

Commonapp FAQs and Tips

SHS Class of 2021

PROFILE

Common App Fee Waiver - Students who qualify for a fee waiver are often already aware that they do... talk to family or see your counselor if you are unsure.

EDUCATION:

"Current Secondary School"

Shelton HS CEEB/School Code: 070665
Date of Entry: September, 2017
Counselor's Job Title: wait for it.... School Counselor
Counselor's Phone: (203) 922-3004, Hs 1: ext 1512; Hs 2: ext 1522; Hs 3: ext 1532

"Other Schools Attended"

Do NOT list Aqua, ECA, or RCA as "other schools" attended. You can list your course titles from those schools in your "current yr courses" and label them "dual enrollment." "Coursework at a college or university" does NOT include Dual Enrollment courses at UCONN, UB, or HCC.

"Grades"

SHS (Approx) Graduating Class Size for 2021: 322
Class Rank Reporting: Exact
GPA Scale Reporting: 4
GPA Weighting: Weighted

"Current Year Courses"

Course Scheduling System Used at SHS: Semester
Course Level Options:
"AP" for Advanced Placement Courses
"Dual-Enrollment" for UCONN, UB, HCC courses; also for Aqua, ECA, or RCA
"Honors" for Honors level; "College Prep" for College Prep level
"Regular/Standard" for Academic level or untracked courses

TESTING:

"Tests Taken"

Note: "In addition to sending official score reports as required by colleges..." - Colleges require you to send official SAT and/or ACT scores directly to them from the testing service website. SHS does not do this for you because they won't be considered official. AP test scores are not required at this time but may be sent if you desire. ⇄⇄

Testing Cont'd:

Self-reporting test scores on the Commonapp is your decision. We usually recommend doing so unless you believe your transcript, GPA, and rank are MUCH STRONGER than your test scores. *Just about every college is SAT/test optional for admission in 2021.*

ACTIVITIES:

Pro tips- This section will give you a green checkmark as soon as you complete reporting the first activity because it doesn't know how many you plan to report. Consider adding as many as you know you'll need at the bottom of this section right away so that you won't get a green check for completion until you've actually finished the section. List your activities from most important/biggest commitment to least.

WRITING:

Pro tips- Use the Personal Essay as an opportunity to share something that admission committees will not learn elsewhere in your application. Make the process personal. Before choosing one of the seven options, decide what it is you want to share with them- what story you want to tell - then pick the option that best lets you tell it. Be original, honest, reflective, genuine, and grammatically correct. The "Additional Information" option can be useful if you believe that unique circumstances or something in your transcript should be explained. Do NOT use this section or the personal essay to place blame....

Courses and Grades:

This is rare but some colleges will require you to manually input all of the courses listed on your transcript, even though your transcript will be sent to them....

In the My Colleges tab...

Recommenders and FERPA -

Do not assign recommenders in the Commonapp; you will do that in Naviance.

***Related recommendation tip**. If you want one of your recommenders to be from Aqua/ECA/RCA, you must arrange for that person to send the rec directly to your colleges. It cannot come from you and we cannot put it in Naviance.

The FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) agreement must be completed one time. We recommend waiving your right because colleges prefer it. They believe it ensures a more honest assessment of you from teachers and counselors. Show the online agreement to your family before signing if you would be more comfortable.