**Common App Fee Waiver Information & Resources**

# About

**If a student meets specific qualifications, they can request a Common App fee waiver:**

* You are enrolled in or eligible to participate in the federal free or reduced-price lunch program (FRPL).\* *You must enroll or be eligible for the FRPL. Students who attend schools where all students receive free lunch do not automatically qualify for a Common App fee waiver.*
* You have received or are eligible for an SAT or ACT fee waiver.
* Your annual family income falls within the USDA Food and Nutrition Service income eligibility guidelines.
* Your family receives public assistance.
* You are enrolled in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income families (e.g., **GEAR UP,** TRIO such as Upward Bound, or others).
* You live in federally subsidized public housing, a foster home, or are homeless.
* You are a ward of the state or an orphan.
* You have received or are eligible to receive a Pell Grant.
* You can provide a supporting statement from a school official, college access counselor, financial aid officer, or community leader.

## Instructions for Students:

* A fee waiver lets you apply to a college without paying an application fee. The Common App Fee Waiver waives the application fee of any college you apply to through Common App.
* FYI: The Common App Fee Waiver isn’t the only waiver available. Many colleges also offer their own application waiver specific to their school. Check with each college to see what they offer.
* Find the Common App Fee Waiver in the Profile section of the Common App tab.
  + **To apply for this fee waiver:**

1. Answer “Yes” to the fee waiver statement.
2. Select all the indicators in the list that apply to you. **(Enter GEAR UP)**
3. Enter your signature to certify your request.
   * + **Note:** Your counselor will also be asked to confirm your eligibility for this waiver. You can still submit your application without a fee while your counselor confirms.
     + **Need more information on application fees and fee waivers?** <https://appsupport.commonapp.org/applicantsupport/s/article/What-do-I-need-to-know-about-the-Common-App-fee-waiver>

## Instructions for Counselors and College Access Professionals

* Students who qualify for a Common Application-generated fee waiver will automatically have the hard copy of the waiver generated for them when they submit the Common Application AND have their information verified by their school counselor. All other types of waivers must be physically submitted to the Admissions Office.
* The Common App Fee Waiver will waive the application fee of any program a student applies to through Common App.
* Find the Waiver in the Personal Information section.
  + **To apply for this fee waiver:**

1. Answer “Yes” to the fee waiver statement.
2. Select all the indicators in the list that apply to you. **(Enter GEAR UP)**
3. Enter your signature to certify your request

## Additional Resources:

* NCCEP’s "On the Ground" Podcast Episode: [It’s All About College Application Fee Waivers from Common App & NACAC](https://nccepontheground.buzzsprout.com/1773239/11487150-it-s-all-about-college-application-fee-waivers-from-common-app-nacac)
* [Fee Waiver Flyer for Educators](https://mcusercontent.com/a0d96cacbd72776b465181daf/files/3db561a3-8453-c377-5cef-dbc5d80b0ec8/Educator_FeeWaiver_V4.pdf?mc_cid=0acaf88806&mc_eid=a2f060beda) and [Fee Waiver Flyer for GEAR UP Students](https://mcusercontent.com/a0d96cacbd72776b465181daf/files/11da894d-ad8a-81af-7e0c-fa1052a12e64/Student_FeeWaiver_V5.pdf?mc_cid=0acaf88806&mc_eid=a2f060beda). Download and post in your local GEAR UP offices!
* [Common App Ready](https://www.commonapp.org/counselors-and-recommenders/common-app-ready). Use this complete toolkit of tips and best practices to help your students complete their applications successfully and on time.
* [Common App for Recommenders (Recommender System)](https://www.commonapp.org/counselors-and-recommenders/recommender-system). This free solution streamlines the recommendation process and supports all your students applying through Common App. The advisor tools make it easy for independent counselors and CBOs to track their students’ progress.