

Applied To College? Here Are Your Next Steps!

1. **Pay your application fee or obtain a fee waiver if applicable.**

You may be required to pay an application fee for some college applications, or you may qualify for a fee waiver to cover the cost of application fees. Many of the schools in West Virginia provide application fee waivers during the WV College Tour, during College Application and Exploration Week, and when visiting your school. If you need further information on fee waivers, speak directly with your school counselor. If you are required to pay, there are several payment options available:

Credit or debit cards: Almost all institutions provide the ability for applicants to pay the application fee online using a credit or debit card. Check a school's website to determine which cards are accepted. If you decide to pay with a credit or debit card, the following information will be required:

Type of card

Credit card number

Expiration date

Name as it appears on the card.

Security code (the three- or four-digit number on the back of the card)

Check: Some schools may allow you to send a check in the mail once you have submitted your application online. If you choose this option, be sure to include a copy of your application confirmation page with your payment. Other schools may require you to submit a printed copy of the application as well as the check by mail if you are unable to send payment online.

2. **Maintain good grades.**

Now that you have completed all your applications to college, you can pour all your focus back on maintaining your grades and staying involved in your extracurricular activities. Colleges will want your final grades via your final transcript. Now is the time to continue to SHINE!

3. **Submit necessary financial aid forms.**

There are plenty of financial aid resources available to you to help you afford your postsecondary education. To learn about all the financial aid options that could work for you, visit www.CollegeForWV.com. Additionally, you will also need to complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. When completing your FAFSA, you can now add up to 20 colleges that will receive your information.

4. **Apply for additional scholarships.**

Now is a great time to research and complete additional scholarship and grant applications. If you aren't receiving the weekly scholarship email, now is a great time to opt in! Keep in mind that many scholarships require letters of recommendation. Now is a great time to ask teachers, counselors, and other caring adults in your life to write these letters.

5. **Opt into the Txt-4-Success Program.**

Opt in today by texting "CFWV" to 304-921-CFWV (2398) and receive special text messaging services like college tips, important reminders, help from a college access advisor, and responses in real time!

6. **Complete additional paperwork requirements and start to memorize your social security number!**

You may be required to submit additional paperwork to complete the application process. Some schools require application essays. Most schools require test scores like the ACT or SAT and your final high school transcripts. You may need to register to take or retake the ACT or SAT. A best practice is to determine the application requirements for each school that you are applying to prior to completing the online application.

Now is a great time to begin memorizing your social security number. You will need it for everything in college. Your social security number will become your personal identification number. Think of it as your new WVEIS (lunch number).

7. **Confirm submission of application.**

After completing your online application, be sure to print your confirmation page for your records. If you are mailing a check for your application fee, you may need this confirmation page to confirm that you have applied. Additionally, some schools, on rare occasions, require a signed copy of the confirmation page to complete the application process.

8. **Make a visit.**

If you've applied to a few different schools and been accepted to several, you have a big decision to make soon. Now is a great time to schedule a campus tour, talk to students who are currently enrolled there, visit the dining halls and dorms, and imagine yourself being happy on campus. The more you know about each campus, the easier your decision will be.

9. **When will you hear back from schools?**

The school's admission office will contact you through email or by letter once you have submitted all the requirements for the application process. Be sure to check your email often and use an email address that you will continue to have after you graduate from high school. If you do not hear from them after two to three weeks, contact the admissions office by telephone to follow up.

10. **Make your decision. Once your acceptance letters start to come in, it's time to decide!**