



Understanding application fees & fee waivers

Application fees

An application fee is a fee that a college charges for applying to their institution. Each college can choose how much to charge, and whether or not they charge a fee at all. In fact, many colleges don't charge a fee.

There are several places within Common App that list colleges' application fee requirements:

College Search

When you choose a school from the results list you'll see a breakdown of all their requirements, including application fees.

Did you know?

In College Search you can choose to search for colleges that charge no application fee at all.

College Information

The first page of any college on your My Colleges tab shows their "College Information". Application fees for both domestic and international applicants are listed on this page.

Requirements Grid

The Requirements Grid lists out the requirements (including application fees) for all colleges that use Common App. You can find this downloadable PDF on the Dashboard, College Search, and in our Solutions Center.

475+

colleges have no application fee for domestic students.

490+

colleges have no application fee for international students.

Fee waivers

A fee waiver lets you apply to a college without paying an application fee. Common App wants to make sure that application fees aren't a barrier for any student trying to submit an application. That's why we have the Common App Fee Waiver.

The Common App Fee Waiver waives the application fee of any college you apply to through Common App.

You can find the Common App Fee Waiver in the Profile section of the Common App tab. To apply for this fee waiver:

1. Answer "Yes" to the fee waiver statement.
2. Select all the indicators in the list that apply to you.
3. Enter your signature to certify your request.

Note

Your counselor will also be asked to confirm that you are eligible for this waiver. You will still be able to submit your application without a fee while your counselor confirms.

Keep in mind, the Common App Fee Waiver isn't the only fee waiver available to you. Many colleges also offer their own application fee waiver, specific to their school. Be sure to check with each college to understand their own fee waiver policies.

Need more information on application fees and fee waivers? Visit appsupport.commonapp.org

502K+

applicants received a fee waiver in 2020–2021.

\$105M

in need-based fee waivers were granted by our member colleges in 2020–2021.