

College Applications for High School Seniors

Event brought to you by the **Center for HS Programs**

In collaboration with the **Writing Lab at the ASC**

Presenter: **Erica Walker, RS Advisor**

Guest Speaker: **Carli Yip, Writing Lab**

Agenda

- Which application should I do? Freshman or Transfer?
- College Application Deadline Types
- College Application Platforms
- Parts of the College Application
- Personal Statements with Carli Yip
 - Feedback sessions for HS Seniors with the Writing Lab, Nov 1 – 15th
- Future Events for RS HS Seniors!

STEP 1:

**Am I a Transfer or a
Freshman Applicant?**

Am I a Freshman or a Transfer Applicant?

Freshman / First Year *

I am a freshman because I can answer “yes” to at least one of the following statements:

- I plan to enter the UW in the summer or fall after graduating from high school.
- I am in Washington state’s Running Start Program, and I plan to enter the UW right after graduating, regardless of how many college credits I have earned or will earn.
- I have never attended college since leaving high school, regardless of my age or whether I ever graduated. (Taking courses during the summer term immediately following high school graduation doesn’t make you a transfer student.)

Transfer

I am a transfer student because I can answer “yes” to all of the following statements:

- I wish to enter the UW 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 any coursework at a regionally accredited college or university after leaving high school and before enrolling at the UW (excluding the summer term immediately following high school).

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

Am I a Freshman or a Transfer Applicant?

Majority of Running Start students **apply as a Freshman/First Year applicant** during their senior year of high school

Not sure? Talk with admissions at the 4-year school for guidance about which application you should do

STEP 2:
**Which Application
Deadline Should I do?**

College Application Deadlines

Different deadline **dates**

Different deadline **types**

- Each 4-year college/university have their own deadline(s) for their admissions applications.
- **Before you start applying to any schools you should know each school's application deadline date.**
- There are different application deadline types 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.

Different Application Deadlines

There are different types of college applications relating to 'decision'

- *Regular Decision*
- *Early Decision*
- *Early Action*
- *Rolling Admissions*
- *Open Admissions*

All of these college applications have different deadlines and mean different things.

Regular Decision

- The typical deadline for any student who wants to be considered for admissions to the school
- This deadline can range from sometime in November to sometime in the late spring – check the schools you are applying to for the specific date!
- Students find out if admitted by the school typically in March
- **University of Washington, Seattle** has one freshman application deadline →

Freshman deadlines

September 1: UW section of the Coalition Application opens

The Profile is always open.

October 1: FAFSA + WASFA opens

November 15: application deadline for summer and autumn quarters **Deadline extended to Nov. 16**

The logo of the University of Washington, featuring a large white letter 'W' centered on a purple square background.

Early Action & Early Decision

- Not all schools offer these admission deadline options
- Before the Regular Decision deadline and students find out if they are admitted to the school earlier than students who apply at the Regular Decision deadline.
- Indicates a student is very interested in attending the school – but does not mean your chances of admissions are higher
- **These two deadline types have very different rules. Each school may also have unique rules tied to these deadlines so its important that you do your research.**

EARLY ACTION

Non-binding decision: If you apply Early Action and are admitted by the school, you are not bound to attend that school

You can apply Early Action to more than one school

EARLY DECISION

Binding decision: If you apply Early Decision and are admitted by the school, **you must attend that school.**

You can only apply Early Decision to ONE school.

If admitted through ED you must withdraw your other college applications and submit your deposit to the school. Only apply ED if you are confident in the schools ability to match your academic, financial, social, and physical needs!

Example of Early Action: Western WA University

Public University
Bellingham, WA



First-Year Student Application Deadlines

Fall Quarter (Early Action)	November 1
Fall Quarter (Regular Decision)	January 31

Early Action Deadline

If you complete your application for admission and by November 1:

- You're guaranteed a response from Admissions by December 31
- You're guaranteed expedited scholarship review and financial aid notification if admitted
- You still have until June 1 to confirm their intent to enroll

Example of Early Decision: Whitman College

Private College
Walla Walla, WA



WHITMAN
COLLEGE

Is Whitman College one of your top choices for college? Apply Early Decision!

We offer two Early Decision application dates: Nov. 15 (Early Decision I) and Jan. 10 (Early Decision II). All application materials and financial aid forms must be received by these dates to qualify. You will be notified about admission and financial aid approximately one month after the deadline: mid-December for Early Decision I applicants, and by the beginning of February for Early Decision II applicants.

