

After High School...What's Next?

Below is a list of important steps you need to take to continue on your path to college.

- Choose the colleges or universities which most interest you and apply for admission.**
Admissions applications can be found on the college website. Some may be submitted online, while others must be printed and mailed. Be sure to **apply to one close to home** if your first choice requires you to live away from home. **You can apply to more than one.** Ask your counselor for a College Admission Fee Waiver as most require an enrollment fee.
Date completed: _____

- Follow up with transcripts and test scores.** Completing an online or paper college application doesn't mean you're finished submitting everything the college requires. It's important to find out what additional information is required from the school(s) that received your application(s). Most schools will want copies of your ACT or SAT scores, as well as an official copy of your high school transcript. You may be *admitted conditionally* until colleges have received your final transcript with a graduation date on it. You will still be allowed to enroll.
Date completed: _____

- Give the schools time to contact you.** Most colleges will acknowledge the receipt of an admission application. Check with your school counselor to find out when you can expect to hear back from the schools you applied to regarding the status of your application. Also, once you've made a decision on where you want to go, let any other schools where you were accepted know that you are declining their offers of admission.
Date completed: _____

- Build your financial aid plan.** With the Financial Aid Wizard, you can find out how much financial aid you may receive and what you may have to pay out of pocket at the colleges to which you've applied. Find the FA Wizard at:
https://secure.okcollegestart.org/Financial_Aid_Planning/Your_Financial_Aid_Plan/Financial_Aid_Wizard/Financial_Aid_Wizard.aspx. If you need help, check with your counselor or talk to a financial aid officer at your school of interest.
Date completed: _____

- Research scholarships and financial aid.** Now that you've applied to college, you need to seriously consider how you will pay for your college education. Make sure you research scholarships and stay on top of scholarship application deadlines. **Your school website will be your greatest source of scholarship information.** Be sure to apply for scholarships at each college where you have applied for admission. Generally colleges will not award scholarships until you have applied. **Accept all scholarships awarded.** *You can always contact colleges after your final decision is made to let them know you won't be attending.*
Date completed: _____

- **Apply for a FAFSA ID for yourself and one parent/guardian.** Go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov> before January 1st because this is the secure ID you and your parent will use to sign your FAFSA. You will keep the FAFSA ID throughout college and use it when you re- apply for financial aid each year. Parents can use the same FAFSA ID for each child they send to college. **Apply even though you know you will not receive grants. Some scholarships require a copy of the FAFSA.**

Student FAFSA ID: _____
Date Completed: _____
Parent FAFSA ID: _____
Date Completed: _____

- **Complete your FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st.** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the application you will use to apply for federal, state, and even some institutional financial aid. To allow the maximum time to compare and consider award offers from colleges and meet application and admission deadlines, you need to sit down with your parents to complete your FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1. Some state grants will have a March 1st deadline, so be sure to submit your FAFSA as soon as possible. If your federal taxes aren't completed, use the numbers from last year and **submit the form**. You will be allowed to edit your information when your taxes are completed. Don't lose money because you didn't submit the FAFSA. Go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov> to learn more about the FAFSA and to start your financial aid application. *Please note: You should never have to pay to complete your FAFSA. Be sure you go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov> and not any other website. Other websites will expect payment. Remember that the first F in FAFSA stands for FREE.*

Date completed: _____

- **Complete on-campus housing forms.** If you think there is a chance that you may live on campus at a college you applied to, be sure to complete the housing forms as soon as they are available. At some schools, dorms fill up quickly, and you don't want to miss out on a spot because you waited too long to turn in your forms.

Date completed: _____

- **Sign up for the earliest registration and orientation schedule possible.** Once you have been accepted to college, you will need to register for classes and eventually attend an orientation. Look for registration and orientation dates at your college, and try to sign up for the earliest date available to you so you can get the classes you need or want to take.

Registration date: _____

Enrollment date: _____

These are some of the most important steps you need to take once you've applied to college. For other advice or for more ideas on what you need to do to prepare yourself for your transition to college life, talk to your counselor, parents or other trusted adults whom you know have been through this process themselves. Excellent job—you are on your way to college!