





Behind the Admissions Desk: Post-COVID View

OpInform 2024



AGENDA

- 1 Application Process
- 2 Application Materials
- 3 Application Review
- 4 Transfer Students



Application Process



Application Process

- [SUNY Application](#)
- [Common Application](#)
- [Coalition Application](#)
- Local Application (Community Colleges)
- Application fee of \$50 per campus choice
- Transcripts and other supporting documentation can come to ASC or campuses
- Check with individual campuses for specifics (Part 2's, deadlines, and special entry options)
- Admission decisions come from the campuses



Application Process

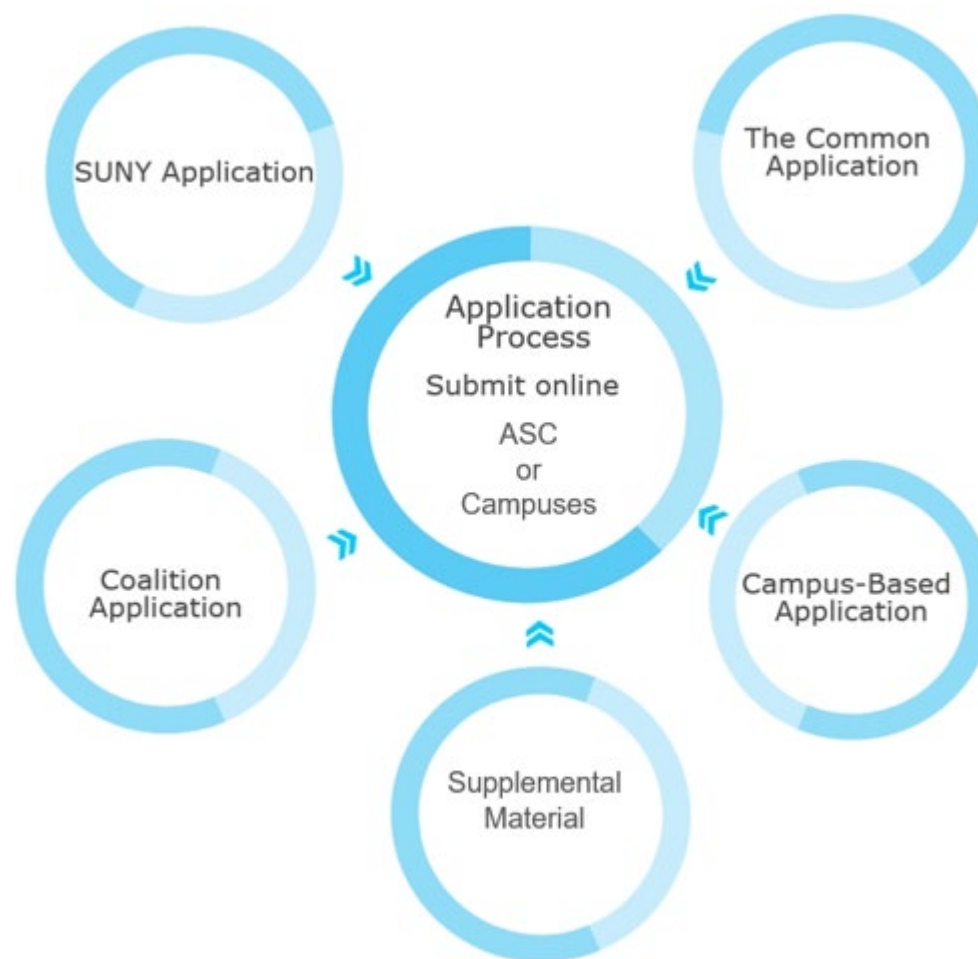
Fee Waivers

suny.edu/feewaiver

- ✓ Free Application Week October 21 – November 3
- ✓ Students facing financial hardship
- ✓ Military-connected students
- ✓ Students eligible for EOP
- ✓ Students from designated high schools
suny.edu/attend/apply-to-suny/fee-waiver/school-list/
- ✓ AmeriCorps Alumni
- ✓ Students graduating with an AA or AS from SUNY or CUNY



Applications





Application Process

- Early Decision
- Early Action
- Regular Admissions
- Rolling Admissions
- Open Admissions
- Direct Admissions – SUNY Match



Application Materials



Application Materials

- 1 Transcript
- 2 Essay
- 3 Reference Letters
- 4 Activities List / Resume
- 5 Test Scores (Program Specific)



Application Materials

Transcript

Many factors of a transcript are considered: academic performance, rigor, and exam scores. In most cases applicants are expected to complete the following coursework:

- 4-years of English
- 4-years of Social Studies
- 3-years of Mathematics (4th year highly recommended)
- 3-years of Science (2 Lab)
- 3-years of a Foreign Language

Contact individual campuses for exact requirements



Application Materials

Essay

- **Personalizing a Story:** Allows students to showcase their unique personality, experiences, and perspectives by telling a story about what makes them distinct.
- **Demonstrating Writing Skills:** Assesses capacity for clear expression, organization of ideas, and creativity to show preparedness for college-level work.
- **Showcasing Personal Growth:** Provides deeper understanding of a student's journey and how it has been shaped by experiences, achievements, challenges, and growth.
- **Overcoming Challenges:** Highlights resilience and ability to overcome difficulties for those who have faced obstacles or hardships.
- **Creating a Memorable Impression:** Essays with compelling narratives stand out! With thousands of applications to review, admissions officers look for well-crafted essays that rise above the rest.



