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Princeton

Class of 2016

How to Apply

www.princeton.edu/admission

Get Ready to Apply

Please read this guide carefully as it contains helpful information regarding the completion of your application, testing requirements, important deadlines, and financial aid.

For each freshman class, we bring together a group of high-achieving, intellectually gifted students from diverse backgrounds to create an exceptional learning community. We care very much about what students have accomplished in and out of the classroom.

What's distinctive about

PRINCETON?

Unparalleled academic instruction

Students at Princeton benefit from the extraordinary resources of a world-class research institution dedicated to undergraduate teaching. Princeton faculty have an unparalleled reputation for balancing excellence in their fields with a dedication to their students, through both classroom instruction and independent research advising.

A diverse learning community

Along with depth and breadth, the academic experience at Princeton emphasizes a global perspective, which is woven throughout the curriculum. Surrounded by fellow students from diverse backgrounds, students also learn a great deal from their peers. To deepen students' awareness of other cultures and perspectives, undergraduates are encouraged to study abroad as part of their distinctive Princeton experience.

No-loan financial aid

Princeton has one of the strongest need-based financial aid programs in the country, reflecting our core value of equality of opportunity and our desire to attract the most talented students—regardless of financial circumstances—to apply for admission to Princeton. If admitted, students can be confident that we will meet their full financial need with grants and campus jobs, not student loans.

Academic Preparation

We encourage students to consult with their school advisers, and we recommend they take the most rigorous courses possible in their secondary schools, including honors, higher level, and Advanced Placement courses. There are no fixed unit or course prerequisite requirements, however, that must be completed before admission. We recognize that not all high schools offer the same opportunities, and we will give full consideration to any applicant who has been unable to pursue recommended studies if the record otherwise shows clear promise.



Dear Student,

We are delighted you are applying to Princeton University. You will see from the questions we ask that we are interested in who you are, what you have accomplished academically and personally, and where your dreams and hopes for the future are focused. Your ability to convey ideas and express yourself with the written word is critical to our decision because your writing reflects how you think. The best applications come from students who have spent time writing their essays, editing their work, and refining the message.

Princeton has an honor system that we take seriously, and we invite you to familiarize yourself with it by reading about it on our website at www.princeton.edu/honor. Students at Princeton live by the values of integrity, principle, and intellectual honesty, and we expect every applicant to abide by these same tenets throughout each stage of the application process.

You may apply to Princeton either under Single-Choice Early Action or Regular Decision. The application can be filled out online, and we encourage you to go to our website at www.princeton.edu/admission to begin the process. Your application will be read thoughtfully, deliberately, and fairly when it arrives in our office. Please give it your best effort. We wish you well as you pursue your final year in high school. Please let us know if we can be of any help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Rapelye".

Janet Lavin Rapelye
Dean of Admission

Recommended Courses

- Four years of English (including continued practice in writing)
- Four years of mathematics
- Four years of one foreign language
- At least two years of laboratory science
- At least two years of history (including that of a country or an area outside the United States)
- Some study of the visual arts, music, or theater

For students intending to pursue a B.S.E. degree or physical science concentration:

- Mathematics courses should include calculus
- Sciences should include a year of math-based physics or higher-level physics and a year of chemistry

Your Application

As you prepare your application, help us to appreciate your talents, academic accomplishments, and personal achievements. Show us what is special about you. Tell us how you would seize the academic and non-academic opportunities at Princeton and contribute to the Princeton community. Above all, please write in a style that reflects your own voice.

Here is an overview of required application components. More detailed instructions are available on our website (www.princeton.edu/admission).

1 Common Application Students applying to Princeton must submit both the Common Application and Princeton's Supplement to the Common Application, both found on the Common Application website (www.commonapp.org). The Common Application allows students to complete one application and submit it to any of the participating colleges and universities.

A nonrefundable \$65 application fee is required to cover part of the cost of processing each application. Students applying online may pay the fee with a credit card. Applications submitted by mail should include a check or money order payable to Princeton University. If payment of this fee would cause extreme financial hardship, it may be waived upon a written request from the applicant's guidance counselor that includes a brief explanation of the reason for the waiver.

2 Princeton Supplement In addition to the Common Application, all applicants must submit Princeton's Supplement to the Common Application, available online at www.commonapp.org or as a PDF download from the Princeton website.

Be sure to follow the recommendations of your guidance counselor and consult the application review section of this publication for information about optional forms you may wish to submit as part of your application.

