

STEP 1: Identify some commonly asked (but difficult to answer) questions on college application forms.



warm-up: college application questions pop quiz

Each of the questions below appears on an actual college application.

How many can you answer off the top of your head? Write your responses in the box marked, "Guess."

What is your **Legal Name**?

Guess: _____

Answer: _____

What is your **Country of Citizenship**?

Guess: _____

Answer: _____

What is your **Gender**?

Guess: _____

Answer: _____

What is your **DOB**?

Guess: _____

Answer: _____

What is your **SSN**?

Guess: XXX-XX-_____

Answer: _____

What is your **US Permanent Resident Number**?

Guess: _____

Answer: _____

Are you applying as an **Undergraduate or Graduate**?

Guess: _____

Answer: _____

For which **Term** are you applying?

Guess: _____

Answer: _____

Are you applying as a **Freshman or a Transfer Student**?

Guess: _____

Answer: _____

What is your **Ethnicity**?

Guess: _____

Answer: _____

What is your **Intended Concentration or Major**?

Guess: _____

Answer: _____

What is your **High School CEEB code**?

Guess: _____

Answer: _____

What is your **guidance counselor's name and phone number**? Guess:

Answer: _____

What is your **Gross and Net Household Income**?

Guess: _____

Answer: _____

What is your **Household Size (including yourself)**?

Guess: _____

Answer: _____

When was your **SAT or ACT test date and score**?

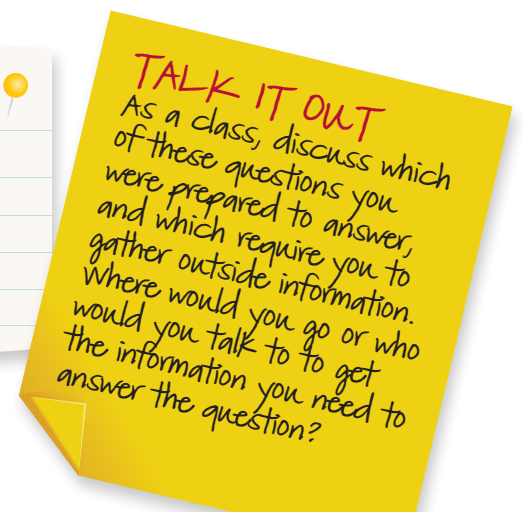
Guess: _____

Answer: _____



taking the message home

Use the resources you discussed as a class to find the correct answers to each question, and write them in the box provided. You can use this page as a reference when filling out your application forms.



STEP 2: List the components of a typical application form.

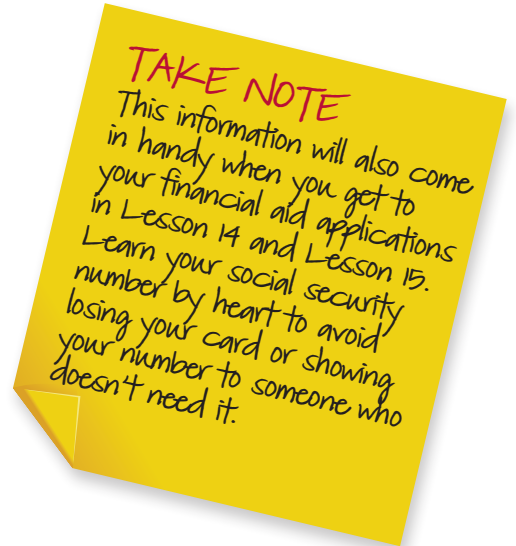
application forms

Just about every school, program, or opportunity you might want to apply to requires you to fill out an application form. But why?

Application forms are used by schools and programs to:

- Collect basic **demographic** data about you, including your contact information, your **date of birth, citizenship status, Social Security Number, and race.**
- Gather quick information about your **educational history**, your activities, and experiences, and your postsecondary plans.
- Ensure that everyone applying to the school or program provides the same information in the same way, so it's easier to compare and contrast applicants.

While every application is different, most applications have similar components, each of which help admissions committees answer simple questions about you. These include:



