

College Application Process

Susquehanna Valley High School

3 Ways to Apply

1. Common Application
 - a. Public, private, in-state, out-of-state
 - b. <https://www.commonapp.org/>
2. SUNY Application
 - a. NYS, public schools only
 - b. <https://www.suny.edu/applysuny/>
3. College Specific Application
 - a. Ex. SUNY Broome
 - b. <https://connect.sunybroome.edu/apply/>

THE COMMON
APPLICATION



Common Information to Provide

- Personal Information
 - Address, Contact Information, Demographics, Language, Citizenship
- Family
 - Household, Parent 1 and Parent 2, Siblings
- Education
 - High School, Graduation Date, Grades, Rank, Current Courses
- Testing
 - SAT/ACT Scores
- Activities/Honors
 - Sports, Clubs, Extracurricular Activities, Leadership Positions in Activity
- Employment
- Writing
 - College Essay
- Payment
 - \$50 per college (usually)

College Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma—anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or realization you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Letters of Recommendation

- At least one core academic teacher
- Academic/elective teacher you have had for several years
- Coaches, advisors, community members
- **Students should give teachers at least 2 weeks notice**

Common Application:

- Students can invite their recommenders to upload the letter right to their portal. They do this by using the *teacher's email address*.

SUNY Application

- Teachers are not able to upload their letter. Teachers must send their letter to the counselor to be uploaded to the portal.

We recommend students waive their rights to access letters of recommendations

College Admissions Options and Dates

1. Early Decision: November 1st (generally)
 - a. Binding. If accepted, student must go and withdraw all other applications to colleges
2. Early Action: usually November 1st or November 15th
 - a. Not binding, but can still apply early and get a decision earlier
3. Regular Decision: January 1st-February 1st
 - a. Most common
4. Rolling Admissions: September-July
 - a. Admissions will review applications as they come in and send out decision letters
5. Open Admissions
 - a. Common among community colleges; nearly all HS graduates admitted

Timeline of Senior Year

FALL

- Finalize college list
 - Likely-Match/Target-Reach
- Visit schools- in-person/virtually
- Apply to college
 - Pay attention to deadlines!**
- Complete the FAFSA/TAP
- Keep your grades up
- Scholarships

WINTER/SPRING

- Monitor applications
 - Inform your counselor of outcomes!**
- Apply for scholarships
- Complete the FAFSA/TAP
- Keep your grades up
- Decide on a college by May 1, 2021



Helpful Websites

Search for Colleges!

- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

Calculate Chances of Getting Into a College!

- <https://www.collegedata.com/en/prepare-and-apply/college-chances/admissions-calculator/>

Scholarships!

- <https://www.fastweb.com/>

Counselor Information

School Code: 331463

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