

STUDENT PREPARATION

Encourage students to complete college research before the event. To help ensure students are able to make the most of their College App Week experience, students should be ready with a list of colleges they have determined would be a good match for them and to which they would like to apply. College characteristics students should be encouraged to consider include:

- Location
- Size of college
- Available majors
- Cost
- Available financial aid, including institutional scholarships
- Admission requirements

Introduce students to these college search websites:

- [NCES.ed.gov/CollegeNavigator](https://nces.ed.gov/CollegeNavigator)
- [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org)
- [CollegeScorecard.ed.gov](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov)

Make use of student worksheets provided in the student packet. The “Quick Answers to Know for College Applications” document will help ensure students have the information needed to complete an application for college admission. Many high school seniors don’t know their Social Security Numbers. Using the “Quick Answers” work sheet will help them gather their SSN and other important information ahead of time. Stress the importance of keeping track of their worksheets and destroying them after they have completed their application(s) to protect their private information. Have a cross-cut paper shredder available, if possible.

Ask teachers to get involved by incorporating college essay assignments into their classes. This will enable students applying to colleges requiring essays to be better prepared. Students should be encouraged to save their essays to thumb drives so they can quickly and easily copy and paste them into admission applications during College App Week. Visit commonapp.org for some great ideas for essay prompts.

Encourage students to become familiar with application fee payment options before the event. If the colleges to which they plan to apply require an application fee:

- Suggest they meet with their high school counselor to determine if they are eligible for a fee waiver. Eligible students should research whether their chosen colleges accept fee waivers and how to go about providing that waiver with their applications.
- Students not eligible for a fee waiver should find out the amount required to apply and investigate payment methods.

Provide students with information about the Common Application. Make sure they know whether a college they are considering requires the Common Application or its own. If students plan to complete the Common Application during College App Week, they will need to do their research and prepare for it ahead of time, because it's typically longer and more detailed than other applications. For more information, visit commonapp.org.

Have students sign up for an account on [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org). Setting up this account early will help facilitate college research and give students access to a variety of college planning resources.