

# What to Do After the Acceptance Letter



## When should you expect your letter?

### Early Action

The acceptance is non-binding. Students do not need to commit to the college until the regular decision date (May 1).

December, January, February

### Early Decision

The acceptance is binding, and the student must attend the college/university.

December, January, February

### Regular Decision

The normal process of applying to college with a decision being made generally by April 1st of the senior year.

Mid-March, Early April

### Waitlisted

Your application has been saved and you may or may not be admitted. Usually, if accepted students do not commit by the deadline, admissions will accept waitlisted students.

May-August

## Accepted

Save your acceptance letter it includes important information such as:

School ID

School Email

Acceptance Deadline

Upcoming Events

Summer Programs

Registering for Orientation

## Rejected

Don't Worry

Explore your second choice school

Community College

Many Community colleges are open admission.

Open admission is a nonselective admission process where the only criteria for admission is high school diploma or GED

## Responding to the Acceptance Letter:

You may need to fill out a form to complete acceptance.

You may need to submit a deposit to secure your spot. It ranges from \$50-\$500.

Inform other schools that you have received acceptance that you will not attend that school.

# What to Do After the Acceptance Letter



## Determine Your Match & Fit

### Aptitude, Skills, Interest

- ☐ Does this school have the degree you need for your career?
- ☐ Does this school offer networking opportunities?

### Academic Match

- ☐ Does this school have the best program for you?
- ☐ Does this school offer Academic Support Services?

### Cost of Choice

- ☐ Will I have enough financial aid to pay for this school?
- ☐ How much student loan debt will I have at this school?

### Social and Emotional

- ☐ Can I picture myself on this campus?
- ☐ Does this school have clubs or organizations I'm interested in joining?

### Retention

- ☐ Does this school keep students to graduation?
- ☐ Does this school have support services to help me through school?

## Campus Visits

Take the opportunity to learn about the school you want to attend.

Keep an open mind, you may be surprised by what the school has to offer.

Questions to ask:

How helpful are administrators, staff, and faculty?

How big are your classes?

Do classes fill quickly during scheduling?

What's your biggest complaint about your school?

What is the greatest strength of your school?

What's the best way to pick a dorm?

How do I get a roommate and can we meet before school starts?

How much time do students spend studying each week?

What services are most used by students?

What are popular places on campus?

How is student involvement on campus?

Is there diversity on campus?

Do employers recruit on campus?

Is Career Services helpful?

Are there development opportunities on campus?

Are sports popular on campus?

Where do students eat on campus and off campus?

What is transportation like on campus?

How safe is campus?

How is the Wi-Fi on campus?

# What to Do After the Acceptance Letter



## Compare Financial Aid Offers

### Cost of Attendance

The school's Cost of Attendance will give you the total anticipated amount it will cost you to attend that school for that academic year.

Found on your financial aid offer or email your financial aid counselor at the college or university.

### How much are you being offered in financial aid?

**Award Letter:** The letter will display all the financial aid you qualify for in the form of Scholarships, Grants, Work Study, and Loans.

<b>ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE</b>		<b>\$38,400</b>	
Tuition and fees:		\$24,500	
Room and board:		\$9,400	
Books, materials, and supplies:		\$1,000	
Personal, travel, misc:		\$2,000	
Computer		\$1,500	
<b>Aid Description</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Total</b>
Federal Perkins Loan	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Federal Stafford Loan - Subsidized	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$3,500
Federal Stafford Loan - Unsubsidized	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
School Scholarship	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
Federal Pell Grant	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
State Scholarship	\$450	\$450	\$900
Federal Work-Study (FWS)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$28,400</b>

What other aid do you have?

College Savings Plan

Personal Savings

Private Scholarships & Grants

# What to Do After the Acceptance Letter



## Determine out of packet cost

After all financial aid is applied, will you still owe money and/or have funds for additional needs?

Cost of Attendance




Financial Aid




Net Price

**Net Price** The amount that a student pays to attend an institution in a single academic year AFTER applying scholarships and grants to the student's fee bill.


Be mindful of taking out student loans:



How much money will you need to borrow?



What will be your total student loan debt?



Use the student loan debt calculator.

## Talk It Out

After you have worked through your options talk about it with your parent(s), guardian(s), mentor, and/or counselor.

