grant	\$ 22,000
Early FAFSA Award	\$ 1,000
Subsidized Direct Loan	\$ 3,500
Unsubsidized Direct Loan	\$ 2,000
<b>Expected Family Contribution</b>	<b>\$ 13,000</b>
<b>Projected Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$ 67,600</b>
<b>Direct Costs</b>	
Tuition & Fees	\$ 47,000
Room & Board	\$ 14,000
<b>Indirect Costs Estimated</b>	
Textbooks	\$ 1,800
Supplies	\$ 600
Transportation	\$ 1,700
Personal Expenses	\$ 2,500



\$ 67,600	Cost to Attend
\$ 23,000	Total Drexel Aid
\$ 5,500	YOU PAY-Student Loan
\$ 13,000	YOU PAY-Expected Family Contribution
\$ 31,600	YOU PAY-Difference

- Does Endowed Grant have GPA criteria?
- Early FAFSA Award is 1<sup>st</sup> year only

# Financials - Aid/Assistance

(Yes, a qualifying for a Federal Loan is considered “Financial Aid”)

- \*  $\text{Cost of Attendance} - \text{Minus Expected Family Contribution} = \text{Financial Need}$
- \* Financial Aid to meet Financial Need
  - \* Scholarships
  - \* Grants
  - \* Federal Loans: Stafford Loan(Subsidized/Unsubsid); PLUS Loan)
  - \* Work-Study

# Financials - Other Forms

- CSS Profile - [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
  - Required by some private colleges and scholarships and some public colleges for Early Decision
- iDocs - [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
  - Submittal of copies of tax documents
  - Required by some colleges that require the CSS Profile
- Non-Custodial Parent's Statement
- Individual Colleges may require other financial documents

# Financials - Scholarships

- Check out list of trusted scholarship sites (in packet)
- Consider *FIRST* Scholarship schools
- Juniors/seniors - dedicate a set amount of time each week/ day looking for scholarships
- Be cautious about “ads” that are not scholarships
  - “..send us your contact info and you will be eligible for a \$50,000 scholarship..”

# When You Get Accepted - Making the Decision

- Negotiate between schools (e.g., money, goods (e.g.laptop), fees)
- Little known “appeal process”- ask about it
- Visit the school in session/stay with a student/attend classes
- Review your Pros/Cons list



Good Luck!

# Miscellaneous Tips

Student email address- YOU WANT TO BE CONTACTED

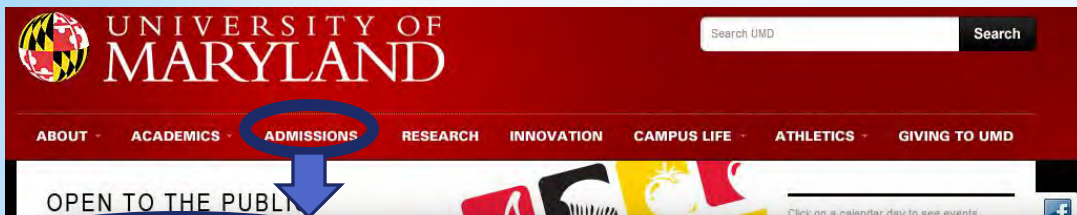
- Keep it professional NOT: *iluvpuppies2@gmail.com*
- Keep it simple, so people won't make errors
  - NOT: !!kyle####4!yes@gmail.com
- Avoid confusing letters, numbers
  - letter “l”, number 1, letter “1”; 0(zero) vs letter O
- Avoid underscoring that won't show up
  - Mary\_smith3@gmail.com

You may want to consider an email address that **both** you and your parents can access.

