



NATIONAL COLLEGE MATCH

2014 APPLICATION GUIDE

THE NATIONAL COLLEGE MATCH

A college and scholarship application process that helps outstanding low-income high school seniors gain admission and full four-year scholarships to 35 of the nation's most selective colleges.

GETTING STARTED

- 1. Create a QuestBridge account**
 - Go to apply.questbridge.org and click on "Create an account".
 - Register with an e-mail address you check regularly.
 - Keep your password secure.
- 2. Open a 2014 College Match application.**

Write down your QuestBridge ID number for easy access.
- 3. Ask your teachers and counselor to write recommendations for you.**
 - Be sure to give them plenty of time (we suggest at least three weeks).
 - Register your teachers on the *Recommendations* page of your application.
 - Register your counselor on the *Academic* page (you will first need to enter your high school in the Institutions section).

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



2013 tax returns and any other available financial documentation for your parent(s)/guardian(s)



High school transcript (should include final junior grades and updated GPA/class rank; can be unofficial)



Any available standardized test scores (ACT, SAT, SAT Subject, AP, IB, TOEFL)

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

SEPTEMBER 26

QuestBridge College Match application due

OCTOBER 13

College rankings and Match Agreement Form due

Quest for Excellence Awards due (optional)

OCTOBER 21

Finalist notification

NOVEMBER 1

College Match Requirements for Finalists due (to ranked partner colleges)

DECEMBER 1

Match notification

Regular Decision Form opens

DECEMBER 11

Regular Decision Form due

QUICK TIP



CHECK WITH YOUR RECOMMENDERS

After you register your teachers and counselor in your application, follow up with them right away to make sure they receive the e-mails with the link to their recommendation forms. They may need to check their spam or junk mail folders.

If they still do not see the e-mails, they should contact us at questions@questbridge.org with your name and QuestBridge ID number.

REQUIRED QB APPLICATION COMPONENTS

(AND SOME HELPFUL TIPS!)

ONLINE APPLICATION AND MINI-COURSES

- Includes essays and short answer questions, as well as detailed information about your academics, family and financial background, and extracurricular activities.
- Be sure to leave yourself enough time to complete these sections.

TWO TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- These should be from teachers at your school who taught you in core academic subjects (math, science, history/social studies, English, foreign language), preferably during your junior year.
- Must be submitted online.

SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT

- An evaluation and recommendation from your counselor at your current high school.
- Must be submitted online.

CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT

- May be unofficial.
- Should be as up-to-date as possible.
- Can be uploaded by your counselor through the Secondary School Report, or by you through your application (on the *Academic* page or on the *Application Management* page).
- You are still required to enter your coursework and grades on the *Academic* page of your application.

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORE REPORTS (IF AVAILABLE)

- Upload test score reports for any tests that you have taken.
- DO NOT submit official reports from the College Board or ACT. Unofficial reports that you received in the mail or through your online account are acceptable.
- Can be uploaded by your counselor through the Secondary School Report, or by you through your application (on the *Testing* page or on the *Application Management* page).

SCHOOL PROFILE (OPTIONAL)

- A document that provides academic information about your high school.
- Optional, but strongly recommended. Not all schools have one, but it should be uploaded if available.
- Usually uploaded by your counselor through the Secondary School Report, but you can upload this from your *Application Management* page as well.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

1. Resolve any remaining errors or missing information listed on the *Review* page.
2. Carefully review the Application Proof, available on your *Application Management* or *Review* pages, to be sure that your application is complete and mistake-free.
3. **Submit early** to ensure you don't run into any last-minute difficulties. You should submit your application even if your recommendations are not yet received, and encourage your recommenders to submit them as soon as possible.

NOTE:

The submission date on your *Application Checklist* will be based on Eastern Time. As long as you see a green checkmark, your application was successfully received on time!

AFTER THE APPLICATION DEADLINE

1. Submit your *National College Match Rankings* and *Match Agreement Form** by **October 13**.
2. Complete and submit the optional *Quest for Excellence Awards* application by **October 13**.
3. Review the *College Match Requirements* on the website for the schools you ranked and get started on preparing materials.*
4. Watch out for an e-mail from QuestBridge about applying for CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE fee waivers.
5. Finalist notification on **October 21**: You will receive an e-mail letting you know when decisions have been released. Log into your account and look for the status update on your *Application Management* page.
6. Submit college materials to your ranked schools by **November 1**.*
7. Match notification on **December 1**.
8. Submit the *Regular Decision Form* between **December 1** and **December 11**.
9. Submit *Regular Decision Requirements* by individual schools' Regular Decision deadlines.

*For Finalists who rank colleges for the College Match.

QUICK TIPS



DRAFT YOUR ESSAYS OUTSIDE OF THE APPLICATION

Write your essays and short answer responses in Microsoft Word or another word processing program and save them on your computer.



CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR APPLICATION FREQUENTLY

- On your *Application Management* page, review the *Application Checklist* for submitted materials.
- Go to the *Review* page for a list of errors or missing information throughout your application. Check AskQB for help with any errors you're having trouble with.

DEADLINE

Friday, September 26, 2014

by 11:59 pm Pacific Time

**ALL COMPONENTS INCLUDING
RECOMMENDATIONS, TEST SCORES,
TRANSCRIPTS, AND
SCHOOL PROFILE**

QUESTIONS?

Visit AskQB at

www.questbridge.org/AskQB

for answers to frequently asked questions or to submit one of your own

AskQB