3 Standardized Tests All applicants must submit the results of the College Board SAT or the ACT (with Writing, where offered). In addition, all applicants must submit the results of two different SAT Subject Tests. If a student is unable to follow the recommended testing pattern, he or she should consult with the Admission Office as soon as possible.

SCORE CHOICE Applicants are welcome to use the Score Choice option for standardized test score submission. Princeton will consider the highest individual section results across all sittings of the SAT and the highest composite score for the ACT with Writing, as well as the two

highest SAT Subject Test scores. We encourage applicants to submit all official test scores as soon as they are available.

ENGINEERING DEGREE APPLICANTS If you are considering a degree in engineering (B.S.E.) at Princeton, we suggest that your two SAT Subject Tests include either Physics or Chemistry and either Mathematics level I or level II. B.S.E. candidates are strongly encouraged to complete one year of high school physics, preferably with math, prior to entering Princeton.

NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH If English is not your native language and you are attending a school where English is not the language of instruction, you must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) in addition to the SAT or ACT, and SAT Subject Tests, and have your scores reported to Princeton by the testing agency. Students who have attended an English-medium secondary school for at least three years are not required to submit TOEFL results.

The TOEFL examination is administered by the Educational Testing Service at many testing centers throughout the world. To register for the TOEFL, go to www.toefl.org.

4 School Reports All applicants must submit the following Common Application school reports (refer to checklist on back page for deadlines). Paper forms are available from your guidance counselor or as PDF downloads from the Princeton website.

- **Secondary School Report (SSR) and transcript.** Please ask your high school counselor or other school official to complete and submit an SSR form along with an official transcript.
- International students must submit the **Common Application SSR with the International Supplement.**
- **Two Teacher Evaluations.** Please ask two of your teachers to complete and send the Teacher Evaluation forms. Choose teachers from two different areas of study.
- **Midyear Report.** Please ask your high school counselor or other school official to complete and submit this form.

Important Dates

AUGUST 1	OCTOBER 1	NOVEMBER 1	NOVEMBER 10	DECEMBER	DECEMBER 15	MID-DECEMBER	JANUARY 1	JANUARY 1
Online Common Application and Princeton Supplement available.	Princeton Financial Aid Application (PFAA) available on the Web.	Application deadline for Single-Choice Early Action (postmark or online submission). Recommended Early Action deadline for standardized scores to be reported to Princeton.	Early Action filing deadline for PFAA and Non-Custodial Parent's Form (NCPF) if applicable.	Last month to take the ACT test. International applicants are encouraged to complete their SAT and Subject Tests by the December test date.	Recommended application submission date for Regular Decision applicants.	Early Action admission and financial aid decisions mailed and made available online.	Final deadline for Regular Decision application postmark or online submission. (December and January SAT/ACT scores may arrive after the deadline.)	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available on the Web.

Planning Your Exams

Applicants should carefully review the specific requirements and deadlines included with the application materials. Here is a quick guide to get you started.

Princeton's College Board number is 2672; the ACT number is 2588.

TESTS	URL	A.B. OR B.S.E. DEGREE	TESTING DATES	SCORE REPORTING
Two SAT Subject Tests	www.collegeboard.org	A.B. students who plan to meet Princeton's foreign language requirement with a language begun in high school are encouraged to take a Subject Test in that language. B.S.E. students should include one test in either physics or chemistry, and one test in either Level 1 or Level 2 mathematics.	Students in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico must complete testing by the end of January 2012. Students in other countries, please complete testing by December 2011 to ensure that Princeton receives your scores. Students applying for Early Action must submit test scores by November 1, 2011. Standardized tests taken in November will reach the office in time for the Early Action decision in December.	Send scores directly to Princeton University through the testing agency.
SAT	www.collegeboard.org	Recommended by November 1, 2011, for Early Action	Same as above	Same as above
or ACT (with Writing, where offered)	www.actstudent.org		By December 2011 for Regular Decision	Same as above
TOEFL	www.toefl.org		By January 2012 By November 2011 for Early Action	Same as above

International Students

In addition to all other application materials, international students must submit the Common Application International Supplement. These forms are available as downloadable PDFs on the Princeton website at www.princeton.edu/admission.