# Miscellaneous Tips

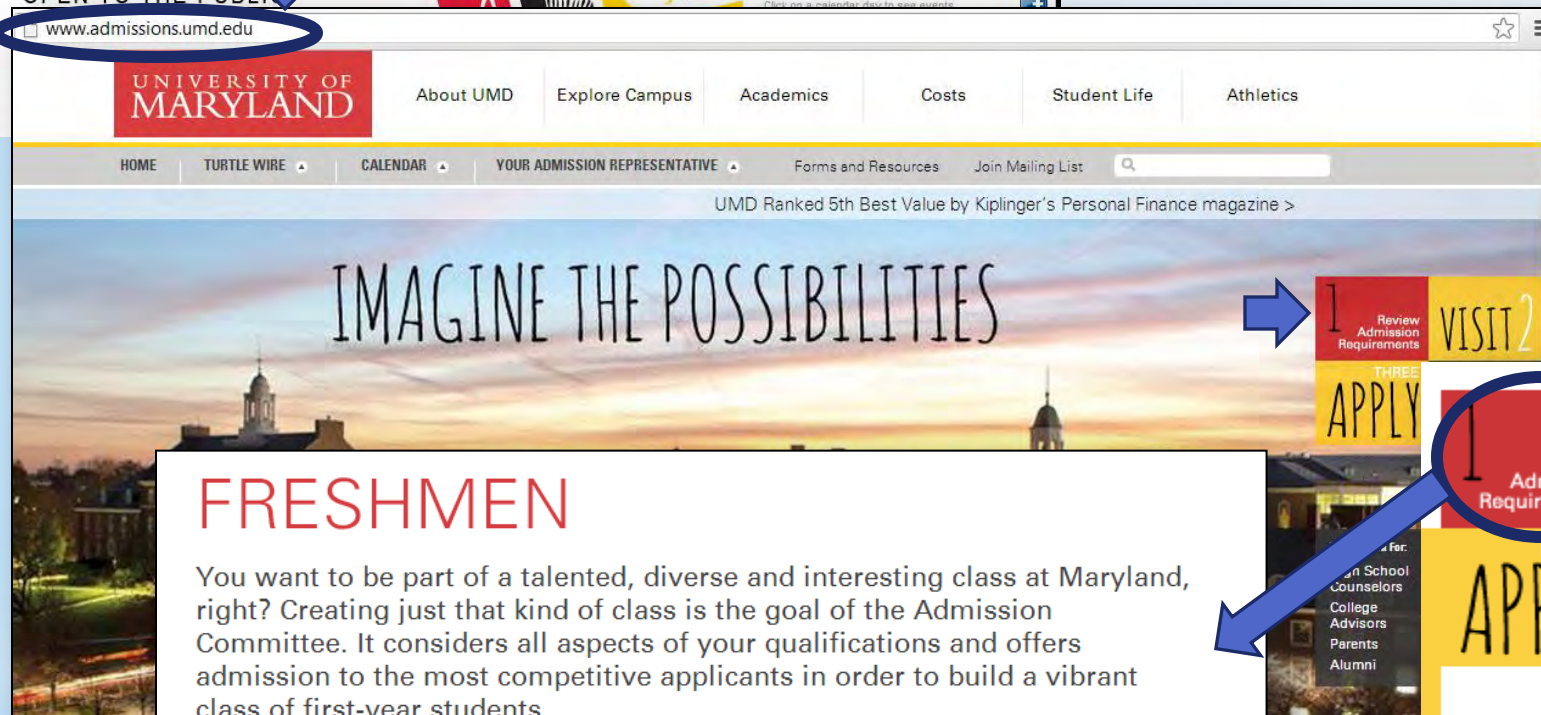
- Keep a **resume or Activity List** - starting in 9<sup>th</sup> grade- include dates, positions held
  - Extracurricular activities
  - Community Outreach/Volunteer Activities
  - Leadership positions
  - Honors, awards, Achievements
- Start a **binder**
  - Seniors-Get unofficial copy of your transcript from 11<sup>th</sup> grade for GPA, ranking (can update application later) - \$2
  - Your “**accounts**” : logins, passwords, PINs
  - Your college Spreadsheet with deadlines, etc.
  - Calendar
  - SAT, ACT scores
  - Resume/Activity List
- If Using **Common App**, get it done over the summer-wait to submit it
  - Use Fall for getting transcripts, letters of recomm, tweaking essays, etc.

