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.