MAY FOR FAMILIES OF 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

Next Steps

Even after being accepted to a college, there’s still a lot of work to do to get ready. Your child will need to decide if he or she wants to live on campus or commute. Students will need to register as a new student and enroll in classes. Share this checklist with your child to make sure he or she stays on track and does not miss any important deadlines:

- Study hard for high school final exams - They still count!
- Thank your supporters. Let them know how much you appreciate their efforts.
- Read and respond promptly to all the information and forms you receive from your college.
- Check your email often, and join any social media resources your college has.
- Send in your tuition deposit to save your place in your college’s freshman class.
- Accept your financial aid offer. Note: You do not have to accept all the aid that is offered.
- Verify all AP Grade Reports have been received by the selected college. Inquire about college credit.
- Send your final transcript to your college.
- Find out if you have to take placement exams to determine your level in reading, writing, math or other subjects.
- Take care of loan paperwork.
- Choose housing if you won’t be living at home.
- Select a meal plan if you’re living on campus.
- Check computer requirements to see if incoming students need to have a computer.
- Get a physical before college starts.
- Attend pre-orientation programs, if they’re offered.
- Contact your roommate if you’ll have one and if your college makes contact information available.
- Start shopping and packing.

Did You Know?

Many schools have a multicultural resource center or an office of diversity. These places are a hub for students who are LGBTQ, have a disability, are first-generation or low-income, and for students of color. This center can help students handle culture shock and connect them with other students with similar backgrounds. Services typically include academic support programs, financial aid counseling and opportunities, and social and cultural activities.
**Myth Buster**

**MYTH:** My child didn’t get any acceptance letters, so he or she can’t go to college.

**REALITY:** Even if your child didn’t receive any college acceptance letters this time around, there are still options — and your teen can still go to college. There are apprenticeships, on-the-job training programs, community college certificates, two-year degrees, and four-year degrees. The United States is home to thousands of colleges, and your teen has time to plan your next move and find a college that’s the best fit.

The first step is for your child to talk to a counselor, a principal or a teacher. Here are some other actions your child might choose to take:

- Apply to other colleges.
- Ask for an explanation from the admissions officers.
- Appeal the decision.
- Reapply.
- Start at a two-year school and transfer.
- Ask a counselor for help with planning the next steps.

**Student Checklist**

- **Keep your grades up!** Don’t let homework and assignments slip.
- **Apply for a summer job or internship now.** Beat the rush - line up a position before school ends.
- **Complete any forms required by your college by the due date.** If necessary, send in your housing forms and register for Freshman/New Student Orientation.
- **Arrange for your final transcript to be sent to your future college!** Visit your high school’s registrar/counseling office now so you don’t forget next month.

**Family Checklist**

- **Encourage your child to keep his or her grades up and to apply for a summer job or internship now.**
- **Be sure to help your child complete any forms required by the college by the due date.** If necessary, send in the housing forms and register for Freshman/New Student Orientation.
- **Make sure your child arranges for the final transcript to be sent to the college.**

Visit [readysetgrad.org](http://readysetgrad.org) to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.