**Be Organized & Early**



It Takes Some Digging for Info

Example: UM-College Park



## FRESHMEN

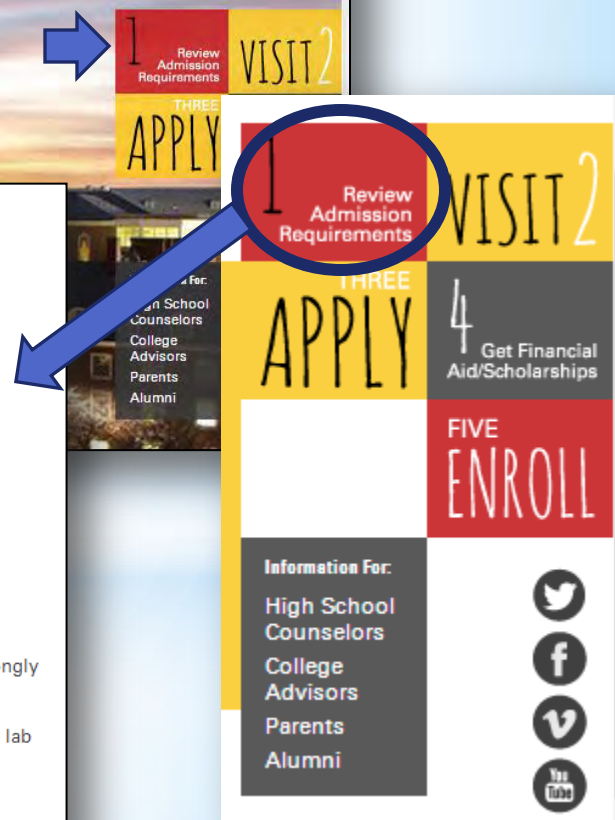
You want to be part of a talented, diverse and interesting class at Maryland, right? Creating just that kind of class is the goal of the Admission Committee. It considers all aspects of your qualifications and offers admission to the most competitive applicants in order to build a vibrant class of first-year students.

*Review the admitted freshmen profile.*

As prescribed by the Board of Regents, the university expects you, at a minimum, to have completed the following course work by high school graduation:

- Four years of English
- Three years of math, including algebra I or applied math I & II, formal logic or geometry, and algebra II. A fourth year of mathematics is strongly recommended.
- Three years of history or social science
- Three years of science in at least two different areas, with at least two lab experiences
- Two years of a foreign language

To stand out, you should exceed that minimum, taking several honors and/or Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses and additional academic electives.



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- Three years of history or social sciences

Example: UM-College Park

# FRESHMAN PROFILE

Terps love a challenge. A problem that needs a solution. A barrier that needs breaking down. Terps are smart and innovative, and they value diversity.

For the Fall 2013 freshman class, we received over 26,000 applications for a class of 3,975. 10,806 students were extended offers of admission for the fall.

The admitted freshman students have a strong A-/B+ or better average in their high school coursework and enrolled in the most challenging courses available to them including honors, Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses.

For students admitted to the University of Maryland for the Fall 2013 semester, the middle 50% of SAT scores ranged from 1260 to 1410, and 28-32 on the ACT. As a result 25% of the admitted students scored below a 1260 on the SAT and 25% scored above a 1410.

## Example: UM-College Park

# FRESHMAN APPLICATION DEADLINES

College application deadlines are going to sneak up on you. Trust us. So get informed now on Maryland's deadlines.

Apply by November 1 to receive best consideration for admission to the University of Maryland.

### Fall Admission

(Entry for semester beginning in September)

#### Priority Application Deadline

*Apply by this date for best consideration for admission to the university as well as consideration for merit-based scholarships and invitations to special programs.*

**November 1:** You'll receive a decision by January 31 if you complete the application by this date. This is not an early-decision program; you will have until May 1 to confirm enrollment.

#### Regular Application Deadline

**January 20:** You'll receive a decision by April 1 if you complete the application by this date. Applications received after January 20 will be reviewed on a rolling, space-available basis.

#### Confirmation Deadline

**May 1:** Deadline to confirm fall enrollment and request on-campus housing and meals.

## Example: UM-College Park

# COSTS

As a public institution we're committed to making higher education affordable. *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine has recognized our efforts, ranking Maryland No. 5 among "best values" in public higher education for in-state residents and No. 10 for out-of-state residents.

$$\begin{aligned}x^2 - 4x + 4 &= 0 \\x &= \frac{-(-4) \pm \sqrt{(-4)^2 - 4(1)(4)}}{2(1)} \\&= \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{16 - 16}}{2} = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{0}}{2} \\x &= 2 = \frac{4}{2} = 2\end{aligned}$$

### Annual Tuition & Other Fees

Annual tuition and fees for the 2012-13 academic year are\*:

Estimated Costs	Resident	Non-resident
Annual tuition and mandatory fees*	\$8,909	\$27,288
On-campus residence hall room, cable and phone	\$5,918	\$5,918
Meal plan (Average)	\$3,975	\$3,975
Books and supplies**	\$1,130	\$1,130
Local transportation and incidental costs**	\$3,162	\$3,162
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,094</b>	<b>\$41,473</b>

