

Application Fee Eligibility & FAQs for the NACAC Fee Waiver

Students who have limited financial resources and meet the requirements below may use the [NACAC Request for Application Fee Waiver Form](#) (toolkit, I) when applying for college. The form helps ensure that access to college is possible for all students. The form is for traditional high school students applying to postsecondary colleges or universities in the fall immediately following high school graduation.

Students are eligible to use the form if:

- Student has received or is eligible to receive an ACT or SAT testing fee waiver.
- Student is enrolled in or eligible to participate in the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch program (FRPL).
- Student's annual family income falls within the Income Eligibility Guidelines set by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.
- Student is enrolled in a federal, state or local program that aids student from low-income families (e.g., TRIO programs such as Upward Bound).
- Student's family receives public assistance
- Student lives in federally subsidized public housing, a foster home or is homeless.
- Student is a ward of the state or an orphan.

Gap year students, transfer students or individuals choosing to defer applying to college rather than immediately transitioning after high school graduation are not eligible to use NACAC's Request for Application Fee Waiver Form. NACAC recommends that prospective students in these categories contact the admission office of the institution(s) to which they are seeking admission regarding an institutional fee waiver.

Requirements for completing the form:

- Students must complete the student section in its entirety.
- The student's secondary school counselor, independent counselor or TRIO representative must verify that the student is eligible to use the form.
- The high school's raised seal or stamp must be included on the form.
- The form must be mailed directly to the admission office of the college or university to which the student is seeking admission.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many fee waiver requests may I submit?

The Application for Fee Waiver Request Form is intended to be used at the schools to which a student is most interested in attending. NACAC recommends limiting the use of the form to no more than four (4) schools. If the Request for Application Fee Waiver is not accepted by the college or university, the student must pay the application fee.

Does my guidance counselor need to sign the fee waiver form?

Yes. A secondary school counselor, Independent Counselor or TRIO representative must verify that the student is qualified to use the form.

My counselor is not a NACAC member; can I still use the form?

Although not required, it is preferable that the form is used by a NACAC member or member institution.

Where do I mail the form?

Mail the Fee Waiver Form directly to the admission office of the institution to which you are applying, even if you applied to the school online.

Is the school seal required?

Yes, the school seal or an official business card of the counselor is required to verify the information is accurate.

Is there a directory of colleges/universities who accept the forms? Does every school accept the form?

NACAC does not maintain a directory of institutions that accept the fee waiver form. Each institution reserves the right to accept or decline the request form. Some institutions have their own institutional application fee waivers as well.

What happens if I apply to a school and they do not accept the NACAC fee waiver?

Each institution makes the final decision to accept or decline fee waiver forms. If a fee waiver is declined, the student will be asked, by the institution, to pay the application fee.