**Great Private Comprehensive Colleges and Universities in the Northeast**

These comprehensive colleges and universities in the Northeast offer impressive academic options and advantageous locations for professional development.

by **[CollegeXpress](https://www.collegexpress.com/authors/CollegeXpress/)**

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Would you like to add some private universities with comprehensive academic offerings in the Northeast to your college list? What a coincidence—we have just what you’re looking for right here! All of these colleges and universities are looking to recruit students from the CollegeXpress community in all grades. Just click the green **“Connect me”** button to be added to their mailing lists. Then they’ll get in touch with *you* so you can learn more about their programs, financial aid opportunities, campus life, and more. Don’t worry if you’re not an upperclassman either—it’s never too early to start your college search!

**Alfred University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2725/#2725)Alfred University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2725/#2725) is a private comprehensive institution on a 600-acre campus in Alfred, New York—75 miles south of Rochester. About 1,600 undergraduates from 43 states and 16 countries attend the University full-time, pursuing more than 60 majors and 70+ minors in a wide range of areas. Students also enjoy 80 recognized clubs and organizations, 22 varsity teams—including 17 NCAA Division III sports—and nearly 400 acres of recreational land between the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains and the Finger Lakes.

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**Canisius College**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2004321/#2004321)Canisius College**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2004321/#2004321) is a private Jesuit Catholic institution on a 72-acre campus located in a residential neighborhood of North-Central Buffalo, New York. Students at Canisius can choose from more than 100 majors, minors, specializations, and pre-professional programs; combine different areas for a dual or triple major; or join the Pathfinders Academic Exploration Program to create a unique academic path. The College also offers the Griff Center for Student Success, academic mentoring and advising, study abroad opportunities, support for internship and job searches, and 90 student-run clubs and organizations, including an active student government.

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**Delaware Valley University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/759/#759)Delaware Valley University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/759/#759) is an independent comprehensive university on a 571-acre campus located in Doylestown, Pennsylvania—30 miles northwest of Philadelphia. More than 1,700 undergraduates are enrolled in 27 bachelor’s degree programs, with 100% of students graduating with real-world, hands-on experience. In addition to classes and labs that take place on 1,000 acres of living laboratories, the University’s Experience 360 (E360) program helps students build their careers from day one and throughout their undergraduate career, with internship sites at Campbell's, the Philadelphia Zoo, Kellogg’s, Pepsi, and more.

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**Drew University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/631/#631)Drew University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/631/#631) is a private comprehensive institution on a wooded campus located in Madison, New Jersey—30 miles from New York City. Undergraduates can choose from more than 40 majors, 60+ minors, 18 dual-degree programs, and 17 pre-professional programs, with at least two required immersive experiences to help build résumés and explore interests. During the one-of-a-kind New York City Semester, students may find themselves working on Wall Street, at the United Nations, with media giants, alongside grassroots organizers, in the contemporary art world, or on the theater scene.

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**Hofstra University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2763/#2763)Hofstra University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2763/#2763) is a private comprehensive university on a 240-acre campus located in Hempstead, New York—25 miles east of New York City. Home to more than 10,000 total students, the University offers over 160 undergraduate and 100+ dual-degree programs, giving the opportunity to earn both a graduate and undergraduate degree in less time than if each degree were pursued separately. Hofstra also has 21 varsity sports teams that compete at the NCAA Division I level; 27 local and national fraternities and sororities; and more than 200 academic, media, multicultural, performance, pre-professional, religious, social/political, and sports clubs and organizations. 

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**Holy Family University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2017770/#2017770)Holy Family University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2017770/#2017770) is a private comprehensive university with a 47-acre main campus in northeast Philadelphia, with additional locations in Bensalem and Newtown, Pennsylvania. With more than 3,100 total students, the University offers 40 undergraduate programs and 600+ courses designed to develop learning proficiencies and self-advocacy skills that help students feel empowered to achieve academic and personal success. All undergraduates participate in experiential learning through internships and have access to a variety of on-campus amenities, including a state-of-the-art Esports gaming space.

