

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS



PennState
York

Presented by:

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THE SEARCH: WHERE DO YOU BEGIN?

- Research websites:
 - Individual School Website
 - College Board:
www.collegeboard.org
 - U.S. Department of Education:
collegescorecard.ed.gov
- Check with your guidance office for college representative visits to your high school.
- Attend a college fair.
- Complete prospect forms to receive information from the university.
- Make a list of colleges you would like to visit, then schedule visits.



VISIT CAMPUS

- Attend an Open House or special visit program.
- Schedule an individual visit with the Admissions Office.
- Tips to a successful college visit:
 - Visit when the institution is open.
 - Be on time.
 - Take notes and ask questions.
 - Take advantage of the entire visit.



ADMISSIONS



ACADEMICS



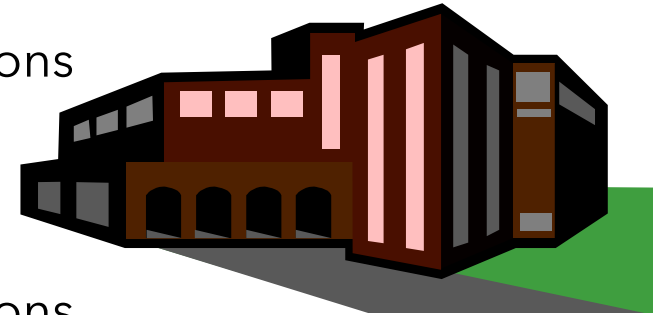
VISIT US

RESEARCH: REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

- What are the requirements for admission?
 - View the school website for details.
 - Contact the Admissions Office.
- What is the application deadline?
 - Some schools will have deadlines, others will not.
- How selective is the school?
- Apply to your top 3-5 choices.
 - It's better to be prepared!



- Open Admission
 - Accept all high school graduates until space filled
- Rolling Admission
 - Consideration for application as soon as it is completed
- Early Action
 - Submit application prior to regular admissions
 - Decisions come earlier
 - Non-binding
- Early Decision
 - Submit application prior to regular admissions
 - Decisions come earlier
 - **BINDING**



<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-admission-glossary>

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ADMISSION

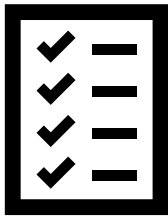
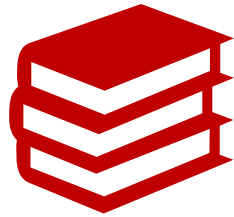


- Institution Application
 - Application that is typically available online on the institution's website.
- Common Application
 - A standard application form accepted by colleges who are members of the Common Application Association. May be submitted to nearly 700 colleges that accept it.
- Coalition Application
 - A standard application form accepted by members of the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success. May be submitted to more than 90 colleges and universities that are members of the Coalition.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-admission-glossary>

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENT WAYS TO APPLY





START THE ADMISSION PROCESS

- Complete an application for admission.
 - Online Application
 - Application fee (fees vary by institution)
- Submit your information (varies by college).
 - ACT/SAT test scores (code schools)
 - Super Scores
 - Test Optional
 - High School Transcript
 - Self-Reported Academic Record
 - College Transcripts
- Be aware of any other documents you need to send.
 - Personal Statements
 - Essays
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - Interviews
 - Portfolios



WHAT ARE COLLEGES LOOKING FOR IN APPLICANTS?

- Successful Academic Record (9-12 Grades)
- Involvement
- Other supplemental application materials (varies by institution):
 - SAT or ACT test scores
 - Rigorous Course Load (i.e. AP, IB, Honors, Dual Enrollment or College in the High School courses)
 - Essays and/or Personal Statements
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - Portfolio
 - Interview



WHAT ATTRIBUTES ARE COLLEGES LOOKING FOR IN APPLICANTS?