They can help give a different perspective and ask questions you may have missed.

## Important Deadlines

Fee Bill Payment

Housing

Deposit

Orientation

Class Scheduling

# What to Do After the Acceptance Letter



## Orientation

During orientation you will attend information sessions and advising. Topics include:

Student Organizations

School Policies

Campus Resources

Rules

Get Student ID

Greek Life

Information about Majors

Safety

Schedule Classes

Extended Campus Tour

Parents and/or Guardians may also attend orientation

You will receive notification of things to bring for orientation, they usually include:

- ☐ Orientation Schedule
- ☐ Places you want to explore on campus
- ☐ Identification Card
  - Passport
  - License
  - Permit
- ☐ Interested major
- ☐ Immunization records
- ☐ Something for note-taking
  - Phone
  - Notebook and pen/pencil
- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Dual enrollment credit and/or AP credit transcript
- ☐ Phone and Charger
- ☐ Questions you have for the orientation leader
- ☐ Student Account Number and password
- ☐ Campus Map
  - Digital if possible

There is usually A LOT of walking at orientation.

Wear comfortable shoes  
Light jacket if you get cold indoors  
Umbrella  
Appropriate and comfortable clothes  
Eye wear

Keep your energy up  
Water

- Refillable water bottle is helpful

Snacks

- Prepackaged that can be eaten on the go like a granola bar or bag of chips.

# What to Do After the Acceptance Letter



A large grid of small dots for writing, consisting of 20 rows and 40 columns of dots.



# Get To Know Your School

## Offices on Campus



### Basic Needs

#### Housing:

Most Freshman are required to live on campus in residence halls.

#### Residence Halls:

Owned and operated by the university they are the traditional idea of college dorms. Housing assigns students to residence halls by year (first-year students), college (business students), or other affiliation (athletics).

#### Off-Campus:

You may decide to live in a house or apartment close to campus. "College-living" apartments are a type of off-campus housing. The university does not own these apartments but primarily serves college students.

#### Commuting:

If a student's parents' home is close to campus, some students stay at home and commute to school each day.

### Dining Halls

Places on campus to eat:  
The dining hall is similar to a cafeteria where different meals are served daily. You can use your meal plan to pay for a meal, and some will accept other funds.

### Food Bank

A place on campus has essential food items and nonperishable items for free if students are experiencing food insecurity.

There may be other places to eat on campus, such as chain restaurants or a campus grocery store.

# Get To Know Your School

## Offices on Campus



### Academic

#### Academic Advisor

- The person who helps you, schedule classes, fulfill graduation requirements and stay on track to graduation.
- Your academic advisor will help determine which AP credit and dual enrollment credits can transfer towards your degree.

#### Questions to ask an Academic Advisor:

- ➡ Which credits from high school will transfer?
- ➡ What courses do students struggle with for my major?
- ➡ What classes are only offered in one semester?
- ➡ What classes require pre-requisites or co-requisites?
- ➡ Are my GPA and graduation plans realistic?
- ➡ Can I graduate early?
- ➡ How will dropping a course affect me?

#### Tutoring and Writing Centers

- Offer free services for tutoring in specific subjects, also provide test-taking help and study tips. May have one-on-one assistance and group services.
- Writing centers assist with proofreading, creating outlines, learning types of writing, and developing learning skills.
- Advisors can often help you plan how to break down and complete a large project, such as a semester-long research project called a capstone research project.

#### Library

Offer online resources for research that can be accessed on and off-campus

Often have computer lab area and printing services

Often have study spaces for students both individually and in groups

Also, offer help to find resources for research



# Get To Know Your School

## Offices on Campus



### Professors

Introduce yourself to your professors

Find out office hours and meet with them

Let them know when you are having difficulties with classwork

### Study Groups

Create one with your classmates and friends or join one that is offered by student services

### Social

#### Clubs and Organizations

##### Professional and Academic

Organizations that help prepare and develop students for specific career fields or an area of study

- Connects you to students in the same major
- Offers networking opportunities with professionals from specific industries

##### Service

Organizations focused on serving others, often dedicated to specific areas such as the environment, underserved populations, mental health, or children

##### Cultural

Organizations that celebrate and support different races, ethnicities, cultural heritages, and other social identities

- Native American Student Affairs
- The American Association of University Women
- Multicultural Student Union

##### Greek Letter Organizations

Organizations identified using the Greek alphabet focus on service, academics, professional, and/or social

- Often have requirements such as an invitation to join based on academic achievement and extracurricular involvement

# Get To Know Your School Offices on Campus



## Financial

### Financial Aid Office

It helps students understand their financial aid, such as grants, loans, and scholarships

Students can ask their financial aid counselor about the aid applied to their account and potential assistance in the future.

