Guide for Parents

How to help your child in his or her search for a college

An official publication of the

Associated Colleges of the Midwest

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This is the English language version of the Spanish language publication, Guía para padres. Both versions are available at www.acm.edu.

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**Encouraging and supporting your child**

“We don’t know where to begin!”

If that’s what you’re thinking right now, you’re not alone. Many families — both parents and children — feel like they don’t know where to begin in the college search process.

However, if you are reading this book then you have already begun! While a book this size can only cover the general outline of the college search, it will help you find other resources to guide you along the way.

As a parent, what can you do to help your child prepare for college?

No matter what grade your child is in, you can emphasize the importance of education. Take an interest in your child’s schoolwork. Insist that he or she attend school regularly and complete the homework assignments. Encourage your child to do his or her best in all subjects. Help your child develop good study habits, and provide a quiet place at home to study and do homework.

As he or she enters high school, make sure your child is taking academic courses to prepare for college. Talk with your child’s guidance counselor and teachers — they are there to help you.

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The courses your child takes in high school and the grades he or she receives will have an impact on the options available after high school. Looking further ahead, a college degree can open opportunities throughout your child’s adult life.

When your child begins looking at colleges, help him or her get organized and search for information about colleges. Talk with your child about what he or she is looking for in a college education. Help your child consider many options and choose among them.

Finding the right college can be a long process. It’s also an exciting search for your child’s future and an important part of his or her transition to being an adult. Your child will probably need your encouragement and support every step of the way.

Timeline

Here is a timeline for the college search process when your child is in high school.

9th and 10th grade (and earlier)

Be involved with your child’s school and attend parents’ nights and other activities. Talk with your child’s guidance counselor and teachers about:

- Your child’s progress in school, especially in the core academic subjects: English, science, math and social science;
- Your child’s schedule, to make sure that it is challenging and academically appropriate; and
- Your child’s options after high school.

At home, you can:

- Encourage your child to study;
- Talk with your child about what he or she would like to do after high school; and
- Encourage your child to participate in school, community and/or religious activities.

Junior year of high school

This is the year for your son or daughter to begin gathering information about colleges and getting organized for the college search by:

- Thinking about what he or she wants in a college;
- Attending college fairs and meeting with college representatives who visit the school;
• Requesting information from colleges;
• Visiting colleges, if possible;
• Registering for and beginning to take college entrance examinations; and
• Keeping the grades up in school!

**Senior year of high school**

Applications and decisions are the focus of the senior year. This is the year for your child to:
• Meet with the high school guidance counselor to go over his or her list of colleges and decide where to apply;
• Make a list of deadlines for submitting applications and supporting materials;
• Ask teachers for letters of recommendation;
• Take or retake college entrance exams;
• Submit applications before the deadlines;
• Complete the FAFSA and any required financial aid forms;
• Wait for the colleges to send out their admission decisions; and
• Send in the enrollment deposit by the required date.

As parents, there is a lot you can do to support your child throughout this important year.
• Help your child stay organized and aware of deadlines and other important dates.
• As a family, fill out the FAFSA and any other required financial aid forms.
• Encourage your child to continue to do his or her best at school!

**Self-assessment**

There are about 3,500 colleges and universities in the United States, and like the students who attend them, they’re all different. How can your son or daughter find a college that is a good match for his or her particular interests and needs?

A good first step is for your child to think about his or her interests and abilities, dreams and goals, and reasons for attending college. This self-assessment will help your child decide what to look for and which questions to ask while investigating colleges. Later on, it will help in sorting out which colleges and universities have the programs, facilities and atmosphere that will be best for your child.

Here are some questions for your child to answer.
• What subjects in school do you like best?
• List several achievements in your life of which you are most proud. What talents or abilities led to these achievements?
• What are your hobbies or interests outside of school? What talents or skills do you use in them?
Talk with your child about his or her answers to these questions. You might be able to help your child add to the list.

In deciding what kind of education best meets his or her needs, your child will make a number of choices. One choice is between a liberal arts education and a more specialized education.

**Liberal arts and sciences?**

A liberal arts and sciences education is broad. Students study literature, languages, and the natural and social sciences. There also might be options to study computer science and business, to set up a career internship, and to study abroad for a term.

Studies have shown that a liberal arts education makes a person a careful reasoner and a creative and flexible thinker. Students learn to speak and write persuasively and to solve complex problems. All of these are qualities that employers and graduate programs value.