We encourage Single-Choice Early Action applicants attending schools outside the United States or Canada to complete their required standardized testing (SAT or ACT, and two SAT Subject Tests, and TOEFL, if applicable) by the November test date if possible. We encourage Regular Decision applicants to complete their testing by the December test date if possible. In our experience, scores from the January test date for testers outside the United States do not always reach us in time. However, if January is the only time you can take the test, please sit for the test in January and have your scores reported to us by the testing agency.

If the SAT tests are not offered in your country, we will consider your application without SAT results. However, we will have less information to consider when evaluating your application than we will have for applicants who are able to take the required tests. In some countries where the SAT is not offered, the ACT is available. If you cannot take the SAT, but the ACT is available, please take the ACT.

If your school does not have an adviser for students applying to university, please ask a school official, such as a principal, vice principal, or dean, to complete your International Supplement.

If the person you ask to complete a Teacher Evaluation form, Secondary School Report, or International Supplement is not comfortable writing in English, he or she may complete the forms in another language. However, you will need to have the forms officially translated before they are submitted to the Admission Office.

JANUARY 1

Postmark deadline for Teacher Evaluation forms and Secondary School Report. Forms may be submitted online.

JANUARY

Last month to take the SAT Test and SAT Subject Tests for Regular Decision applicants.

JANUARY

Online Application Status Check available for applicants to confirm that required forms have been received by the Admission Office.

FEBRUARY 1

Regular Decision filing deadline for PFAA and NCPF (if applicable).

MARCH 15

Recommended date for submitting parents' federal income tax returns and W-2 statements.

**END OF MARCH/
EARLY APRIL**

Regular Decision admission and financial aid decisions mailed and made available online.

APRIL 15

FAFSA deadline.

MAY 1

Postmark and online deadline for accepting Princeton's admission offer.

MAY 10

Recommended date for requesting a one-year deferral of enrollment.

Writing Your Essays

Your application to Princeton will include two essays, and three if you're thinking of pursuing an engineering degree at Princeton. The Common Application requires a 250-word minimum essay on a topic of your choice or one from among five given options. Princeton's Supplement to the Common Application requires you to write another essay (about 500 words), based on one of four themes provided. *This essay should not repeat, in full or in part, the essay you wrote for the Common Application.*

If you are interested in pursuing a B.S.E. (Bachelor of Science in Engineering) degree at Princeton, we require you to write an essay explaining why you wish to study engineering. Please tell us of any experiences in or exposure to engineering you have

had, and how you think the programs in engineering offered at Princeton will suit your particular interests.

While the idea of writing two or perhaps even three different essays may seem challenging at first, we hope you will take full advantage of this opportunity to help us discover who you are. A compelling essay is one that completes and complements the other pieces of your application and provides us with a clear sense of your values and perspective on the world.

Your essays are an important component of your application. Be sure to give them the time and effort necessary to produce your very best work, including taking extra care to ensure correct grammar and spelling. Remember, it is imperative that your essay be your own work and written in your own voice.

FAQs

Here are answers to some frequently asked questions. For more detailed information regarding the application process, please visit our website or write or call our office:

Undergraduate Admission Office
P.O. Box 430
Princeton, NJ 08542-0430
(609) 258-3060
E-mail: uaoffice@princeton.edu
www.princeton.edu/admission

How will I know if my application has been received by the Admission Office?

Once the Admission Office receives your application, we will send you an e-mail that includes information about how you may track the receipt of application materials. You may access this online checklist using the four-digit PIN you create on the Princeton Supplement.

A second e-mail will be sent to you when the Admission Office receives all required components of the application.

we welcome the submission of a CD/DVD or portfolio as part of the Princeton Optional Arts Form. Because evaluation of special talents can be important to the admission decision, applicants are encouraged to submit materials that show their level of proficiency.

Detailed instructions for submitting supplementary materials for the Optional Arts Form are available on the Princeton Supplement. Please note: The Princeton Optional Arts Form is not the Common Application Arts Supplement Form. You must complete the Princeton-specific Arts Form in order for your work to be evaluated.

An applicant who has done scientific research may also submit copies of abstracts or papers with the application.

Reports, CDs, DVDs, and portfolios should be submitted no later than January 1.

I am interested in playing sports at the collegiate level. How should I go about sharing this interest with Princeton? Students interested in playing a varsity sport at Princeton should contact the Princeton coach for that sport. Do not use the Common Application Athletic Supplement. You may find contact information for coaches at the Princeton Varsity Athletics website: www.goprincetontigers.com.

