

The **college application process** can often seem overwhelming. I find that breaking this process down into manageable "chunks" is extremely helpful in allowing your child to push past any procrastination, anxiety, or confusion about the steps they should be taking to get started with college applications.

Here are some preliminary steps they can take to push past the empty application and start making significant progress:

1. Make a Common App account – while some schools have their own internal application and some states, such as California, have specific platforms that allow students to apply to multiple state universities, many students will utilize the Common App for some or all of their colleges. I recommend that students use a personal email (or create one if they don't have an email account other than their school email) when creating their Common App account. This allows students to keep everything pertaining to college in one spot and they can access this even after they graduate from high school if necessary.

2. Add all schools to which they are applying to the application platform(s). This will allow them to view deadlines and the various requirements for each college.

3. Start to fill out all the "busy work" on the application platform(s). The various application platforms include several categories of information and numerous tabs containing multiple questions each. This can seem overwhelming, so suggest that your child complete one or two categories at each sitting. Their work will be saved, and they can keep chipping away at this each time they have a free hour or two.

4. Compile a list of other "to do" items. These should include:

- A. **Requesting recommendations** from at least one teacher in a core academic subject. Two are often required. Some colleges allow for one or two "other" recommenders such as employers, clergy, music/band/dance instructors, sports coaches, etc.



College Application Process

- B. **Listing up to 10 activities** (sports, clubs, volunteer work, jobs, hobbies, etc.) and briefly describing those. This is challenging because students must describe each activity in 150 characters or less. I believe that better writing comes from starting with more information than needed and judiciously trimming that down. Thus, I ask students who work with me to describe their activities in depth (two to three sentences), and then we work on distilling that down to a meaningful 150-character description.

- C. **Make decisions about where to send ACT or SAT scores.** Determine if each college is test optional or test required. For test optional, research the score range for past admitted students to determine if your scores align with that competitive range. While some colleges require you to send an official score report directly from either ACT or College Board (SAT), many colleges will allow you to self-report and then send an official report after acceptance.

Please reach out if you would like to learn about how LGC can provide guidance to your child on any/all of these steps. Best of luck to everyone with a rising senior who will be applying to college this season!

LAURA GEORGE CONSULTING
CLEAR PATH FORWARD