

# Prepare for college

This is probably one of the most exciting times in your life! You're preparing for the next step and figuring out which college or university is right for you. But with that decision comes lots of preparation, research and even a bit of anxiety.

So we're here to help you narrow down the process into a few easy steps.

- 1 Find the right school**
- 2 Apply and get accepted**
- 3 Figure out how to pay for it**

### Is this school the right fit?

- The main reason you're going to college is to get a degree and help prepare you for the working world. The problem is that colleges and universities have so many great programs to offer— but not all of them are offered on each campus. You have to do your homework and make sure the school you're considering has the right academic program for you.
- You're going to be calling campus home for at least four years, so make sure you feel comfortable walking the quad, in the dorms and in the classrooms. Campuses have personalities—so make sure you get along!

### Send in a stellar application

There is a lot that goes into a college application. You've got the actual application, letters of recommendation, test

scores, transcripts, essays and interviews. It's easy to lose track of all of the necessary pieces to finalize an application. So be sure to stay organized and keep in touch with your admissions representatives.

Now, that you have one or two final schools in consideration, you're probably wondering how to pay for it.

#### APPLICATION NOTES

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### What's it going to cost me?

- The sticker price is just one figure to consider. You'll need to find out if the college or university offers merit aid, work-study or other scholarships to help offset costs.
- Also, in addition to a school form, you'll likely have to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Remember, even though college preparation can sometimes be stressful, breaking it down into easy steps can help you keep organized and make it a little bit easier of a process to bear. This is a big change for you, but in the end it will all be worth it!

#### FINANCIAL AID NOTES:

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#### Search for scholarships

Find scholarships to help pay for college at [NextStepU.com/Scholarships](http://NextStepU.com/Scholarships)

