

Application Component Instructions

All Components are due January 28, 2026 at 5pm MST

Visit collegehorizons.org/apply/ on our website. On the **Apply** page, you have access to the application link and information regarding our eligibility requirements. Click the 'Apply' button to initiate the account registration process.

The CH Application includes the following five components. All five components must be submitted to be considered for admission:

1. STUDENT APPLICATION

The Student Application includes the following sections: Demographics, High School Information, Family Information, Technology Information, College Engagement Information, CH Program Site Placement, Short Answer Questions and Personal Essay.

Writing Requirements (Short Answer Questions & Personal Essay)

Short Answer Questions: We ask applicants to respond to the following six short answer questions. Answers are limited to 300 words maximum.

- **Kinship & Relationality:** Introduce yourself and your family to the College Horizons team. We encourage you to use your cultural protocol of introduction, or simply tell us about you and your family.
- **Self Reflection:** How have you done academically, socially, physically, and emotionally during high school? What has been challenging and frustrating? What has been going well? Where have you shown growth and improvement?
- **In Your Own Words:** Choose three words that best describe you and explain why. Do not just list the three words, please provide an explanation about why those words best describe who you are.
- **Extracurricular:** Tell us about three extracurricular activities that are most important to you and why. These activities can encompass any responsibilities you might have at home or with family, in a civic or volunteer capacity, as well as any Tribal community or cultural roles (ceremonial, language, powwow, feast, potlatch, hālau, poi/fishpond, traditional harvesting/hunting, etc.). Do not just list the three activities, please provide an explanation. And while you might be involved in more than three activities, we want you to highlight the top three that are most meaningful to you.
- **Leadership:** Leadership takes many forms. Tell us about your most significant leadership role or contribution to a community. This could include leadership roles at home, work, school, on a team, cultural or in your Tribal community, etc. What did you learn from this role and why was it important to you?
- **College Aspirations:** Why do you want to go to college and what do you envision accomplishing with your college degree? What excites you about college? What worries or concerns do you have about applying to college or attending college?

Personal Essay: In addition, we ask applicants to respond to the following essay prompt (600 Word Maximum Response). This personal essay is an opportunity for the College Horizons staff to get to know you and your future aspirations. Who are you as a friend, relative, athlete, performer, worker, neighbor, etc.? How do you see yourself as an Indigenous person and student? What has shaped your worldviews?

You may address ANY of the following prompts in your personal essay, but be sure to tell us how you are connected to or involved with your Native/Indigenous heritage, culture, community, homelands/villages, or Nations and how a college education might benefit you, your family, your community, and future generations.

- What are your hopes and dreams for the future?
- What are you passionate about? What makes you happy?
- What hardships have you overcome and what did you learn about yourself?
- What accomplishments are you most proud of?
- Who are you as a friend, relative, athlete, performer, worker, or neighbor?
- What are you like in your school, in your home, in your community?
- How do you see yourself as an Indigenous person, student, etc.?
- What in your value systems, community, culture, history, worldview has shaped who you are?
- What experiences or people have made a big impression on you and what did you learn from them?
- What is an event that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family?
- Anything you feel will help us get to know you better.

2. TRIBAL ENROLLMENT AND HAWAIIAN DOCUMENTATION UPLOAD

To be eligible for College Horizons, each student must be an enrolled citizen member of a federally recognized or state recognized American Indian tribe, Alaska Native group, or Native Hawaiian AND provide appropriate documentation supporting their tribal enrollment. All applicants must provide a photocopy of their official tribal enrollment OR Hawaiian ancestry verification. CH will NOT accept a birth certificate for a student, parent, or grandparent as proof of tribal enrollment. For more information please visit our [FAQ](#) page.

3. COUNSELOR FORM & OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT UPLOAD

Students must invite their school counselor to complete this form. Counselors are responsible to upload a student's official transcript (required) and a high school profile (if available). Please be aware that we require transcripts to reflect all grades, **including 2025-26 first semester grades**. Students are responsible for inviting their Counselors to this form in their online portal.

4. TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM

Students must invite one teacher in a **CORE** academic subject (Math, Science, History, English, or Indigenous/Foreign Language) from this **current 2025-26 academic year** to complete this recommendation form. Students are responsible for inviting their Teacher to this form in their online portal.

We do not accept recommendations from electives, coaches, or core teachers from the previous school year. If an incorrect teacher is invited, students will be required to withdraw the request and invite another teacher.

5. PARENT/GUARDIAN FORM

Students must invite one parent/guardian to complete this form. **The parent/guardian invited will serve as the primary contact for this summer's program.** We will need to communicate application and program updates regularly with the primary parent/guardian by email and phone. Students are responsible for inviting their parent/guardian to complete this form in their online portal.

Parents/Guardians will reflect on their child's well-being and college aspirations. The form will collect the family household's financial information. College Horizons uses information from this form for the following purposes:

- Income Verification for Airfare Financial Assistance,
- Financial Aid Advising for Scholarships/Grants (merit & need-based),
- Building College Lists with "Family Financial Fit" in mind, and to
- Expose Parents/Guardians to the College Financial Aid Process.

CH offers financial assistance for round-trip airfare for families who qualify for need-based aid. To be considered for airfare financial assistance, parents/guardians must complete the financial section in the Parent/Guardian Form and submit recent tax returns.

APPLICATION & WRITING EXPECTATIONS (AI USE):

College Horizons expects the application to be completed by the student applicant only, not a parent, relative, or friend. Applicants should not share their log-in or password with anyone else.

AI Use: The use of Artificial Intelligence by an applicant is not permitted under any circumstance in conjunction with the CH application content. Students are not allowed to use AI to help brainstorm, outline, draft, edit or write their short answer or personal essay responses. College Horizons expects students to complete all parts of the application on their own, without assistance from Artificial Intelligence.