If your child enjoys a variety of subjects and could succeed in a number of areas, then he or she probably should consider the liberal arts and sciences, a curriculum offered by many colleges and universities.

**Or specialized education?**

Specialized education will train a student for a specific job or career. Perhaps your child would like to be a commercial artist or photographer, an interior designer or a licensed practical nurse. Maybe his or her interests are in construction technology or agriculture.

For fields like these that require technical expertise, your child should consider specialized education, which is most commonly offered at a large university, community college or technical institute.

**Small or large?**

Colleges range in size from a few hundred students to 30,000 or more — the size of a small city! What size is right for your child?

At a smaller-sized college or university, students might enjoy more personal attention and better access to equipment and facilities. They may find it easier to get involved in activities outside of class. Also, they’d probably have more contact with faculty, and be more likely to get into the courses they want to take.

Large universities usually offer many courses in a wide variety of fields, with specialties such as advertising or forestry. Class sizes probably will be larger, especially for lecture courses. Facilities and equipment are likely to be extensive, but used by many people.

**What about cost?**

College costs have risen sharply in recent years, at public and private schools alike. But before your family crosses a college off the list because of its price tag, find out what financial assistance might be available.

Many colleges and universities that charge a lot also provide substantial financial aid. With the financial aid, it might cost your family no more for your child to attend a higher-priced school than one that appears to cost less.

Don’t let initial costs alone determine your child’s future. The extra cost of attending one school rather than another is small when divided by the number of years this education must serve your child. (There is more on financial assistance in a later chapter.)
Other factors

Here are some other questions for your child to answer.

• In what clubs, activities and sports would you like to participate?
• Do you seek opportunities for international study?
• Is the college’s distance from your home important to you? How close or far away would you like it to be?
• Are you looking for a particular type of climate or scenery? Do you want access to outdoor recreation?
• Is diversity of students important to you? Would you like to go to school with people from other parts of the U.S. and from other countries?
• Would you prefer a residential college, where most students live on campus and participate in college activities on the weekends? Would you prefer a commuter campus?
• Is the size of the town or city in which the college is located important to you?
• Do you want to attend a college with a religious affiliation?

What colleges look for in prospective students

The students set the tone and atmosphere of a college or university. Knowing that, admission officers try to fill the first-year class with interesting, creative and sensitive young people.

Most college representatives are eager to match prospective students with their college only if the students will enjoy it and are likely to do well there. A mismatch, while sometimes unavoidable, can be costly for both the student and the college.

Thus professional admission representatives try to give prospective students accurate and complete information. They’ll be open about the strengths and weaknesses of their colleges. They’ll help students work through the admission process and might suggest other colleges to explore.

To decide whether a student and a college will fit well together, admission counselors look at a number of factors.
Courses and grades in high school are most important

A student’s high school record probably will be the most important factor in whether he or she will be admitted to a particular college or university. Good grades in all courses throughout high school show that a student is willing to work hard and has an interest in a variety of subjects.

A poor grade or two in high school does not necessarily mean a student won’t be admitted to a selective college. If a student’s grades improve, even late in his or her high school career, most colleges will notice.

Colleges also consider the diversity and difficulty of the courses a student has taken. Success in the tougher courses (honors, accelerated, International Baccalaureate or Advanced Placement) suggests he or she will do well in college.

Most colleges prefer that students take four years of English, three or more years of mathematics, science and social science, and at least two years of a foreign language. Colleges that are more selective may be looking for a more demanding high school schedule. However, admission representatives will take into account what an applicant’s high school offers.

Scores on standardized tests

The widely-used tests are the SAT and the ACT. Usually, these tests are taken during the junior and senior years. To gain experience, many students take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) or the PLAN in their sophomore year. The PSAT is required to qualify for a National Merit Scholarship.

How important are test scores? That depends on where a student applies. Most colleges require scores from standardized tests, although some put less emphasis on the tests.

College admission officers are fully aware, too, that some students don’t “test well.” Slow reading speed, unfamiliarity with the test format or simple fear may cause a student to perform poorly on standardized tests.

For these reasons, virtually all colleges also consider other factors when they select students. They look at grades, class rank, recommendations, essays and a student’s special talents and achievements.

Activities outside the classroom

Most colleges, and liberal arts colleges especially, look for students with many interests. Colleges notice students involved in theater, musical groups, special interest clubs (such as photography or debate), student publications, sports or student government. Community service and church activities are important to many colleges, as well.

