



CollegeForYou.NJ.gov

Your college degree is closer than you think.

## 10 Important Steps in Your College Application Journey

- 1. Get Organized:** Set some goals, starting with the semester you want to enroll. Remember, New Jersey has specific financial aid deadlines for students to be considered for State aid, and every school has their own unique application deadlines and requirements that depend on which semester you plan to enroll.
- 2. Research New Jersey Colleges and Programs:** Identify which New Jersey colleges and universities you may be interested in based on factors such as location and type of degree programs offered.
- 3. Understand Application Requirements:** Visit each school's website to understand what they require of prospective students.
- 4. Apply for Financial Aid:** Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application (if you are an NJ Dreamer) to find out if you are eligible for financial aid. Feel free to list the specific school(s) you are interested in attending to see which grants and scholarships would be available at each one.
- 5. Visit Campuses:** Schedule tours of the school(s) you are interested in attending or attend an open house to get a better understanding of their learning environments.
- 6. Register for and Take Any Applicable Tests:** If the schools you are interested in require SAT/ACT test scores and you have not already taken one of these tests, make sure to sign up for whichever test you need.
- 7. Gather Materials for Your Application:** Collect transcripts, letters of recommendation, SAT/ACT test scores, and any other required materials for your college application(s). Draft a personal statement or essay, if any of your school(s) require one from applicants.
- 8. Complete Applications:** Fill out and submit your college application(s) before each school's individual deadline. You may be able to use the Common App or can apply directly with the school.
- 9. Track Submissions:** Make sure all components of the application have been submitted and keep an eye out for the school's response to your submission.
- 10. Make Your Decision:** Once you are accepted into one or more colleges/universities, compare what each school has to offer and decide where you will attend. Make sure to notify the school of your decision by their applicable decision deadline. Seek guidance from your college's financial aid administrators and academic advisors if you need help completing your enrollment.

For more information, visit [CollegeForYou.NJ.gov](https://CollegeForYou.NJ.gov)



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