

August 10th 2020

Dear Running Start Students Class of 2021,

This is one of many **Applying to a 4-Year College/University** newsletters! Throughout this summer check your BC inbox for emails helping you prepare for applying to colleges and universities in the Fall of 2020, your senior year. Each newsletter will cover different topics and will always include **links to resources** for you to explore and use on your own.

**If you are not planning on attending a 4-year school after high school then please ignore these emails and feel free to reach out to an advisor with questions about your path after high school.*

The Application

Today's Topics:

- Do I Apply as a Freshman or a Transfer student?
- Application Deadlines: Regular Decision, Early Decision, Early Action, Rolling Admissions
- Different Types of College Applications: Common App, Coalition, etc.
- Resources!

Do I Apply as a Freshman or a Transfer student?

It is common for Running Start students to think they should apply to 4-year schools as a transfer student because they are earning so many college credits. However, this is often not the truth. Applying to a 4-year school as a freshman/first year applicant versus a transfer applicant depends on a few things:

Apply as a Freshman Applicant if YES to one or more of these statements:	Apply as a Transfer Applicant if YES to ALL of these statements:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I plan to start at a 4-year school in the summer or fall after I graduate from high school.• I am in the Running Start Program and I plan to start at a 4-year school right after I graduate from HS, regardless of how many college credits I have earned by then.• I have never attended a 2-year/4-year school since I have graduated from high school, regardless of my age or whether I ever graduated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I want to start at a 4-year school to earn my first bachelor's degree.• I am no longer attending high school, regardless of how old I am or whether I ever graduated.• I have completed, plan to complete or will have completed or will have completed any coursework at a regionally accredited college or university after leaving high school and before enrolling at a 4-year school (excluding the summer term right after graduating from high school).

SOURCE: <https://admit.washington.edu/apply/whats-my-application-type/>

Many of you are planning to attend a 4-year school the Fall term right after you graduate high school. If this is you then you should apply as a freshman/first year applicant! **Always check with the 4-year schools that you are applying to be certain which application you need to submit.** Each school may be different but above is a good general guide.

Application Deadlines



Each 4-year school will open their applications at different times and have their own deadline(s) for applications. Always check with each school to find out when their deadlines are!

Before you start applying to any schools you should know each school's application deadline. There are different types of application deadlines and it is very important to know the differences. The dates of these deadlines range from November through April so it's a really good idea to start your college applications early to be sure you meet the deadlines for you.

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Deadlines	Details
Regular Decision	This is the regular application deadline for any student.
Early Action	<p>If you are more interested in a certain school you might be able to apply early through Early Action and find out if you were accepted as early as December of your senior year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is non-binding, so even if you are accepted you still have until May 1st to make your final decision. Students can apply to more than one school through Early Action unless any of their schools has restrictions around this – always check with each school you are applying to specifically! Applying early does not mean that you have higher chances of acceptance – all schools treat their early decision/early action applications differently.
Early Decision	<p>If you are sure about what school you want to attend you may be able to apply early through Early Decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This option is binding which means if you are accepted to the school through Early Decision you must attend that school. You can only apply to ONE SCHOOL through Early Decision. You must apply to all other schools through Regular Decision. If admitted through Early Decision you must withdraw all other college applications and pay a deposit. Only apply through Early Decision if you have thoroughly researched the school, are 100% sure this is your top choice school, and if the school is a match for you academic, financially, and socially. Applying early does not mean that you have higher chances of acceptance – all schools treat their early decision/early action applications differently.
Rolling Admissions	The school is accepting applications throughout your senior year, is reviewing applications as they come in, and is letting students know on a rolling basis. No specific dates.

Drawbacks of applying early to a school:

- Pressure to decide early
- Less financial aid options
- If you are not admitted to your ED or EA school and you find out in December, there is not a lot of time to complete applications for other schools before January 1st, and there is a limited number of schools that have deadlines later in the spring.
- Senioritis! If you are admitted early to a school, you still have the rest of the school year to stay-strong in your classes but you may feel less motivated knowing so early what school you will be attending.


Different Types of College Applications

Not all schools use the same application and there are a few different application platforms that schools may use for the applications. Here are the most common application platforms:

Applications	Descriptions & Guides
<p>Common Application www.commonapp.org</p> 	<p>The Common Application is a website where students can search for and apply to many schools. Students need to create an account on the Common App website and they can save progress on multiple college applications at once. Common App also has some helpful application guides for students to use. The guides include easy to follow instructions as well as videos to help</p>

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	<p>break down the Common App itself. There are 900+ schools that use the Common Application.</p> <p>Common App: First Time Application Guide</p> <p>Common App: Transfer Application Guide</p>
<p>Coalition for College Access (www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org)</p> 	<p>The Coalition for College Access is a website where students can search for schools, compile a portfolio of pieces of their college application, and apply to certain 4-year schools. There are 150 schools that are part of the Coalition for College Access and use it as their application (UW Seattle uses this website for their applications). The Coalition for College Access website includes a Locker, Collaboration Space, Coalition Application, as well as MyCoalition Counselor. Explore the Coalition for College Access and the resources they offer for students today:</p> <p>My Coalition Intro</p>
Other Applications	<p>If a school is not on the Common Application or the Coalition for College Access they probably have their own application system. You can access this from the school's website and admissions page. For example, Washington State University uses their own application through CollegeNET's ApplyWeb service.</p> <p>When in doubt, always look for how to apply from the school's website!</p>

Resources

[The Benefits and Drawbacks of Applying Early](#) (CollegeBoard.org)

[Important College Application Deadlines You Can't Miss](#) (blog.PrepScholar.com)

[What Exactly are the Differences between Early Action and Early Decision](#) (unigo.com)

[What Is Rolling Admissions](#) (PrincetonReview.com)

[The Truth Behind Rolling Admissions: No Deadlines, No Waiting](#) (Niche.com)

[Common Application](#)

[Coalition for College Access](#)

[What's My Application Type?](#) (University of Washington – Seattle Campus)

[Preparing for College](#) (University of Washington)

[Washington College Access Network: Applying to College](#)

If you have any questions about these topics please respond to this email!

Next newsletter topic: Parts of the College Application

All Applying to 4-Year Schools Newsletters and Worksheets are now available as downloadable PDFs on our website:

<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/runningstart/navigation/advising-educational-planning/>

Take care,

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Erica Walker

Running Start Advisor, Center for High School Programs

[Click here to Schedule a RS Advising Appointment](#)

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SUMMER HOURS: Monday thru Thursday 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM, Friday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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