



PREPARING STUDENTS

Senior Checklist: Common Enrollment Steps

Most colleges and universities require students to formally enroll by May 1. While the steps below are commonly part of the enrollment process, always refer to the institution's official website and communications for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

Steps to Take After College Acceptance

Making your final college decision is a big step. Use the resources around you and follow the steps below to stay on track and ensure a smooth transition:

Seek Support When Deciding Where to Enroll:

Talk with your family, school counselors, teachers, college advisers, outreach program staff, and trusted mentors. Their guidance can help you make an informed decision.

Review Your Financial Aid Package:

If you completed the FAFSA, carefully read your Student Aid Report (SAR) to understand how much financial aid you've been awarded. If anything is unclear, contact your college's financial aid office—they're there to help.

Follow Enrollment Instructions:

Review the official acceptance letter or email from your college. It will outline the specific steps required to enroll. Most colleges will direct you to log into their student portal, where you'll complete key tasks. If you need help, reach out to the college's admissions or support staff.

Submit Your Enrollment Deposit (if required):

Some colleges require a deposit—often between \$100 and \$500 or more—to secure your spot. If paying the deposit is a concern, contact the college's financial aid office to discuss potential options or waivers.

Complete Additional Enrollment Steps:

You may be asked to:

- Set up your campus email
- Accept your financial aid package
- Apply for campus housing
- Register for orientation and/or placement exams
- Begin academic advising and class registration



Steps to Take After College Acceptance - Continued

Send Your Final High School Transcript:

After you officially enroll, request that your final high school transcript be sent to your college. This step is essential to finalize your admission.

Prepare for Summer Orientation:

Orientation is a great way to learn about campus life, meet other students, and prepare for your first semester. Be sure to register and attend any required sessions or placement testing.

Get a Head Start:

Some colleges share summer reading lists or preparation guides—check your college's website or materials for anything that can help you get ready for the fall semester.

Avoid “Summer Melt”

"Summer melt" happens when students complete the enrollment process but don't attend college in the fall. Here are ways to stay on track:

- Stay engaged through jobs, internships, sports, or volunteer activities.
- Keep discussing your college plans with friends, family, and trusted adults.
- Make a transportation plan to get to campus in the fall—and ask for help if needed. Help your family get ready for this transition. Starting college is a big step for them, too.