Does Princeton offer an Early Option? Princeton offers a Single-Choice Early Action option. This choice is designed for students who have thoroughly researched their college options and have decided that Princeton is their first choice. Under the nonbinding program, students must complete their application by November 1. They may not apply early to any other institution. We will provide an admission decision by mid-December, including a decision on financial aid for those who have completed the Princeton Financial Aid Application.

Three outcomes are possible for those applying early to Princeton. We either (a) offer admission, (b) deny admission, or (c) defer a final decision on the application and review it again in the Regular Decision process.

Admitted students have until May 1 to respond and may choose to apply for regular decision at other institutions, enabling them to compare their admission and financial offers with those of other institutions.

Does Princeton accept transfer students? Princeton does not offer transfer admission. Any student who has enrolled in another college or university is considered a transfer applicant and is not eligible for undergraduate admission.

I still have questions about my application. What should I do? For more detailed information regarding the application process, please visit our website at www.princeton.edu/admission. A more comprehensive list of FAQs is also available at: www.princeton.edu/admission/applyingforadmission/faq. You may also write or call the Admission Office with questions.

May I submit more letters of recommendation than what is asked for in the Common Application and the Princeton Supplement? We ask for a letter from your guidance counselor, college adviser, or another school official to accompany the Secondary School Report, and letters from two different academic subject teachers. You also may submit an optional reference from someone who knows you well (for example, an employer, a coach, a member of the clergy, a friend, or a family member).

Does Princeton require an interview? An interview is an optional component of the Princeton application. We do not conduct on-campus interviews. If there are sufficient Princeton alumni volunteers in your area, you will be contacted for an alumni interview several weeks after the Admission Office receives your application. You will not be at a disadvantage if you live in an area where our volunteers are not available.

Who should write my letters of recommendation? It's most helpful if your teacher and counselor references come from three different adults who can comment on your intellectual curiosity, academic preparation and promise, and extracurricular involvement.

If you are home schooled and wondering who should write your reference, we recommend that you visit the "Tips for home-school applicants" page on the Princeton admission website: www.princeton.edu/admission/applyingforadmission/tips_for_home_schooled.

How may I make the Admission Office aware of special talents in the arts or of scientific research I have performed? If an applicant is deeply involved in architecture, creative writing, dance, music, theater, or visual arts,

Financial Aid Facts

FINANCIAL AID AWARDED FOR 2011–12 (ESTIMATED)

Grant dollars for all undergraduates	\$110 million
Grant dollars for the Class of 2015	\$28 million
Average grant for the Class of 2015	\$36,100

FEES AND EXPENSES FOR 2011–12

Tuition	\$37,000
Room and board	\$12,069
Estimated misc. expenses	\$3,601
Estimated total	\$52,670

Financial Aid Application Deadlines

NOTE: Princeton does not require the CSS PROFILE form and will not accept it unless combined with the PFAA. In addition, tax forms and other supplemental information must be sent directly to Princeton, not to the CSS IDOC service.

	Single-Choice Early Action	Regular Decision
Princeton Financial Aid Application on the Web*	November 10, 2011	February 1, 2012
Princeton Non-custodial Parent's Form* (if applicable)	November 10, 2011	February 1, 2012
FAFSA**	April 15, 2012	April 15, 2012

Note: The filing deadlines indicated above enable the Financial Aid Office to provide an aid decision at the time admission notifications are mailed.

*available beginning October 1, 2011 on the Web.

**available after January 1, 2012.

Contact Information

www.princeton.edu/aid
faoffice@princeton.edu
Tel (609) 258-3330
Fax (609) 258-0336

Undergraduate Financial Aid Office
Princeton University
P.O. Box 591
Princeton, NJ 08542-0591

Financial Aid

Princeton's Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid administers federal, state, and University funds. Our aid program is designed to encourage all qualified students—regardless of financial circumstances—to consider applying for admission to Princeton. There is no income cutoff on our aid application; all families who feel they may need help paying for a Princeton education are welcome to apply.

Detailed information about Princeton's financial aid program can be found at www.princeton.edu/admission/financialaid.

Applying Online To simplify the process of applying for financial aid, Princeton has developed its own free financial aid application on the Web, the Princeton Financial Aid Application (PFAA), which will be available online beginning October 1, 2011. The PFAA can be used by both U.S. and international applicants.

To complete the PFAA online, go to www.princeton.edu/apply/aid and register for a login account.

