Application Component Instructions

All Components are due January 25, 2027 at 10:00pm 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?
- **Cultural & Community Connection:** Tell us about your involvement with your Native/Indigenous culture, community, homelands/villages or Nation.

Personal Essay: We ask applicants to respond to the following essay prompt (600 word maximum response). As Indigenous Peoples, we come from a tradition of storytellers. As individuals we are dynamic, multi-faceted, multi-dimensional, and have multiple and intersectional identities that make us unique and shape who we are and how we see ourselves. This personal essay is an opportunity for the College Horizons staff to get to know you and your future aspirations.

You may answer ANY of the following prompts in your personal essay:

- What are your hopes and dreams for the future?
- How will a college education benefit you, your family, your community?
- What will be your contribution to future generations?
- What are you passionate about? What makes you happy?
- Who are you as a friend and relative?
- What are you like in your school and in your community?
- How do you see yourself as a Native student?
- What in your value systems or worldview has shaped who you are?
- What hardships have you overcome and what did you learn about yourself?
- What accomplishments are you most proud of?
- 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?

2. TRIBAL ENROLLMENT AND HAWAIIAN DOCUMENTATION UPLOAD

To be eligible, each student must be an enrolled citizen member of an American Indian tribe or a descendant of an enrolled citizen member, an enrolled member of an Alaska Native Tribe or Village, an ANCSA Shareholder or descendant of a Shareholder, or Native Hawaiian AND provide appropriate documentation supporting 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 for uploading 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 2026-27 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 2026-27 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 teacher electives, coaches, or teachers from previous school years. If an ineligible 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 academic well-being and connection to their culture and community. 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
- 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.

APPLICATION TIMELINE



APPLICATION OPEN

MONDAY - NOVEMBER 2, 2026

Start your application by visiting ***collegehorizons.org/apply***.

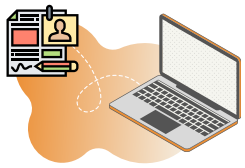
Application Components:

- CH Student Application
- Tribal Enrollment & Hawaiian Documentation Upload
- Teacher Recommendation Form
- Counselor Form & Official Transcript Upload
- Parent/Guardian Form

COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

NOV 2026 – JAN 2027

Students, Parents, Counselors and Teachers may track application progress online. The application is **Complete** once all components are submitted.





APPLICATION DEADLINE

MONDAY - JANUARY 25, 2027

Submit your College Horizons application by the application deadline to guarantee your application will be reviewed.

The deadline is set at 10:00pm MDT.

APPLICATION STATUS UPDATE

MID-FEBRUARY 2027

CH staff require time after the deadline to process student application materials. CH will notify students with an application status update. Additional time will be provided for missing or inaccurate components.





APPLICATION READ

LATE FEBRUARY 2027

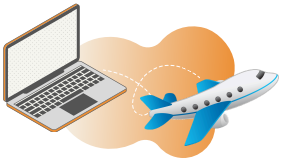
The College Horizons team will read and review Completed Applications from mid to late February.



ADMISSION DECISION RELEASE

MID-MARCH 2027

The College Horizons team will notify students of their admissions decision by mid-March.



STUDENTS PREPARE

MAR – JUN 2027

The College Horizons team will host a couple of virtual webinars to prepare students for the summer program. Students and families will receive instructions on booking travel and pre-program homework assignments.

COLLEGE HORIZONS

JUN or JUL 2027

Students participate in the College Horizons summer program.

APPLICATION OPENS
November 2, 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE
January 25, 2027