

FIND A COLLEGE

Plan for college ▾

Apply to college ▾

Support your students ▾



Sign in

Create an

your future starts here

College for the first time or transfer to
earn your degree. Navigate your entire college
journey with Common App.

Common App

How to Avoid
Common (App)
Mistakes

What is Common App?

- <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- An application platform that is accepted by over 900 colleges for their admissions.
- Through the platform, applicants can apply to multiple colleges at once. So students only have fill out details that most schools require, including name, address and extracurricular activities, one time.
- You choose exactly which colleges to send your complete application to (it doesn't automatically go to all 900+ schools)

How and When** to Apply?

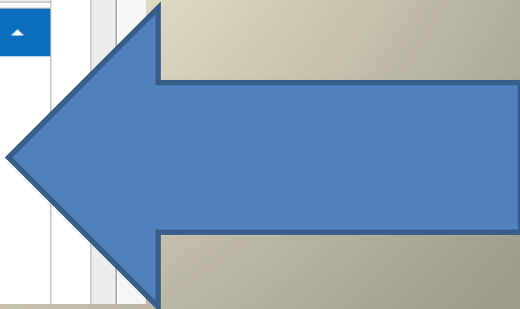
College	Application platform	First admissions deadlines	Final deadlines
Colorado College	Common App, Coalition App [^] , or Questbridge	Nov 1 (early action or early decision 1)	Jan 15 (early decision 2 or regular decision)
Colorado Mesa University	CMU App or Common App	Rolling admissions	
Colorado School of Mines	Golden App (CSM only) or Common App	Sept 15 (Priority 1)	Nov 1 (Priority 2)
Colorado State University	Common App	Dec 1 (Early Action)	Feb 1 (Regular)
University of Colorado, Boulder	Common App	Nov 15 (Early Action)	Jan 15 (Regular)
University of Northern Colorado	Bear App or Common App		March 1

[^] We recommend avoiding the Coalition Application. See Ms. Fasnacht w/questions.

Need an application fee waiver? (do you qualify for free/reduced lunch?) Request that under the Common App tab “Profile”

The screenshot shows the Common App interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Dashboard, My Colleges, Common App (selected), College Search, and Financial Aid Resources. On the left, a sidebar menu lists sections: Common Application (selected), Profile, Family (checked), Education, Testing, Activities, Writing, and Courses & Grades (0 college(s) require). The main content area is titled 'Profile' and contains a list of sections, each with a green checkmark: Personal Information, Address, Contact Details, Demographics, Geography, Language, and Citizenship. Below these is the 'Common App Fee Waiver' section, which is highlighted in blue. The text in this section reads: 'Our member colleges want to make sure that application fees do not pose a barrier for any student who wishes to apply for admission. Do you feel that your financial circumstances might qualify you for an application fee waiver?' followed by a link 'Learn more*'. Below the text are two radio button options: 'Yes' and 'No'. At the bottom of the section is a 'Clear Answer' button.

And talk to your counselor. Follow up paperwork will probably need to be submitted.



Find RMHS (Common App tab, Education section)

If you search by city, use “Fort Collins”

Rocky is NOT in the results when you search “Ft. Collins” or “Ft Collins”

The screenshot shows the 'High School Lookup' form in the Common App interface. The 'Search By' dropdown is set to 'City' and the 'City' input field contains 'ft collins'. The results list shows three schools: Centennial High School, Heritage Christian Academy, and Poudre High School, all in Ft Collins, CO. A 'Continue' button is at the bottom right.

Search By	City
City	ft collins

Choose School *	Sort by: Near My Address
Centennial High School Ft Collins, CO, United States of America CEEB: 060584	
Heritage Christian Academy Ft Collins, CO, United States of America CEEB: 060585	
Poudre High School Ft Collins, CO, United States of America CEEB: 060587	

[What if I'm home schooled?](#)

Continue

Ft Collins=
No Rocky!

eserveRocky - Go... ACT®/SAT® Conco... Remind PD PSD My Drive - Google...

Dashboard My Colleges Common App College Search Financial Aid Resources

Common Application

- Profile
- ✓ Family
- Education
- Testing
- Activities
- Writing
- Courses & Grades
0 college(s) require


Education Video Tutorials

Current or Most Recent Secondary/High School

Current or most recent secondary/high school *

Rocky Mountain High School
1300 W Swallow Rd
Fort Collins, CO 80526-2412
USA
Public
CEEB Code : 060588

Change Remove

Date of entry*
08/19 
Date should be entered in the Month Year format.

Is this a boarding school?*


Yes
 No

Clear Answer

Did or will you graduate from this school?*

Yes
 No

Clear Answer

Graduation date*
05/23 
Date should be entered in the Month Year format.