Of course, colleges also look for students who belong to academic groups, such as honor societies, language clubs and science clubs.

Part-time work, interesting summer adventures or unusual experiences may also be of interest to some colleges.
Recommendations

Colleges differ when it comes to recommendations. Most require a recommendation from a prospective student’s high school guidance counselor. Some also ask for academic references from teachers and/or a personal reference from an adult the student knows well, such as a friend of the family, an employer or a member of the clergy.

It is important that these people know the student well enough to provide valuable insights about him or her. They’ll be asked about the student’s intellectual strengths, personality, and what he or she does outside of class.

The essay

Many colleges require an essay as part of the application. This can be an intimidating task. Here are some points for a student to keep in mind as he or she approaches the essay.

- The essay is the student’s chance to personalize his or her application and to express himself or herself in a way that’s not possible in the rest of the application.
- Admission officers are not looking for a particular “correct answer” on the essay. They want to find out what the student is like as an individual.
- The essay is a demonstration of the student’s writing ability, which is a key component of success in college. It is important to use the principles of good writing, such as developing a logical structure for the essay, checking grammar and proofreading carefully.

Finding colleges that match your child’s goals

Through the self-assessment, your child has started to narrow down the kind of education and college that he or she wants. Now it’s time to begin to select the schools that meet those requirements. Your child, and you, may have a list already. To expand it, turn to the sources listed below.

Counselor and teachers

Check with your child’s high school counselor for information and advice about colleges. The counseling office might have a computer data base of colleges or be able to help him or her use the Internet to gather current information about colleges. Your child’s teachers also might be able to suggest colleges to explore.

Standardized tests

The high school counselor can tell you when the standardized tests will be given in your area. If your son or daughter marks the appropriate box when registering for the PSAT, SAT, PLAN or ACT, he or she will probably get brochures and letters from a lot of colleges and universities.
Friends

Your friends may know of some colleges that are unfamiliar to you. Maybe they have family members in college to whom you could talk. Remember, though, that what you and your child look for in a college may be very different from what your friends look for in a college.

College guides

There are many fine guidebooks to colleges and universities, such as those listed below. They are available at the school’s guidance office, high school or public library, or at a bookstore.

These books are good sources for objective information about enrollment, major fields of study, church affiliation, costs and student life.

Be wary of any guide that claims to rank colleges and universities. The quality of your child’s educational experience will depend more on how well the college meets his or her needs and goals than on any criteria a guide might use to rank colleges.

Also, no one guide can capture the spirit or strength of a college. If you compare several accounts, though, you can better judge a college’s admission literature.

Barron’s Profiles of American Colleges
College Division of Barron’s Educational Series

The College Handbook
The College Board

Peterson’s Four-Year Colleges
Peterson’s, a division of Thomson Learning, Inc.

Online resources

The following sites can help you search for colleges on the Web.

www.studentaid.ed.gov  Check under the “Choosing” tab and then “College Selection” for the College Finder to search for colleges and universities that match your criteria. This site, provided by the U.S. Department of Education, has a Spanish language version.

www.nacac.com  Look in the “For Students” section for a link to Web resources for the college-bound. This site is sponsored by the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

www.collegeispossible.org  This site has a “Preparing for College” section, which includes a Guide for Parents (in Spanish), and sections on “Paying for College” and “The Right College.” College Is Possible is sponsored by the American Council on Education.

www.collegeboard.com  A college search feature on this site uses information on colleges from The College Handbook (to search in English). This site has a version in Spanish with various general orientation publications, standardized exams and financial aid.

www.petersons.com  Information from Peterson’s college guides are used on this site to help you search for colleges.
College Web sites

Lots of information is available online from the Web sites of individual colleges and universities. The sites will have facts and figures about the colleges, details about admission requirements and, in many cases, online applications and virtual campus tours.

Web pages for a college’s academic departments usually include course listings and faculty biographies. Professors often set up home pages for their courses, which can give a sense of what classes at the college are like.

There will also be pages about student clubs and activities, a calendar of campus events and, perhaps, the student newspaper. The students’ home pages will show a range of their interests and opinions.

College admission representatives

Admission representatives from colleges and universities may visit your child’s high school during the school year. Check with the guidance or college counseling office for a schedule of those visits.

Your child should be sure to seek out representatives from the colleges that interest him or her. This is a good opportunity to have questions answered.

