



APPLYING TO COLLEGE



**Educational
Nonprofit Coalition**



Educational Nonprofit Coalition

The ENC supports student organizations that support students.

What we do for educational nonprofits:

1. Provide a platform for crowd-sourcing resources, opportunities, and events at our email list edu-nonprofit-coalition@lists.stanford.edu.
2. Meet and greets. Minutes from all of our meetings can be found [here](#).
3. We have an Education Reading Group that meets Saturdays at 2pm in lounge-voice in <https://discord.gg/cvc>.

Provide advisors: advisors help nonprofits grow their team, develop personalized programs, and share open-sourced content.

Join our mailing list by clicking the link below! We send out weekly emails with free, helpful, educational resources!

<https://mailman.stanford.edu/mailman/listinfo/edu-nonprofit-coalition>

Our website is <https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/enc>

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Sources used:

http://pages.act.org/rs/480-GCQ-034/images/ACT_UltimateGuideApplying4College.pdf
<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-Application-Checklist.pdf>
<https://www.fairoppportunityproject.org/>

CHAPTER 1 : WHEN TO APPLY TO COLLEGE



AMERICA · AFRICA
ASIA · AUSTRALASIA



CHAPTER 1: WHEN TO APPLY TO COLLEGE

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Making a college list is one of the hardest thing you can make. There are over thousands of institutes that cater to your needs.

The first step is to create a list of colleges that cater to your needs. There are many things to consider but start with these 6.

Major: When planning out your major think about what do you enjoy to study? Which colleges offer this major? And do you see yourself enjoying this major in 5 years? If you are undecided which is completely fine try to look for colleges that support you exploring!

Location: When choosing a college always think about location. Do you want to attend a school that is near your house? Do you want a school that is in the city? Do you want a school that is in a small town? Are there certain parts of the country that you would like to live in?

Size: One of the more important to your college experience is how big this school is. Do you prefer a school with a lot of kids or not? Do you prefer a class that is larger or a smaller class? There are many features about size that can appeal to you,

Cost of attendance: What is the cost of attending this college? What are the financial aid packages for this school? Are there any scholarships that you can benefit from?

Extracurriculars: Are there any Extracurriculars that you do in high school that interests you to do in college?

Admission Difficulty: Is this school difficult to get into? Does your stats fall into the accepted pile? Do you think you will be a good fit?

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So you have finished making a college list. Hoorah! Now we have to make your application stronger. We hope you have a good transcript at the moment but if you do not the next safe bet is to compensate with a High SAT/ACT score.

Whether you are considering Early Decision or normal Decision having a standardized exam will definitely help you.

This Score can mean acceptance of certain colleges and many scholarships.

If you can not take the test or did poorly do not sweat more colleges over time are getting to test optional. This means your application will not be at a disadvantage if you did not take the exam.

Letter of Recommendations.

Now one of the most important part of your college application is letter of recommendations.

Requesting a letter of recommendation might seem hard since from fear of rejection but don't worry! Your teachers as long as you pick a teacher that likes you will agree.

When choosing a person to write a letter of rec make sure to ask them month before the deadline. If you can, make your request in person. This will make the request personal, respectful, and responsible. Practice what you're going to say beforehand. The request should be heartfelt, and tell them how you've enjoyed their instruction and guidance, and how you would be honored if they wrote you a letter.

CHAPTER 2 : HOW MANY APPLICATIONS SHOULD I DO?



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The goal is to get into college so doing more than ten applications seems like a good option. However we recommend ten applications filled with reaches, safeties, and matches.

We recommend ten applications since it will be difficult to balance your time with school, clubs, and life.

Here are three factors to take in to account for your application

Price- Applications are expensive. Try to limit the amount of applications you are doing or find if you qualify for a waiver.

Due Date of Applications- Are you applying ED or Regular decision? Take this into account since you do not want to be behind on your applications.

College Fit- How will you fit in to college? College admission officers tend to admit students who would be a good fit for their respective college, They do this because they do not like seeing students transfer.

For context here is what Reach, Target, and Safety means.

Reach: A school where you have a smaller chance of being accepted – your academic profile matches 25% or lower of the students admitted

Target: A school where you feel confident you'll be accepted – your academic profile matches 50% of the students admitted

Safety: A school where you're sure you'll be accepted – your academic profile matches 75% or higher of the students admitted

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Here are the two big college application deadlines to remember

– early and regular decision deadlines.

- **Early decision or early action deadlines:**

type of college admissions process that requires students to submit applications earlier than regular admissions (usually between November 1 and December 1)

- **Regular decision deadlines:**

normal time frame that students submit college applications (usually between January 1 and February 1) The most common question regarding early deadlines is whether or not it gives you an advantage over regular decision deadlines.

Among the most popular colleges, the average acceptance rate for applicants who applied to early decision and early action was about 68% compared to a 51% acceptance rate for applicants who applied to the regular decision deadline That's a difference of 17%.

So, the numbers imply that there is an advantage to applying early, which is good news, but make sure you know all the college's early admission requirements and conditions. You may be obligated to attend if you're accepted.

Early Decision-

If a school allows “early decision” applications, then you can submit your application by November or December. You'll hear back from the college earlier than you would if you went the regular decision route, but if you're accepted, you must withdraw all other applications and attend the college. If you decide to back out and do not have a good reason to do so, colleges view this as a violation of trust and honor, and this can hurt your other college offers.

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EARLY ACTION-

Early action deadlines are the same as early decision deadlines in that you can submit your application in the fall and hear back earlier if you're accepted. The difference is that you don't have to decide to attend until May and can decline if you want.

REGULAR DECISION DEADLINES-

“Regular decision” deadlines are due in January or February, and offers of admission are sent back in March or April. This is when a majority of other students submit their applications. You are under no obligation to enroll if you are accepted, but most colleges want to know of your decision by May. Most colleges will adhere to this deadline.

ROLLING ADMISSIONS-

Some colleges use rolling admissions program, meaning a large window (usually a six-month period) for applicants to submit their applications. Instead of submitting an application to a particular deadline and hearing back during a specific time, colleges evaluate applications as they come in and accept until all their spots are filled.

CHAPTER 3 : SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINACIAL AID



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One of the biggest issues of people attending college is the cost. The sad truth of this is college is very expensive however it does not have to be like this!

"Before each year of college, apply for federal grants, work-study, and loans with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. Your college uses your FAFSA data to determine your federal aid eligibility. Many states and colleges use FAFSA data to award their own aid. After submission, you'll receive your Student Aid Report." (Studentaid.gov)

Once you receive an offer and financial aid you should review your aid offer.

"Your aid offer explains the types and amounts of aid a college is offering you, and your expected costs for the year. If you've been accepted to multiple colleges, compare the costs and aid offers. Accept the aid from the school that's best for you and inform them of other sources of aid (such as scholarships) you expect to receive."

However although FAFSA does a great deal of helping students pay for college sometimes it is not enough. This is why many websites offer scholarships to hardworking students. Such websites include but are not limited to:

Cappex

Niche

Unigo

Fastweb

The best thing about certain scholarships is that you DON'T need perfect grades to be eligible so we encourage you to apply!

CHAPTER 3 : ESSAY



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The most important part of the college application is your essay. The essay serves as to differentiate you well. Essays are a way to place your voice on your application. Stay calm and speak your voice don't bring out a thesaurus since college admission officer can tell. Here are some tips to do well!

Start Early-

The earlier you start the better. Creating the perfect essay is time consuming so try not to rush your essays. This is your voice.

Plan Everything-

Plan how you will be writing your essay. Think about the prompt and plan how you will be attacking it. Pair personal stories with the prompt and you will have an amazing essay.

Avoid a Resume Essay-

Don't write your resume on this essay the college admission officer already has your transcript. Feel free to address things that are not in your transcript but the goal of the essay is to create a voice a unique one.

Have a few people review it-

Although you might think you created the perfect essay you always have a mistake. Ask a friend to review for grammar or spelling mistake. Have someone read and review for flow. After this your essay should be good,

Proactively ask for help

-Lucas Chu (Harvard)

Stay organized. Narrow down the list of colleges you would like to apply to and then create a spreadsheet with all the important due dates. Set reminders in your phone calendar when you are approaching each deadline and try and submit things early. When you are asking others for letters of recommendation or to edit essays, be sure to give them plenty of time to do so and remind them as their deadline approaches. Staying organized brings structure and peace of mind during this chaotic time.

-Zoë Zizzo (Colorado College)

Start planning as soon as possible! Ideally, you should be aware of your field of interest by your final year of high school. Don't be afraid to reach out to senior students who have taken similar paths

-Mohamed Nashnoush (International College Student)

Go somewhere where there are people. Don't shut yourself in your room all the time.

-Lucas Chu & Bushra Genoun (Harvard)

Don't compare yourself to others! Everyone exists in their own time zone, and you do not have to be in the same place at the same time as anyone else. You will be much happier if you do what you want to rather than what you feel you should.

-Lucas Chu & Bushra Genoun (Harvard)

WHAT TO DO IF YOU NEED MORE HELP?

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If this resource does not help you or you are seeking more information we strongly recommend for you to check out our [website!](#) This is one of the most important process of your life so we recommend you to try to get as much resources as possible!

We wish you the best and if you have any questions try your best to seek out help!



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