CollegeBoard

East Stroudsburg High School-South

Finding the Right College for You

KEY POINTS YOU'LL FIND IN THIS GUIDE:

Deciding Where to Apply to College

Navigating the College Application Process

Making College Affordable

Key points you'll find in this guide:

1 Deciding where to apply to college

+ Find about eight colleges to which you wish to apply. Choose both public and private colleges. Choose a mix of safety, fit, and reach colleges.
  - A safety school is a college you will almost certainly get into.
  - A fit school is a college you are pretty likely to get into.
  - A reach school is a college you have a chance of getting into.
+ Apply to selective colleges. You won't know whether you will get in and what financial aid you're offered unless you apply!

2 The college application process

+ Ask your school counselor for fee waivers (both for testing and applications) if you think that you might be eligible.
+ Make a list of the application, testing, and financial aid requirements for each college.
+ Figure out how many letters of recommendation you need and when transcripts must be submitted. Ask the appropriate people for these materials well in advance.

3 Financial aid can help pay for college

+ Complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® after Oct. 1 of your senior year at **student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile**.*
+ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after Jan.1 of your senior year at **fafsa.ed.gov**.

This information is provided by the College Board with the goal of increasing college choice and improving collegiate success. The College Board does not guide students toward specific colleges but provides information on planning, applying, and paying for college to help students and families make well-informed decisions.

This information is also available online at **student.collegeboard.org/collegepotential**. Please see the letter included in this mailing for your unique access code to our free website.

*Only required by certain colleges. There is a fee for application.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL!

The next step in your academic career is deciding where to apply to and attend college. A college education offers lifetime benefits and is one of the best investments you can make for your future. By applying to a range of colleges, you can expand your opportunities and increase your likelihood of success. Attending a college that is a good fit for you can be a fulfilling and transformative experience!

As a high-achieving student, you will be able to choose among many colleges. Your choice will be important because not all colleges are the same. They vary in terms of academic offerings, financial aid offers, and student diversity. It is very important to start the application process early so that you can apply thoughtfully and make the best choice for you.

This guide provides strategies that can help you decide where to apply to college, navigate the college application process, and take the steps necessary to make your college education affordable.

1 Deciding Where to Apply to College

You should apply to both public and private colleges. Why?

To find the best college for you, you should apply to colleges of varying selectivity. Selective colleges admit a portion of students who apply. Some colleges are highly selective while others are less selective. Make sure to apply to public, private, in-state, and out-of-state schools so that you have plenty of options from which to choose.

More selective colleges are usually more generous in their financial aid. A local public college may be one that is very familiar to you, and you may find its cost easy to understand. On the other hand, private colleges and very selective public colleges, despite having higher posted prices, tend to give out more generous scholarships and financial aid. When you see a high posted cost of attendance (sometimes called the "sticker price") on the website of a selective college, do not be discouraged! The majority of students at selective colleges receive financial aid, which in many cases is so generous that the college is as expensive or less expensive than ones with much lower sticker prices!

Read This

APPLY TO TWO "SAFETY" COLLEGES. These colleges are called "safe" because they will very likely admit you since your grades and test scores are better than those of their typical student. One of your two safety colleges should be one that you think you could afford even if you were not offered much financial aid. Because you are a high-achieving student, it's likely that one of your state's public colleges will be an appropriate safety college.

APPLY TO THREE "FIT" COLLEGES. Fit colleges are those where your grades and test scores are similar to those of their typical student. You have a very good chance of gaining admission to these colleges.

APPLY TO THREE "REACH" COLLEGES. Reach colleges have such a large pool of qualified applicants to choose from that no student can be confident of being admitted. Your grades and test scores are similar to or slightly lower than those of their typical student. Even though the admission process is competitive, you should still apply to these colleges — they tend to offer the most financial aid.

Pro Tip: go to www.collegeboard.org to learn about the SAT scores your colleges of choice is expecting you to earn.
Once you are on collegeboard.org, search for the college. Click on the "Applying" tab, click on "SAT/ACT Scores" tab.

Students Like You Who Find a College That Is a Good Fit for Them Typically Apply to At Least Eight Colleges. Why So Many?

You will learn a lot about what you want — and don't want — from a college during the application process. You should make sure that you apply to enough colleges so that, in the end, you will have at least one that you are very excited about!