What does it mean to apply Early Decision? 

When you apply Early Decision, you are committed to enrolling at Whitman once admitted. That means withdrawing your applications from any other colleges as long as Whitman provides a financial aid award that makes attendance possible. We take this commitment seriously, and we expect that you will also.

Rolling Admissions & Open Admissions

Rolling Admissions

- There is not one deadline.
- The school accepts applications throughout your Senior year of HS and accepts/denies students as they process those applications

Open Admissions

- Schools such as Bellevue College, or other Technical Community Colleges will enroll any student who applies (see college for specific information).





Which Application Deadline Should I do?

It's up to you to decide which application deadline type is the best for you!

Make sure to do your research ahead of time so that you never miss an application deadline

STEP 3: Complete your College Applications

Different Types of College 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 break down the Common App itself. There are 900+ schools that use the Common Application.</p> <p>Common App: First Time Application Guide 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>
<p>Other Applications</p>	<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>

Parts of the College Application

Parts of the College Application

There are many pieces to any college application and each are important. Colleges can tell when a student takes their time to complete an application thoughtfully and when a student finishes it quickly with not much thought.

Today we will review the different pieces of a college application as well as some guidelines for how to thoughtfully complete your college application(s). Think of each piece of the application as an opportunity for you to show the college why you would be successful on their campus – each piece is important!

There are pieces of the application that you, the student, are responsible for completing and pieces that are provided by your HS guidance counselor. However, **YOU are the one responsible to make sure ALL pieces of your application are complete and submitted on time!** This includes the counselor pieces and any recommendations from teachers or other sources.

Student Pieces

The following are common pieces you will find in college applications.

The smaller points are topics and questions you will encounter on the common application (commonapp.org) and may find on other applications.

Even if you aren't applying to a school through Common App, the information below is important to review and think about as you will likely find it on all applications you fill out.

STUDENT PIECES:

Personal Information

- Name, Sex, Date of Birth, Address, Phone Number,
- Demographics: Religious preference, U.S. Armed Forces status, Race, Ethnicity
- Geography: Birth country/region/territory, city and state/province, Years lived in the US or outside of the US.
- Language(s)
- Citizenship status, Social Security Number
- Household questions & information about both parents and any siblings

STUDENT PIECES:

Education

- **Current High School**, Questions about Graduation from HS, space to include other HS's that you have attended
- **Colleges & Universities:** This is where you will include any schools that you have attended through Running Start (Bellevue College), select Dual Enrollment with HS, dates attended, any degrees earned if applicable.
- **Grades:** graduating class size, class rank reporting, GPA scale reporting, Cumulative GPA, GPA Weighting
- **Current or Most Recent Year Courses:** Courses you are taking, Course scheduling system of your HS (BC uses Quarters; Any classes you are taking at BC are level Dual Enrollment)
- **Honors** related to academics
- **Community-Based Organizations:** List any community programs that have helped you on your applications for free
- **Future Plans:** Career of interest, highest degree you plan to earn

STUDENT PIECES:

Testing

- It depends on the school if they require test scores, if they are optional, or if they are not part of the application.
- Send in official score-reports, option to self-report scores or future test dates for the ACT, SAT/SAT subject, AP, IB, TOEFL, PTE Academic, and IELTS
- If testing is optional, but you have taken the test and did well, I recommend you include those test scores. This is an opportunity to improve your application even if it's optional if it gives the school more information about you to consider.
- If you did not do well on the tests then you can decide if you wish to share that information. If you did well on the SAT/ACT, your test scores can help improve your application especially if your GPA is not as high as you might want it to be.

STUDENT PIECES:

Activities

- List all of the activities that you do! This helps schools really understand what makes you unique. Take your time to write clear and brief descriptions of each activity so that whoever reads your application can understand what you did quickly.
- List any **responsibilities** you have at home such as childcare because it is just as important as if you had a job.
- **Extracurriculars:** Arts, Music, Clubs, Community engagement, Family responsibilities, Hobbies, Sports, Work, Volunteering, etc.
- **Position/leadership** description, Organization Name, activity description, participation grade levels and timing

STUDENT PIECES:

Essay(s) / Personal Statements

- Typically required, and important, part of the application
- Sometimes it's one or two essays, and sometimes it's shorter response to multiple questions
- Personal Essay: the prompt(s) depends on the school(s) you are applying to and are listed in the application.

