

Private Colleges

Use The Common Application to submit applications to nearly 300 participating institutions at <https://www.commonapp.org>. You will need a transcript to self-disclose your academic history since your freshman year.

The essay questions for The Common Application include:

1. Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
2. Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
3. Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
4. Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.
5. A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community, or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
6. Topic of your choice.

University of California

On November 1, 2007 go to www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions to begin your UC application. You will need a transcript to self-disclose your academic history since your freshman year.

The essay questions and instructions include:

Respond to all three short-answer questions using a total of no more than 1,000 words. That means that two of your answers must be limited to approximately 200 words each. A third question should be given an extended answer of at least 600 words. You may choose which question to answer at more length.

1. Academic Preparation Question

The University seeks to enroll students who take initiative in pursuing their education (for example, developing a special interest in science, language or the performing arts, or becoming involved in educational preparation programs, including summer enrichment programs, research or academic development programs such as EAOP, MESA, Puente, COSMOS or other similar programs). This question seeks to understand a student's motivation and dedication to learning.

Freshman applicants only: How have you taken advantage of the educational opportunities you have had to prepare for college?

2. Potential to Contribute Question

UC welcomes the contributions each student brings to the campus learning community. This question seeks to determine an applicant's academic or creative interests and potential to contribute to the vitality of the University. Tell us about a talent, experience, contribution or personal quality you will bring to the University of California.

3. Open-Ended Question

This question seeks to give students the opportunity to share important aspects of their schooling or their lives — such as their personal circumstances, family experiences and opportunities that were or were not available at their school or college — that may not have been sufficiently addressed elsewhere in the application. Is there anything you would like us to know about you or your academic record that you have not had the opportunity to describe elsewhere in this application?

California State University

On October 1, 2007 go to www.csumentor.edu to begin your CSU application. There is no essay. You will need a transcript to self-disclose your academic history since your freshman year.