



How to Apply to 2-Year College After High School

2

Research Local Options



Look at schools in your area to see what programs they offer. Some focus on health careers, business, or technical training. Others have transfer agreements that make it easier to move into a 4-year program.

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Decide on Community College



Community college is a strong first step if you want to save money, explore career options, or stay close to home. Many students start here and later transfer to a 4-year university. It's a flexible option that opens doors without putting you in heavy debt.

3



Apply

Most community colleges have simple applications and open enrollment, which means almost everyone who applies gets in. Don't wait until the last minute—apply online, gather your documents, and check for important deadlines. Starting early makes the process stress-free.

4



Explore Financial Aid

Fill out FAFSA to qualify for grants, scholarships, and tuition assistance. Many community colleges also have special funding programs.

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Get Ready for Day One



Buy your books, grab your student ID, and get familiar with campus. Community college is your launchpad—your journey starts here.

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Register for Classes



Once you're accepted, meet with an advisor to plan your classes. Advisors can help you choose courses that fit your career goals, transfer plans, or work schedule. A good class schedule can make balancing school, jobs, and family much easier.

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.