Reach out to financial aid if there has been a significant change in income from when you completed your FAFSA

### Bursar's Office or Student Accounts

Students pay their fee bill with this office.

They can explain charges that are on the fee bill and options to pay the fee bill.

➔ Suppose you have delays with processing your financial aid. In that case, you can speak to the Bursar's Office/Student Accounts for options such as deferring payment (push back payment date).

They also process student refunds.

### Career Center

Helps you explore career options and prepare for your future career

Often offers career exploration testing for free

Provides services such as resume review, interview preparation, and career fairs

They also help students find internships, part-time jobs, and summer jobs

### Campus Bank

Provides resources for money management  
May have ATMs for different banks

# Get To Know Your School

## Offices on Campus



### Emotional and Physical

#### Health Center

Provides services for students that are sick

May also provide assessment services for learning disabilities and other disorders

Sometimes have an on-campus pharmacy for specific prescriptions

#### Recreational Services

The university gym where students, faculty, and staff can exercise with cardio and strength training equipment

- May offer group fitness classes
- May have additional amenities like a pool, sauna, or rock climbing wall

#### Mental Health Services

Provides mental health resources such as counseling, assessments, medication management, group workshops, and urgent care services

#### Disability Services

Works with students with disabilities to provide services and accommodations to help students to succeed in school.

Services may include:

- Peer note-taking services
- Extended test-taking time
- Testing in a quiet area
- Parking pass for accessibility

# Get To Know Your School

## Offices on Campus



A large grid of small dots for writing notes.

# Get To Know You



Learning Style how a person learns, interprets, organizes, processes, and stores information.

Visual:

a person that processes information and ideas using pictures, and images

You learn best by seeing information as graphs, diagrams, tables, charts, etc.



Auditory:

a person that processes information and ideas through listening, hearing, and speaking

You learn best when given information through sound or speech.



Reading and Writing:

a person that processes information and ideas through reading and writing text

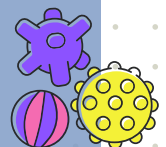
You learn best when given information through word and text form.



Kinesthetic

a person that processes information and ideas through touch, and movement

You learn best when given information through physically putting things together, moving, and having situational examples.



Which learning style(s) can you relate to?



# Get To Know You Study Strategies



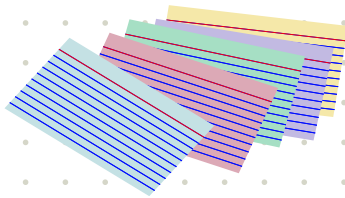
## Visual:

### Demonstration

How-to video   Diagram  
Step by step with pictures



### Flash cards



### Graphs and Charts



### Make outlines

- Outline the textbook chapter as you read
- Use heading subheading and bullet points



### Make your own practice test



## Notetaking

Have white space in your notes.

- don't cram too much information on one page.  
Use spacing to separate your notes.

Draw symbols and pictures to understand information



Use highlighters for main ideas, examples, and definitions



Draw stars next to information you understand



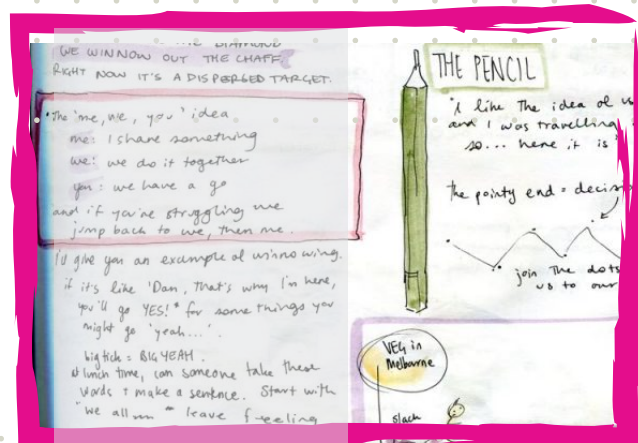
Use an exclamation point to show important information



Question marks can be used to show information that is confusing or requires extra study time.

