

## STUDENT HANDOUT: WHAT'S NEXT?

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Congratulations! You've taken the first BIG step in the process of going to college — you've filled out an application! Below is a list of other important steps you need to take to continue on your path to college.

- **Follow up with transcripts and test scores.** Completing an online or paper college application doesn't mean you're finished submitting everything the college requires. It's important to find out what additional information is required from the school(s) that received your application(s). Many schools will want copies of your ACT or SAT scores, as well as an official copy of your high school transcript.

Date completed:\_\_\_\_\_

- **Give the schools time to contact you.** Most colleges will acknowledge the receipt of an admission application. Check with your school counselor to find out when you can expect to hear back from the schools you applied to regarding the status of your application. Also, once you've made a decision on where you want to go, let any other schools where you were accepted know that you are declining their offers of admission.

Date completed:\_\_\_\_\_

- **Build your financial aid plan.** With the Financial Aid Wizard, you can find out how much financial aid you may receive and what you may have to pay out of pocket at the colleges to which you've applied. Find the FA Wizard at [OKcollegestart.org](http://OKcollegestart.org). If you need help, check with your counselor or talk to a financial aid officer at your school of interest.

Date completed:\_\_\_\_\_

- **Research scholarships and financial aid.** Now that you've applied to college, you need to seriously consider how you will pay for your college education. Make sure you research scholarships and stay on top of scholarship application deadlines. Also attend a financial aid night with your parents, if your school offers one, to learn more about federal and state financial aid programs.

Date completed:\_\_\_\_\_

- **Prepare for the FAFSA.** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the application you will use to apply for federal, state, and perhaps even some institutional financial aid for college. In order to submit a FAFSA, you must first create a new account at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). If you're a dependent student (most seniors are), one or both of your parents will also need to create an account. To determine who will need an account, use the interactive tool available at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) called "Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?" Be sure to create your account 3-5 days before you submit your FAFSA.

Date completed:\_\_\_\_\_

- **Complete your FAFSA.** To allow the maximum time to compare and consider award offers from colleges and meet application and admission deadlines, you need to sit down with your parents and complete your FAFSA as soon as possible, on or after October 1. Go to [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) to learn more about the FAFSA and to start your financial aid application.

**Please note: You should never have to pay to complete your FAFSA. Be sure you go to [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov). Remember that the first F in FAFSA stands for FREE.**

Date completed:\_\_\_\_\_

- **Complete on-campus housing forms.** If you think there is a chance that you may live on campus at a college you applied to, be sure to complete the housing forms as soon as they are available. At some schools, dorms fill up quickly, and you don't want to miss out on a spot because you waited too long to turn in your forms.

Date completed:\_\_\_\_\_

- **Sign up for the earliest registration and orientation schedule possible.** Once you have been accepted to college, you will need to register for classes and eventually attend an orientation. Look for registration and orientation dates at your college, and try to sign up for the earliest date available to you so you can get the classes you need or want to take.

Registration date:\_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment date:\_\_\_\_\_