College fairs

The high school counselor can tell you about “college fairs” or “college nights” in your area. At these events, admission representatives from many colleges gather in one place to talk to high school students and their parents.

Request information from colleges

As your child compiles a list of colleges and universities that he or she might be interested in, contact them for information. Addresses, toll-free telephone numbers and Web site addresses are in the college guidebooks, at the high school’s guidance office or library, or through the online resources listed above.

Campus visits

No publication, no matter how thorough, can provide a complete picture of a college or university. A campus visit is the best way for your son or daughter to see what a college is like.

Advance planning with the college’s admission office is important to make the most of a campus visit. Most colleges encourage campus visits, and many have special brochures and pages on their Web sites to help plan one.

With sufficient advance notice, the admission office may be able to arrange for your child to:
• take a tour of the campus;
• sit in on a class;
• talk with someone in one of your child’s interest areas, such as a professor, coach or director of a musical group;
• meet with an admission officer or attend an information session;
• stay overnight in a residence hall;
• talk to students; and
• have a meal in the cafeteria.

A campus visit is the best way for your son or daughter to see what a college is like.
Parents often accompany their children on campus visits. Depending on the college, you might be able to take a campus tour, attend an information session, and pick up information about financial aid.

People’s views about a college or university can vary widely, so it’s important to try to talk to as many people on campus as possible. Whether the visit lasts an hour or a day, your child (and you) should get as many questions answered as possible.

Get organized

One good way for your child to keep track of the information is to keep a folder for each college, along with a notebook with several pages for each college.

When reading the materials from the colleges or browsing colleges’ Web sites, your child should note the things he or she likes and dislikes about a college.

Your child can compare the college with the factors considered earlier (pages 7-10) and ask these questions as well:
1. Does the college have the major(s) or program(s) I want?
2. Does it have the activities and/or sports I want?
3. How likely am I to meet the college’s admission requirements?
4. Will the college help me achieve my educational and personal goals?

The idea is not to make a final decision now. Instead, your child should read and think about each college as carefully as possible and figure out what other information is needed.

There’s a lot to keep track of, so it’s important to keep good records throughout the college selection process. Here are some suggestions for your child.

• When meeting an admission representative, ask for his or her business card and keep it with your files.
• Whether you talk with a college representative in person or on the phone, jot down the person’s name, the date, and what you talked about.
• Keep copies of your test score reports and of all forms, applications and letters you send out.
• Write down the dates when you give recommendation and other forms to your teachers or counselor.
Your child (and you) have gathered a lot of information from your reading, conversations and campus visits. Feeling a little overwhelmed by it all? The college evaluation chart on the following page should help you put it in perspective.

For each of the selection factors listed, evaluate each college on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). Your child should determine whether a college or university receives a 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 on a particular factor, such as location or academic program. In other words, a college that he or she evaluates as a 5 on one factor may receive a 1 on that same factor from someone else.

Now, for each factor, compare the evaluations of the colleges. Keep in mind that it’s unlikely that all of the college selection factors will be of equal importance to your child. Pay special attention to the factors that are most important to your child’s interests and needs.

### Selection factors

Evaluate each college from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection factor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic program and atmosphere</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student-faculty ratio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accessibility of faculty outside of class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty teaching reputation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities for independent study</td>
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<td>Opportunities for international study</td>
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<td>Academic counseling program</td>
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<td>Career counseling program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus setting and architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic facilities (laboratories, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Availability of computers and Internet access</td>
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<td>Library as a place to study and do research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural facilities (theaters, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities to hear visiting lecturers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities to see visiting artists and performers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal counseling program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreational facilities (gyms, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student health facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location of campus and surrounding town or city</td>
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<tr>
<td>Size of student population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities for part-time work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities to participate in clubs, sports and activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residence halls or other types of college housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities for entertainment and social life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
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<td>Other factors of importance to you (list below)</td>
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Other factors of importance to you (list below)

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<th>College names</th>
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Financial assistance

All colleges and universities expect families to contribute as much as possible to the cost of a student’s education. But they realize that college costs may strain your family’s budget. They’ll do their best to bridge the gap between what you can afford and what the college costs.

If your family will not be able to support the full cost of your child’s education, you should apply for assistance. At many high-quality colleges and universities, one-half to three-fourths (or more) of the students receive financial assistance. Do not rule out any college or university based on the cost until you find out what financial assistance would be available for your family if your child attended the college.

