A Conversation about Direct Admissions

MEFA

MEFA Institute: A Conversation about Direct Admissions

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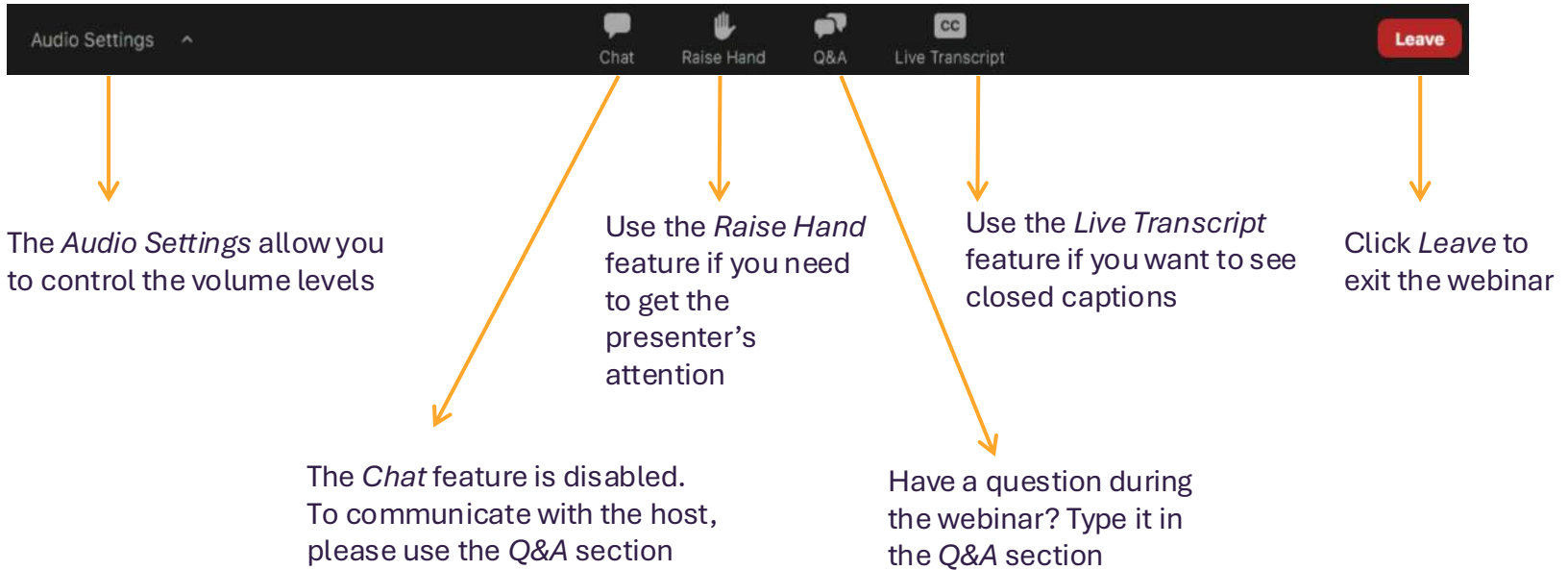*Director, Education & Training*

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About MEFA

State authority created by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1982, helping families plan, save, and pay for college

How to Participate

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Today's agenda

1 | Common App Direct Admissions overview

2 | College perspective

3 | Q&A

Common App Direct Admissions overview

MISSION

Common App is a nonprofit membership organization committed to the pursuit of access, equity, and integrity in the college admission process.

VISION

Be the trusted source to access, afford, and attain opportunity for all.

MOONSHOT

By 2030, Common App will close its equity gap in students pursuing post-secondary opportunities

Common App provides an online application that makes applying to college easy.

Each year, more than one million students — a third of whom are first-generation — explore and apply to over 1,000 member colleges and universities worldwide.

commonapp.org

Common App Direct Admissions

Common App Direct Admissions simplifies college admission by extending offers to qualified first-generation and low- and middle-income students before they apply. Offers are based on information — like GPA — that students have entered into their Common App.

There's no application fee, and many colleges offer extra perks to make the process even easier, **like guaranteed financial aid and no personal essay or recommendations required.**

commonapp.org/directadmissions

Audience poll:

Do you have any students who have received a Common App Direct Admissions offer?

