The
Standard
Application
Online

+

Applying Made Easy

What is the Standard Application Online (SAO)?

The Standard Application Online is a secure, user-friendly pre-kindergarten to postgraduate common online application for independent schools. Using the SAO, you can complete one application with one set of transcripts and recommendations, then use it to apply to as many participating schools as you wish.

ssat.org/sao

A Simpler Application Process

The SAO was designed and built to make the application process simpler and easier.

+ **One stop, one solution:** If you're taking the SSAT and/or The Character Skills Snapshot or using SSAT Practice Online, the SAO is on the same platform, so you'll have just one login for all four. Manage, submit, and track all your application components and manage your tests in the same place.

+ **Keep yourself on track:** Intuitive, graphic workstation helps you track your progress against deadlines – what's been completed and what still needs to be done. You can also see upcoming admission or campus event opportunities.

+ **A paper-free process:** No more scanning, no more postage, no more printing and filing. Manage your entire application process from your desktop.

+ **Showcase your uniqueness:** The SAO has a section where you can include your interests and activities, personal and academic achievements, and include multimedia, so you can show admission offices things like your amazing audition tape, foodie blog, portfolio, or short film. Include that A+ essay, awards, certificates, and more to set yourself apart.

+ **Streamlined process for teachers and administrators:** Obtaining one set of transcripts and recommendations online means fewer requests of busy teachers and administrators.

+ **Less time on essays, more time on visits:** Just one set of essays means you'll spend a lot less time writing and a lot more time learning about the school(s) to which you're applying.
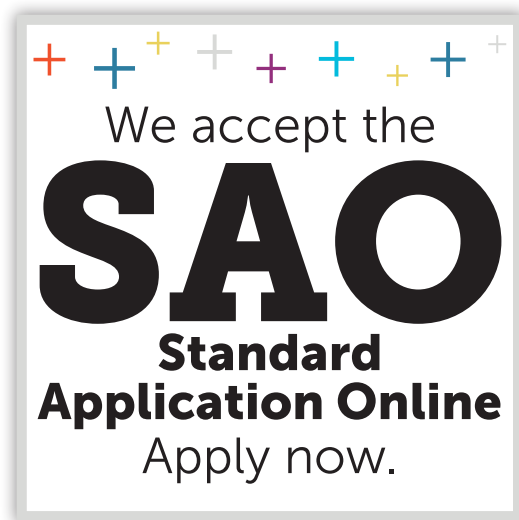
ssat.org/sao

Which Schools Use the SAO?

The SAO is accepted by hundreds of independent schools around the world, and many schools use only the SAO. Some schools indicate that they use the SAO on their websites, but others do not, so be sure to ask the school.

Some schools accept other online applications in addition to the SAO, but they don't have a preference for which one students choose. The application you select has no impact on admission decisions.

You can find a complete list of accepting schools online at ssat.org/member-search. Check the box marked "Accepts Standard Application Online." Or, simply search for schools directly from your SAO account.

ssat.org/sao

We accept the

SAO

Standard Application Online

Apply now.

If you see this graphic, you know a school accepts the SAO.

What's Included?

The SAO application includes these sections:

1. **Student Profile:** This section includes your biographic information, plus information about you and your family, including parents and siblings, current school, interests and achievements, and any multimedia links you'd like to include. *The profile can be submitted with your application fee anytime—you don't need to wait until you have the rest of the application done to show schools you're interested!*

2. **Student Essays:** A series of short essay prompts and one longer prompt of your choice. Work on the essays over time and save in draft until you're happy with them.

3. **Parent Statement:** A series of short answer questions for parents to complete, including character skills impressions.

4. **Recommendation and Transcripts/Grade Reports:** SAO streamlines the collection and submission of the recommendations and transcripts required by the schools to which you are applying. Simply request each required recommendation and transcript one time via email through the SAO. Forms and reports are completed online and then shared with all schools requiring those as part of their application. You can monitor this whole process from your SAO dashboard.

5. **School Supplement (Where Required):** If a school needs specific information that's not covered in the SAO, they will require a supplement to be completed. This will be clearly listed in the school's requirements section.

6. **Pay for and Submit Your Application:** Pay each school's application fee directly through the SAO! (Your application and supporting documents will only be sent to a school when you have paid their application fee.)

7. **Track Your Scores and Results:** See a school's SSAT and Snapshot requirements and include them with your SAO applications.

ssat.org/sao

What Else Should I Know?

+ Pay for your application through the SAO: School application fees are paid directly through the SAO—no need to send a separate payment to each school. If you need help paying for applications, contact the school to request an application fee waiver, and the SAO fee will be waived, too.*

+ How do I get started? The first step is to create an account on ssat.org. You'll find step-by-step directions for using the SAO on ssat.org/sao, along with lots of other helpful information.

+ How do I use the SAO? Check out ssat.org/sao for live and recorded webinars, videos, and step-by-step tutorials on using the SAO from start to finish, as well as answers to the most frequently asked questions.

There is a $6.00 processing fee for each application sent using the SAO.

ssat.org/sao

+ When does a school get my application? Schools will begin to see your submitted SAO components when you pay their application fees. At that time, any submitted components will be delivered, and thereafter, items will be delivered in real time as you complete and submit them. Recommendations and transcripts are delivered directly to these schools as they are submitted by teachers and administrators.

+ How do I apply to more than one school? Simply search for schools via your SAO dashboard. If your desired schools accept the SAO, you will be able add them to your SAO dashboard and submit your applications to them.

+ Can my secondary school counselor or consultant help me? Yes! Designate a member school or consultant as an SAO advisor for help managing your applications. Follow instructions within the SAO to give your advisor the ability to help with recommendations and transcripts and even upload a supplement of their own.

ssat.org/sao

The
Standard
Application
Online

+

Questions?
We're happy to help!

Email: info@ssat.org • Live chat: ssat.org
Phone: 609-683-4440
(Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm ET)

ssat.org/sao