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**Ithaca College**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/701/#701)Ithaca College**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/701/#701) is a private comprehensive liberal arts college with a 670-acre campus in Ithaca, New York—50 miles south of Syracuse. Around 4,6000 undergraduates have their choice of more than 90 majors as well as the Exploratory Program, in which students can spend up to four semesters taking courses in any field that interests them, with expert guidance from mentors and immersive and applied learning experiences. IC’s campus is known for its environmental stewardship, with 100% of the College’s electricity sourced from wind farms, as well as its social conscience—an IC staff member founded International Pronouns Day.

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**Mercy College**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2017031/#2017031)Mercy College**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2017031/#2017031) is a private nonsectarian college with a 66-acre main campus located in Dobbs Ferry, New York—25 miles from New York City—with branch campuses in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Yorktown Heights. Approximately 9,000 students are enrolled in five schools and over 90 degree and certificate programs led by faculty that include Fulbright Scholars, published and national best-selling authors, and leading experts in their fields. Undergraduates also benefit from 64 student clubs, 16 honor societies, an award-winning student newspaper, 10 NCAA Division II athletic teams, and more.

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**Messiah University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/738/#738)Messiah University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/738/#738) is a private Christian college of the liberal and applied arts and sciences located in Grantham, Pennsylvania—10 miles southwest of Harrisburg. Nearly 2,600 undergraduates are enrolled in 80+ academic programs, including a variety of majors, minors, concentrations, and pre-health advising options. Students also enjoy concerts, sporting events, 70+ clubs and organizations, outdoor activities like hiking and kayaking, free movies, dances, and more on campus.

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**Neumann University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/811/#811)Neumann University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/811/#811) is a private religious liberal arts institution on a 70-acre campus in Aston, Pennsylvania—just a 25-minute drive from Philadelphia. With over 2,000 total students, the University offers dozens of undergraduate majors in the Arts & Sciences, Business, Education & Human Services, and Nursing & Health Sciences, with 100% of majors requiring a clinical, field, or internship experience. Residential students benefit from amenities such as free parking and car registration, private bathrooms and free laundry facilities in each residence hall, and 24/7 security and computer lab access.

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**Pace University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2005468/#2005468)Pace University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2005468/#2005468) is a private comprehensive university with a three-acre main campus in the heart of New York City and the 200-acre [**Westchester campus**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2017713/#2017713) located in Pleasantville-Briarcliff, New York—about 30 miles apart. With more than 100 majors and accelerated bachelor’s/graduate degree programs, Pace offers everything from Biochemistry and Business to Computer Science, Psychology, and Teaching. There are more than 100 clubs and groups for students to get involved in on both campuses, including academic, business and professional, cultural and social, Greek life, media and entertainment, performing arts, political and advocacy, and student governance organizations. 

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**Rider University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/850/#850)Rider University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/850/#850) is a private comprehensive institution located on 280 acres in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Interdisciplinary majors are plentiful and dual majors are encouraged at Rider, where more than 3,200 undergraduates are enrolled in 100+ majors and minors. Relevant, hands-on, real-world experiences on campus, on the job, in the community, and around the world are also encouraged, with each student’s Engaged Learning Transcript acting as an official record of the many ways they put their knowledge into meaningful action. 

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**Robert Morris University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/857/#857)Robert Morris University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/857/#857) is a private comprehensive institution on a 230-acre campus located in Moon Township, Pennsylvania—17 miles from Pittsburgh. RMU is home to around 5,000 students and offers more than 60 undergraduate areas of study across four academic schools. Students can also get involved on campus with more than 120 activities and organizations, 15 teams playing in NCAA Division I, a new Student Recreation and Fitness Center stocked with the latest exercise equipment, and the UPMC Events Center, home of Colonials basketball and volleyball as well as a major event venue for concerts, career expos, and commencement.

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**Saint Francis University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/861/#861)Saint Francis University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/861/#861) is a church-affiliated college of the liberal arts and sciences with a 600-acre campus in Loretto, Pennsylvania—90 miles east of Pittsburgh. Approximately 1,700 undergraduates are enrolled in three professional schools: STEAM, Business, and Health Sciences & Education. With more than 75 clubs and organizations on campus, the student experience at Saint Francis places particular emphasis on developing individuals who will lead or serve with character in their chosen professions and communities.

