



### Students

- Narrow down the list of colleges you are considering attending. If you can, visit the schools that interest you.
- Contact colleges to request information and applications for admission. Ask about financial aid, admission requirements, and deadlines.
- Decide whether you are going to apply under a particular college's early decision or early action program. Be sure to learn about the program deadlines and requirements.
- Update your information in the [Federal Student Aid estimator \(studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/\)](https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/), and compare the results to the actual costs at colleges to which you will apply. To supplement any aid estimates you might receive, be sure to apply for scholarships. Your goal is to minimize the amount of loan funds you borrow.

### *To Explore*

- Find out what government financial aid you can apply for and how.
  - Learn about [financial aid eligibility \(studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility\)](https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility).
  - Find out [what you will need to fill out the FAFSA \(studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out\)](https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out).
- Learn how to [avoid student aid scams \(studentaid.gov/resources/scams\)](https://studentaid.gov/resources/scams) when filling out forms.

### Parents

- Review your financial situation and make sure your child is looking into or already has applied for scholarships.
- Ask your employer whether scholarships are available for employees' children.
- Find out whether your child has added any schools to his or her college wish list since the last time you visited colleges, and visit additional campuses if possible.