Illustrate concepts and processes with a diagram, chart, graph, or flow chart.

- Example: parts of the cell, breakdown a math problem into steps.





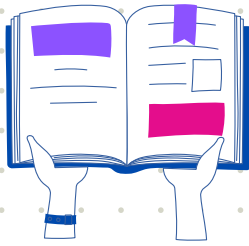
# Get To Know You

## Study Strategies



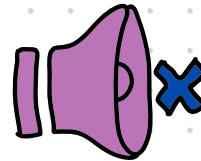
### Auditory:

Read your notes aloud



Work in quiet areas

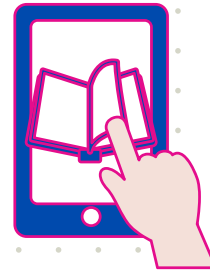
Reduce distractions  
Listen to classical music  
for background noise



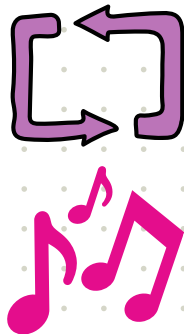
Listen to lectures  
record if allowed to review later



Use audio textbooks when  
available



Use mnemonic devices,  
rhymes, jingles, and repetition



Have a study buddy or study group

Quiz each other on content.  
Have discussions on the content.  
Teach each other the content.



# Get To Know You Study Strategies



## Reading and Writing:

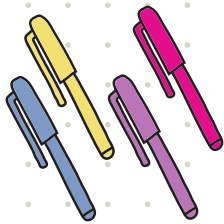
Re-write your notes



Organize your notes into  
a PowerPoint



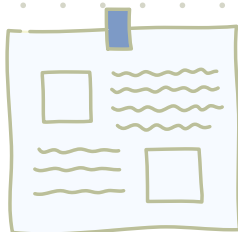
Use colored pens  
and highlighters  
Focus on key content



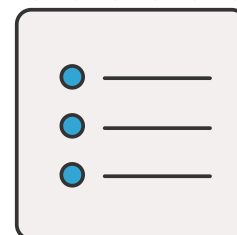
Compare your notes to  
your study buddy's



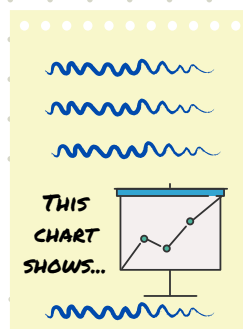
Print your notes/lectures  
and write notes in the  
margins



Write key concepts



Write explanations for  
diagrams, charts, and graphs



# Get To Know You

## Study Strategies

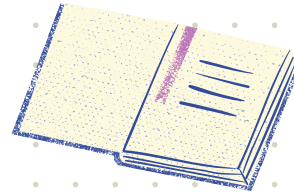


### Kinesthetic:

Type your notes after class

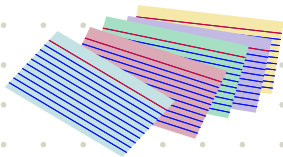


Bookmark important pages when reading



Write your notes onto flashcards and review while doing other activities

Example: walking at the gym,



Move while studying

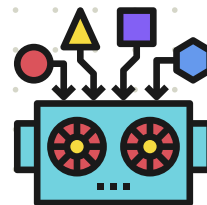
Use a desk bike,  
Walk around  
Stretch



Read your notes out loud



Create models when possible

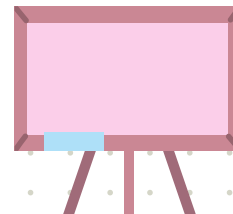


Visit locations for study content if possible

Example: museum, library, historical site



Use a dry-erase board



Make games using study content

Example: Taboo, Charades

# Summer Plan



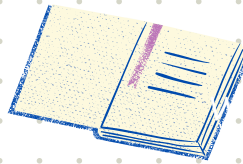
Bridge Programs A summer program that helps student prepare for and transition to college.

