

### **Your Question:**

Is there a 50-state status on common applications used by public institutions?

### **Our Response:**

Education Commission of the States does not currently have a 50-state scan of common applications used by public institutions. However, below you can find multiple states that use common applications as well as organizations offering this service to institutions. Creating a common application for all public institutions in a state can be a tedious process depending on the governance structure and higher education system. Some structures may more easily allow for a common application than others. Common applications also rely on the buy-in from state institutions and collaboration between admission offices.

#### **Iowa:**

The Board of Regents for the State of Iowa provides the [Iowa Public Universities Application Portal](#) for students to apply to any of the three public institutions. This application is specifically for prospective students entering college directly from high school in Fall 2017.

#### **Texas:**

[ApplyTexas](#) was created by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the colleges and universities in the state. The project created a site where both Texan and non-Texan prospective students can apply to all public institutions in the state through one common application. The site also allows students to apply for scholarships at various institutions.

#### **Wisconsin:**

The [University of Wisconsin System](#) provides a [common application](#) for all of the system campuses. These include 13 four-year universities, 13 freshman-sophomore UW Colleges and statewide UW-Extension Together institutions. If a student wants to apply to more than one UW campus, they do need to submit multiple forms; however, they can submit them all through the same site.

#### **“One-Stop Shops”:**

Some states offer websites where students can apply to different institutions in their state. The difference with these states is that it is not a full “common application” but a portal for students to apply to each institution individually. [South Dakota](#) and [North Carolina follow this model](#).

Non-state based organizations also offer a “one-stop shop” for students to organize their application materials and apply to participating institutions. The [Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success](#) was developed to improve the application process providing a centralized toolkit for students to apply to college. [The Common Application](#) is a non-profit member organization aiming to ease the admission process for prospective students. Upwards of 700 institutions are members and allow a student to use one application to apply to multiple colleges.