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**Saint Joseph's University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2000285/#2000285)Saint Joseph's University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2000285/#2000285) is a private comprehensive institution with two locations in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—the 125-acre Hawk Hill campus and the 24-acre University City campus. More than 4,500 undergraduates have 130+ undergraduate majors and minors to choose from as well as professional pathway programs and 4+1 options. There are also countless opportunities to connect with the Hawk community, including 100+ student organizations, intramural sports teams, and community service groups.

[**Connect me with SJU!**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/admission/articles/explore-undergraduate-colleges-universities/great-private-comprehensive-colleges-and-universities-in-the-northeast/)

**Saint Peter's University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/868/#868)Saint Peter's University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/868/#868) is a private church-affiliated multipurpose institution with a 15-acre campus in Jersey City, New Jersey—just three miles from New York City. Saint Peter’s offers more than 50 undergraduate majors and minors, from Biology and Business to Physics and Criminal Justice. Activities at Saint Peter’s are as diverse as the student body, with 50+ student-run groups as well as leadership programs, service projects, recreation trips, study abroad, and a Division I sports program.

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**Stevenson University**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2005484/#2005484)Stevenson University**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2005484/#2005484) is a private comprehensive institution with a 163-acre semi-rural campus in Stevenson, Maryland—10 miles from Baltimore. Approximately 3,000 full-time undergraduates are enrolled in 90 majors, minors, tracks, and pre-professional programs, with a Bachelor’s to Master’s Option that lets students earn two degrees in just five years by taking graduate-level courses during junior and senior years. Stevenson also offers 27 NCAA Division III sports, plus cheer, dance, and club and intramural teams; more than 70 clubs and organizations; and a Career Services office with career advising and fairs, networking events, graduate school workshops, service learning, and internship opportunities.

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**Thiel College**

[**[](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2016771/#2016771)Thiel College**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2016771/#2016771) is a small private church-affiliated college on a 135-acre campus in Greenville, Pennsylvania—80 miles north of Pittsburgh. With a student body under 1,000 and 61% of classes with fewer than 20 students, Thiel offers more than 60 majors, minors, and areas of study, including five-year dual master's and bachelor's programs. Students can get involved with 24 NCAA Division III varsity athletic teams, more than 70 student organizations, and Greek life, which includes three fraternities, four sororities, leadership opportunities, campus activities, and philanthropic causes.

**Rejected From Your Favorite Colleges? Here's What You Can Do**

If you’ve read too many letters from colleges that start with “We regret to inform you,” all hope is not lost! Here’s what you can do to make a new plan.

by **[Oluwafeolami Awe-Joseph](https://www.collegexpress.com/authors/Oluwafeolami%20Awe-Joseph/)**  
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*“We regret to inform you…”*Anyone who has ever read those five little words probably felt an unsettling feeling. You may have revisited what was possibly a sad moment in your life at the time. Rejection sucks—especially when you feel like you worked so hard and you’re told “No. You’re not ‘good enough.’” College application and acceptance season is one of the most important times in a high school senior’s life, and being told “no” and getting rejected from your dream school(s) may seem like a rude door being slammed in your face. It’s especially painful if you already envisioned your life at a school and began to make so many plans. Here are a few steps to take if you end up getting rejected from your dream school or other colleges you’ve applied to.

