

THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA



Application Guide
2020–2021

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA



OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION

Please send application materials to:
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The Catholic University of America
Office of Undergraduate Admission
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**Title IX Coordinator and
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The Catholic University of America admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, religion, or disability to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded to students at the University.



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Whether you're beginning your college search process, transferring from another college or university, or interested in furthering your education in the United States, this guide will walk you through each step in the application process. We've included information about application options, deadlines, scholarship opportunities, and more. If you have not done so already, **I invite you to apply to Catholic University today.**

Catholic University offers a wonderful combination of varied academic offerings, a friendly residential campus community, and a prime location in Washington, D.C. **With more than 70 majors and 9 undergraduate schools**, Catholic University gives you fantastic options regardless of your academic interest. In addition, you will have a beautiful campus on which to live and learn, with a Metro rail stop giving you easy access to one of the world's most dynamic cities. Since we are located only three miles from the U.S. Capitol, you can be downtown in minutes to report for an internship, see a concert, or explore the monuments.

From what you already know and can still learn about Catholic University, I hope you will consider submitting your Common Application as the first step in joining our community. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Best wishes for a wonderful year.

James Dewey-Rosenfeld
Dean of Undergraduate Admission



The Application Process

THE APPLICATION REVIEW

For first-year and transfer applicants, the foundation of our review of your application for admission is your academic career. We evaluate the depth of your curriculum and your classroom performance in the context of your program of study. We believe we can make effective admission decisions without considering SAT or ACT scores. Academic preparation matters, of course, but so does character, spirit, judgment, and heart. Your activities profile, letters of recommendation, and essays play an important role in our evaluation. We seek to enroll students excited to join our diverse community of highly motivated undergraduates and we are eager to get to know you and to learn where you hope to take your studies and your life.

STANDARDIZED TESTS ARE NOT CONSIDERED

Beginning in the 2020–2021 application year (spring 2021 and fall 2021 enrollment terms), the Committee on Admission will not consider standardized tests as a part of the review for admission, the University Honors Program, and for all merit scholarships.

APPLICATION

The Catholic University of America uses the Common Application exclusively for both first-year and transfer students ([commonapp.org](https://www.commonapp.org)). We do not charge an application fee to apply for undergraduate admission.

FIRST-YEAR APPLICATION OPTIONS

Early Action

The Early Action program at Catholic University is designed for students who have a strong interest in the University and believe that they can present a complete application before the end of the first semester of their senior year. The deadline for Early Action is Nov. 1 and students are notified between Dec. 15 and Jan. 1.



This is a nonbinding program. Students are free to apply to other institutions and do not have to commit to Catholic University until the May 1 National Candidate Reply Date. Students will be notified of any merit scholarships with their offer of admission.

Early Decision I and II

Students who have identified Catholic University as their first-choice institution may apply under one of our two Early Decision options. The deadline for Early Decision I is Nov. 1 (students will be notified between Dec. 15 and Jan. 1). The Early Decision II deadline is Jan. 15 (students will be notified between Feb. 15 and March 1). Students will be notified of any merit- and need-based awards with their offer of admission.

Applicants for Early Decision must submit the Early Decision Agreement, which must be signed by the student, a parent/guardian, and the school counselor. Under the terms of the Early Decision Agreement, students who are offered admission are required to withdraw all other applications and must submit their non-refundable enrollment deposit by Jan. 15 for Early Decision I and March 15 for Early Decision II.

The Early Decision options are intended for students who have determined that Catholic University is the right fit for them and demonstrate that commitment by agreeing to attend the institution, if admitted. Students who choose to apply Early Decision are recognized by the Committee on Admission as having made this first-choice commitment, which can provide an advantage in the review process.

Regular Decision

The Regular Decision program is designed for students who believe that they can best present a complete application by including grades from the first semester of their senior year. The deadline for Regular Decision is Jan. 15 and students are notified between March 10 and 20.

Note: Regardless of the application plan, all candidates receive equal consideration for merit- and need-based financial assistance.

Required Materials *(First-Year, Transfer, International Students)*

In addition to the Common Application, candidates are required to submit the following application materials by the appropriate deadline:

- ◆ Essay
- ◆ Official High School Transcript(s)
- ◆ Teacher Recommendation
- ◆ Secondary School Report with Counselor Letter
- ◆ Music Audition (*B.M. candidates*)

TRANSCRIPT DISRUPTIONS CAUSED BY COVID-19

The Committee on Admission understands that students may have experienced inconsistencies in course selections and grading policies during their high school career as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We will carefully consider each student's record in the context of decisions made by their school, and we encourage students to submit a description of any disruptions and the impact on their studies.

ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ Proof of English Proficiency by Submitting TOEFL or IELTS
(for applicants whose native language is not English)
- ◆ Certificate of Financial Responsibility *(with notarized bank statements)*

If the transcripts/records are not in English, applicants must submit an officially assessed transcript from a professionally accredited organization, such as World Education Services (wes.org).

ADDITIONAL TRANSFER STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ Official transcripts from all colleges attended
- ◆ College's Official Report
- ◆ Portfolio *(architecture students only)*



Application Deadlines

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS



Early Action
Notification
by Jan. 1



Early Decision I
(binding)
Notification
before Jan. 1



Early Decision II
(binding)
Notification
before March 1



Regular Decision
Notification
before March 20



Spring
Rolling
notification

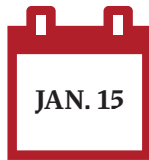
TRANSFER STUDENTS



Fall
Notification
after April 1



Spring
Rolling
notification



Summer
Rolling
notification





International Applicant FAQs

What is the requirement to demonstrate English proficiency?

