

6 ENROLLING IN COLLEGE

IN THIS CHAPTER:

MAKING YOUR DECISION

TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE

WHAT TO EXPECT YOUR FIRST TERM

COLLEGE RESOURCES YOU NEED TO USE

For more information and to view the **glossary**, check out our websites:

6 ENROLLING IN COLLEGE: MAKING YOUR DECISION

You've submitted your college **applications** and now the waiting game starts. This can take anywhere from a month to several months, depending on the type of school. Colleges will likely communicate their decision through email, mail or their online portal. Don't forget to check with the college admissions department if you have questions.

I JUST RECEIVED A DECISION FROM A COLLEGE, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Accepted – You were accepted. Congratulations!

Waitlisted – You have not been accepted or denied. The college is waiting to see how many students will accept their offer to determine if they have more space.

Denied – You were not accepted. Consider exploring other college options.

Deciding what college to go to can be difficult, but finding the right school for you will help you succeed and graduate. Talk to your high school counselor about your options.

HOW DO I COMPARE COLLEGES?

Financial:

Consider how much of the cost of attendance will be covered by **grants** and **scholarships**.

Think about how you and your family will cover the money gap for your entire college education.

Academics:

Check if the academic **major** you are interested in is available at the college. Consider the types of **academic support** available (e.g. writing center, math tutoring, disability services, etc.).

Social:

Determine if the college is a good social and cultural fit for you (e.g. diversity, student groups, mentorship opportunities, etc.).

Think about what type of environment you like (close to home, big campus, rural setting, etc.).

* DON'T FORGET:

Once you have made your college decision, you must **notify the college by confirming your enrollment**.

For many 4-year colleges the deadline is May 1.

MAR: GRADE 12

GOOD TO KNOW: This is one of the biggest decisions you will make in your life. **Take time to think through** what each college has to offer. Don't be afraid to get input from family members, teachers or mentors.

ENROLLING IN COLLEGE: TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE

You've been accepted to the college you'd like to attend, but there are still many steps to take before you start your classes.

STEPS FOR 4-YEAR COLLEGES:

1. Pay your new student/enrollment confirmation fee.

If you're unable to pay the **fee**, contact your **admissions office** and ask to defer your deposit.

2. Request an **official transcript** from your high school and any colleges where you earned credit. Send transcripts to your college as soon as final grades are posted.

STEPS FOR 2-YEAR COLLEGES:

1. **Submit** any other requested **financial aid forms** by the deadline.

2. **Complete the math and English placement steps** for your college.

HOUSING

On-campus housing may include residence halls, apartments or houses. Apply to live on campus and make sure to pay your housing deposit by the deadline. Contact the housing office with any questions.

Off-campus housing options include living at home, renting an apartment/house or living in residential fraternities and sororities.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I START COLLEGE?

- Confirm your acceptance** by submitting your enrollment verification and deposit by May 1 or your college's deadline.
- Accept your financial aid** award.
- Schedule your advising and orientation appointments.**
- Apply for housing** if you are choosing to live on **campus**.
- Submit your immunization records.** Access these records from your doctor or school district.
- If you are eligible, **sign up for student support programs** (i.e. TRIO, EOP, CAMP) that will help with **academic advising**, tutoring, financial aid, etc.
- Register for classes.**

GOOD TO KNOW:

If you're at a 2-year community or technical college and plan to transfer to a 4-year college in the future, talk to your adviser about which courses to take. **Not all 2-year courses will transfer to specific 4-year colleges.**

WHAT IS ORIENTATION?

Most colleges require new students to attend an orientation, where you learn about **campus** resources, register for classes and meet your peers. Some college orientations are in person and others are online. Attend an in-person orientation if you can! You may also be invited to attend a summer transition program focused on preparing you for your first quarter.

APR: GRADE 12

6 ENROLLING IN COLLEGE: WHAT TO EXPECT YOUR FIRST TERM

College is different than high school in many ways. It's important to know what to expect, so you can be successful.

WHAT SHOULD I DO FIRST?

Find food, housing, transportation, medical facilities, mental health and fitness resources on campus.

Learn where you can receive academic support and form study groups.

Get to know your classmates. Classes may be small (30 people) or large (500 people) depending on your college. You will meet a lot of new people through your classes, events and clubs; you can connect with them and be part of a new community.

* **For every hour you spend in class, you should spend at least two hours on assignments.**

GOOD TO KNOW:

Never be afraid to ask for help – when in doubt, reach out!

College can be some of the best times of your life, but it can also be extremely difficult. Remember why you wanted to go to college. This will help you stay motivated to finish your **degree**.

GOT ANY BUDGET TIPS?

Books and materials are expensive. **Buy or rent used books** to save money; electronic versions may also be available.

Cut down on unnecessary daily expenses (eating out, morning coffee, on-campus parking, etc.).

Create a **quarterly or semester** budget and stick to it!

HOW DO I MAKE THE MOST OF MY TIME?

* Some classes meet daily and some meet once a week. They may start as early as 8 a.m. and as late as 8 p.m. **Create a class schedule that works for you.** Classes may be in different buildings across the campus. Give yourself plenty of time to get to them.

* Seek help from friends, tutors or campus resources or **professors** during **office hours**.

* In college you have **much more freedom** in your schedule, and no one is going to tell you where you need to be or when. You will have to juggle classes, social activities, friends, finances and maybe even a new living situation or job. **Manage your time by balancing your homework and personal interests.**

MAY: GRADE 12

6 ENROLLING IN COLLEGE: COLLEGE RESOURCES YOU NEED TO USE

Colleges offer many resources to help you be successful. They are all included in your **tuition** and **fees**, so use them!

WHERE CAN I GO FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT?

Academic advising: Helps you understand the college's academic systems, choose and apply to a **major** and access **campus** resources.

Libraries: Offer a variety of learning spaces where you can get help with research and collaborate with others.

Tutoring centers: Offer help on subjects like writing and math from your peers.

Office hours: Times when your **professors** are available to answer any questions you have about class.

WHERE CAN I GET PERSONALIZED SUPPORT?

Career center: Offers you career counseling and help in developing a resume, writing a cover letter and preparing for a job interview.

Diversity/multicultural center: A space primarily for students of color and other communities to receive social and emotional support and feel safe to express their ideas and experiences.

Counseling services: Provides you confidential counseling and mental health support.

Disability resources: Provides reasonable academic accommodations for eligible students.

Information technology (IT): Provides different technology services and is a first stop for most campus-technology-related requests.

Veteran services: Serves as a liaison to the Department of Veterans Affairs and helps veterans transition out of the military and into academic life.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT?

Financial aid office: Helps you understand your **financial aid** award and provides information on additional funding resources and helps you search and apply for **scholarships**.

WHERE CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Student union: Provides meeting spaces, events, study groups and a comfortable environment where you can connect with the college community.

Student life: Offers a variety of on-campus job opportunities.

Study abroad office: Provides meaningful global travel experiences for college credit.

Recreation center and programs: Many colleges have gyms, sports fields, group fitness classes or club sports.

MAY: GRADE 12