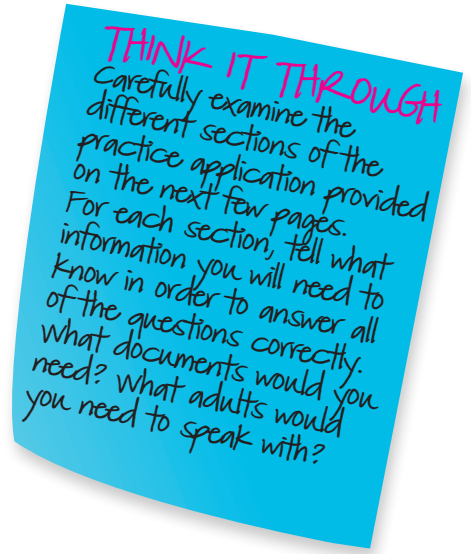
SECTION TITLE:	QUESTIONS IT ANSWERS ABOUT YOU:
Application Information and Enrollment Section	What are you applying for? Are you a Freshman or a Transfer student? What term do you want to begin?
Demographic Information Section	Who are you?
Ethnicity and Citizenship Section	Where are you from? What is your background? What is your legal status?
Educational History Section	Where and how have you been prepared academically for life after high school?
Testing Information Section	What are your SAT I/SAT II and/or ACT scores?
Activities and Experiences Section	Where and how have you been prepared personally for life after high school?
Financial Information Section	How will you be paying for the costs of life after high school?
Family Information Section	Who do you live with? Who supports you?
Legal Section	Have you ever been convicted of a crime or been suspended from school?
Campus/School Preferences Section	If we accept you, where do you want to attend class? Where do you want to live? (OFTEN SUPPLEMENTAL)
Short-Answer or Personal Statement Section	What personal strengths do you have which would make you an excellent candidate for our school or program? (OFTEN SUPPLEMENTAL)
Signature Section	Do you swear that you've told the truth on this application?

STEP 3: Review the prior knowledge necessary for completing the various parts of an application form using the **Practice Application**.

be prepared

Before you begin filling out your application forms, you will need a great deal of information about yourself, your family, your school, and your postsecondary plans. You might be surprised by how much prior knowledge you'll need in order to correctly and effectively complete a complicated form.

Many application forms ask you to identify the program or major in which you intend to declare. Before applying spend time exploring Programs and Majors. It is important to look at the freshman student profile to determine the most selected major. You have a greater percentage of being admitted if your top major is not one of the top majors selected.



COLLEGE 101

Sometimes, a school or program requires you to fill out a **Supplemental Form**, which will ask you for more information. Be sure to read the directions on your application carefully, and use your CAAP to note any supplemental forms you need to fill out.

next steps: your college application action plan

Look back at your **College Application Action Plan** from Lesson 9 and determine what you need to do this week to complete your college applications. As you complete each item on your list, check it on your CAAP.

IN ORDER TO COMPLETE ALL MY APPLICATION FORMS, I WILL NEED TO:

Ask my family for the following information:

- date of birth
- SSN
- legal name
- country of citizenship
- income information
- household information
- education level information
- OTHER: _____

Ask my guidance counselor for the following information:

- SAT dates and scores
- ACT dates and scores
- class standing
- GPA
- OTHER: _____

Research my college websites to find out:

- my campus preference
- my dorm preference
- my major or program
- OTHER: _____

The following applications have supplemental forms that I will also need to fill out:

making it real!

Not sure what to do in class this week?
Why not take what you learned about application forms and begin to fill yours out. Remember — do not press “submit” or mail your application form until you’ve completed a Peer Review of your work! Take notes on your work in the space provided.

BIG IDEA

Filling out application forms may seem easy, but they can actually be tricky if you don’t take your time and read the forms carefully. Before submitting any form, make sure you fully understand each section and what you are being asked to provide.

college 101

When you press “submit,” you are guaranteeing that your application is 100% done, complete, correct, and final. There is no going back after you press submit! Before submitting your application, have one of your classmates, your teacher, or a trusted adult review your work and check for simple mistakes.

See Lesson 13 for suggestions on Peer Reviews.

Once you submit your application, save the confirmation page that comes up. This usually contains contact information for the Admissions Office and instructions for the next steps you need to take. Sometimes, you will need to mail a check or your transcript to the office. Other times, you will be asked to fill out **Supplemental Forms**. Whatever the next step, make sure you add it to your **College Application Action Plan** and your **Senior Year Planning Calendar**.



SELF-ADVOCACY

It’s a good idea to protect your identity when it comes to your Social Security Number and US Permanent Resident number. Write these down some place safe (probably NOT your classwork), or, better yet, memorize them.

your action plan: application forms

This week, you learned about college application forms and took the first steps toward meeting the goal of your **College Application Action Plan (CAAP)**. Reflect on what you've completed, and plan for next week in the space provided.

This week, I checked off the following **action steps** on my CAAP: _____

I did not finish the following **action steps** on my CAAP: _____

Next week in class, my goals will be to: _____

taking the message home

You will probably need to talk with your parent or legal guardian to get information for your applications. Use this form to make speaking with your families easier. It can be difficult to ask these questions. See your teacher/counselor if you need help talking with your parents or guardians, or if you are confused about what information you need.

About You:

- What is my Social Security Number or US Permanent Resident number?
- What is the correct spelling of my legal name as it appears on my birth certificate?

About your legal guardian (whether you live with them or not):

- How many dependents do you claim on your taxes each year?
- How much income do you claim on your taxes each year, in dollars?
- What is your marital status?
- What is the highest level of education you have attained? High school grad, some college, college grad . . .
- What is your official occupation (as you list it on your taxes)?