**Re-evaluate your applications**

Most students apply to an average of five to 12 colleges, usually consisting of [**target, safety, and reach schools**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/admission/articles/find-college/safety-reach-and-realistic-schools-and-secret-picking-yours/). The Common App itself doesn’t allow students to apply to more than 20 schools in an application cycle. If you applied to about 15 schools and every school waitlisted or rejected you, it’s important to go back to the drawing board to figure out what exactly the problem may be. Here are a few questions to ask yourself:

* **Do my current statistics match the college’s requirements?** Numerous websites and college prep resources report college acceptance rates as well as required grades and scores for admission. This information can also be found on the college’s website. It’s important to do your homework and research before applying to a college to see how good of a chance you may have regarding their decision.
* **Do I have enough extracurricular and leadership activities on my résumé?** A lot of colleges these days look far beyond just academics; they want to see the real you and how well you can cope balancing academics and personal interests. It’s important to be involved in [**long-term leadership and extracurricular activities**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/admission/blog/top-3-tips-finding-extracurricular-activities-high-school/), which show your growth and progress as a person throughout high school.
* **Do I have good college essays?** Although this is sometimes looked over by students, having high-quality college essays is extremely important. Writing is a very important skill for college and postgrad life, and regardless of what your major is, being able to vividly express yourself and show your creative skills through writing is weighted heavily during most college application cycles.

Look through your college application stats, and if there’s still time, work toward applying to other schools. Many colleges and universities have [**rolling admission policies**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/admission/blog/what-you-need-know-about-rolling-admission/) in case you miss a Regular Decision deadline.

**Related:**[**4 Questions to Ask if You Get a Rejection Letter**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/admission/blog/you-got-rejected-so-what/)

**Write an appeal letter**

Certain colleges find it important to show interest in and dedication to the school’s vision, and extra considerations may be made for students who show genuine concern and interest in the school. Although there’s no guarantee that they’ll reverse their decision, you can [**write an appeal letter**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/admission/articles/college-applications/how-write-college-decision-appeal-letter/) to a college’s admission team if you get rejected or waitlisted. You never know—it could have been one little mistake that resulted in their decision, and being respectful and showing genuine interest in wanting to be a part of the school could go a long way for you. Be sure to inquire with the school’s admission team if there is an appeal process set in place before writing your letter.

**Take a gap year**

I wasn’t a huge fan of gap years until I found myself in a position where it became inevitable. Being an international student, there were [**certain issues regarding visa wait times**](https://www.collegexpress.com/interests/international-students/articles/applying-american-universities/covid-19s-impact-student-visas-and-scholarships/) that made me have to defer my admission to [**Ithaca College**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/ithaca-college/1100770/details/) for a year. Already having my college and enrollment sorted out, my gap year period has been used by being productive and taking up internships to have firsthand experience of the work culture I’ll be coming back to after my education in the United States.

If you find yourself [**taking an unexpected gap year**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/admission/blog/2-unexpected-reasons-take-gap-year/) because your college plans fell through, part of your time should be used to reapply to colleges and take a step back to see what major will be right for you. Here are some other valuable ways to spend your gap year and get ready for college:

* Retake the SAT, ACT, or any other tests that may be required and try to improve your scores.
* Get involved in more volunteering, leadership, and extracurricular activities.
* Apply for an internship or get a job to earn firsthand work experience and try out your interests. Explore any passions you may have put off during school, including hobbies and activities you’ve always wanted to try.
* If you can, travel or volunteer abroad for a month or two. Get in touch with the wonders of the world and open your mind to the numerous opportunities out there. Some popular travel abroad programs for gap year students include [**Semester at Sea**](https://www.semesteratsea.org/admissions/gap-year/), **[PlanMyGapYear](https://www.planmygapyear.co.uk/)**, **[Worldpackers](https://www.worldpackers.com/)**, **[VolunteerHQ](https://my.volunteerhq.org/users/new)**, and [**Volunteer World**](https://www.volunteerworld.com/en).

**Start at community college**

If you don’t want to miss out on college for a year, you can always go to community college, work hard to get good grades, then transfer to your dream college sophomore year. This route will make you stay on top of schoolwork and allow you to graduate on time, not to mention save you some money.

**Related:**[**The Pros and Cons of Transferring From Community College to a 4-Year School**](https://www.collegexpress.com/interests/transfer/articles/how-transfer/pros-and-cons-transferring-community-college-four-year-school/)

Remember: College rejection can be a redirection. It can open you up to countless opportunities, and you’ll get to explore yourself and your career options more. Best of luck wherever you land!

