

# KEY COLLEGE QUESTIONS TO STAY ON TRACK

**After the student narrows down the list of colleges to which he or she plans to apply, research the following questions for each college.**

## APPLICATION DETAILS

- What is the application pathway (CommonApp, separate application on college's website, etc.)?
- What are the application deadlines and meaning of each deadline (Early Decision vs. Early Action, Rolling, etc.)?
- What supporting materials does college require for application (essays, teacher letter of recommendation, etc.)?
- Are SAT/ACT scores required, recommended, are not considered? Even if the college is declaring itself "test-optional" or "test-flexible" for general admission, are scores required for admission into certain majors?

## MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

- Does the college offer merit-based scholarships (awards based on grades, talent, affiliation, etc.)?
- If yes, how do I apply for them? Will my application for admission automatically route me for scholarship consideration, or will I need to complete a supplemental scholarship application?
- What are the deadlines to apply for each college's merit-based scholarships?
- Are SAT/ACT scores required, recommended, are not considered?
- Will the process require my attendance at a special event or an in-person interview?

## NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID

- Does the college offer need-based grants from their own resources, in addition to financial aid I might receive as a result of filing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)?
- If the college offers need-based financial aid, do they require an additional financial aid application to supplement the FAFSA such as the CSS Profile or an institutional form?
- What are the deadlines to be considered for need-based aid from each college?

## MAKING A COMMITMENT

- What is my deadline to decide where I will attend? Note that a college CANNOT make you commit before May 1, UNLESS you applied under an Early Decision agreement.
- How do I notify the college I have made my decision? Pay a deposit, etc.?
- What do I do next after I have told the college I am coming? Register for on-campus housing, sign-up for a registration/orientation program, etc.?

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