

# I'VE APPLIED... WHAT'S NEXT?

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**You have taken the very important first step to going to college – you've applied!** Here are some tips and reminders of tasks that you need to complete over the next several months. If you have questions, contact your school counselor.

## YOUR NEXT STEPS

### PAYING YOUR APPLICATION FEE

When you submit your college application, you may be required to pay an application fee. If so, you can pay your application fee the following ways:

1. Via credit or debit card online. Some colleges require a credit card to apply online. If you chose this option, you will need the following information: credit card type (Visa, MasterCard, etc.), credit card number, security code, name on credit card, billing zip code, and expiration date.
2. Via check in the mail. Some colleges include an option to select “pay by check” after you submit your college application online. You will likely need to include a copy of your application confirmation web page or email with your check.
3. Via a college application fee waiver, if you qualify. Check with your school counselor about this option. You will likely need to include a copy of your application confirmation web page or email with your fee waiver. **DO NOT CHOOSE FEE WAIVER OPTION IF YOU DO NOT QUALIFY.** Ask your school counselor for more information. Review our College Application Fee Waiver Guide for more information.

## FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Many admissions offices require students to submit additional information in order to complete the application process such as ACT or SAT scores and recommendation letters. It is important to find out what other information is required and send it to the admissions office ASAP! Required items may include transcripts, test scores, recommendation letters, and/or essays. The sooner you submit all the necessary forms, the sooner you will receive a response from the admissions office.

## DON'T FORGET YOUR CONFIRMATION PAGE

Before you log off the computer, make sure you have received confirmation that your application has been submitted. Most colleges will send an email. Some will provide confirmation in their application portal. Save the confirmation email in a way that works for you so you can find later if needed.

## SCHOOLS SHOULD CONTACT YOU!

Check your email regularly, at least twice a week. This is how colleges will communicate with you if they need additional information. Follow up as soon as possible when they email you. Your admissions decision might arrive by email, mail, or through the application portal. Admissions decisions can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. For colleges that have rolling admissions, the average turnaround time is about four to six weeks. Some colleges wait to share all admissions decisions at the same time. Check the college's website for details about when you can expect to learn your decision and mark it on your calendar.

## WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT PAYING FOR COLLEGE?

- Talk to your counselor about state resources for financial aid. In addition, the U.S. Department of Education has resources to help you understand the types of financial aid, whether you qualify for aid, and how to apply for aid: <https://studentaid.gov/>
- Speak with your family and school counselor about your financial aid options.
- Ask your counselor or volunteers about upcoming FAFSA completion events and mark the event(s) in your calendar.
- If you haven't already, apply for your FSA ID so you can begin the FAFSA completion process.
- Once you have your FSA ID, complete and submit the FAFSA as early as possible. The sooner you submit the form, the better chance you have of getting an affordable financial aid package.