Step-by-step:

1. Find the prompt(s) and work on essay(s) outside of application
2. Have a teacher/parent/mentor/peer/tutor review your writing and give feedback,
3. Review the essay yourself more than once, check for grammatical errors or spelling mistakes
4. THEN submit your essay in application(s).

STUDENT PIECES:

Additional Information

- If you have had any **extenuating circumstances** that have greatly impacted your health, academic performance, access to technology or a quiet work space, your family circumstances and finances, always take the opportunities provided to share. This can help your application reviewer to understand any negative impacts to your grades or courses or ability to perform academically.
- The opportunities to share any extreme negative impacts on your life that have negatively impacted your academics due to COVID-19 or natural disasters. Include anything about effects on your health/well-being, safety, family circumstances, future plans, education, access to technology and appropriate study spaces.

STUDENT PIECES:

Courses & Grades

- Transcript(s) to show courses & grades for all years of HS
- This is not part of transferring BC credits to the school. That will be done once you decide which school you will attend.

STUDENT PIECES:

Teacher Recommendations

- Sometimes Required, sometimes optional
- Typically provide recommendations from 1-2 teachers
- The schools will be specific about which subjects they will want to hear from
 - For example an English teacher and Science teacher, or Math and History.
- Sometimes it is in the form of a letter and other times it's a online form that your teacher(s) will have to complete.

Other Letters of Recommendations

- Some schools may have the option for you to submit a Letter of Recommendation from someone in your community such as a coach, extracurricular teacher, advisor, or employer. This should never be a family member or a friend. It should be someone who can speak to your abilities in an activity or leadership role.

HS Counselor Pieces:

- Official HS Transcript
- Mid-Year and Final-Year Grade Reports
- Secondary School Report and/or Counselor Recommendation

Other Parts of the Application Process:

- **Interviews:** Some schools offer interviews either as optional or required. Even if it's optional it's a good idea to have an interview as another way to present yourself to the school; an opportunity to share your strengths and why you would be a good fit for the school.
- **Demonstrated Interest:** Some schools consider your demonstrated interest in the school. Demonstrated interest is if you have taken a tour of the campus, attended an information session, reached out to the admissions team with questions, interviewed at the school, etc.
- **Auditions and Portfolios:** For art, music, or theater programs there are often opportunities to submit audition tapes and/or portfolios of your work as part of your application.

Personal Statements

Carli Yip, Writing Lab Faculty in the ASC

Personal Statements

Tailored workshops for Freshman applicants

- Tell a meaningful and real story about you
- Coalition and Common app prompts
- Provide concrete examples of how to “show”, not “tell”
- Practical PS writing tips: “do’s and don’ts”



Personal Statements Workshops & Individual Sessions

Mark your calendars!

Personal Statement Workshops

Wednesday, October 20th, 2021

11:00 AM

3:30 PM

- Walk through example essays for various prompts
- Get advice on the do's and don'ts of essay writing
- How to “recycle” an essay
- And more!

Individual Personal Statement Feedback Sessions

November 1st – 10th (except weekends)

Morning Sessions: 9:00am-12:00pm

Evening Sessions: 5:00-7:00pm

- Appointments for one-on-one personalized essay feedback from Writing Lab faculty
- Options for help with getting started (50 min), big picture review (25 min), or in-depth feedback (50 min).
- Students can schedule a Personal Statement Feedback Session using Bookings link

Thank you Carli Yip!

Check your BC email for more information in October

Future Events for RS HS Seniors!

OCTOBER 2021

Financial Aid Information Sessions

Monday October 4th at 5pm & Tuesday October 5th at 5pm

- Review types of Financial Aid and the different applications

Financial Aid Individual Support Sessions

(Dates & Times TBD)

- Work with a BC staff member who will help you with your FAFSA or WASFA and answer your questions

Personal Statement Workshops

October 20th at 11:00 AM and at 3:30 PM via Microsoft Teams

- Run by Writing Lab Faculty, learn the in's and out's of writing an essay for college applications

NOVEMBER 2021

Personal Statement Feedback Sessions

November 1st – 10th

- Work with Writing Lab Faculty to receive feedback on your Personal Statement for the UW Seattle App Deadline of Nov 16th
- Bookings link to make an appointment will be shared out to your BC email in October

Thank you for joining us today!

Questions?

This event was recorded and will be available for viewing on our website by September

Erica Walker

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Check out our RS Advising & Educational Planning Webpage:

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