

# Senior College Application Steps

**Do a college search and form your application list.** Use [Big Future college search](#). (Big Future is run by the College Board, and they also have a [College Search Step - by - Step](#) Guide). Log in to save your search.

**Check out the websites/visit campuses** for the schools you are considering to make sure they fit your wants and needs. Specific sections of websites to pay attention to are the academic departments you're interested in, "Fast Facts" or "About", and the admission page. Also check out the admission and financial aid application instructions, and do a virtual or in-person visit if timing and circumstances allow.

**Get organized!** If you have a list of schools to consider/apply to, [open a Google Sheet](#) or some other way of keeping track of deadlines, accounts usernames and passwords, requirements, contacts, etc. for each school.

**Create your Common Application account** and add schools to your My Colleges tab. Check out their [First-Time Applicant Guide](#). See [Common Application tips](#) for resources on how to start filling out the form and link your Common App to Xello.

**Request letters of recommendation** Fill out the [Teacher Recommendation Request form](#) and [Counselor Recommendation Request form](#). Give your recommenders plenty of time before your first deadline, at least 2 weeks notice.

**Write your essay** if required - the [Common App essay prompts are online](#). As always, the College Essay Guy has [essay examples](#) and essay guides.

**Apply for Financial Aid with the FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) with those who are supporting you. The [FAFSA](#) is available starting October 1. Have an open and honest conversation with family who might financially support you in college. Use [Net Price Calculators](#) to research college costs, and check out [Tuition Break for CT Residents](#).

**Start to research scholarships** - local (out in March of senior year) or national scholarships (some places like <https://www.fastweb.com/> and <https://myscholly.com/>).

**Always check your email!** Block time during study hall, flex or at home to check in with your schools and see where you are in the process.

Find more resources on the [HVRHS School Counseling website](#) under College Resources, Financial Aid and Forms (under "More").