Financial aid packages vary drastically by college, and you won't know exactly how much aid you are offered until you are admitted. You should make sure that you find a college that is a good academic fit, is also affordable for you and your family, and has a social environment where you can be successful. Of course, your grades and test scores are not the only things that you should consider when deciding where to apply to college.

Here are some other college characteristics to keep in mind:

MAJORS: Are there classes and majors in your areas of interest at this college? If you are not yet sure of your area of interest, are there enough majors for you to choose from after you enroll?

GRADUATION RATE: If most of the college's students graduate in four years, you are also more likely to graduate on time. This is important because high on-time graduation rates mean better odds for you of finishing college and getting a job. Plus, why pay for six years of college if you can finish in four? Graduation rates vary significantly, so be sure to compare this measure for the colleges to which you would like to apply. A list of four-year colleges and their graduation rates is included in this mailing. You can also look up college graduation rates using the U.S. Department of Education's College Navigator at nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator.

CAMPUS SUPPORT PROGRAMS: In college, help with student support comes in many forms. Most colleges offer campus services that students can access when they need help with personal, social, health, financial, or other challenges. Research whether the colleges you are interested in offer a Summer Bridge program or "college success" classes. Many colleges offer these programs to students who have been admitted to their college and include tutoring, cultural events, academic and financial aid counseling, and other services.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES: Colleges vary by the level of access they provide to larger libraries, newer technology, and better lab facilities.

FACULTY RELATIONSHIPS: Individual contact with faculty is an important factor to consider. Building strong relationships with teachers and mentors can benefit you in the classroom and also in the future when you begin to look for jobs or apply to graduate school.

SIZE: An advantage of a small college is that you're likely to have smaller class sizes and may get the opportunity to know a good share of the faculty. However, a large college may have a wider array of programs to offer.

CAMPUS LIFE: You should also consider what it is like to be part of the campus community. Many colleges differ in housing availability, as well as leadership, volunteer, and other extracurricular opportunities.

LOCATION: Do you prefer a college in a big city, suburb, or small town?

Spotlight on Public Flagships:

When making your target college list, you should include both public and private colleges with the characteristics that fit your interests. Public flagships, which are typically a state's largest and most selective public colleges, can be an excellent option for high-achieving students. They offer a breadth of academic resources and support programs, accelerated programs, and diverse extracurricular offerings beyond athletics, not to mention favorable tuition rates for in-state residents and special financial aid programs for moderate- and low-income students. While they may seem large and intimidating, flagships typically attract a very diverse set of students.

College Visits

A good way to determine which college factors are the most important to you is to visit several colleges to get a sense of how they might differ. Although you may not be able to visit all the colleges that interest you, visiting colleges similar to the ones you want to attend is a very good substitute. Also, many colleges now offer virtual campus tours through their websites.

In general, you can prepare for college visits in two steps:

1. Decide which colleges most interest you and which you are able to visit.
2. Call the college's admission office or visitor center in advance to sign up for a free campus tour. Campus tours are often given by current students and allow you to see important parts of the campus, view the dorms, and observe how the students interact in the college environment.

Tips for Building a College List

Stay open to all the possibilities — don't limit your search	You can find many colleges at which you'll be happy and get a great education. The college search is about exploring who you are and what you want and then finding colleges that will meet your goals.
Decide what you want in a college	Ask yourself what's important to you, where you want to be, and who you want to become. Then you can figure out what types of colleges will allow you to reach your goals.
Keep an open mind	While it's good to have some ideas in mind about what sorts of colleges will be right for you, stay open to all the possibilities at the beginning of your search. There are many good college matches for every student.
Do your homework	Once you have a list of schools started, it's time to do research. To learn more about the colleges you're considering, check out college guidebooks and websites.
Keep a perspective	During your search, keep asking yourself questions about your preferences and goals. You are changing throughout high school, so your answers may change during the search process.

The following websites provide free and reliable guidance about these and other factors for thousands of colleges. They can help you create a list of colleges that suits you (public and private; safety, fit, and reach):

College Board's College Search: **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search**
U.S. Department of Education's College Navigator: **nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/**

2 The College Application Process

What are the steps to completing the college application process?

Once you've picked about eight schools, start the process of applying to them. It is important to start the application process early in your senior year because college applications have many requirements that can be time consuming.

You can begin by making a list of the application and financial aid requirements for each college to which you would like to apply.

The most common application components are as follows:

APPLICATION FORM: Go to the website of each college's admission office and either complete the application online or request a paper application. Using an email address that sounds professional can make a good first impression.