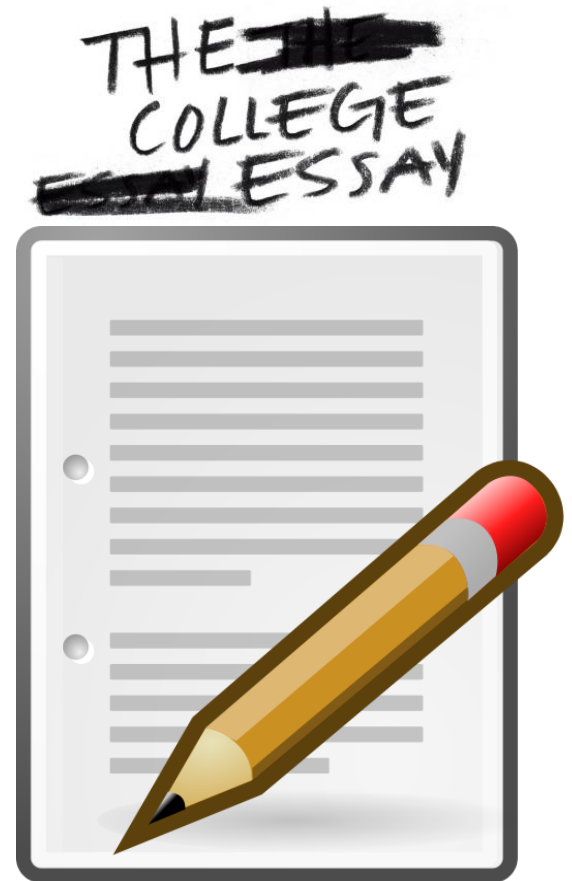


- Well-rounded
- Positive Attitude
- Talents and Passion
- Internal Drive
- Problem Solving Skills
- Grit
- Curious Mind
- Good Communication Skills
- Ability to Work Independently and with a Team



TIPS FOR YOUR ESSAY AND/OR PERSONAL STATEMENT

- Read the directions
- Proofread
- Be concise
- Branding - make yourself memorable
- Don't share your entire life story
- Share something that Admissions would not necessarily know from your application





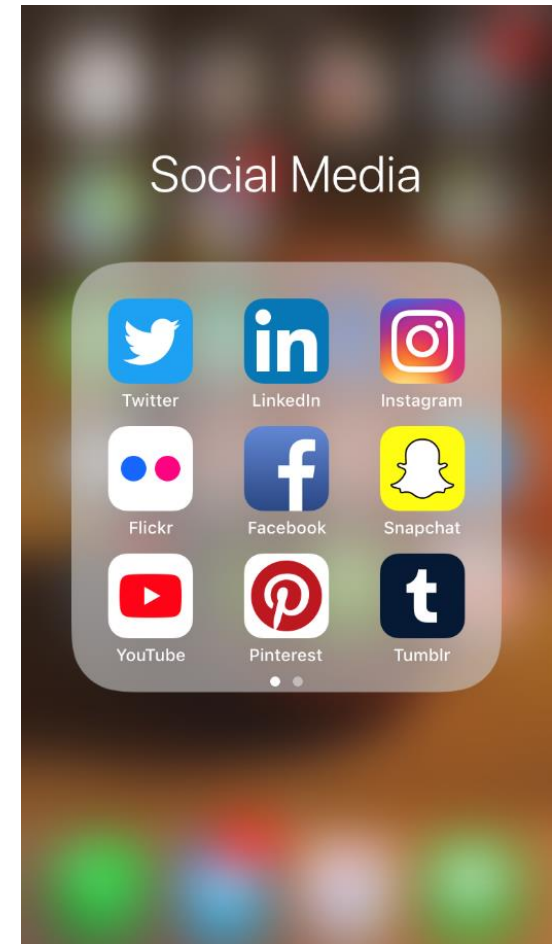
TIPS FOR APPLICATION ETIQUETTE

- Make sure to provide correct contact information on your application.
- Be as professional as possible.
- Take calls at suitable times. Colleges will leave messages.
- Set up an appropriate voicemail. Make sure your voicemail is set up and not full.
- Create a professional e-mail and **CHECK IT!**
 - Use for applying online, contacting schools, and for financial aid and scholarship applications.



