

WHAT'S NEXT AFTER SUBMITTING YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

FINISH SENIOR YEAR STRONG!

- Don't let "senioritis" creep up on you! Maintain a strong performance during your last year in high school. A strong senior year will lead to greater success in your fist year in college.

CONFIRM THAT YOUR APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE COMPLETE

- If you participated in Illinois' One Click College Admit (OCCA) Program, make sure you review your admission offers in your Common Application account. Your offer is not binding, so you'll still have the freedom to explore your options and decide which college is the best fit for you. To act on an OCCA offer through the Common App, just follow the prompts for next steps.
- Schools will send you notifications via e-mail if there is any missing documentation. Make sure you read and respond to them.
- Maintain open communication with the Admissions and Financial Aid offices of the colleges to which you are applying.
- Maintain regular contact with your high school counselor on the status of your application and/or missing application materials like ACT/SAT scores, transcripts, essays, etc.

SET UP A VISIT TO COLLEGES OF INTEREST

- Set aside some dates and times to visit colleges that interest you, if you haven't already. This is a great opportunity to get familiar with the college and with campus life, get to know student organizations, and meet key individuals involved in the admissions process.
- Many colleges also offer virtual tours if you cannot make the trip!

VISIT ISAC.ORG FOR MORE RESOURCES

- Visit **isac.org** to learn more about the college planning and financial aid process, find scholarships and grants, get free one-on one help, and more.

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WHAT'S NEXT AFTER SUBMITTING YOUR



FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

FAFSA®

CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR FAFSA®

- You can check the status of your FAFSA immediately after submitting it online. Log in to **studentaid.gov** and select My Activity.
- If your FAFSA is still being processed, we recommend that you wait a few days before checking the status again.

REVIEW YOUR FAFSA SUBMISSION SUMMARY

- This is a summary of the FAFSA data you submitted.
- Add **donotreply@studentaid.gov** to your e-mail contact list so that your FAFSA Submission Summary notification email won't go to your spam folder.
- Be sure to look it over to make sure you didn't make a mistake on your FAFSA.
  - If you find an error, log in to **studentaid.gov** and select your FAFSA submission from the My Activity section of your Dashboard.
  - Correct your information.
  - Submit your new information.

PREPARE FOR VERIFICATION

- Verification is the process your college uses to confirm that the data reported on your FAFSA is accurate.
- Not every student is selected for verification. If you're selected for verification, don't assume you've done anything wrong. Many schools verify all students' FAFSAs. All you need to do is provide the specific documentation the college requests by the deadline they give you. Be sure to do this so your financial aid offer is not delayed. You want to make sure you receive all the financial aid to which you're entitled.

COMPARE FINANCIAL AID OFFERS

- After you submit your FAFSA, each college to which you have been admitted and that you listed on your FAFSA will send you a financial aid offer. The offer will outline the type and amount of financial aid they are offering you. Note that if you have not applied and been admitted to a college, they most likely will not send you a financial aid offer.
- Make sure to use ISAC's online tool to compare the financial aid offered to you from each college. Find the comparison worksheet at **isac.org/FinAidWorksheet**.