TESTS AND SCORES: If you have not already taken a college entrance exam, such as the SAT®, you should consider taking one of these exams by the fall of your senior year. Colleges may also require you to take SAT Subject Tests™. Refer to each college's application, find its testing requirements, and register for the tests that you need to take. Keep in mind that the tests are not offered every month and that you'll need to register at least four to five weeks before each test. December is usually the last month you can take a test that will be counted toward your college admission application. You can visit these websites for registration deadlines and test dates:

College Board Test Dates and Registration Deadlines: **sat.collegeboard.org/home**
ACT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines: **actstudent.org/regist/dates.html**

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: Many schools require letters from teachers or other adults who know you well and can speak highly about your accomplishments and why you would benefit from college. Teachers, employers, managers of community organizations, and leaders of local churches/ temples/ mosques make good recommenders.

Standardized Applications

Although each college has its own application, about 500 colleges accept the "Common Application" and about 45 accept the "Universal College Application." The Common and Universal College applications are standardized applications that students can use to apply to several colleges.

Visit **commonapp.org** and **universalcollegeapp.com** to see if two or more of your eight plus colleges use one of these applications. (Many colleges that use the Common or the Universal College Application require supplemental materials.)

If a college requires letters of recommendation, the application will include instructions that you should give to your selected recommenders. Ask for letters early in the application process so that your recommenders have plenty of time to write them. Make sure that you give your recommenders enough information, such as a résumé or list of your high school accomplishments, so that they can write detailed and effective letters. Many colleges also ask your high school counselor to complete a form about your performance in high school in addition to a letter of recommendation.

APPLICATION ESSAY: The application essay is often the most time-consuming part of the application, but it will allow you to show colleges that your background and goals are special and unique. The essay will allow you to set yourself apart from other applicants and talk about aspects of your life and education that are not mentioned in other parts of the application. You can get a head start on your essay by working on it from the beginning of your senior year and reviewing samples of good essays. The best essays go through several drafts and are reviewed by teachers, parents, or other trusted adults. For advice on how to write a good application essay, see:

The College Board: **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays**
Peterson's Guide: **petersons.com/college-search/application-essay-tips.aspx**

HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT: Most colleges require your high school to submit your official transcript. Often, colleges require your 9th–11th grade transcript to be submitted

by the application deadline, and another transcript, called a midyear report, to be submitted halfway through your senior year. Make the transcript request to your high school in advance — about a month before the deadlines.

It's a good idea to submit your application materials as soon as you have completed them, even if this is well before the regular application deadline. Some colleges offer early decision and/or early action. Early decision requires you to accept an offer of admission at a particular college if one is made and then withdraw your applications to other colleges. Early action allows for an early admission decision, but does not require that students commit to the college until the normal reply date. To help you determine whether early decision or early action may be right for you, visit **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying**.

How to Send Applications and Take Tests Without Paying a Fee

Applications and tests often require a fee. However, colleges and college entrance exams, like the SAT, waive fees for income-eligible students. If your family's income is close to or below $50,000, or you participate in the National School Lunch Program, you should ask for fee waivers for your tests and college applications.

THE COLLEGE BOARD: The College Board provides fee waivers for the SAT and SAT Subject Tests through forms provided by your school counselor or another school official. You can use them to register for tests without paying a fee. It's a good idea to get a College Board test fee waiver because many colleges automatically waive their application fees if you have one. Visit **sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-fee-waivers** for more information.

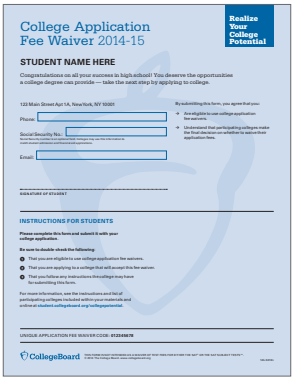
FROM ACT: To receive a fee waiver for an ACT test, ask your school counselor or another school official for a fee-waiver form and waiver code. You can use them to register for tests without paying a fee. Visit **actstudent.org/faq/feewaiver.html** for more information.

College Application Fee Waivers

Over 100 participating colleges and universities have agreed to waive their application fees when using the enclosed fee-waiver forms. Please visit **student.collegeboard.org/collegepotential** for the most up-to-date list of participating institutions and their respective application and fee-waiver procedures. The college application fee-waiver forms included in your packet are intended to assist students for whom application fees are a significant barrier. Please only use these forms if your family meets the generally accepted criteria.

