

#WHYAPPLY



College Applications – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are all college applications the same?

The short answer, no. Most colleges have applications unique to their institution, but you will find most questions to be similar. Not every application will require an essay, letters of recommendation, college entrance exam scores, and/or have an application fee. For questions typically asked on college applications, look at the College Application Worksheet in the American Council on Education’s Student Application Resource Guide (<http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/ACAC-Resources.aspx>).

2. When should I start the college application process?

We recommend you know which colleges you want to apply to by September 1 of your senior year. Traditionally, most high school seniors will complete their college applications in September and October in order to meet application deadlines.

Check out this college application checklist from GetSchooled:

<https://getschooled.com/dashboard/article/4217-how-to-apply-to-college-badger-building-your-college-application-plan>

3. How do I pick the schools I should apply to?

The sooner you start this research process, the more confident you’ll feel in your decision. We recommend researching colleges of interest during your junior year and over the summer.

Check out GetSchooled’s advice on how to narrow down your list:

<https://getschooled.com/dashboard/quiz/4200-revving-up-for-college-badger-narrowing-down-my-college-list>

Check out the American College Application Campaign’s Student Resource Guide with worksheets to help you identify the best match and fit: www.Steps2College.org/resources

4. How many schools should I apply to?

We recommend applying to one or two best fit schools (where you are likely to get in but are not guaranteed acceptance), one or two reach schools (where you may be accepted), and at least one safety school (where you’re guaranteed to be accepted). Including at least one safety school should guarantee you receive at least one acceptance letter. If you are worried about application fees, talk to your school counselor to see if you qualify for an application fee waiver.

<https://getschooled.com/dashboard/article/4218-how-to-apply-to-college-badge-get-your-college-application-fee-waiver>

5. Who can provide the most help with your college applications?

Counselors, parents, siblings, coaches, teachers, and Get Schooled. Think of every adult in your life that has attended college and ask for help! You can also use resources like Get Schooled to help you! Text COLLEGE to 335577 to text with college counselors and get answers you need quickly!

6. How much time should I give myself to complete my college applications?

Before you start your college application, make sure you sit down and know all the application requirements. If you have your essay(s) and letter of recommendation(s) ready, a college application could be completed within one hour. If you still need to write your essay(s) and receive letters or recommendation, you'll need to set aside more time. If an essay is required, you should plan for several drafts to get it into a final state. Give yourself time to have it reviewed by trusted adults, or send it to Get Schooled using the [College Essay Feedback Tool](#). Likewise, if letters of recommendation are required, think about adults who know you best in various aspects of life. And be sure to give them enough time to write a letter on your behalf! The application will not be complete until the letters of recommendation are submitted.

7. What do I do if my test scores are lower than the school average?

Don't let this stop you from applying. Schools consider a variety of factors when admitting students. You can also consider taking the ACT or SAT again. Check ACT.org and SAT.org for upcoming test dates.

8. Should I tell the school I'm applying on their social media pages?

Colleges and universities love interacting with current and potential students on social media. Like the college(s) you're interested in on Facebook! They take notice and it's an easy way to indicate you are interested. Make sure you clean up your social media as well. Mentioning the college on social media may get a shout-out or retweet.

<https://getschooled.com/dashboard/article/3294-how-to-increase-your-chances-of-getting-into-college>

9. Where can I find the application for the colleges I'm interested in?

Every college has a website. Typically, there will be an "Apply Now" button located on the home page that will lead you through that college's application process.

10. What resources are the biggest help with completing college applications?

There are plenty of free resources available to help you research colleges and complete the college application process. The following are just a few national resources. Talk to your counselor or college adviser about state and local resources.

- Check out www.GetSchooled.com to build your college knowledge about the college application process, find scholarships and other resources to help you succeed.
- Visit www.Steps2College.org for a Student College Application Resource Guide provided by the American College Application Campaign.

- ACT Profile by ACT www.actprofile.org is a free, mobile resource to help you learn more about yourself and the college and career paths you want to explore.
- Big Future by College Board www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org lets you research colleges and find institutions that are a good fit, learn about the various ways to pay for college, and create a personalized college plan.
- Common Application www.commonapp.org connects you to more than 700 colleges through one application.