

I Applied... Now What?

Ok, so you've applied to college and that's great. But what happens now?

Applying to college is one of the first steps on your path to attending to college. Keep in mind that it may take a couple of months for the college or university to get back to you. Here's a step-by-step guide for what to do in the meantime:

Once you've submitted your application, make sure that you've turned in everything you need in order for the college or university to consider you as a potential student.

Have you:

- Submitted your application fee (if the college charges a fee)?
- Asked your high school counselor to send your high school transcript to the college?
- Submitted your letters of recommendation (if required by the college)?
- Submitted your essay (if required by the college)?
- Sent any college transcripts you might have (from dual-credit courses)?
- Sent your AP scores (if you have taken AP courses)?

Even after you're accepted to a college, there's still a lot of work to do to make your final decision and get ready. You'll want to consider what financial aid is available to you at the colleges you're considering, and you'll want to decide if you want to live on campus or commute. Of course, once you decide on a college, you'll need to register as a new student and enroll in classes. Here are a few of the items you'll need to consider later this year:

Financial Aid:

- Sometime after January 1, you'll need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If possible, you should complete the FAFSA before March 1, because that's the deadline for many state-level scholarship programs.

Heads up: You can get in-person, confidential assistance completing the FAFSA by attending a College Goal Sunday (CGS) workshop. CGS will be held February 13 at locations throughout the state. **(P.S... if you participate in a College Goal Sunday workshop, you'll be entered to win an iPad).** To learn more, visit www.cfww.com.
- Explore the "cash for college" resources available on cfww.com to learn about all of the state and federal financial aid opportunities available to you.
- Visit college and university web sites to see what sort of financial aid and scholarship programs are offered at the school you plan to attend.
- Complete and submit applications for as many scholarships, grants and other financial aid awards as you can find!

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Enrolling and Going:

Once you've been accepted to college and decided which school you'd like to attend, you're going to have to take care of some of the details. Here are a few additional items to take care of:

- Visit the campus (if you haven't already - or if you have but can't remember much about it)
- Talk to your admissions counselor or program advisor about what comes next
- Decide on a major or at least an area of study
- Complete your housing forms (if you plan to live on campus - you have to submit a separate application for housing)
- Work with your parent or guardian to develop a budget, including living expenses; if you're commuting, you'll want to consider the cost of your transportation.
- Look for (and read) information your college sends you. This info will tell you how to register as a student, how to enroll in your classes, what sort of financial aid you qualify for, and what you must do to become a college student.

And finally...

Nervous, lost or confused? Just ask for help! Your high school counselors, college admissions counselors, and college financial aid counselors are there for you. Remember — they want you to succeed, so don't be shy about asking them for assistance.