Most colleges and universities define eligibility for a college application fee waiver as being eligible for or having received a test fee waiver (SAT or ACT), participating in the National School Lunch Program, or receiving public assistance.

There are a few additional ways to get college application fee waivers for your college applications.



College Application Fee Waiver 2014-15

Realize Your College Potential

STUDENT NAME HERE

Congratulations on all your success in high school! You deserve the opportunities a college degree can provide — take the next step by applying to college.

123 Main Street Apt 1A, New York, NY 10001

Phone:

Social Security No.:

Email:

By submitting this form, you agree that you:

- Are eligible to use college application fee waivers.
- Understand that participating colleges make the final decision on whether to waive their application fees.

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

Please complete this form and submit it with your college application.

Be sure to double-check the following:

1. That you are eligible to use college application fee waivers.
2. That you are applying to a college that will accept this fee waiver.
3. That you follow any instructions the college may have for submitting this form.

For more information, see the instructions and list of participating colleges included with your materials and online at student.collegeboard.org/collegepotential.

UNIQUE APPLICATION FEE WAIVER CODE: 0123456789

CollegeBoard

1. If you use a fee waiver to take the SAT or an SAT Subject Test, you will receive four additional college application fee-waiver forms online via your SAT account for use at over 2,000 participating colleges.

2. You can ask your school counselor or adviser to request a college application fee waiver for you using a National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) application fee-waiver form. More information on NACAC fee waivers is available at **nacacnet.org/studentinfo/feewaiver.**

3. You can also directly request a waiver from the college or university. This is usually part of the application process, and information is available on college admission websites. Many colleges are very willing to waive their application fee if you meet their criteria.

3 Financial Aid Can Help Pay for College

The cost of college is a very important factor in deciding where to attend. If you complete the financial aid application process, your college education may be very affordable! With grants, scholarships, and other financial aid, your actual costs will probably be less than the posted cost of attendance at a given college. Financial aid makes it possible to pay for college — even a college that seems expensive.

What Is Financial Aid?

Financial aid is the assistance that you and your family receive from the federal government, colleges, and other sources to pay for college. It makes up the difference between the posted cost of attendance (tuition, room and board, books, and personal expenses) and what you'll actually pay for your college education. The vast majority of college students receive some form of aid to help pay for college, and it is widely available from many sources.

Because many colleges and universities offer very substantial financial aid, you should not be deterred from applying to colleges and universities with high posted tuition and fees. To know exactly how much any college will cost you and your family, you must apply for admission and you must apply for aid.

This section will provide you with information on financial aid — what it is and how to apply for it.

Types of Financial Aid

There are three main types of financial aid that can reduce and help you manage college costs.

No need to repay	Grants and scholarships reduce your cost of college and do not need to be repaid. The posted cost of attendance minus your grants and scholarships is called your "net price" or "net cost." You may get a grant or scholarship from the federal government, your state's government, a private source (such as a church or scholarship foundation), or the college itself. Colleges are a very important source of grants and scholarships. Because this aid is not offered to students until they are admitted, you should always apply to a college that you want to attend. You simply will not know what aid you might be offered if you don't apply!
To repay after graduation	Student loans help you manage your net price and must be repaid, but not until you have graduated from college. Most student loans are guaranteed by the federal government and have low interest rates, so they are different from other loans, such as car loans. Even if your family would hesitate to ask for other types of loans, you should consider accepting federal student loans if they are offered.
Earn from part-time work	Work-study is a federal financial aid program that supports students through part-time work on or near campus. Work-study is a good way to earn money for college because you will be paid a reasonable wage, the job will be close to or on campus, and the hours will fit into your busy college schedule. Each college determines the amount of work-study offered to an entering student, and it's a resource you can use to help pay your net costs.

HOW YOUR FINANCIAL AID IS DETERMINED

The financial aid process may seem complex, but its goal is simple: ensuring that all students can attend the college that is the best fit for them — academically, personally, and financially. To make that possible, the federal government and individual colleges estimate what your family is able to pay for your education (sometimes called your Expected Family Contribution or family share). Colleges subtract that amount from the cost of attendance to determine what you will need in financial aid in order to attend.

