

# 5 APPLYING FOR COLLEGE: HOW TO APPLY

## TIPS FOR APPLYING:

**Complete and submit at least three** college **applications** in the fall.

**Apply for financial aid** by completing the **FAFSA** or **WASFA** as early as October 1 to ensure you have options to pay for college.

**Use a professional email address** with your name. Check your email often, as you will receive important, time-sensitive messages.

Talk to your counselor if you are unable to pay application fees. You may be eligible for **college application fee waivers**.

**Keep track of deadlines** using a spreadsheet or to-do list.

**Proofread, review and revise college essays.** Have at least one other person (mentor, counselor, teacher, etc.) look over your finalized application.

**Check the status** of your college and financial aid apps to make sure they have been received. You typically can do this via the **online college portal**, email or phone.

Be sure to **save all parts of your college application**; you may be able to reuse them for other college or scholarship applications.

After you submit your **application**, you should receive a **confirmation message**. If you do not, contact the college admissions office to find out the status of your application.

## 4-YEAR COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS:

**Submit** your FAFSA or WASFA.

**Read admission requirements** for each specific school.

**Create an account** for your online application.

Request **letters of recommendation**. Receive a **confirmation email** that your

Request **official transcripts**.

**Send SAT or ACT** scores.

Write and edit your **personal statement** essay and other **short answer responses**.

**Complete and submit** your college application.

Receive a **confirmation email** that your application was successfully submitted.

## WHAT IS THE COMMON APPLICATION?

The common application, or common app, is a college admissions **application that is used by over 700 colleges in the U.S.**, including many private colleges in Washington. Once the common app is completed, it can be sent to any number of participating colleges. The common app is used exclusively for eligible 4-year colleges and universities. To start the common application, visit **commonapp.org**.

## 2-YR COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS:

**Apply** online, by mail or in person.

**Submit** the FAFSA or WASFA.

Take a **placement test** at the college. Some colleges also accept transcripts or other info to determine placement.

Schedule an **academic advising** appointment.

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