Education Information

(Common App tab, education section, Current or Most Recent Secondary/High School)

If you attended RMHS starting in 9th grade, here's your info:

Date of entry: August 2019

Graduation Date: May 2023
(even if you finish your Rocky credits earlier in the year)

Education Information— Colleges & Universities

Include the following (if applicable).

- CU Succeed (“University of Colorado Denver”)
- FRCC High School Programs
- Concurrent Enrollment at CSU or FRCC
- Other (check w/ your counselor if you are not sure)
- Start date is whenever you started earning credits from that college

The screenshot shows the 'Education' section of a Common Application. The left sidebar contains navigation options: Profile, Family (checked), Education (selected), Testing, Activities, Writing, and Courses & Grades (0 college(s) require). The main content area is titled 'Education' and includes a 'Video Tutorials' button. Below this, there are two dropdown menus: 'Current or Most Recent Secondary/High School' (checked) and 'Other Secondary/High Schools' (checked). A blue header section is titled 'Colleges & Universities'. Below this header, a text prompt asks the user to indicate the number of colleges if they have ever taken coursework at a college or university. A dropdown menu shows the number '2'. Below this, the details for 'College 1*' are listed: 'Front Range Community College: Larimer', '4616 S Shields St', 'Fort Collins, CO 80526-3812', 'USA', '2-year or community college', and 'CEEB Code : 5272'. There are 'Change' and 'Remove' buttons for this college. Under the 'Course details' section, the 'Dual enrollment with high school' checkbox is checked and circled in blue. Other options include 'Summer program' and 'Credit awarded directly by college'. At the bottom, there is a 'College 1 from date*' field with 'January 2020' entered and a calendar icon. A note below the date field says 'Date should be entered in the month/year format.' The 'College 1 to date*' field is partially visible at the bottom.

Education Information—Colleges

& Universities

Degree earned

Choose an option

College 2*

University of Colorado Denver
1380 Lawrence St
Ste 1000
Denver, CO 80204-2058
USA
4-year college or university
CEEB Code : 4875



Change



Remove

Course details

- Dual enrollment with high school
- Summer program
- Credit awarded directly by college

College 2 from date*

Example: August 2002



Date should be entered in the Month Year format.

College 2 to date*

Example: August 2002



Date should be entered in the Month Year format.

Degree earned

Choose an option

CU Succeed = University of Colorado
Denver

CEEB Code: 4875

FRCC = Front Range Community
College: Larimer

CEEB Code: 5272

Choose Dual Enrollment
with High School

Leave "degree earned" blank

Continue

Education: Grades (use your course history in Student Vue)

Rank = Exact

Rank weighting = Unweighted

If you use your “**Cum GPA**” on StudentVue
or your unofficial transcript:

GPA scale = 4

GPA weighting = Unweighted

If you use your “**5 Point GPA**”:

GPA scale = 4

GPA weighting = Weighted

Common Application

Profile

Family

Education

Testing

Activities

Writing

Courses & Grades
0 college(s) require

Education

Video

✓ Current or Most Recent Secondary/High School

✓ Other Secondary/High Schools

Colleges & Universities

Grades

Graduating class size (approx.)*

454

Class rank reporting

Exact

Decile

Quintile

Quartile

None

Clear answer

Class rank*

Find your rank on StudentVue

Rank weighting*

Weighted

Unweighted

Clear answer

GPA Scale reporting

4

Cumulative GPA*

Find your GPA on StudentVue

GPA weighting

Weighted

Unweighted

Clear answer

Current or Most Recent Year Courses

A semester-long course at RMHS = 10 credits = “Full year”

- E.g. US Literature is one semester long, and is worth 10 credits at RMHS and is equivalent to 1 year of coursework.
- We use a “**semester**” grading system because we have a final grade at the end of each quarter (i.e. semester’s worth of credit).
- At RMHS, your classes are leveled as one of the following:
 - Advanced Placement AP
 - Dual Enrollment
 - Regular/Standard

The screenshot shows the 'Education' section of a Common Application. The left sidebar has 'Education' selected. The main content area has a 'Video Tutorials' button and a list of education-related sections: 'Current or Most Recent Secondary/High School', 'Other Secondary/High Schools', 'Colleges & Universities', and 'Grades'. Below these is the 'Current or Most Recent Year Courses' section, which is highlighted in blue. The text below this section asks the user to list all courses and provides a dropdown for the number of courses (set to 6). A red circle highlights the question 'Please select the course scheduling system your institution is using.*' with radio button options for Semester (selected), Trimester, Quarter, and Yearly, and a 'Clear answer' button. Below this are input fields for 'Course 1 subject*' (English), 'Course 1 name*' (Media Analysis), 'Course 1 level*' (Dual Enrollment), and 'Course 1 schedule*' (Full Year). A second red circle highlights the 'Course 1 level*' dropdown, which is set to 'Dual Enrollment'.