Students usually live in specific residence halls (dorms)

Students may take college-courses depending on the program. Taking courses during the summer provides the opportunity to:

➤ Develop study skills

➤ Fill in knowledge gaps



Students learn about and identify resources on campus. This helps students develop

➤ Develop self-advocacy skills

Students become comfortable with campus before the fall semester begins.



# Summer Plan



Career Exploration: Learn about different career options in your field of interest.

- ➡ Contact the career counseling center to learn about resources offered.
- ➡ Take career/major exploration tests to determine interests, skills, and values you possess that relates to careers.

Often offered through the career counseling center  
Usually offered free of charge for current students  
May be a more in-depth assessment than the ones taken in high school

- ➡ Take time to job shadow professionals in careers of interest

Once or twice a week spend time (an hour to 2 hours) following a professional while they do their work

- ➡ Work a summer job or internship

Apply for positions that are paid in the career field you are interested in if possible

Internships may be paid or unpaid

- ➡ Explore job postings

Search for your dream career

Learn the job duties of potential careers

Identify the experience needed to help plan your academic career

Review the anticipated salary for positions of interest.



# Summer Plan



## Things to do during the summer:

### ✓ Pay your fee bill

- ➡ Make sure financial aid is secured and posted to your fee bill on your college/university student account
- ➡ If you do not pay the fee bill your classes will be dropped and you may have difficulties getting back into those classes
- ➡ Make payment arrangements through the Bursars' office or Student accounts if experiencing a delay in financial aid processing

### ✓ Make housing arrangements

- ➡ Determine housing payment deadline. Housing is first come first serve and based on when the deposit is paid
- ➡ Make sure housing is secured and you have received confirmation from college/university housing
- ➡ Find a roommate. If you do not have a roommate housing can match you with someone based on a questionnaire
- ➡ Determine move-in dates and prepare accordingly.

### ✓ Select a meal plan

- ➡ May be included with housing plan if living on-campus
- ➡ Will you eat more in the cafeteria or will you eat at campus restaurants?



### ✓ Make sure dual enrollment credits and AP credits transfer

- ➡ Check your academic record with the college/university
- ➡ If dual enrollment credits/AP credits are not showing up:

make an appointment  
with an academic advisor

submit dual enrollment  
credit documents

- ➡ Check your class schedule to ensure you are not retaking credit that has already been earned



# Summer Plan



## Budget

Plan what is needed to get your started for college and price the items such as:

Bedding	Basic cookware	Clothes	Backpack
Toiletries	Text books	Laptop	Towels

Budgeting allows you to take control of your money. Give every dollar a job

➔ Needs: the items needed to survive

Food	Shelter	Clothing
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➔ Wants: everything else that is not necessary to survive

➔ Income: Money received, especially on a regular basis from work

Fixed: same amount on a schedule	Variable: is not always the same amount
Paycheck	Money from sales
Allowance	Financial aid

➔ Expenses: the money spent on something

Fixed: same amount on a schedule	Variable: is not always the same amount
Rent	Groceries
Car Note	Electric bill

Decide your money goal

➔ How do you want to use your money?

Going on vacation



Paying for school



Having extra savings



Attending events



# Summer Plan



## Different types of budgets

### Zero-sum budget

Every dollar has a purpose

Assign where your money is going until you get to \$0

### Envelope system

Plan expenses for each category then withdraw enough cash and place it into envelopes

This can also be done digitally by having separate accounts with your bank or with an app (make sure the app is secure)

● Bills

● Fun money

● Groceries

● Savings

### 50/30/20 budget

50% goes towards necessary living expenses

30% goes towards flexible/optional expenses

20% goes towards savings and debt payments

These are just a few types of budgets. Keep practicing making budgets. It is a skill, and you will get better the more you practice.

## Budget your refund check

If your financial aid is more than the amount of your fee bill you receive a refund from your school. A refund check should be used for educational expenses

### Do

Make a budget  
Pay your living expenses  
Buy books and school supplies  
Send back unnecessary funds  
especially if you accepted student loans

### Don't

Spend money you don't have  
Add unnecessary expenses  
Loan money and buy gifts  
Spend carelessly

# Summer Plan



Notes: