

I Applied . . . Now What?

Applying is one of the first steps on your path to attending college. Keep in mind that it may take a couple of months for the college or university to get back to you. Here's a step-by-step guide for what to do in the meantime:

1. Once you've submitted your application, make sure that you've turned in everything you need in order for the college to consider you as a potential student. Have you:
 - Submitted your application fee or fee waiver form (if the college charges a fee)?
 - Asked your high school counselor to send your transcript to the college?
 - Submitted your letters of recommendation (if required by the college)?
 - Submitted your essay (if required by the college)?
 - Sent any college transcripts you might have (from dual-credit courses)?
 - Sent your AP scores (if you have taken AP courses)?
2. While you wait to hear from colleges you can still search for scholarships. Don't forget to complete and file the FAFSA.
 - Sometime after January 1, you'll need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If possible, you should complete the FAFSA before March 1, because that's the deadline for many state-level scholarship programs. <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
 - You can get in-person, confidential assistance completing the FAFSA by attending a Minnesota College Goal workshop. These events are held February-June each year at locations throughout the state. <http://minnesotacollegegoal.org/>
 - There are many scholarship opportunities available, but researching them takes time. You should never have to PAY to apply or search for scholarships. Here are a couple good places to start:
<http://readyssetgo.state.mn.us/RSG/Student/Go/index.html>
<http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/sPages/scholarshipsAll.cfm>
3. Communicate with colleges once you hear from them.
 - *If you get accepted to a college, Congratulations!* Remember, you have until May 1 to make most college decisions, so take your time weighing all of your options. If you decide you want to accept an offer, don't forget to send in all the forms your college will need: AP exam scores, housing deposits, etc. You will then need to register as a new student and enroll in classes.

If you get waitlisted, send in your waitlist confirmation card. Contact the college to let them know they are still on your radar. Sometimes, the chances of getting in are slim, so review the colleges that accepted your application and come up with a second choice that you are happy with. Wait until May 1 to make a final decision.