Education: Honors

NHS, NTHS, NAHS, MAT = a
School
Recognition

(even if it has the word
“national” in the title)

Common Application

Profile

✓ Family

Education

Testing

Activities

Writing

Courses & Grades
0 college(s) require

Education

Video Tutorials

✓ Current or Most Recent Secondary/High School

✓ Other Secondary/High Schools

Colleges & Universities

✓ Grades

Current or Most Recent Year Courses

Honors

✓ Honors 1

Honors 1 title*

National Honor Society

Grade level

9

10

11

12

Post-graduate

Level(s) of recognition

School

State/Regional

National

International

Education— Honors

- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- Post-graduate

Level(s) of recognition

- School
- State/Regional
- National
- International

Honors 2 title*

State Science Fair, 3rd Place

Grade level

- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- Post-graduate

Level(s) of recognition

- School
- State/Regional
- National
- International

You might have a
state/national level
recognition

Continue

Community-Based Organizations

✓ Future Plans

Education—CBO (Community Based Organization)

The screenshot shows a web application interface for a college application. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Dashboard, My Colleges, Common App, College Search, and Financial Aid Resources. On the left, a sidebar menu includes: Common Application, Profile, Family (with a checkmark), Education (highlighted), Testing, Activities, Writing, and Courses & Grades (0 college(s) require). The main content area is titled 'Education' and contains several sections: 'Current or Most Recent Secondary/High School' (checked), 'Other Secondary/High Schools' (checked), 'Colleges & Universities', 'Grades' (checked), 'Current or Most Recent Year Courses', and 'Honors'. Below these is a blue header for 'Community-Based Organizations'. The text below the header asks: 'Indicate the number of community programs or organizations that have provided you with free assistance in your application process.*'. A dropdown menu is open, showing options 0, 1, and 2 (with a checkmark). A 'Continue' button is visible to the right of the dropdown.

Most students DON'T have a CBO, unless you work with a non-profit group outside of Rocky (not a private college counselor), for help on college.

Education—Future Plans

Highest degree you intend to earn—
FOR YOUR LIFETIME,
not just what you
are entering when
you graduate from
Rocky.

The screenshot shows the 'Common Application' interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'Dashboard', 'My Colleges', 'Common App', 'College Search', and 'Financial Aid Resources'. The 'Common App' tab is active. On the left, a sidebar menu lists various sections: 'Profile', 'Family', 'Education', 'Testing', 'Activities', 'Writing', and 'Courses & Grades'. The 'Education' section is highlighted. The main content area is titled 'Education' and contains several dropdown menus, each with a green checkmark indicating completion: 'Current or Most Recent Secondary/High School', 'Other Secondary/High Schools', 'Grades', 'Current or Most Recent Year Courses', 'Honors', and 'Community-Based Organizations'. Below these is a blue header for 'Future Plans'. Under 'Future Plans', there are two dropdown menus: 'Career interest*' with 'Pharmacist' selected, and 'Highest degree you intend to earn*' with 'Doctorate (PhD, EdD, etc)' selected. A 'Continue' button is located at the bottom right.

Dashboard My Colleges Common App College Search Financial Aid Resources

Common Application

Profile

✓ Family

Education

Testing

Activities

Writing

Courses & Grades
0 college(s) require

Education

Video Tutorials

✓ Current or Most Recent Secondary/High School

✓ Other Secondary/High Schools

Colleges & Universities

✓ Grades

Current or Most Recent Year Courses

Honors

Community-Based Organizations

Future Plans

Career interest*

Pharmacist

Highest degree you intend to earn*

Doctorate (PhD, EdD, etc)

Continue

Writing: Additional Information

Writing Preview

✓ Personal Essay ^

Additional Information v

Community disruptions such as COVID-19 and natural disasters can have deep and long-lasting impacts. If you need it, this space is yours to describe those impacts. Colleges care about the effects on your health and well-being, safety, family circumstances, future plans, and education, including access to reliable technology and quiet study spaces. For more information, check out our [COVID-19 FAQ](#).

Do you wish to share anything on this topic?*

Yes

No

Clear answer

Do you wish to provide details of circumstances or qualifications not reflected in the application?*

Yes

No

Clear answer

Where can I explain how COVID-19 had an impact on me?