No single factor in the consideration of an applicant from abroad is more important than the ability to read, write, speak, and understand the English language. To ensure that a candidate comes to the United States with adequate competency in English, Catholic University requires all applicants whose native language is not English to take the TOEFL or IELTS before they can be considered for admission.

Students must submit the results of the TOEFL or IELTS to demonstrate English proficiency. Currently, the minimum Internet-based TOEFL score is 80, with a 20 on each subsection, and the minimum IELTS score is 6.5. Catholic University does superscore TOEFL subsection scores if the test has been taken more than once.

Catholic University Codes

- ◆ TOEFL 5104
- ◆ IELTS scores should be sent directly to Catholic University

What financial documentation is required?

International students must submit one of the following to confirm financial support:

- ◆ A duly notarized statement of support from the student's sponsor and evidence of the sponsor's financial resources dated no more than 90 days prior to submission of application for admission. The three most recent consecutive bank statements documenting availability of the required funds must also be submitted.
- ◆ An official letter of award from the student's government or other sponsoring organization indicating the terms of the support and the amount of funding they are providing.
- ◆ Students who are supporting themselves using their own funds must submit three recent official bank statements of their own personal account dated within 90 days of applying for admission that document the availability of required funds. In addition, students must submit a letter from their bank that includes the name of the account holder, date the account was opened, total deposits in the 90 days preceding submission of application for admission or 90-day average balance, current balance, bank letterhead, and original signature of a bank official.



All tuition and associated fees must be paid prior to the beginning of each semester. Before Catholic University can issue immigration documents, students must show proof of financial support for the first year. In order to receive a student visa at a U.S. consulate, admitted students must be able to document not only that their financial resources cover the costs of the first year of study, but that they have a reasonable expectation that they can cover the continued costs of study at the University for the remainder of the academic program.

Dependent Information: Students must document support for spouses and/or children accompanying them. The estimated annual cost is \$6,000 for an adult dependent and \$4,000 for each dependent child.

How do I transfer sponsorship of F-1 or J-1 Immigration Status to Catholic University?

Students admitted to an academic program at the University must:

- ◆ Submit copies of current passport, I-94 card, and I-20 or DS-2019.
- ◆ Submit evidence of financial ability to cover the costs of studying at Catholic University (see previous section).
- ◆ Have their current school release student's SEVIS record to Catholic University. The Office of Undergraduate Admission will issue a new I-20 or DS-2019 for the academic program at the University. This documents that the student is beginning a new program. Please note that at this stage of the process, a transfer is not yet completed. To finalize the transfer, students must report to International Student and Scholar Services within 10 days of the start of class. Students who fail to report to ISSS will not have their transfer finalized. Their legal status in the United States may be jeopardized.

Is health insurance required for international students?

All students must be covered by health insurance. Students are charged yearly for coverage offered by Catholic University unless proof of comparable coverage is submitted. The University's health insurance policy, enrollment deadlines, and procedures for waiving the University's insurance plan are found online at studentinsurance.cua.edu.

Are international students eligible for financial assistance?

International applicants receive full consideration for all merit-based scholarships. International applicants are not eligible for need-based financial assistance.

Scholarships and Grants

SCHOLARSHIPS

All first-year and transfer scholarships are awarded by the Office of Undergraduate Admission. Consideration for University scholarships is made during the admission application process. University scholarships are awarded based on prior academic performance and are not subject to future increases (except for the Archdiocesan Scholarship). Scholarships and grants currently range from \$1,000 to full tuition. Applicants may also apply for need-based financial assistance beginning on October 1. The merit awards listed here are not based on financial need.

Archdiocesan Scholarship

These full-tuition, four-year scholarships are the University's most prestigious awards. For consideration, students must be at the top of their high school class with an A average in the most demanding curriculum offered at their high school. Finalists will be asked to confirm their interest and participate in an interview with University faculty. A separate application is not required.

In addition to maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), Archdiocesan Scholarship recipients are required to maintain a 3.20 cumulative grade point average at all times.

The Catholic University Scholarship

The amount awarded over four years ranges from \$15,000 to \$30,000. Candidates must have an exceptional academic profile as determined by the quality of the high school curriculum, GPA, and class rank (if provided). Test scores are not considered for admission or for merit scholarships. A separate application is not required.

Parish Scholarship

Parishioners of Catholic churches may be eligible for this \$4,000 scholarship, renewable for up to four years. Funding is provided by The Catholic University of America. Receipt



of this scholarship is not automatic and limited funding is available. The recipient must be a U.S. citizen and a parishioner of a Catholic church in the United States or Puerto Rico. **Students must complete the Parish Scholarship information included in the Catholic University section of the Common Application. Students are only considered if they include this information as part of their initial application submission. Late requests will not be considered.**

Most Reverend David M. O'Connell Service Scholarship

Established in 2010, this four-year tuition scholarship will be awarded each year to **one first-year student from the Diocese of Trenton** who embodies Bishop David M. O'Connell's dedication to service. The scholarship honors Bishop O'Connell, C.M., who was appointed coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Trenton in June 2010. Bishop O'Connell also served as the 14th president of Catholic University. During his tenure, Bishop O'Connell emphasized commitment to service, a reflection of his episcopal motto — *Ministrare non ministrari* — meaning "to serve and not to be served," from the Gospel of St. Mark.

GRANTS

Legacy Grant

Recognizing the importance of family tradition, the \$1,000 Legacy Grant is automatically awarded to all admitted students who have had a parent, grandparent, or sibling receive a degree from Catholic University.

Family (Sibling) Grant

If a family has two or more dependent children concurrently registered as undergraduate full-time students at Catholic University (attempting a minimum of 12 credit hours), pursuing their first undergraduate degrees, the older sibling(s) is (are) eligible for a Catholic University Family Grant of \$2,000 per year.





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