

UNDERCLASS COLLEGE PLANNING

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INTRO & PURPOSE

COLLEGE APPLICATION TYPES

- School form
- Common Application
- Universal Application
- Coalition Application
- Art portfolio
- Auditions

ACADEMICS

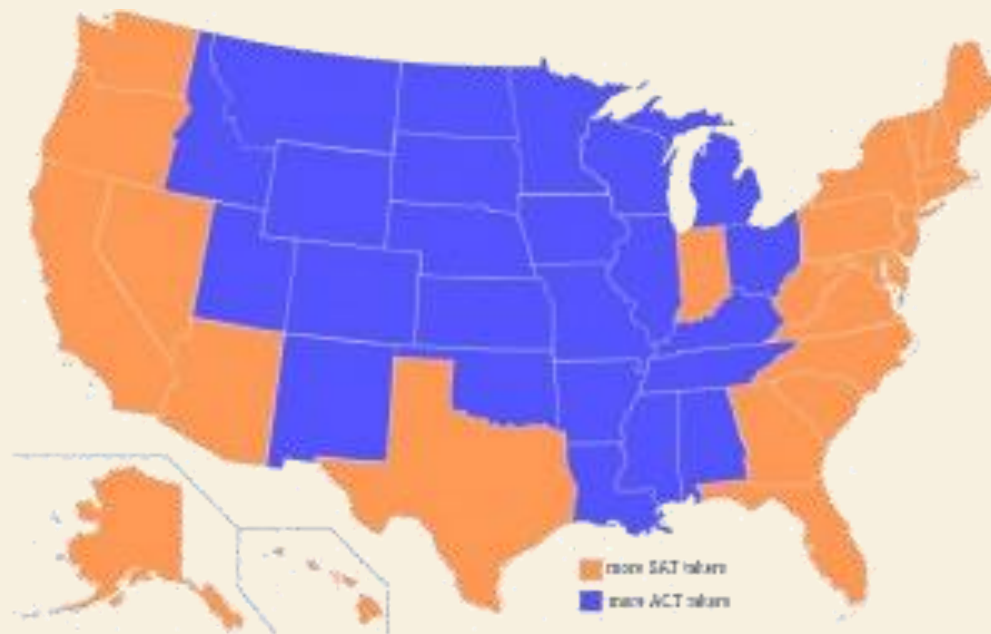
- High School transcript
 - Course selection
 - Paths
 - Rigor
 - GPA
 - Graduation requirements

TESTS

- PSAT
- SAT
- AP
- ACT
- SAT 2

TEST CALENDAR 18-19

| SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG |
|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| | SAT | SAT | SAT | | | SAT | | SAT | SAT | | SAT |
| ACT | ACT | | ACT | | ACT | | ACT | | ACT | ACT | |
| | SUBJ | SUBJ | SUBJ | | | | | SUBJ | SUBJ | | SUBJ |
| | | | | | | | | AP | | | |



FAIRTEST.ORG

EXTRACURRICULAR

- Quality not quantity
- Themes
- Keep a log

START GATHERING INFO

Begin a log or resume

- Education (GPA, Honor Roll, Specialized or AP Classes)
 - **Fairfax County STEM Camp:** summer 2015. Explored a variety of technology/engineering skills, including programming, automobile technology, welding & soldering, cooking chemistry.
- Leadership, Honors, Awards
 - **National Honor Society**, March 2015—present
- Clubs & Activities
 - **Falls Church Varsity Swim & Dive Team:** 2014—2016, received Varsity Letters (10th, 11th grades), Captain and regional-level competitor. **JEB Stuart Varsity Swim & Dive Team:** 2013—2014: Varsity Letter (9th grade)
 - **Falls Church High School Jazz Band**, Tenor Saxophone: 2014—2015

START GATHERING INFO (CONT)

- Important/Successful Projects (Science Fair, Writings, Art installations, Best Actress--One Act Festival)
- Community Service/Volunteer
 - *Church Acolyte, St. Marks Lutheran Church*: Springfield VA – 2016—present
- Employment
 - *Lifeguard*, Sleepy Hollow Bath & Racquet Club: summers 2015, 2016
- Special Skills or Certifications
- Key decision points during high school (high/low points, choices/decisions, happenings)

ESSAYS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Essay prompts
- Recommendations
 - Counselor
 - Teachers
 - Coaches

RESOURCES

- Falls Church HS
 - Visits
 - College & Career Center
 - Counselors
- FCPS
 - Fairs (October)
 - Naviance student
- Common data set
- College Visits



Q & A



RESOURCES & IDEAS

WEBSITES TO KNOW

- External Research/Common Data

- <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

- Application Sites

- <https://www.commonapp.org/search-colleges>
- <https://www.universalcollegeapp.com/colleges>
- <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>

WEBSITES TO KNOW (CONT)

- Testing

- <https://www.collegeboard.org>
- <http://act.org>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org>
- <http://fairtest.org/university/optional>

2018-19 COMMON APP ESSAYS

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

2018-19 COMMON APP ESSAYS (CONT.)

5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.