

# Apply to College

Whenever you can, use the [Common Application](#). It is accepted by over 900 colleges nationally, including several in Maryland.

Whenever you can, use the [Common Black College Application](#) to apply to a Historical Black College and University (HBCU). Once your application is submitted and the application fee is paid, it is made available to 56 member institutions. The \$20.00 application fee is nonrefundable.

## Be prepared with everything you need to apply for college

Explore your options. There are many different [types of colleges](#) in Maryland and across the country. Consider what would be a [good fit](#) and make a list of three to five colleges that you are interested in. **Be prepared.** Gather all the information you will [need to apply](#). This can include your high school and/or college transcript(s), essay or personal statement, letter(s) of recommendation, residency information and more.

### Application Fees & Waivers

Many colleges require an application fee at the time you submit your application.

Some colleges automatically waive the fee if you apply online. Others will accept a deferral or waiver, both of which must be signed by your high school counselor or other designated school official. If you received a fee waiver for the SAT or ACT, you should automatically get fee waivers for college applications. Download one copy for each school you plan to apply to.

- Colleges across the US: [NACAC Fee Waiver](#)

### Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by college. Some colleges offer the opportunity to [apply early](#). Other colleges have don't have a firm deadline; you can apply at any point before a term starts. If you are transferring college, there may be a different deadline than for first-year students.

This also means that colleges may let you know whether you have been accepted at different times. Some colleges might let you know right away; others may wait until the spring even if you apply in the fall.

### Residency Information

Public colleges ask questions about residency, or whether you live in the state, to determine if you qualify for in-state tuition. Check the [Maryland Higher Education Commission](#) website at for more information.

In Maryland, [undocumented students](#) may be eligible for in-state tuition and must complete additional paperwork.