

Let's Apply to College!

1.) Where do I go to apply?

- Most Texas Public Colleges - <https://applytexas.org/>
- Many Texas & Out of State Colleges - <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- Select Texas & Out of State Colleges - <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>
- Or check the college's website for school-specific or preferred applications!

2.) We recommend applying to at least one college in each of these categories:

- Safety – this is a college in which your GPA/Test scores exceed the admissions requirements
- Likely – this is a college in which your GPA/Test scores are on-target with the admissions requirements
- Reach – this is a college in which your GPA/Test scores are approaching the admissions requirements, especially one in which you feel like your other application materials (essay, resume, recommendations) will improve the strength of your application

3.) Use a **personal email address** to create application accounts. Create a notes page in your phone for your login information for each application platform.

4.) Fill out everything in both the student profile and the Fall 2024 application. Don't leave any required fields blank! It is also recommended that you submit any optional application materials to increase your opportunity to show your value to the college.

5.) Some applications have you enter your counselor's email address so they can complete a counselor recommendation for you through the application website. You will enter **your Campus Counselor's email address** (this is the counselor who does your class schedule). You will need to follow up with your counselor after submitting your application to formally request a recommendation from them.

6.) Some applications have you enter 1-2 teacher email addresses for teacher recommendations. You can choose any teacher from high school that knows you well and will recommend you fairly. You will need to follow up with these teachers after submitting your application to formally request a recommendation from them. You may also list your campus CCMR Coach as an advisor on the recommendation page of CommonApp to allow them to monitor your progress toward application submission.

7.) Check your major department's section of the college website for additional requirements specific to your major. Some majors require a portfolio submission, in-person or taped auditions, or additional short-answer or essay topics. Follow any directions and note any deadlines for submission or scheduling of these requirements.

I'm not done today – what should I do?

Make sure you finish all of the following:

- Complete the entire Fall 2024 Application. This includes completing the student profile information AND the Fall 2024 application to a specific college.
- If requested, upload or copy/paste a resume into the application. (Recommended that you include this even if it's listed as optional).
- If required, complete any short answer or essay prompts. Copy/paste your answers/essay into a google/word doc to use or rework on future college or scholarship applications. (Recommended that you include this even if it's listed as optional – you will have it ready if needed for appealing a decision or to use in scholarship applications).
- Pay the application fee using a credit or debit card. If you qualify for income-based free/reduced lunch, see your campus CCMR Coach for information on application fee waivers.
- Hit the submit button!

What happens after I apply?

Immediately After Submission:

- Request your transcript to be sent to the college. Go to: <https://kellertx.scriborder.com/> - click on the backpack and list the college's information in the "Documents Will Be Delivered To" section. You can include multiple colleges on one order to save yourself money on the per-order processing fee.
- If your college requires test scores for admission or scholarships, you will need to send official SAT or ACT score reports. Login to your College Board or ACT account and send scores from there. If you have not taken either or need to retest, you may register while logged in as well.
- If your college requires recommendation letters from a counselor and/or a teacher, see your high school's counseling office for the recommendation letter request form or procedure for your campus.

While waiting for your admissions decision:

- Check your personal email regularly – this is how the college will communicate with you about your application status or any additional documents that are needed. Read and follow-through on every communication they send.
- If the college provides you with an applicant portal or student email, check those regularly as well and follow any directions given. Set a reminder in your phone to check those once a week at minimum to avoid missing any deadlines.
- Some schools require you to enter your transcript information in a SRAS portal. Do this ASAP after being prompted to do it. They will not process your application without this information.
- Once your college has all the required application pieces and documents, they will review your application. Some give decisions within a few weeks, others you might not hear from for months. Be patient! Follow up if you do not hear back within the college's specified timeline.