**Learn more about dealing with rejection, taking a gap year, and finding other schools to apply to by exploring all the articles and advice in our**[**College Admission**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/admission/)**section.**

# Direct Admission at Colleges: What to Know and How to Get Instantly Accepted

Direct admission is the latest movement in making college more accessible to all. If you're thinking of pursuing this option, here's what you need to know.

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Move over, college applications. There’s a new kid in town—and it’s called direct admission. Over the past several years, some colleges have been experimenting with this process to simplify applications and the admission process for students. It’s picking up speed and popularity with new direct admission platforms jumping on board just last year. Here’s what to know about this change in college admission and how it could benefit you.

## How direct admission works

With direct admit, instead of a student filling out multiple applications to individual colleges and waiting to hear whether they’ve been accepted, colleges and universities send non-binding admission offers to students. It starts with the interested student creating a free profile on a direct admission platform and including things like grades, interests, and what they want in a college. Colleges then screen the profiles and make offers of admission to those deemed a good fit, academically and otherwise. On some platforms, profiles even remain anonymous until the student expresses interest in an offer.

“This is one way institutions can scout out good students,” says Tracey Sheetz, Vice President of Enrollment at [**Washington & Jefferson College**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2017772/#2017772), which participated in Niche’s Direct Admissions program last fall. Sheetz sees direct admission as the academic equivalent of coaches scouting athletes. Students don’t need 4.0 GPAs, however. So far, participating colleges aren’t the highly selective types. Washington & Jefferson is happy with its experiment. “We’ve been quite pleased with the students who committed through [**direct admission**](https://www.washjeff.edu/future-students/direct-admission/),” Sheetz says.

To participate in direct admit, colleges partner with various online platforms, sometimes more than one. Some states are building their own systems, and even individual colleges are creating their own methods on a local level. But the wider-reaching platforms each work a bit differently. Niche, for example, has a 30-question direct admission form to fill out. (If you fill out this profile, you can still apply to other colleges with traditional applications.) Direct admission offers then come in on a rolling basis—starting in October or November, [**according to Inside Higher Ed**](https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2023/01/30/direct-admissions-continues-grow)—so students may find out early senior year if they were accepted somewhere. Usually offers require a detailed follow-up after admission is granted, so the process can still be involved—but at least you know you’re already in.

**Related:**[**How to Choose a College Once You're Accepted**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/admission/blog/how-choose-college-once-youre-accepted/)

### How direct admission started

The higher education world recognizes that applications are a barrier for many students, particularly those without college support at home. Many students worry about being rejected, think they don’t have what it takes, or assume they can’t afford college, so they don’t apply at all.  “Direct admission disproportionately supports disadvantaged students by [**eliminating common barriers**](https://www.niche.com/about/enrollment-insights/recruiting-underrepresented-students-for-2023/) to college admission, including early application deadlines, time-consuming applications, and expensive fees,” says Niche COO Athena Meyers.

## Direct admission platforms

Each direct admission platform has its own flavor and group of college partners. Some platforms are only available to students in a specific region or by college counselor invitation. But the list of interested colleges is growing, so keep an eye in this space of college admission. Here are the primary platforms you can use right now.

### Niche

Originating in February 2022 with just two colleges, [**Niche’s pilot program**](https://www.niche.com/about/direct-admissions) is now up to 25 colleges with more planned to join for the 2023–2024 admission cycle. Niche’s program is open to all students, and with more colleges being added, “there’s likely a great-fit college for every individual student,” Meyers says. Because the platform is still in the pilot phase, the information isn’t yet available on their home page.

### Common App

[**Common App Direct Admissions**](https://www.commonapp.org/directadmissions) has partnered with 14 colleges so far. Eligible students must meet a college’s minimum GPA requirement and be a resident of the college’s state. For example, [**Mercy College**](https://www.collegexpress.com/college/profile/2017031/#2017031) only accepts direct admit students from New York. If you receive an offer, you’ll then be prompted to fill out the College’s application (for free) with a Common App Direct Admissions code.