SOCIAL MEDIA

- Use Social Media...WISELY!
 - Be cautious of the content you are sharing, posting, and commenting on.
 - Do not tweet, post, or make derogatory comments about colleges on your social media sites.
 - One-fourth of all scholarship donors look up an applicant's online presence. One-third of these scholarship donors rejected applicants due to their social media presence!



COLLEGE TUITION: CAN I AFFORD IT?

- Don't rule out a school based on the cost of attendance alone.
- Consider this:
 - Financial Aid amounts are based on the cost of attendance for each individual school.
 - Scholarships and Grants could be available!



UNDERSTANDING THE COST OF YOUR EDUCATION

Cost of Attendance

- Direct Costs - Items billed by the university
 - Tuition and Fees
 - Room and Board
- Indirect Costs
 - Books
 - Travel Expenses
 - Personal Expenses
 - Miscellaneous



WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

- Financial Aid consists of funds provided to students and families to help pay for post-secondary educational expenses.
- Students and parents have the primary responsibility for funding post-secondary education to the extent they are able.



FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

- A standard form that collects demographic and financial information about the student and family.
- Required for all types of federal, state, and institutional aid.
- Colleges use the FAFSA to award financial aid based on what the government believes a family can reasonably contribute towards the education.

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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UNDERSTAND AID ▾

APPLY FOR AID ▾

COMPLETE AID PROCESS ▾

MANAGE LOANS ▾

Complete the FAFSA® Form

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school.

New To The FAFSA® Process?

Completing the FAFSA form is free. Fill it out now.

[Start Here](#)

Returning User?

[Correct info](#) | [Add a school](#)

[View your Student Aid Report \(SAR\)](#)

[Log In](#)



APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

- Application opens **OCTOBER 1st**
- Penn State University Deadline: **DECEMBER 1ST**
- Pennsylvania State Deadline: **MAY 1ST**
- THE FAFSA IS FREE!

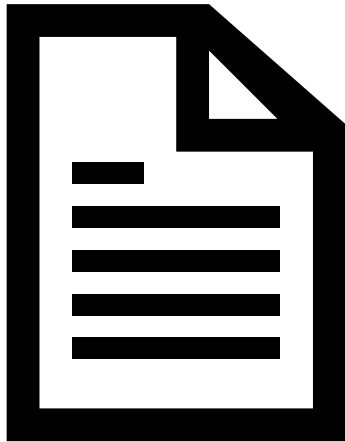
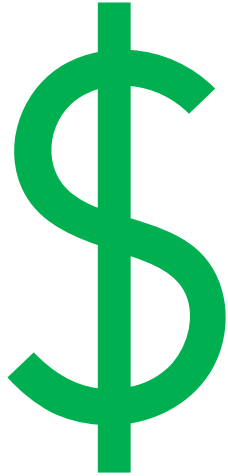
studentaid.gov



ONCE YOUR FAFSA IS COMPLETE...

- The results of your FAFSA are sent to each school you list. You may list up to 10 institutions.
- The results are also emailed to the student if an email address is provided - Student Aid Report (SAR).
 - Review your results for accuracy.
 - Update any estimated information.
- Schools may require additional documentation.
 - Some colleges also use the College Board CSS Profile as part of their financial aid process.





AWARD LETTERS

- Each school will send you a summary of the aid you have been awarded at that institution.
- Award letter will list the sources you are eligible to receive based on the results of the FAFSA. This will include:
 - State and federal grants
 - Institutional scholarships
 - Student loans



HELPFUL LINKS

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
studentaid.gov
- Scholarship Websites
fastweb.com
collegeboard.org/scholarships
- Government Links:
pasfaa.org
studentaid.gov
pheaa.org
- Penn State Admissions Website:
admissions.psu.edu
- Penn State Student Aid Website:
studentaid.psu.edu



QUESTIONS?

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