Direct admissions approach

2020–2023 (Pilots 1–3)

- 3–13 participating colleges
- 3.3k–33k students
- Manual email campaign for student notification

2023–2024

- 71 colleges / 1 state (CT)
- More than 1.3 million offers extended to more than 400k students
- 3.06 offers per student
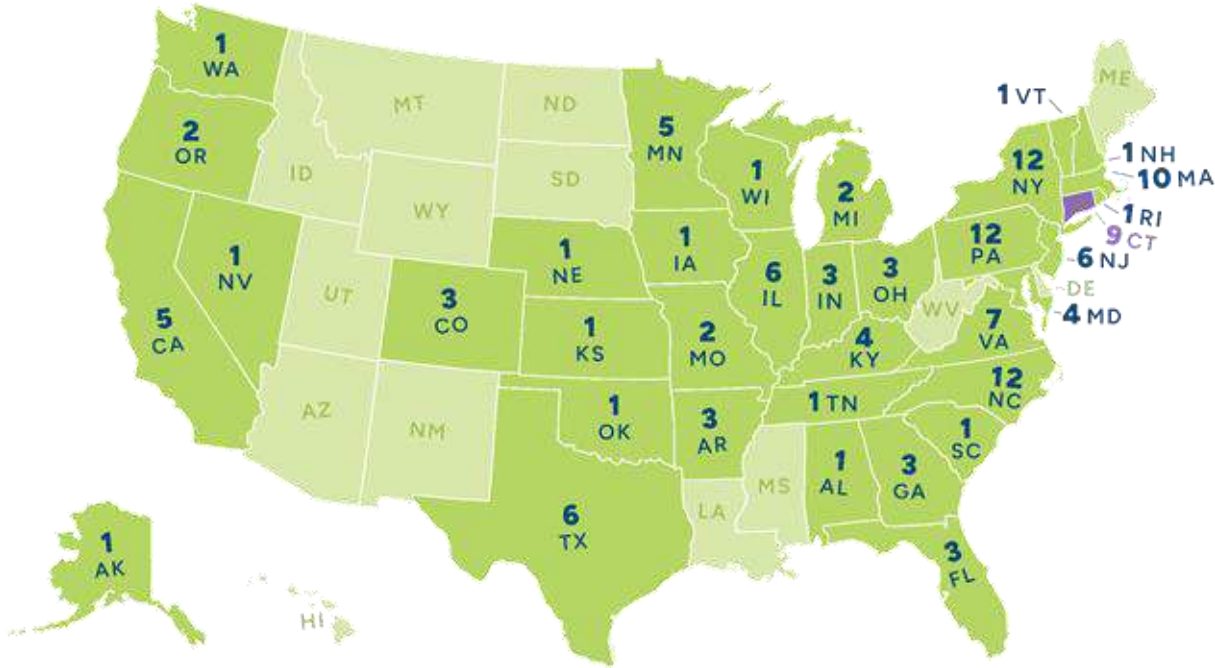- Automated email campaign
- Manual fee waiver process

2024–2025

- 117 colleges / 1 state (CT)
- In-app notifications and automated email campaign
- Automated fee waiver
- Additional "perks" for students

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Participating colleges

2024–2025

126 Participating institutions

Participating colleges in Massachusetts:

- Fisher College
- Hampshire College
- Lasell University
- Merrimack College
- Regis College
- Salem State University
- University of Massachusetts Boston
- University of Massachusetts Lowell
- Western New England University
- Westfield State University

* Includes our partnership with Connecticut State Colleges and Universities

How Common App Direct Admissions works

College inputs

- Eligibility criteria
- Perks for students
  - Application components waived
  - Guaranteed financial aid
- Requirements and stipulations

Student information

- Academic information - GPA and GPA scale and weight
- Citizenship status
- Permanent home address
- Common App fee waiver response
- Parent(s) education level
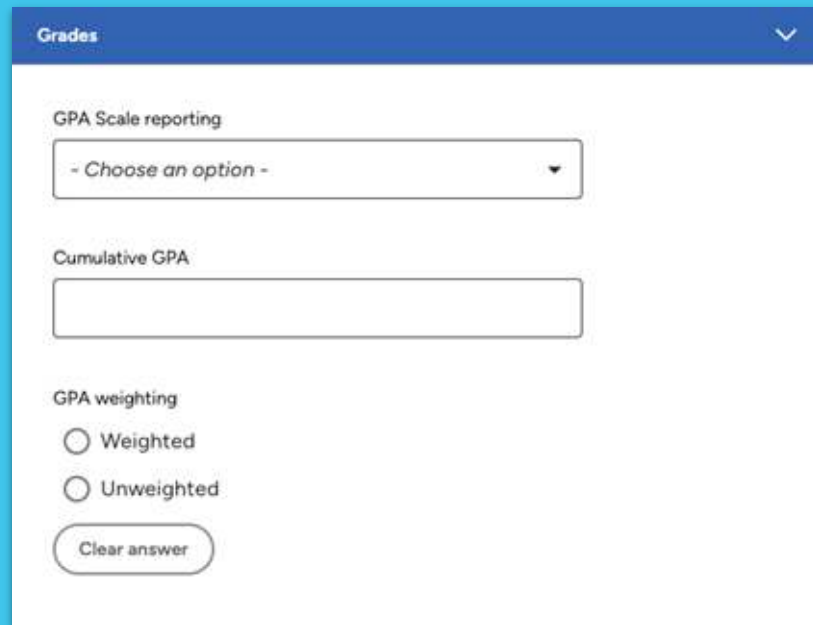
Direct Admissions offers