Application Materials

Reference Letters

- **Personal Insight:** They provide a perspective about character, work ethic, and achievements from someone who knows the student well (often from an academic or professional standpoint).
- **Validation:** They validate an application by offering an external viewpoint about qualifications and potential, which can support and enhance self-reported accomplishments.
- **Holistic Picture:** They contribute to a comprehensive view of the student, including strengths, weaknesses, and interpersonal skills.
- **Contextualization:** They provide context for an academic performance by explaining gaps or anomalies in a student's record, as well as highlighting unique attributes.
- **Credibility:** They add a layer of trust, authority, and credibility to an application.



Application Materials

Activity List / Resume

- **Demonstrates Engagement:** Provides admissions committees with a summary of involvement in extracurricular activities, leadership roles, and community service, demonstrating active participation and interests beyond academics.
- **Highlights Skills and Interests:** Reveals passions and areas of expertise and how they've translated to talents and skills.
- **Shows Commitment:** Demonstrates dedication, responsibility, and perseverance through consistent involvement, indicating that the student is capable of balancing multiple commitments and managing time effectively.
- **Reveals Leadership and Initiative:** Highlights an ability to lead, inspire, and innovate through leadership roles or self-initiated projects. These qualities are highly valued by colleges as they contribute to a vibrant campus community.
- **Provides Context:** Provides context to academic achievements by describing how the student has managed to balance involvement with studies.
- **Illustrates Diversity:** Showcases diverse experiences and perspectives that the student may bring to the college. This diversity enriches the student body and promotes a well-rounded educational environment.



Application Materials

Standardized Tests

- SUNY is Test Optional
- Specific programs may require test scores
- Students can elect to use test their scores



Application Review



Application Review

How application review has changed since COVID

- **Test-Optional Policies:** SUNY has adopted test-optional policies, meaning standardized test scores are not required for admission.
- **Holistic Review Emphasis:** As a result, there is a greater focus on a holistic application review.
- **Comprehensive Evaluation:** Admissions committees consider a broader range of factors, including academic achievements, extracurricular activities, personal essays, and letters of recommendation.
- **Enhanced Focus on Individual Strengths:** This approach allows for a more detailed assessment of each applicant's potential and unique qualities beyond standardized test scores.



Application Review

What are we looking for?

Academic:

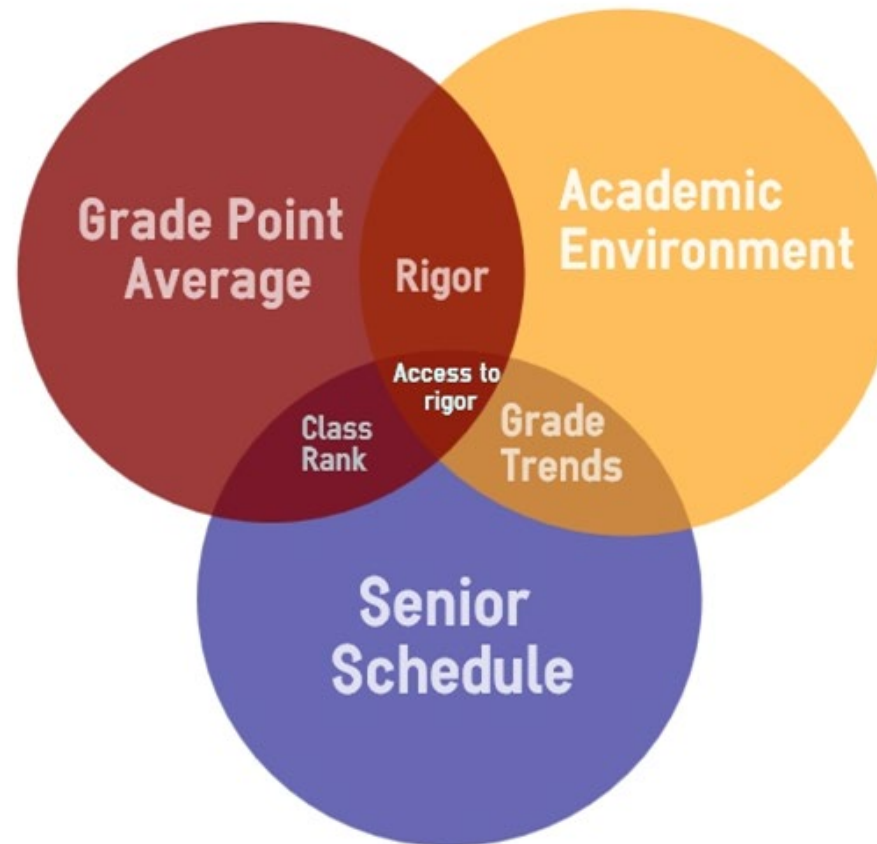
- Strength of schedule
- Coursework (sequence, subjects)
- Academic performance (GPA and class rank)



Example of Academic Evaluation

Academic Transcript Review

Considerations ↓





Application Review

Activities and Involvement

- Meaningful, sustained community service
 - Immersed in the experience
 - Emotional awareness
 - Develops a sense of responsibility
- Leadership positions
 - In school or within the community
- Continuous commitment
 - Dedication demonstrated, not just one time event
- Employment vs. activities
 - Demonstrates responsibility
- Quality not quantity of activities
- Involvement leads to opportunity



Transfer Students



Transfer Students

Community Colleges

- 30 campuses
- 600 to over 14,000 full-time students
- Certificates = immediate employment
- Associate degrees = transfer preparation
- Full- or part-time, day, evening or online
- Commute or reside on campus
- Affordable exploration
- Open enrollment? Not always



Transfer Guarantee

- Guaranteed acceptance to a SUNY four-year college if you receive an AA or AS
- Transfer Match for students who didn't apply to a SUNY 4-year campus
- Joint Admissions Programs
- Jointly Registered Programs



Questions?