



How to Apply to 4 Year College After High School

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Research Schools

Not all colleges are the same. Look at majors, campus life, costs, and location. Visit campuses if you can, or explore online tours to see where you feel at home.



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Decide on College

Think about your goals. Do you want to study a subject you love, prepare for a career, or grow your network? A 4-year college can give you degrees, connections, and experiences that open doors.



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Prepare + Apply

Colleges look at your grades, essays, recommendations, and sometimes test scores. Start early, ask for help from teachers or counselors, and keep track of deadlines.

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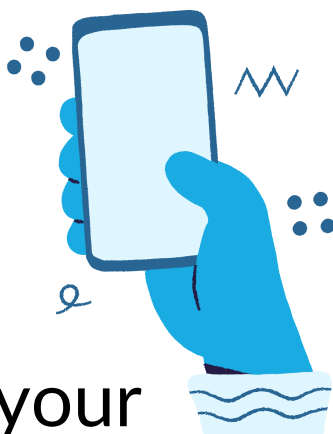
Apply for Aid

College can be expensive, but help is out there. Fill out the FAFSA for federal aid, and apply for scholarships or grants. Every dollar you earn in aid is less money you'll have to pay later.

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Choose Your School

Once you get your acceptance letters, compare your options. Think about financial aid packages, campus fit, and your future goals before making a final decision.



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Get Ready for College



After choosing your school, get prepared—sign up for orientation, pick classes, and plan housing and supplies. This is the start of your journey.

LOOKING FOR MORE RESOURCES?

Get more tips and tools from the What's Your Plan? campaign
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Scan the QR code for the Family Resource Guide with checklists and support links.