Although it is increasingly difficult to do so, many institutions are still committed to “need-blind” admission. This means the admission decision is made separately from the assessment of your financial aid application. In “need-blind” admission, the amount of financial aid you need will have no effect on whether or not your child will be admitted.

Need-based financial aid

Most financial aid is given because a student and his/her family cannot afford the cost of attending a particular college or university. That is, the student has a demonstrated need for financial assistance in order to attend that college.

The information that you provide on the FAFSA and other financial aid forms (see below for an explanation of the forms) is used to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is the amount that you, as parents, can contribute from your income and assets plus the amount your child can contribute from earnings and savings plus gifts from any source.

Here is the calculation:

\[
\text{Cost of attending the college} - \text{Expected Family Contribution} = \text{Student’s Demonstrated Need}
\]

Students and parents are responsible for paying what they can toward college education. Need-based financial aid is intended to cover the Student’s Demonstrated Need to make it possible for the student to attend a college that would otherwise be too expensive for the family.

Merit and non-need-based scholarships

Many colleges and universities also award scholarships that are not need-based. These might be given to students based on their grades, accomplishments, athletic abilities and other special talents, or other personal characteristics. The college’s admission and financial aid offices can tell you about such scholarships.
There are organizations, corporations and foundations that offer such scholarships, as well. Talk to the high school counselor or visit the Web sites listed below for help in searching for such scholarships. You should not have to pay for information about scholarships. Also, be wary of any offer of “guaranteed” scholarships.

Types of financial aid

Financial assistance comes in several types: grants and scholarships, loans and work-study.

**Grants and scholarships** are outright gifts of money. Most of the time, they are based upon need. Sometimes, though, they are awarded for academic excellence and promise, or for special achievements or abilities.

**Loans** are a significant part of most aid packages. They must be repaid, but most often not until after you graduate. Interest rates are usually lower than other types of loans. The payback period on college loans varies from two or three years up to 30 years.

**Work-study** is a part-time job on campus. For instance, a student might work in the library, or as a resident advisor, lifeguard or food-service worker.

Funding for financial aid comes from the federal government, state government, private sources, and the colleges and universities themselves.

Financial aid forms

Colleges determine your family’s eligibility or need for aid on the basis of information you provide on confidential forms. You or your child can pick these forms up at the high school guidance office.

To be considered for federal grants and loans, you must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This is a free application, and you do not need to pay someone to fill it out for you or to file it for you. Many schools have FAFSA workshops where you can get help in filling out the form. The form can also be downloaded at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Some colleges and universities require that you use the PROFILE Form of the College Scholarship Service or the institution’s own forms to be considered for the college’s or university’s grants and loans.

Read each college’s brochures carefully to find out which form(s) to submit and when to apply for financial aid. Make sure you don’t miss important deadlines, as the dates might vary. For example, merit scholarships often have deadlines that are different than those for other types of financial assistance. Also, keep a copy of every financial aid form you send out.

To be considered for federal grants and loans, you must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Further resources

It’s beyond the scope of this booklet to outline all the sources of financial assistance. To find out more, talk to your high school counselor or refer to the Web sites listed below.

**www.fafsa.ed.gov**  To download and fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This site has pages in Spanish.

**www.studentaid.ed.gov**  This is the student financial aid site for the U.S. Department of Education. The site includes resources and suggestions for every step of the process — from beginning your college search through financing your education to repaying college loans. The “Funding” section has links to information about the FAFSA, downloadable federal student aid publications, and links to information about financial aid programs in each state. This site has a Spanish language version.

**www.finaid.org**  A comprehensive Web site, including explanations of different types of financial aid, a glossary of terms, and calculators for estimating college costs and financial aid.

**www.nasfaa.org/ParentsStudents**  The Web site of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) features online financial aid brochures (some in Spanish), worksheets and checklists.

**www.fastweb.com**  FastWeb is a searchable data base of more than 600,000 scholarships.

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**Application countdown**

Many colleges have a variety of application options to choose among. The most common plans are listed below. Application plans may vary from college to college, so it’s important to read each college’s brochures carefully for the exact rules and deadlines. If you and your child have any questions, contact the college’s admission office.

- **Regular admission**  Send in the application by the college’s deadline. On a set date, the college will tell your child whether he or she has been admitted. Your child will have until a reply date (usually May 1) to decide whether to attend.

