CLAREMONT McKENNA COLLEGE

Application Instructions for First-Year Applicants

✓ Application Checklist

1. Common Application or Coalition Application
2. $70 application fee or fee waiver
3. Official high school transcript(s) from all secondary schools attended
4. School Report and Counselor Recommendation
5. One Teacher Recommendation
6. Early Decision Agreement (required for ED1 and ED2 applicants only)

✓ Financial Aid Checklist
(only if applying for need-based financial aid)

1. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
2. CSS Profile

Application Components

Common Application or Coalition Application
CMC accepts the Common Application or Coalition Application for first-year admission, without preference for one over the other. Applications can be submitted online at **commonapp.org** or **coalitionforcollegeaccess.org.**

If you are applying to CMC through QuestBridge National Match, please visit **cmc.edu/admission/QuestBridge** for more information.

High School/Secondary School Credentials
A college counselor or school official at your current or most recent high school must send the School Report with an attached School Profile, the Counselor Recommendation, and your official high school transcript(s) reflecting grades 9-11. If you attended multiple high/secondary schools, you must submit all official transcripts.

The School Report provides important context about your high school which will help us assess your academic preparation for CMC. The Counselor Recommendation form must be submitted and your counselor can include a written recommendation, as well.

One Teacher Recommendation
The recommendation should be completed by a teacher who has instructed you in a core academic area (English, mathematics, foreign language, science, or social sciences). We will accept up to two (2) additional recommendations from other teachers, coaches, advisors, supervisors, mentors, etc.

Testing Policy
CMC is test optional for students applying in Fall 2025. This means that you are not required to submit ACT or SAT scores with your application to be considered for admission. CMC will accept ACT or SAT scores as a part of your application if you choose to include them. On your application for admission, you will be asked to indicate whether or not you choose to include your test scores. In Spring 2025, CMC admission will have updated information for testing policy for 2026 graduates and beyond.

Reporting Test Scores and Superscoring
CMC will accept official and self-reported test scores (ACT, the SAT, or both). We will superscore the ACT or SAT, which means we will accept the highest scores from each section of the ACT or SAT, regardless of test date. We do not superscore across test types. When self-reporting your test scores, please provide all subsections from each test date. ACT writing, SAT essay, and SAT subject tests are neither required nor necessary.

English Proficiency Test Scores
International applicants, regardless of their country of citizenship, whose first language is not English and who attend a school in which English is not the primary language of instruction, must submit official results from one of the following approved English language tests:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
  - Internet-based test only
  - 100 minimum score
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
  - 7.5 minimum score
- Duolingo English Test
  - 120 minimum score

Mid-year Transcript
Please have your college counselor submit another official transcript or grade report when your mid-year grades are available (seventh-semester or tenth-trimester grades). Mid-year transcripts are generally provided after you submit your application for admission.

Interview and Optional Video Response
While admission interviews and the optional video response are not required, completing at least one is highly recommended. All home-schooled applicants are required to interview.

CMC awards limited merit-based scholarships to first-year applicants. Merit scholarships are determined by the Office of Admission through the application review process. For priority consideration for our merit-based scholarships, you must submit your application for admission by December 1. There is no separate application required. For more information about merit-based scholarships, visit **cmc.edu/admission/scholarships.**

Application Plans

Applicants can choose to apply either **Early Decision** (ED) or **Regular Decision** (RD). CMC offers two early decision deadlines (ED1 and ED2), in which the admission decision is binding. Regular Decision (RD) is not binding. Your application for admission and supporting credentials must be submitted by the deadline you select (see chart).

Students for whom CMC is clearly their first choice may apply under an ED option. The applicant, parent, and college counselor/school official must electronically sign the ED Agreement form. Applicants who are admitted under ED are expected to enroll at CMC, to withdraw all other college applications, and to not initiate new ones.

Application Deadlines

Application Plan	Application Deadline	Notification Date	Reply Date
Early Decision I	November 1	By December 15	Early January
Early Decision II	January 10	By February 15	Early March
Regular Decision	January 10	By April 1	May 1

For more information about applying to CMC, visit **cmc.edu/admission/apply.**

Financial Aid Deadlines

Application Plan	CSS Profile & FAFSA Due Date	Award Available*
Early Decision I	November 8**	By December 15
Early Decision II	January 17	By February 15
Regular Decision	January 17	By April 1

For more information on Financial Aid, visit **cmc.edu/financial-aid.**

Financial aid awards are available upon admission for applicants with a complete financial aid application.

** *The FAFSA application is set to release in December 2024 and will be due on January 17th. The CSS Profile must be completed by November 8th.*

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