



Join **Delaware Goes to College** on Facebook and Twitter for college-going information and events happening near you: [facebook.com/DelawareGoesToCollege](https://www.facebook.com/DelawareGoesToCollege) & <https://twitter.com/DEGoesToCollege>

College Application Week - coming to your school!

You will have time to complete college applications during the school day and can receive one-on-one help with completing them. Dream BIG, and be able to say “I Applied to College!”

Apply to 4 or more colleges and increase your likelihood of enrolling in the fall!

Why Apply to 4 or More?

- It can save you money. Every college offers different scholarships and financial aid packages, and you won't know how much you can get unless you apply for admission and financial aid.
- It increases your odds of getting in. If you apply to only one or two colleges, you risk not getting into either school. If you apply to at least four, you have a much better chance of being admitted. For more info: <http://applytofour.org>

Prepare for your school's College Application Week by researching colleges that may be a good match with your academics and your interests. Here are some resources to help you decide where to apply:

- College Board Big Future: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- College Navigator: <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- www.Admitted.ly
- Get answers to common questions about college by watching the videos on the “Prepare for College” playlist at www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid

Coming soon...the **Delaware Goes to College Logo Design Contest!** Any senior can submit a logo design around the theme of Delaware Goes to College and the whole state will vote for their favorite design on Facebook! Details coming soon. The winning design will be printed on a giveaway, sponsored by the College Board, to celebrate students going to college.

How to Pay for College:

- Financial Aid Plan – Your counselor will provide you with the plan - complete it by January 1, 2015, so that you know what steps to take to apply for financial aid for college.
- Complete your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which you are applying, usually by early February. Completing and submitting the FAFSA is free and quick, and it gives you access to the largest source of financial aid to pay for college or career school.

Check out these resources on ways to pay for college:

- U.S. Department of Education Office of Student Financial Aid: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/>
- Refer to **StudentAid.gov/fafsa** to learn about the FAFSA process; also watch the videos in the “FAFSA: Apply for Aid” playlist at www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid.
- www.Raise.me
 - Earn scholarship money for your high school achievements in class, attendance, participation or leadership roles in sports & clubs, community service, test scores, and more. FREE to 9th-12th graders
- Scholarship Info:
 - Scholarship Compendium – pick up your copy from your counselor or view it online: <http://www.delawaregoestocollege.org/state-aid>
 - State Scholarship Information: <http://www.delawaregoestocollege.org/state-aid>
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search#>
 - www.fastweb.com

(turn over for Senior Checklist)

12th Grade College Application/Financial Aid Checklist

TO DO:

...all year

- Work hard all year—second-semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.
- Stay involved in after-school activities, and seek leadership roles if possible. Consider working or volunteering. Remember—it's quality (not quantity) that counts.
- Talk to your school counselor and other mentors about education after high school. Your counselor can answer questions about what classes to take, how to sign up for standardized tests, and where to get money for college.
- Connect with the Federal Student Aid Office at www.Twitter.com/FAFSA and [www.Facebook.com /FederalStudentAid](https://www.Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid) to get regular financial aid tips.

...fall

- Meet with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements.
- If you haven't done so already, register for and take such exams as the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, or ACT for college admission. Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require.
- Apply to the colleges you have chosen. Prepare your applications carefully. Follow the instructions, and **PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!**
- Well before your application deadlines, ask your counselor and teachers to submit required documents (e.g., transcript, letters of recommendation) to the colleges to which you're applying.

...winter

- Encourage your parent(s) to complete income tax forms early. If your parent(s) has (have) not completed tax forms, you can provide estimated information on your federal student aid application, but remember to make any necessary changes later.
- As soon as possible after Jan. 1, complete and submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), along with any other financial aid applications your school(s) of choice may require. You can complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov. You should submit your FAFSA by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which you are applying, usually by early February.
- If you have questions about the federal student aid programs or need assistance with the application process, call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or the TTY for the hearing impaired, 1-800-730-8913.
- After you submit the FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within three days to three weeks. Quickly make any necessary corrections and submit them to the FAFSA processor.
- Complete any last scholarship applications.

...spring

- Visit colleges where you have been accepted.
- Review your college acceptances and compare the colleges' financial aid offers.
- Contact a school's financial aid office if you have questions about the aid that school has offered you. In fact, getting to know your financial aid staff early is a good idea no matter what—they can tell you about deadlines, other aid for which you might wish to apply, and important paperwork you might need to submit.
- When you decide which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit. Many schools require this notification and deposit by May 1.

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