

After You Apply

Your College Account: Check Your Application Status!

- Make sure your application has been received – check your email and/or applicant portal. Establish an applicant account. **Monitor the college's record of what's been received.**
- Share your login with your parents. They can help keep track of deadlines, financial info, housing applications, etc.
- Check your email and applicant accounts at least once a week! Some colleges post admission decisions on the portal; some email or call.

Follow Up on Your End

- Check to make sure test scores, transcripts and recommendations were sent.
- Send personal thank you notes to your counselor and recommenders.
- Arrange for **mid-year reports** to be sent asap after fall semester grades are in, if applicable.
- Notify the colleges if your information changes – especially if you **change courses or receive a D or F** but also if you receive awards or honors, participate in new activities, etc.
- If you are hoping to play a sport in college, follow up with the college coaches.

Admissions Offers Trickling In

- U.S. colleges agree to a common National Reply Date of May 1. You don't have to commit until then. Commit to ONE school by May 1 and advise the others you will not be attending.
- If you are admitted, go ahead and sign up for new student events so you can secure a place and preferred time. You can cancel later on if needed.
- Check out **housing options, requirements and deadlines**. It may be worth making a housing deposit as soon as it's available even if you forfeit it later if you choose not to attend.

College Visits

- Visit your colleges. Special events for admitted students are often held in March and April.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

- Follow up with FAFSA and CSS Profile submittals and scholarship searches. **Check your college websites for scholarship opportunities. Submit by the deadlines!**

© Laurie Kiguchi

If Your Early Application Was Deferred

Be Optimistic but Realistic

- You were deferred; there's still hope. Apply to schools with likelier chances of admission.

Contact the Admissions Office

- Contact the admissions office or area rep to tell them you're still interested and why.
- If it's your first choice campus and you will attend if admitted, tell them so.
- Visit the campus and schedule an interview with admissions officer to show your interest.
- Ask your high school counselor to contact the college to find out the reason for deferral.

Update Your Application, Consider Re-testing

- Notify the college of new information and convey your interest in attending.
- Consider submitting an additional letter of recommendation if permitted.
- Ask your counselor to make sure the mid-year report is sent promptly. Advise them of any changes in your information and have them note your first choice preference in their update.

If You Are Offered a Spot on a Waitlist

- If you still want to be considered, be sure to **accept the offer** to be placed on the waitlist.
- Follow any instructions regarding additional information required or permitted.
- Contact the admissions representative for your area to let them know your level of interest - especially if it's your first choice school and you will attend if admitted.
- **Accept an offer from one college by May 1, even if you haven't heard a waitlist decision.** It is acceptable to cancel your intent to enroll (you will lose any deposits) if you are later admitted off a waitlist somewhere else. Most waitlist offers will be made after the May 1 National Reply Date - some not until late summer.

If You Are Denied

- Denials are to be expected. It may have been a reach school; it may also be due to factors beyond your control. There is a lot of subjectivity in the admissions decision process.
- If there were mistakes in your application, if there is new information to report, if there are changes in your circumstances, **consider filing an appeal**. Follow the college instructions.

If You Are Offered Admission

CONGRATULATIONS!

- Accept the offer of your choice by May 1! Reply "No" to your other offers of admission.
- Register for the earliest orientation session if registration occurs then. Secure your housing.
- Follow through with next steps. Request your final transcript and final report to be sent.
- Thank people who wrote you letters of recommendation and tell them your decision.
- Continue to pursue scholarships, especially through the college or university.