1  
Review  
Admission  
Requirements





VISIT 2

THREE  
APPLY

4  
Get Financial  
Aid/Scholarships

FIVE  
ENROLL

Information For:  
High School  
Counselors  
College  
Advisors  
Parents  
Alumni



# In Your Packet

- ☐ These slides
- ☐ Explore Your Future..planning calendar
- ☐ The College Admissions Essay - the Elements
- ☐ Common Application: 2013-2014 example
- ☐ FAFSA : July 2014-June 2015 example
- ☐ Websites You May Find Helpful


Not in NEMO info

# COMMON APPLICATION

Not used by all colleges

# Common App - Create Account

<https://www.commonapp.org/Login>

[About Us](#)[Member Colleges](#)[Media Inquiries](#)[Application Resources](#)

## MISSION

The Common Application is a not-for-profit membership organization that, since its founding over 35 years ago, has been committed to providing reliable services that promote equity, access, and integrity in the college application process. We serve students, member institutions, and secondary schools by providing applications that students and school officials may submit to any of our over 500 members. Membership is open to colleges and universities that promote access by evaluating students using a holistic selection process.

## SEARCH FOR COLLEGES

ApplicantsMembersRecommenders

Email Address

Password

[Forgot your Password?](#)

HELP CENTER

CREATE AN ACCOUNT

# Common App - Search For/Add Colleges

Dashboard My Colleges **Common App** College Search

**Criteria**

School or City Name   
Separate multiple search terms with a comma, e.g.: Washington, Boston

Country

US State

Distance from ZIP

Term ☐ Fall 2014 ☐

Applicant Type ☐ First Year ☐

Deadline on or after

Dashboard My Colleges Common App **College Search**

**Criteria**

**Result List**

**Result list** [i](#) request information [🔗](#) college's website

<input type="checkbox"/>	Member Name	Location	Country	Type
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">American University</a> <a href="#">i</a> <a href="#">🔗</a>	Washington - DC	USA	Coed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Howard University</a> <a href="#">i</a> <a href="#">🔗</a>	Washington - DC	USA	Coed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">The Catholic University of America</a> <a href="#">i</a> <a href="#">🔗</a>	Washington - DC	USA	Coed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">The George Washington University</a> <a href="#">i</a> <a href="#">🔗</a>	Washington - DC	USA	Coed

**Add**





# Common App - Summary of Status

Dashboard

My Colleges

Common App

College Search

My Colleges (4)	Deadline	Application	Writing Supplement	
▶ Cornell University	1/9/2014	✓	✓	
▶ Philadelphia University	7/11/2014	✓	—	
▶ Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	1/15/2014	✓	✓	
▶ Syracuse University	1/1/2014	✓	✓	

# Common App - One College Example

Dashboard **My Colleges** Common App College Search

**Cornell University**

- Questions ✓
- Assign Recommenders ✓
- Preview and Submission - Common App ✓
- Writing Supplement ✓
- Preview and Submission - Writing Supplement ✓

Philadelphia University

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Syracuse University

**Contact Info**

Phone: (607) 255-5241 Email: [admissions@cornell.edu](mailto:admissions@cornell.edu)  
[View College Website](#)

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall 2014**

**First Year**  
Early Decision- 11/08/2013  
Regular Decision- 01/09/2014

**Required**

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

**Test Policy:**  
[Always Required](#)


**Recommendations Required:**  
School Report  
Mid Year Report


Common App


College-Specific  
Supplement

✓ = completed

# Common App - Sections to Complete









Welcome, Matthew!  
First Year | CAID 



Sign out


DashboardMy CollegesCommon AppCollege Search


Common Application

Profile   
Family   
Education   
Testing   
Activities   
Writing 

▼ Personal Information

First/given name \*  
Matthew


Middle name  


Last/family/surname \*  



Suffix

Have you ever used any other names?\*  
No


Sex\*  
Male

Help Center 

Question related to sex

Federal guidelines mandate that we collect data on the legal sex of all applicants. Please report t ... [ + ]  
[\[more\]](#) 

No Social Security Number

If you do not have a Social Security Number (SSN), you do not need to enter anything in the Social ... [ + ]  
[\[more\]](#) 

