

# I Applied...Now What?

## OK. SO, YOU'VE APPLIED TO COLLEGE AND THAT'S GREAT, BUT WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Applying is one of the first steps on your path to attending 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 required for the college to consider you as a potential student. Have you:

- Submitted your application fee (or a fee waiver or deferral form)?
- Asked your high school counselor to send your transcript to the college?
- Submitted your essay(s), as required by the college?
- Sent any college transcripts you might have from dual credit courses?
- Sent all required test scores (SAT, ACT, AP, or IB)?
- Created your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) ID?

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 and scholarships are 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.

## FINANCIAL AID

After January 1, you'll need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) [studentaid.ed.gov/sa/home](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/home). If possible, you should complete the FAFSA before February 1, because many local grants and scholarships are funded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Then, you'll need to apply for the DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG) starting February 1. [osse.dc.gov/service/dc-tuition-assistance-grant-dc-tag](http://osse.dc.gov/service/dc-tuition-assistance-grant-dc-tag)

If you plan to attend college in the Washington, DC area, you should learn more about the Mayor's Scholars Undergraduate Program and whether you are eligible for additional funding assistance. [www.osse.dc.gov/mayorsscholars](http://www.osse.dc.gov/mayorsscholars)

Make sure that you research additional scholarships and financial aid at the websites listed below:

[bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search), [osse.dc.gov/mayorsscholars](http://osse.dc.gov/mayorsscholars), [fastweb.com/](http://fastweb.com/), [scholarships.com/](http://scholarships.com/), [scholarships.uncf.org/](http://scholarships.uncf.org/) and [hsf.net/](http://hsf.net/)

## FURTHER EXPLORATION

Keep researching the colleges you applied to so that you can learn as much about them before you need to make your final decision about where to attend next year. You never know what you might learn that will help you make your decision. You might even discover another college or two – remember that in many cases, application deadlines haven't arrived yet. You still have time to submit more applications!

Most importantly, take a moment to look up your potential schools using the My College Fact Finder at [mcf.osse.dc.gov](http://mcf.osse.dc.gov). My College Fact Finder (MCFF) is a web-based tool that, unlike other college search engines, allows users to see how DC students have fared at colleges and universities across the country. This is key information that can aid you in making smart college choices.

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## COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE FOR SENIORS:

### August-October

- Say out loud: "I am going to college."
- Create a [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/) account.
- Research college and visit campuses.
- Meet with your counselor to discuss college plans.
- Check application requirements and deadlines.
- Draft application essays and gather letters of recommendation.
- If application has a cost, determine how to pay for it or if you qualify for a fee waiver.

### November-December

- Complete college admission applications by first week of November.
- Check scholarship requirements and deadlines.
- Develop a preliminary college budget.
- Complete the FAFSA4caster to calculate and estimated financial aid package at [fasfa4caster.ed.gov](http://fasfa4caster.ed.gov).

### January-March

- Attend a financial aid event at school or in your community.
- Complete your DC One app-DCTAG pays the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition, up to \$10,000 annually at 4 year public colleges and up to \$2500 at private HBCUs and 2 year colleges. The application opens February 1 and closes June 30.
- Complete your FASFA at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov) by March 1.
- Submit your scholarship applications by required deadline.

### April-July

- Review your acceptance letters and decide where you will go to school by May 1.
- Accept the financial aid you need.
- Notify any schools you won't be attending.
- Find out when payment for tuition will be due.
- Attend orientation and take placement exams.