

STUDENT HANDOUT: WHAT STEPS DO I TAKE?

Step 1: Research your options

Not every college is the same. Before you apply to any colleges, do your research to see if you meet the qualifications for admission. Most colleges include admission requirements on the "Admissions" pages at their websites.

In addition to ACT/SAT scores and grade-point average (GPA), many colleges use a "holistic approach," taking multiple aspects of a student's application into consideration. They look at factors student applicants have experience with such as leadership roles, community service, extracurricular activities, volunteerism, employment, etc., and admit students based on a broad spectrum of attributes. Keep in mind that most colleges will accept an "either/or" list of qualifications, and provisional enrollment may be available for students who come close to certain requirements.

Step 2: Apply online

Once you know where you'd like to apply, use our [list of college websites](#) to find each college's online application. While you can apply to as many schools as you like, each school may have an application fee. See "Discover How Much College Really Costs" for more information.

Step 3: Follow up

After you've submitted your application, be sure to monitor your email and text messages for any items the college may request from you to complete the admission process. Be sure to note the date you submitted your application and any dates that you sent in follow-up information.

Step 4: Watch for a response

Depending on when you apply, it could take several weeks to receive the results of your application. Keep an eye out for any correspondence from colleges via mail and email. If you're accepted, be sure to follow all additional instructions provided by the

college. If you receive a regret notice, don't get discouraged. Try contacting the admission office to find out how close you are to meeting the criteria, and ask for a reconsideration of acceptance. You may be requested to provide additional information, but it will be worth the added follow-up if you're accepted. **Note: If you want to go to a state university, but you don't meet the course and grade requirements, ask your counselor about [right-to-try provisions](#).**