

# COLLEGE PLANNING




# IT ALL COUNTS!

- ▶ Everything you've done...
- ▶ Everything you are involved in...
- ▶ Use it all to your advantage!



***I will put my Spirit into your children. My blessing will be like a stream of water flowing over your family. Isaiah 44:3***

# EXPLORE COLLEGES AND CAREERS

- ▶ **BigFuture:** Finding colleges and careers that are right for you  
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>
  - ▶ **MyACT:** Support for the ACT Test  
<https://my.act.org>
  - ▶ **Occupational Outlook Handbook:** (US Dept. of Labor career profiles)  
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>
  - ▶ **My Next Move:** Discover what your interests are  
<https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>
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# THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

- ▶ Take college entrance exams
- ▶ Test optional application decision
- ▶ Complete the application- *Apply Texas, The Common Application, Institution Application*
- ▶ Submit required documents
- ▶ Pay application fee
- ▶ MEET THE DEADLINES



<https://applytexas.org/>

## ApplyTexas

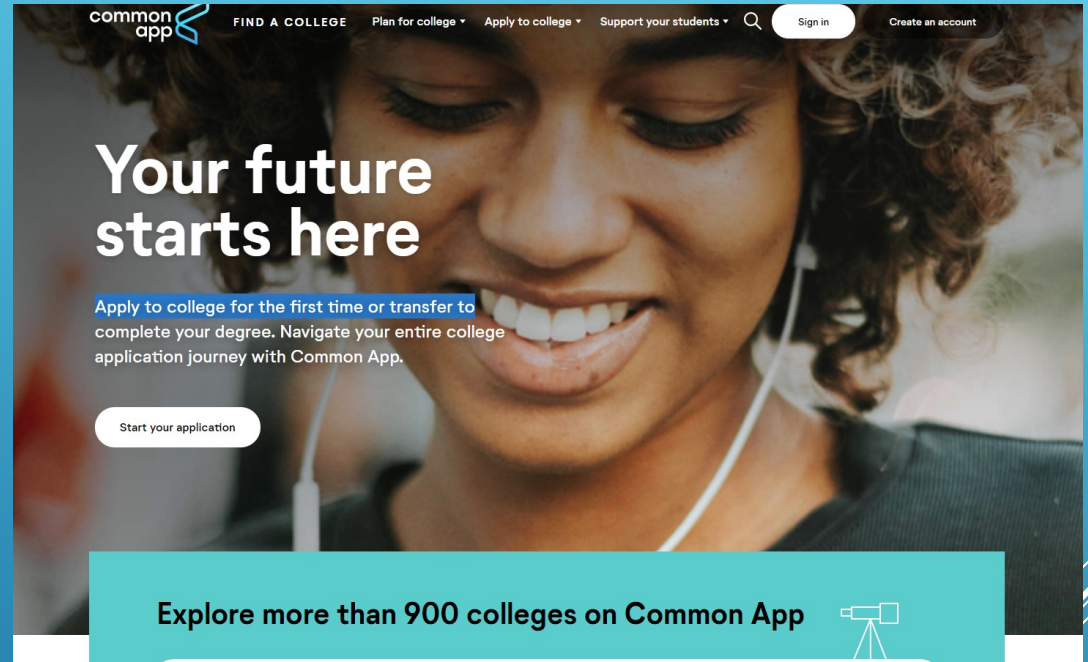
- ▶ Used for Texas public universities
- ▶ Search college on the “Begin your search” link
- ▶ Create account or login




<https://www.commonapp.org>

## The Common Application


- ▶ Use for many out of state schools
- ▶ Start with the “How to Apply” link



# REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ▶ Transcript- order through Parchment or self report
  - ▶ College transcript if you have dual credit
  - ▶ Application fee
  - ▶ Essay
  - ▶ Letters of Recommendation (3 if applying for scholarships)
  - ▶ Resume
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# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- ▶ A college with holistic admissions is trying to evaluate the whole applicant rather than reduce the applicant to a few pieces of empirical data such as test scores and GPA
  - ▶ Holistic admissions are the reason why a student with a 4.0 GPA might get rejected, but a student with a 3.6 who has other impressive accomplishments might get accepted
  - ▶ When colleges say they are looking for well-rounded students and students with leadership potential, they are signaling that they have a holistic admissions process
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# HOW WILL YOU FINANCE COLLEGE...

## *Financial Aid Defined:*

*Financial aid is money that the government and other organizations give you or lend you so you can pay for college. It is based on need NOT on merit. To qualify for financial aid, you have to apply.*

*<https://studentaid.gov/h/understand-aid>*

## ► **Grants**

Grants are called gift aid because they do not have to be paid back. Grants come from federal and state governments and from colleges. Most grants are need based, which means they are usually given based on your or your family's financial circumstances.

## ► **Scholarships**

Scholarships are also gift aid. Scholarships come from governments, colleges and private organizations. They may be awarded for academic or athletic ability, interest in a certain subject, or volunteer work, for example. Some scholarships are given based on membership in an ethnic or religious group. Companies may also give scholarships to children of employees.  
([google.com](https://www.google.com) and enter field of study + scholarships ex: nursing + scholarship)

## ► **Loans**


Borrowing money from a bank, government or lending company is called taking out a loan. A loan must be paid back with an extra charge called interest. The federal government offers low-interest loans to students with financial need. Other lenders charge more interest.

# HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID


[HTTPS://STUDENTAID.GOV/H/APPLY-FOR-AID/FAFSA](https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa)

- ▶ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for financial aid from the federal government, state governments and many colleges. You can also apply for financial aid directly from the colleges you're applying to and from private organizations. Some of these may require you to submit the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE or other forms.
- ▶ Remember that meeting deadlines is your responsibility. You have to submit your applications on time to qualify for financial aid.
- ▶ October 1st is the first day you can file the FAFSA. College, state and private financial aid deadlines vary. Aim to file the FAFSA as close to January 1 as possible; remember that financial aid dollars are limited, and in many cases are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.
- ▶ FAFSA Help: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/help>

# FIND OUT REQUIREMENTS NOW!

- ▶ Talk to the college reps
  - ▶ Investigate the website
  - ▶ Do they offer what you want to study
  - ▶ What are the testing requirements?
  - ▶ When do you plan to visit?
  - ▶ Deadlines – ***BEAT THE DEADLINES!***
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# BECOME COLLEGE SAVVY

- ▶ Get organized
  - ▶ Google the basics
    - “admissions”
    - “architect + scholarships”
  - ▶ Keep everything in one place
  - ▶ Document!
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# AT THE END OF THE DAY...APPLICANT IS SINGULAR

- ▶ Parents = great coaches but don't sabotage the process...college admission counselors are wanting the student to be responsible.
- ▶ Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, to prosper you and not to harm you!* HE has a perfect plan for you!