Federal Aid The information you provide on your PFAA allows Princeton to estimate your eligibility for federal aid programs. We recommend you file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov, by April 15, 2012, to confirm your eligibility.

Paper Applications Most families find the online application the most efficient way to apply for financial aid. We realize that a “paper version” of the application to use as a worksheet is a helpful tool, and one is provided in the online application. You can log into the Princeton Financial Aid Application and select “download a worksheet” to print the appropriate form and use it as a guide for completing the online application.

While the PFAA on the Web is the preferred method of applying for aid at Princeton, paper applications are available on request from the Undergraduate Financial Aid Office.

Additional Documents Parents' 2011 federal income tax returns and W-2 statements (or the equivalent for non-filers) are required. We suggest you fax these documents directly to the financial aid office at (609) 258-0336 by March 15, 2012. Non-custodial parents may also be required to complete a separate application. Find more detailed explanations in the Financial Aid Information and Application Instructions PDF brochure on our website.

Financial Aid Estimator Each family's financial circumstances are unique, and awards for admitted students are determined on an individual basis. Use our online financial estimator tool to get an idea of how your family might benefit from Princeton's financial aid program:

www.princeton.edu/admission/financialaid/estimator.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other federal, state, and local laws, Princeton University does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability, or veteran status in any phase of its employment process, in any phase of its admission or financial aid programs, or other aspects of its educational programs or activities. The vice provost for institutional equity and diversity is the individual designated by the University to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX, Section 504 and other equal opportunity and affirmative action regulations and laws. Questions or concerns regarding Title IX, Section 504 or other aspects of Princeton's equal opportunity or affirmative action programs should be directed to the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity, Princeton University, 205 Nassau Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544 or (609) 258-6110.

Application Review

If you are applying under Single-Choice Early Action, your application must be postmarked or submitted electronically by **November 1, 2011**. Applications under Regular Decision must be postmarked or submitted electronically by **January 1, 2012**, and we encourage students to submit their portion of the application by **December 15, 2011**, if possible. If you wish to apply for financial assistance, you may submit your Princeton Financial Aid Application by **November 10, 2011**, for Early Action and **February 1, 2012**, for Regular Decision. Please use this list to review the necessary items you will need to complete your application to Princeton University.

Your Application Checklist

Class of 2016

Use this checklist to track the submission of your application.

	DATE SUBMITTED	DEADLINES: Single-Choice Early Action	DEADLINES: Regular Decision
Required Components			
Common Application	<input type="checkbox"/>	November 1, 2011	January 1, 2012; December 15, 2011, if possible
Princeton Supplement to the Common Application	<input type="checkbox"/>	November 1, 2011	January 1, 2012; December 15, 2011, if possible
Application Fee (or waiver request)	<input type="checkbox"/>	November 1, 2011	January 1, 2012
Secondary School Report and Transcript	<input type="checkbox"/>	November 1, 2011	January 1, 2012
Teacher Evaluation Form 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	November 1, 2011	January 1, 2012; December 15, 2011, if possible
Teacher Evaluation Form 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	November 1, 2011	January 1, 2012; December 15, 2011, if possible
SAT or ACT	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	November 1, 2011, is strongly recommended. If test is taken in November, please send scores directly to Princeton.	Take test by January 2012 (December 2011 for those residing outside U.S.); have test agency send your scores directly to Princeton.
SAT Subject Tests (Two Subject Tests required)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	November 1, 2011, is strongly recommended. If tests are taken in November, please send scores directly to Princeton.	Take tests by January 2012 (December 2011 for those residing outside U.S.); have test agency send your scores directly to Princeton.
Midyear Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	February 1, 2012	February 1, 2012
Optional Components			
Princeton Optional Arts Form	<input type="checkbox"/>	November 1, 2011; October 15, 2011, if possible	January 1, 2012; December 15, 2011, if possible
Interview	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	n/a
If Applicable			
TOEFL	<input type="checkbox"/>	November 1, 2011	January 2012
Princeton Financial Aid Application (PFAA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	November 10, 2011	February 1, 2012
Princeton Non-custodial Parent Form	<input type="checkbox"/>	November 10, 2011	February 1, 2012
FAFSA	<input type="checkbox"/>	April 15, 2012	April 15, 2012
Common Application Secondary School Report with the International Supplement	<input type="checkbox"/>	November 1, 2011	January 1, 2012; December 15, 2011, if possible