COVID-19 has affected students in dramatically different ways. If you need

- **COVID/Natural disasters:**
 - Include information here about your experience during COVID if it impacted you, your family, and your learning environment.
- Other circumstances or qualifications

Use the examples in the help menu if you are unsure if the question applies to you

My Colleges: Questions (sometimes found under a specific college's tab)

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.*

- Yes
- No

Clear answer

Have you ever been adjudicated guilty or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony? 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 required by law or ordered by a court to be kept confidential*.

- Yes
- No

Clear answer

*If your college asks questions about your school discipline or legal history, answer honestly (not all colleges will ask). A college *may* rescind admission if you lie, even about things that would not have kept you from being admitted in the first place. Your counselor can help you decide how to share this information.*

My Colleges—Assign Recommenders: Release Authorization

Most students waive their rights to their recommendations.

This indicates to a college that the recommender is more likely to be very honest if needed—and a college will give more weight to the waived recommendations.

The screenshot shows a web interface for 'My Colleges' with a navigation menu at the top (Dashboard, My Colleges, Common App, College Search, Financial Aid Resources) and a left sidebar (My Colleges, Harvard University, Regis University, Stanford University, University of Denver, College Information, Application, Questions, Recommenders and FERPA, Review and Submit - Common App). The main content area is titled 'Recommenders & FERPA' and contains a section for 'FERPA Release Authorization' with a warning icon and text: 'Before you can invite your counselor, teachers, recommenders, parents, or advisors, you must complete the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) release authorization process. Learn more about FERPA'. A modal window titled 'Release Authorization' is open, showing a 'FERPA Form' with a checkbox: 'I acknowledge that every school that I have attended may release all requested records and recommendations to colleges to which I am applying for admission. I also understand that employees at these colleges may confidentially contact my current and former schools should they have questions about the information submitted on my behalf.*'. The modal has 'Back' and 'Save and Close' buttons. A right sidebar contains 'Instruction Help' with various links.

My Colleges: Assign Recommenders (after you complete the FERPA release)

The screenshot shows a web interface with a top navigation bar containing 'Dashboard', 'My Colleges', 'Common App', 'College Search', and 'Financial Aid Resources'. A left sidebar lists 'My Colleges' with a dropdown menu for 'Colorado State University' and other colleges like Harvard, Regis, and Stanford. The main content area is titled 'Recommenders & FERPA' and includes sections for 'FERPA Release Authorization', 'Invite Recommenders', 'Counselor', 'Teacher', and 'Other Recommender'. Each section has a 'View Details' link and an 'Invite' button. The 'FERPA Release Authorization' section is marked with a checkmark and has a 'View Details' link. The 'Invite Recommenders' section has a checkmark and a description: 'Recommenders are people who will submit forms and information to colleges on your behalf. Check out our [video about recommenders](#).' Below this are two buttons: 'Invite Recommenders' and 'Manage Recommenders'. The 'Counselor' section has a warning icon and a description: 'You must invite a school Counselor who will complete the School Report and other forms for you.' Below this is an 'Invite Counselor' button. The 'Teacher' section has a checkmark and a description: 'Please select and assign the Teacher(s) below whose recommendation will be submitted to this college on your behalf. You must invite a teacher with the Invite Teacher button before you can assign them to this college.' Below this are 'Required: 0' and 'Optional: 3' counts, and an 'Invite Teacher' button. The 'Other Recommender' section has a checkmark and a description: 'Please select and assign the Other Recommender(s) below whose recommendation(s) will be submitted to this college on your behalf. You must invite an Other Recommender using the 'Invite Other Recommender' link before you can assign them for this college.' Below this is the text 'Recommender types accepted by this college:' followed by a list: 'Arts Teacher', 'Coach', 'College Access Counselor', and 'Employer'.

Enter RMHS counselor/teacher info here. Be sure to enter their email address correctly, and check with the staff member to make sure they got the link from Common App

Follow up with your recommenders

Ask your recommenders:

- Do they have all the needed information to complete the recommendation?
- Would they like a reminder? If so, when/how is most helpful?

Remember to share a token of gratitude (homemade baked goods, a handwritten thank you note, their favorite coffee drink, etc.).

Common App Needs...

- 0-3 Letter(s) of Recommendation—depending on the college
- Usually a Counselor Recommendation/School Report
- Often an official Transcript
- Sometimes a mid-year report. Talk with Leah Kapral for help

...For Each College

(The same letters can/should go to multiple colleges!)

More questions?

- See Katie Brown (Student Services) about getting your RMHS transcript to colleges
- See Ms. Fassnacht (College and Career Center) about CommonApp questions
- See your counselor or Ms. Fassnacht about other college related questions