### Greenlight Match

Originally a platform for international students, [**Concourse Global partnered with EAB**](https://eab.com/concourse/) in 2021 to create [**Greenlight Match**](https://eab.com/products/college-greenlight/greenlight-match/), a domestic platform targeting low-income and first-generation students. Greenlight Match collaborates with colleges and community-based college-access organizations in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New York City, and Philadelphia. College access counselors help students with the process by inviting them to the platform. Kathy Rose, Executive Director of [**College Community Career**](https://collegecommunitycareer.org/), says Greenlight has been fantastic for student confidence with some receiving multiple offers to four-year colleges. If you live in one of these areas, ask your high school counselor if Greenlight Match is available to you.

### SAGE Scholars FastTrak®

SAGE Scholars is a tuition rewards program for private colleges that partners with more than 450 institutions nationwide. Now member students can sign up for its **[FastTrak admission program](https://www.tuitionrewards.com/benefits/fasttrak)** for free. Students create a profile and list their favorite colleges. All it takes to get admitted is a current email, GPA, transcripts, major or academic interests, sports and activities, and for you to “favorite” your colleges and universities of interest.

### Minnesota and Idaho

Some residents have their own state-based direct admit programs to take advantage of. In 2022–2023, more than 50 public and private technical, two-year, four-year colleges in Minnesota participated in a [**pilot program with 40+ Minnesota high schools**](http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=2484). In the fall, the program sent letters to students listing which in-state institutions they were admitted to. From there, students filled out a free application for any participating college they were interested in attending.

Meanwhile, Idaho is credited with being the founder of direct admission with its state program that launched in 2015. Resident students register on the [**Apply Idaho website**](https://apply.nextsteps.idaho.gov/Account/Login) then receive a letter letting them know which Idaho universities they’ve been accepted to. After that, they simply fill out individual university applications.

**Related:** [**Top 8 College Search Resources Students Need to Know About**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/admission/articles/find-college/college-search-websites-and-resources-students-should-know-about/)

## How direct admit affects financial aid and other things

Acceptance doesn’t necessarily mean affordability. Many direct admit [**colleges offer institutional scholarships**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/financial-aid/articles/scholarships-grants-loans/all-about-institutional-aid-and-scholarships/) along with admission, but even combined with other financial aid, it may not be enough. Be sure to fill out the FAFSA to ensure you receive all the aid you’re eligible for, such as Pell Grants or other need-based grants. “When you’re looking at that financial aid letter, look at the bottom line,” Sheetz says. Don’t get distracted by the size of a scholarship—look at the final cost to you. At Washington & Jefferson, students can schedule a meeting with the financial aid team to go through their award letter line by line to understand what it means. According to Rose, scholarship offers on the Greenlight Match platform have been mixed. “Some schools have been extremely generous,” she says. “Students are more excited about the schools that offer generous financial aid, and that might spur other colleges to do the same.”

Sheetz also cautions students to be honest about the GPAs they post on their direct admit profiles. Schools can retract scholarships and even admission offers if your final transcript doesn’t match your reported grades. She also recommends students be careful not to delete email offers as possible spam.

**Related:**[**How to Appeal Your College Financial Aid Package**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/financial-aid/articles/financial-aid-admissions/how-appeal-your-college-financial-aid-package/)

Overall, direct admission appears to be a great new way to access colleges you’ve maybe never heard of before. “These colleges aren’t going to be playing the national basketball championship, but they have some tremendous programs,” Rose says. “And for colleges, it’s a less expensive way to get students to notice your campus.” Because it’s so new, many high school counselors don’t know what direct admission is, so you’ll likely need to do your own research. But stay informed, because direct admission is likely to keep expanding.

**Less time applying to college means more time to apply for scholarships! Start looking for free money opportunities using our**[**Scholarship Search tool**](https://www.collegexpress.com/scholarships/search)**.**

**How to Finish Senior Year of High School on a Strong Note**

It's so easy to slack off at the end of senior year, but putting in the effort will pay off more in the long run. Here’s how you can finish up strong.

by [**Carolina Jacobs**](https://www.collegexpress.com/authors/Carolina%20Jacobs/)  
Managing Editor, Classrooms.com

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Senior year is a fun time that goes by fast, though the end of the year may seem like it’s taking forever! Staying ahead of everything you have to do is essential with so much going on. While it’s important to not slack off the last few months, you should also take a moment to appreciate how close you are to finishing high school. Although you’re almost done, here are some tips to help you finish senior year right.

