

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!

Congratulations! You are taking an important step in going to college - applying! Your school's College Application Campaign event 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 applying for financial aid.

10 STEP TO APPLYING

STEP ONE

If you are applying online, go to the appropriate website for the college(s) where you will apply. This might be the college's own website or it might be a site where you can apply to many colleges at the same time. 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 TWO

Some colleges charge an application fee. You might be eligible for a fee waiver. Ask your counselor if you are unsure.

STEP THREE

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 FOUR

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

STEP FIVE

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!

STEP SIX

Prepare to apply for financial aid.

US citizens, permanent residents, and other eligible non-citizens should plan to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you apply to college before the FAFSA opens, you can get ready by creating your FSA ID. You can do that here: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>

You will need your Social Security Number (SSN), your own mobile phone number and/or an email address to complete the process. Write down your FSA ID or take a picture of it on your phone so you can remember it when you are ready to submit the FAFSA. New this year, the FSA ID login process requires a two-step verification process to access the FAFSA.

If you are not eligible for federal student aid, you might qualify for state financial aid. There are also many scholarships available for undocumented and DACAmented students. Talk to your counselor or other trusted adult about your options, or visit <https://mydocumentedlife.org/>.

STEP SEVEN

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 EIGHT

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

STEP NINE

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. Make sure you submit the FAFSA as early as possible once it opens! The deadline to file your FAFSA varies by state and college. File early for the best chance of getting more financial aid.

STEP TEN

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

Congratulations! You are on your way!

