

I've Applied...What's Next?

Congratulations! You have taken the very important first step to going to college – you've applied! Once you have submitted your online application, colleges should be in touch with you to inform you of the status of your application. Make sure to check your email! If you have not been contacted by the school within four weeks of your submission, contact the admissions office to ask about your application status.

Don't forget your confirmation page!

If you applied online, do not leave the computer lab without a **physical printout of your confirmation page** for your records.

Follow up

Even though you've already filled out the online portion, there is still more to do to finish your application. You need to submit:

- High school transcripts—must be official (signed and with a school seal / electronic sent from high school registrar)
- You will also need to **send your official final transcript** after you graduate from high school
- Your application fee (if you chose the pay later option)
- College transcripts from Concurrent Enrollment (CE) courses (if required)
- ACT scores (if required)
- Letters of recommendation (if required)
- Your essay (if required)

Make sure to keep a copy of all submitted documents and confirmation page for your records. During College Application Week you registered for a **FAFSA FSA ID**, keep that information in a safe place as well, you will need it soon!

The next steps for financial aid

Even after you're accepted to a college, there's still a lot of work to do to make your final decision and prepare for college expenses. You'll want to consider what financial aid is available at the colleges you're considering, and you'll want to decide if you want to live on campus or commute. Of course, once you decide on a college, you'll need to register as a new student, attend orientation, and enroll in classes. All of this impacts the financial aid process to pay for college.

Paying for college

After October 1st you can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online. You need to complete the FAFSA to be considered for grants, work-study funds, student loans, and many scholarships, so this is a very important step. If you haven't already, you and/or your parents should submit your 2017 federal tax returns. If possible, you should complete the FAFSA before March 1, in order to have access to the most money possible!

Resources for completing the FAFSA

Complete and submit the FAFSA as early as possible. The sooner you submit the form, the more prepared you will be to follow up with colleges about what else may be needed to receive a financial aid package.

- You and a parent will need an FSA ID to complete your FAFSA from year to year, if you did not register for a FSA ID or have forgotten it, visit fsaid.ed.gov.
- Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA) partners with schools statewide to host FAFSA Completion Nights. To find the event nearest you, go to stepuputah.com/events.
- The U.S. Department of Education has resources to help you understand the types of financial aid, whether you qualify for aid, and how to apply for aid: studentaid.ed.gov/
- Speak with your family and school counselor about your financial aid options.
- StepUp has a number of resources regarding paying for college including FAFSA completion, scholarship toolkits, and saving for college: stepuputah.com/id/students/paying-for-college/

Resources for Finding Scholarships

Scholarships are a great way to pay for college, because they do not have to be repaid. Here are a few places to search for scholarships:

- Your school counselor or scholarship coordinator
- The financial aid & scholarships webpage of the college or university you plan to attend
- Online scholarship search engines, such as:
 - www.cappex.com
 - www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
 - www.zinch.com
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.utahfutures.org

You may think scholarships are “free money” but that doesn’t mean they are easy to get. You need to dedicate time and energy to being a good candidate and to submitting scholarship applications; **read all requirements** and instructions carefully and **adhere to all deadlines**. Don’t be afraid to ask for help from counselors, teachers, friends who have also applied for scholarships, and family members!

StepUp FAFSA Completion Nights Coming to a High School Near You!

Assistance with Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

For a complete calendar of events, please check stepuputah.com/events. FAFSA Nights are held from October to March!

What to Bring:

The following items are what you should bring to the event.

- Your FSA ID (fsaid.ed.gov).
- If you have previously completed a FAFSA Worksheet, please bring it with you.
- Your Social Security Number.
- Your driver's license (if any).
- Your parents' 2017 W-2 forms (if you are a dependent student). If you earned income in 2016, you should also bring your 2016 W-2 forms.
- Yours and your parents’ federal tax returns from the year 2017.
- Your 2017 untaxed income records (e.g., Veteran's non-education benefit records, child support received, worker's compensation).
- Your current bank statements.
- Your current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond and other investment records.
- Your resident alien registration or permanent resident card (if you are not a U.S. citizen).

StepUp Financial Aid/FAFSA Contact Info:

Phone: 801-366-8477

Email: stepup@ushe.edu



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