Different name on birth certificate than on transcripts/tests

Please enter your

Sections  
to  
Complete

# Common App - Sections to Complete (Details) Example

<b>PROFILE</b>	<p><b>Contacts</b> Email address, phone number, mailing address</p> <p><b>Demographics</b> Religion, military service, race/ethnicity (all optional)</p> <p><b>Geography</b> Birthplace, countries lived in, language proficiency, citizenship</p>
<b>FAMILY</b>	<p><b>Household</b> Parent marital status, parent(s) with whom you reside</p> <p><b>Parent and/or Guardian</b> Name, birthplace, occupation, education, stepparent information</p> <p><b>Siblings</b> Age, grade, education</p>
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<p><b>School</b> Current school, dates attended, counselor name, phone, and email</p> <p><b>History</b> Previous schools, dates attended, past/pending education interruptions (e.g. time off, early graduation, gap year, etc.), college courses, college assistance programs</p> <p><b>Academic Information</b> GPA, class rank, current year courses, honors and awards</p>
<b>TESTING</b>	<p><b>College Entrance</b> ACT and SAT</p> <p><b>English For Non-Native Speakers</b> TOEFL, IELTS, PTE Academic</p> <p><b>Academic Subjects</b> AP, IB, SAT Subject Tests, A-Levels</p> <p><b>Other</b> Optional reporting for other relevant 9-12 testing</p>
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<p><b>Principal Activities/Work</b> Years of participation, hours per week, weeks per year, position/leadership held (50 characters), brief description (150 characters). 10 activities maximum.</p>

<b>ESSAY</b>	<p><b>Select One, 650 Words Maximum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some students have a background or story that is so central to their identity that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.</li> <li>Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what lessons did you learn?</li> <li>Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?</li> <li>Describe a place or environment where you are perfectly content. What do you do or experience there, and why is it meaningful to you?</li> <li>Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.</li> </ul>
<b>EXPLANATIONS</b>	<p><b>Required Responses</b> Explanations regarding school discipline<sup>1</sup>, criminal history<sup>2</sup>, education interruption, veteran discharge status</p>
<b>ADDITIONAL INFO</b>	<p><b>Optional Responses</b> Relevant circumstances or qualifications not reflected elsewhere in the application</p>
<b>COLLEGE PAGE 1</b>	<p><b>General</b> Entry term, degree status, housing preference, test-optional preference, scholarship and financial aid preference</p> <p><b>Academics</b> Academic interest, program(s) applying to</p> <p><b>Contacts</b> Interactions with the institution (campus visit, off-campus interview, etc.)</p> <p><b>Family</b> Family members who have attended or been employed by the institution</p> <p><b>Evaluations</b> Names of classroom teachers, coaches, other recommenders</p> <p><b>Residence</b> Required by some public institutions to determine in-state status</p> <p><b>Signature</b> Acknowledgments and affirmations (Not all member colleges will ask all questions.)</p>
<b>COLLEGE PAGE 2</b>	<p><b>Writing Supplement</b> Additional short answer or essay responses if requested by institution</p>

1. Have you ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at any educational institution you have attended from the 9th grade (or the international equivalent) forward, whether related to academic misconduct or behavioral misconduct, that resulted in a disciplinary action? These actions could include, but are not limited to: probation, suspension, removal, dismissal, or expulsion from the institution.

2. Have you ever been adjudicated guilty or convicted of a misdemeanor, felony, or other crime? Note that you are not required to answer "yes" to this question, or provide an explanation, if the criminal adjudication or conviction has been expunged, sealed, annulled, pardoned, destroyed, erased, impounded, or otherwise ordered by a court to be kept confidential.

YOU ARE THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OFFICER READING THROUGH COLLEGE APPLICATIONS.



Essay Question: *Describe a significant experience in your life and the impact it had on you. (max. 650 words)*

***Based on these opening words in response to the Essay Question- which response would you choose and why?***

**Tony:** *A significant event that happened to me was when I was visiting my uncle who lives in Annapolis. My uncle is my Mom's younger brother and I like visiting him because he lives on the water near the Chesapeake Bay. Uncle Joe lets me use his jet ski and being out on the water and seeing sea gulls is so much fun. One day, we saw the fire department's rescue boat.....(72 words)*

**Sandy:** *The bright and hopeful faces of the children's photos contrasted sharply with the dates below their names: 2008-2013, 2001-2014. I was shocked to learn that all of these children had lost their lives by accidental drowning in the Chesapeake Bay. It made me determined to educate my friends, family, and classmates about the fun and danger of living near the water. (61 words)*

**Mary:** *A significant experience is something that you will remember. It could be good or bad. It could be short or over a long period of time. Impacts are how you feel if you have a significant experience. Sometimes people feel sad. Sometimes people feel that they need to make a bad situation better by raising awareness, so they raise funds for a cause. (63 words)*