

A photograph of several students sitting at desks in a classroom, smiling and looking at papers. The text 'CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!' is overlaid in large white letters.

# CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!

Congratulations! You are taking the first step necessary for going to college – applying!

This program is designed to assist you with the college application process. Be aware, there are several things you will need to do after today to complete the college application process. Please refer to our "Next Steps for Students" document to know what will happen after the application process, including submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

## 10 STEPS TO APPLYING:

### STEP 1:

If you are applying online, head to the appropriate website for the college(s) to which you are prepared to apply. This could be a website with multiple college applications or the specific website of the college(s) to which you are applying. Check with your school counselor or a volunteer if you are unsure. If you are not applying to college online, get a hard copy of the admissions application from your school counselor.

### STEP 2:

If you think you qualify for an application fee waiver – talk to your school counselor.

### STEP 3:

Complete the application(s) to the colleges and universities to which you want to apply. Some applications will ask you for information you may need to gather in advance with your family. Please see our College Application Worksheet to know what is commonly asked.

### STEP 4:

Make note of any additional items you need to submit with your application (essay, transcripts, ACT or SAT scores, recommendation letters).

### STEP 5:

Print out a copy of your confirmation page if you applied online. If you are applying through a paper application, talk to your school counselor about how to make a copy of your application. Keep the confirmation page or a copy of the application for your records!



A photograph of several students sitting at desks in a classroom, smiling and looking at their work. The text 'CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!' is overlaid in large white letters on a dark blue background.

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## 10 STEPS TO APPLYING:

### STEP 6:

Register for your FSA ID – you will need this to complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after your college applications are submitted. Many grants, loans, and scholarships will require that you submit a FAFSA so this is a very important step. Go here to register for your FSA ID:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>

You will need your Social Security Number (SSN), your mailing address, and an email address to complete the process. REMEMBER YOUR FSA ID! Write it down and take a picture of it on your phone, if that will help you remember it and keep it in a safe place!

### STEP 7:

After you submit your college application and register for your FSA ID, you will likely need to either complete an online survey and/or a sign-out sheet. For these you'll need to list the number or names of colleges to which you applied and indicate whether you created an FSA ID.

### STEP 8:

Be sure to get the handouts provided by your school after you sign-out!

### STEP 9:

Follow-up! Make sure you submit any additional information the colleges you applied to require. This could include recommendation letters, test scores, and high school transcripts. Also, the next important step in the process is completing your FAFSA. You already have your FSA ID, make sure you submit your FAFSA early – it is available October 1<sup>st</sup>! The deadline to file your FAFSA varies by state and college. File early for the best chance of getting more financial aid.

### STEP 10:

Encourage your friends to apply to college too! Share your experience on social media using #IApplied!

Congratulations! You are on your way!