Colleges differ in their ability to meet full financial need. Many of the most competitive and prestigious colleges meet 100 percent of their students' financial need, while less competitive colleges may meet only part of your need. A list of colleges that meet 100 percent of financial need is included in these materials. You may find that it costs less for you to attend a selective college because it may have the resources to offer enough financial aid to cover your full cost of tuition, housing, and books.

The only way to know for certain how much of your financial need will be met by a particular college is to apply to that college. However, as you are exploring colleges, you can get an estimate of your financial aid award by going to their websites and entering information into their net price calculators.

The College Board's Net Price Calculator helps you compare estimated actual costs. Go to **netpricecalculator.collegeboard.org**. Also check out the examples provided with these materials, which show average net costs at several institutions.

The bottom line is that affordability is not based on the posted full cost of attendance, but on the college's ability to meet your financial need.

YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD

Colleges will use the information you provide on the financial aid application forms — along with other factors — to determine your financial aid award. They will send you a financial aid award letter once you are admitted. To learn more about award letters and to compare awards you receive from different colleges, visit **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-awards**.

On the next page is an example of information provided in a typical award letter. Not all colleges describe their financial aid awards in the exact way shown here, but this example will give you an idea of the kind of information to look for in an award letter.

Sample Award Letter

Dear Student:

Congratulations on your acceptance to our college! We want your education to be affordable. We have reviewed your application for financial aid and we are pleased to make this offer of financial assistance based on a careful analysis of the information you provided.

Total Cost of Attendance	**$35,500**
Tuition & Fees	$22,000
Room & Board	$9,200
Books & Supplies	$1,200
Transportation	$1,100
Other Expenses	$2,000
Expected Family Contribution	**$1,500**
Student Contribution	$ 500
Parent Contribution	$1,000
Total Financial Aid Award	**$34,000**
University Grant & Scholarship	$24,500
Federal Pell Grant	$4,000
Federal Work-Study	$2,000
Federal Student Loan	$3,500

We look forward to seeing you in the upcoming school year. In the meantime, please contact us if you have any questions about your financial aid award.

Sincerely,

Office of Financial Aid

Because you care about how much you will actually pay — not about the posted sticker price — you should apply to any college that you think you would like to attend. With financial aid, your family's college costs will likely be much lower than the posted college price. You won't find out how financial aid may affect your costs unless you apply.

Learn About Your Financial Aid Options

COLLEGE OPTIONS

The first place to look for financial aid is from the colleges to which you are applying. Does the college make awards based on factors other than financial need, like special talents or specific characteristics? If so, find out how to apply for those awards in addition to applying for financial aid based on need. Sometimes it's the same application process, but check it out so you don't miss out.

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SOURCES

Depending on where you live, your state may also provide aid based on your financial need and/or your high school academic record. These awards are usually for state residents who attend a public or private college in their home state. A listing of state grant and scholarship opportunities is included in this mailing.

Approximately two-thirds of full-time college students receive some kind of financial aid. Some receive Pell Grants. A Pell Grant is money the federal government provides for students who need it to pay for college. Grants, unlike loans, do not have to be repaid. Eligible students receive a specified amount each year under this program. Federal grants, loans, and work-study jobs are awarded based on the FAFSA. For more information about federal aid programs, visit **studentaid.ed.gov/.**

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Many companies, foundations, community organizations, and clubs sponsor grants or scholarships. Grants and scholarships from these private organizations are called outside, or private, scholarships.

Some examples of possible sources of outside scholarships: parents' employers or labor unions, your family's religious center, and organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, 4-H, and the Boy Scouts of America.

You can search for private scholarships, which are usually small, through free websites such as the College Board's Scholarship Search (**bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search**). You should avoid scholarship search and other financial aid websites that require payment for their use, as these are often scams. There are many reliable, free alternatives.

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

The financial aid application process is distinct from the college application process and requires you to complete additional forms. Colleges and the federal government use the financial and household information you provide to calculate what your family is able to pay toward your educational costs.

The Financial Aid Process Can Be Broken Down into a Few Clear Steps:

COMPLETE THE FAFSA AFTER JAN. 1.

Every student should complete the FAFSA, which is necessary to apply for federal and state grants and loans. The FAFSA can be completed online or on paper with an application from your high school counselor. Complete your FAFSA at **fafsa.ed.gov** after Jan. 1, but before colleges' FAFSA priority deadlines in February and March. You will indicate on the form to which colleges you want to report your results. When you complete the FAFSA, you will receive an estimate of your expected family contribution, which plays a role in your eligibility for financial aid. Families often find it easier to complete the FAFSA while filing their taxes. So, if your family is filing taxes in January or February, you can finish the FAFSA form then, too.

