

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, 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](#). Not all schools take the CA but a lot do.

Update Xello. Whether or not a college is on the Common Application, start the application and create a College Tracker in Xello under Goals and Plans, College Planning. Be sure to add the deadline you're applying for. You'll also [assign your counselor and teacher recommendations in Xello](#).

Request letters of recommendation and transcript 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 (10 school days) notice. Submit your [Transcript Release](#) to your counselor (you and a parent/guardian must sign).

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 December 1 and due when your college deadlines indicate.** 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 (Xello) 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.