- **Early decision**  This is a plan to use only if your child has a clear first choice college. Usually, with this plan, the student applies early (during the fall) and receives notification of admittance early. Your child also will make a commitment to attend the college if he or she is accepted.
• Early action  This plan usually has an early application deadline and early notification of admittance from the college. However, your child will not have to commit in advance to attend the college if accepted. The reply date is usually the same as for regular admission.

• Rolling admission  This is the same as regular admission, except that the college makes its admission decisions as applications are received. Your child might receive notification of admission early, but the reply date is the same as in regular admission.

The application checklist

Now your son or daughter is ready to apply to three or four (or more) colleges. Remember, it's always a good idea to start early, so there will be plenty of time before deadlines. Also, it's important to give ample time to the high school counselor and others filling out recommendation forms.

To keep track of what he or she will need to do and when, your child should answer the following questions for each college.

• Do you know the deadline (if any) for filing the application? Read all application instructions carefully!
• Have you kept copies of all the forms, applications and letters you’ve sent?
• Has your official high school transcript been sent?
• Have all of the references been completed and sent?
• Have you had your ACT and/or SAT scores sent to each college? What about your scores on SAT Subject Tests or Advanced Placement Tests (AP), if you are taking those tests?
• Have you checked to be sure you answered all of the questions on the application form?
• Have you signed your application and enclosed the application fee, if one is required? (If the fee would be a financial burden, ask the admission office about a fee waiver.)
• Do you plan to apply for financial aid? If so, have you completed and sent the proper forms (the FAFSA, PROFILE, state aid forms, private scholarship forms and/or the college’s own form)?
• Have you had an interview (if required or suggested)?
• Have you checked the admission materials to see whether the college requires any further action?

Each college will evaluate your child’s application, and send a letter telling whether he or she has been admitted and granted financial aid. Read the acceptance letters carefully to find out by what date the offer must be accepted or rejected.

A majority of the most reputable colleges and universities recognize the national candidate reply date of May 1. This means your child should be allowed to wait until May 1 or until decisions are received from all the colleges to which he or she has applied (unless using an early decision plan that requires an earlier reply date).

When your child makes the final choice, be sure he or she notifies the other colleges. That way, they can offer that spot to another deserving student.

In the end, the choice is your child’s, and your family’s, alone. But if you’ve gone about the selection process using some of the suggestions in this booklet, you can be confident that your son or daughter is on the way to receiving the college education that he or she wants.
For more pre-college planning information and links to Web resources, visit the ACM Web site:  
www.acm.edu  
(Page available only in English)

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) are 13 independent, liberal arts colleges. ACM offers off-campus study programs for undergraduates in the U.S. and around the world.

Associated Colleges of the Midwest  
205 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 220  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
312-263-5000  E-mail: acm@acm.edu

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For information about the ACM colleges ...

Grinnell College  
Grinnell, Iowa 50112  
641-269-3600 or 800-247-0113  
E-mail: askgrin@grinnell.edu  
Web: www.grinnell.edu

Knox College  
2 E. South Street, Galesburg, Illinois 61401  
309-341-7100 or 800-678-KNOX  
E-mail: admission@knox.edu  
Web: www.knox.edu

Lake Forest College  
555 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045  
847-735-5000 or 800-828-4751  
E-mail: admissions@lakeforest.edu  
Web: www.lakeforest.edu

Lawrence University  
706 E. College Avenue, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911  
Mail: P.O. Box 599, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912-0599  
920-832-6500 or 800-227-0982  
To schedule a campus visit: 800-448-3072  
E-mail: excel@lawrence.edu  Web: www.lawrence.edu

Macalester College  
1600 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55105  
651-696-6357 or 800-231-7974  
E-mail: admissions@macalester.edu  
Web: www.macalester.edu

Monmouth College  
700 E. Broadway, Monmouth, Illinois 61462  
309-457-2131 or 800-74-SCOTS  
E-mail: admit@monm.edu  Web: www.monm.edu

Ripon College  
300 Seward Street, P.O. Box 248, Ripon, Wisconsin 54971  
920-748-8337 or 800-947-4766  
E-mail: admininfo@ripon.edu  
Web: www.ripon.edu

St. Olaf College  
1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, Minnesota 55057  
507-786-3025 or 800-800-3025  
To schedule a campus visit: 800-275-6523  
E-mail: admissions@stolaf.edu  
Web: www.stolaf.edu

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