COMPLETE THE CSS/FINANCIAL AID PROFILE® AFTER OCT. 1.

Though not all colleges require the PROFILE, many large universities and private colleges use it to determine your eligibility for their grants and scholarships. It is very important to complete the PROFILE if the colleges you are applying to require it.

If your family's income is at or below $40,000, completing the PROFILE will likely be free for you. Even if the form is not free for you, it's generally well worth the cost because it is a key first step toward getting financial aid. You can file your PROFILE online starting Oct. 1 at **student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile**. Be sure to complete it before college priority deadlines, which are typically in February and March.

Keep in mind that the largest grants and scholarships usually come through colleges, and to get them, you must apply to the college!

Note: You should never pay a fee to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or to have someone fill out the FAFSA for you. The College Board collects a fee to process the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE (PROFILE). You should only submit a PROFILE if your college or scholarship program instructs you to do so. The College Board provides free assistance should you have questions about the process, the application, or the questions found on the application. You should never pay a fee to receive this assistance. Occasionally, dishonest companies or individuals will advertise services that they claim will let you know about your financial aid eligibility or promise large scholarships, grants, or other financial aid packages if you pay them a very high fee.

College Application Checklist

- ☐ Get the application
- ☐ Make a note of the regular application deadline
- ☐ Make a note of the early application deadline

- ☐ Request high school transcript sent
- ☐ Request midyear grade report sent
- ☐ Take an admission test, such as the SAT
- ☐ Take other required or recommended tests (e.g., SAT Subject Tests and AP® Exams)
- ☐ Send admission-test scores
- ☐ Send other test scores

- ☐ Request recommendation letters
- ☐ Send thank-you notes to recommendation writers

- ☐ Draft initial essay
- ☐ Proofread essay for spelling and grammar
- ☐ Have two people read your essay
- ☐ Revise your essay
- ☐ Proofread your essay revision

- ☐ Interview at college campus
- ☐ Have an alumni interview
- ☐ Send thank-you note(s) to interviewer(s)

- ☐ Complete college application
- ☐ Make copies of all application materials
- ☐ Include college application fee-waiver form to application
- ☐ Sign and send application
- ☐ Confirm receipt of application materials
- ☐ Send additional material, if needed
- ☐ Tell school counselor that you applied

- ☐ Make a note of the priority financial aid deadline
- ☐ Make a note of the regular financial aid deadline
- ☐ Submit FAFSA
- ☐ Submit PROFILE, if needed
- ☐ Submit college aid form, if needed
- ☐ Submit state aid form, if needed
- ☐ Receive letter from office of admission
- ☐ Receive financial aid award letter
- ☐ Meet deadline to accept admission and send deposit

Where Can I Find Application Help Online?

There are several free and reliable sources for online guidance.

COLLEGE SEARCH AND EXPLORATION

- **College Board's College Search** bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search
- **U.S. Dept. of Education's College Navigator** nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/

MAJORS AND CAREERS

- **College Board** bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers/college-majors
- **College Board** bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers/careers

TEST INFORMATION

- **College Board Test Dates and Registration Deadlines** sat.collegeboard.org/home
- **ACT** Test Dates and Registration Deadlines** actstudent.org/regist/dates.html

TEST FEE WAIVERS

- **College Board** sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-fee-waivers
- **ACT** actstudent.org/faq/feewaiver.html

APPLICATION ESSAY ADVICE

- **College Board** bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays

COLLEGE APPLICATION FEE WAIVERS

- **College Board** sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-fee-waivers
- **NACAC** nacacnet.org/studentinfo/feewaiver

COMMON AND UNIVERSAL COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- commonapp.org
- universalcollegeapp.com

COST OF COLLEGE NET PRICE CALCULATOR

- **College Board's Net Price Calculator for Students** studentnpc.collegeboard.org/what-is-a-net-price-calculator

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

- studentaid.ed.gov
- **FAFSA** fafsa.ed.gov
- **CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE** student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile
- finaid.org

SEARCH FOR PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

- bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
- fastweb.com

**ACT is a registered trademark of ACT, which is not affiliated with the College Board.

Questions?

Visit us at **student.collegeboard.org/collegepotential**
or call us toll free at 866-444-4025.

About the College Board

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools. For further information, visit **collegeboard.org**.

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