- Offers extended regularly throughout the cycle
- Application fees automatically waived
- View, learn, and act on offers in Common App
- In-app and email notifications
- All offers are conditional, pending confirmation of submitted application

Getting started

To receive a direct admissions offer, students must answer questions related to eligibility criteria:

- Create a Common App account
- Indicate their U.S. permanent residence
- Enter their GPA
- Respond to the Common App fee waiver question
- Provide highest education level of parent(s)

Grades

GPA Scale reporting

- Choose an option -

Cumulative GPA

GPA weighting

○ Weighted

○ Unweighted

Clear answer

Students are notified of offers in the application and by email
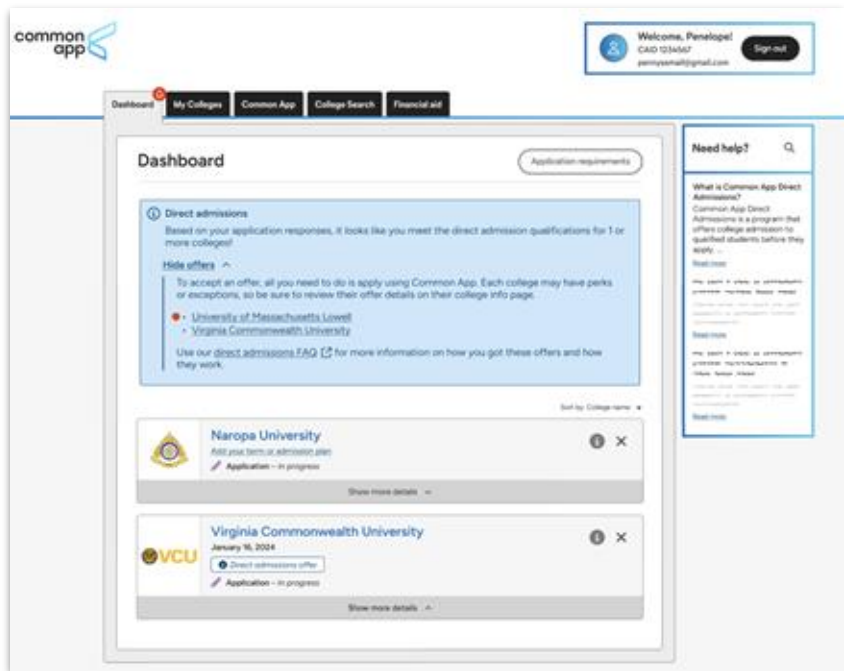
Accepting direct admissions offers

To accept a direct admissions offer, students must submit their Common App to the college.

Before sending students a formal admission offer, colleges will verify the student meets their admission criteria through a review of supporting documents (e.g. transcript).

Accepting an offer and applying does not mean that a student must enroll.

Direct admissions resources for students, families, and counselors

- [2024-2025 Direct Admissions list of participating colleges](#)
- [Direct admissions offer details by college](#)
- [Common App Direct Admissions webpage](#)
- [Common App Direct Admissions: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Pilot findings](#)

Sep 12 Direct Admissions webinar for counselors

- [Webinar recording](#)
- [Presentation slides](#)

Direct admissions offer details by college

This companion resource breaks down all the college-specific perks and other details for direct admissions offers on Common App. For more information on what direct admissions is and how it works on Common App, please use our direct admissions FAQ.

Search for a college

> University of Massachusetts Boston

∨ University of Massachusetts Lowell

Direct admissions offer details

Perks
This college waives the following application requirements:

- Common App Personal Essay
- Counselor recommendation
- Teacher evaluation
- Other recommendations

Major or program exceptions
While this offer ensures your admission to this college, it does not guarantee that you will be admitted to the following majors or programs:

Nursing

Rescinding conditions
Music and Art majors must meet portfolio or audition requirements for admission to those programs.
Students applying to any majors within our Francis College of Engineering or Kennedy College of Sciences must have a B- (or it's equivalent) in Pre-Calculus or Calculus to be admitted to those programs.
Students who do not meet the requirements for their selected major will automatically be considered for an alternate program.
Meet English proficiency requirements.
Demonstrate successful performance through their most recent transcript.
Meet high school minimum GPA according to the Massachusetts Board of High Education standards.

Additional resources
- Explore colleges profile - Learn more about what this college has to offer

College perspective

Q&A

Thank you

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