**Double-check your graduation requirements**

At this point, you’ve nearly met all the requirements you need to graduate. Make sure you have all the necessary documents, classes, and other requirements accounted for. For example, New York State schools [**recommend students ask their counselors**](https://www.hesc.ny.gov/prepare-for-college/your-high-school-path-to-college/five-things-to-do-in-high-school.html) for volunteer options to pick up. Your school might require you to volunteer, fill out paperwork, or have a certain GPA. Ask your counselor for help if you’re unsure what the list of graduation conditions are.

**Stay organized and on schedule**

The temptation to put off homework is strong at the end of the school year, especially for seniors. But you’ll have an easier time and keep your GPA up if you stay organized. By keeping up with your last assignments, you’ll do better on your finals and look better to your future college. It might feel tough to stay on track with graduation so close, but it's easy if you stick to your routine.

Toward the end of senior year, you’ll also have more independence. Control over your schedule is great, but it can be challenging to balance fun and responsibility. Plan study sessions into your schedule. Staying motivated may be tough, but strict studying will pay off. Taking care of yourself is also part of staying organized. Experts recommend teenagers get [**eight to 10 hours of sleep every night**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/student-life/blog/top-sleep-hygiene-advice-tired-students/). Eating well and sleeping right will give you the energy to power through finals. You’ll have plenty of time to stay up as late as you want after graduation.

**Related:**[**How to Get Organized and Manage Time in High School**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/majors-and-academics/blog/how-get-organized-and-manage-your-time-high-school/)

**Compare and choose a college**

At this point, you should’ve heard back from most of the colleges you applied to, so check the mail and compare all the colleges that accepted you. Consider their locations, costs, programs, and much more. They’ll all give you unique experiences, so you should take your time when deciding. Once you’ve chosen one, congratulate yourself! Then it’s time to plan by budgeting for campus housing, meal plans, tuition, and other costs. Before you think about loans, ask your counselor about scholarship opportunities you may not have applied for yet. You’ll also have to enroll once you’ve chosen a college, and most schools require a deposit by May 1. Your college should have instructions online on how and when to submit it. Contact them if you can’t pay out-of-pocket so they can help you.

**Think about alternatives**

It’s okay if you’ve decided you want to take a gap year or get a job instead of going to college right away. Your school offers resources to prepare for the future regardless of your path. They might even provide career programs or contact businesses for you to research your options. You don’t have to figure your life out at 18, but having a loose plan is wise. If you did get accepted to a college you’d still like to attend, contact them about deferring for a semester or a year. After you figure out what you’ll do, look for opportunities to get ahead. You could apply for an internship or find a mentor to prepare yourself better. If you’re getting a job right out of high school, compare the pay and benefits of multiple businesses. It might give you a way to kick-start your long-term career.

**Celebrate yourself**

The end of the year will go by fast. You’ll have to budget, schedule, and study, but you can still have fun. Take part in school traditions and festivities! This time celebrates your achievements, so get involved. Set up a graduation party at the end of the year. Even if it’s just a small gathering, looking back on high school will be nice. Go with friends to your classmates’ graduation parties too. You’ll have a fun time making memories before you all head off in different directions.

**Related:**[**How to Have the Best Senior Prom**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/student-life/blog/how-have-best-senior-prom/)

You can make some changes in class and at home to stay on top of your schedule, meet your school’s graduation requirements, and finish your senior year strong. Then you’re free to spend the rest of your time having fun and preparing for whatever comes next. The rest of the year will go more smoothly if you stay organized and plan ahead.

**While you’re having fun, think ahead to everything you want to do before college in the fall with our article on**[**How to Spend Your Last Summer Before College**](https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/student-life/blog/how-spend-your-last-summer-college/)**.**