

AFTER FAFSA CHECKLIST

Your Step-by-Step Guide to Starting College

You submitted your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) — great job! Now complete these steps to make sure you stay on track for college this fall.

1. Check Your FAFSA Confirmation

Log in to your **FAFSA** account at **StudentAid.gov**

- Review your **FAFSA Submission Summary**
 - Fix any errors immediately
 - Make sure all colleges you applied to are listed
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2. Watch Your Email & Student Portals

Colleges will send important messages about:

- Missing financial aid documents
- Verification requests
- Admissions decisions
- Financial aid award letters

Check school *and* personal emails **at least twice a week**.

- Pro Tip: Create a “College Folder” in your email and save all financial aid and admissions messages in one place.
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3. Compare Your Financial Aid Offers

Look at and compare what each school is offering

- Grants (money you don’t repay) / Scholarships / Work-study opportunities / Loans
 - Calculate the **net cost** (after financial aid is factored in) before choosing a school
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4. Complete Financial Aid Verification (If Required)

Some students are selected for verification; if you are selected, you may need to submit:

- Tax transcripts and/or identity verification documentation

Submit documents **as soon as possible** to avoid delays.

5. Choose Your College

Most schools require you to **commit by May 1**. To do so, you must:

- Accept your admission offer
- Pay the enrollment deposit
- Accept or decline financial aid in your student portal

6. Accept Financial Aid & Loans

If you accept federal loans, you must complete:

- Entrance Counseling
- Master Promissory Note (MPN)

Both are completed through your **StudentAid.gov** portal.

7. Submit Required School Forms

Your college may require:

- Immunization records
- Housing application
- Meal plan selection
- Placement testing
- Orientation registration

Check your **college student portal** regularly.

8. Apply for Housing (If Living on Campus)

Housing fills quickly! To secure your spot, complete:

- Housing application and deposit
 - Roommate selection
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9. Attend Orientation (the earlier the better)

New Student Orientation helps you:

- Register for classes
 - Meet advisors
 - Learn about campus resources
 - Connect with other students
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10. Stay Connected All Summer

To avoid **summer melt**:

- Check school/personal email at least twice weekly
- Complete every form requested
- Contact your college financial aid office if you have questions
- Stay in touch with your high school counselor
- Visit uwde.org/fafsa to register for a FREE virtual appointment with Stand By Me if you need assistance with or have questions about your financial aid.