

College Admissions Checklist

Because College Changes Everything

Even after you have applied to a college, there's still work to be done!
Follow this checklist to ensure you are on track:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as soon after January 1 as possible. Watch for your Student Aid Report (SAR) and direct questions to your college's financial aid office.
- Go to www.iowaCollegeAid.gov and fill out the Iowa Financial Aid Application to apply for state scholarships and grants.
- Follow the enrollment directions in your official acceptance letter/email from your college. This will likely direct you to the college's website where you will need to log into their student information system. Don't hesitate to ask questions about the process.
- Check your college and university website to apply for any available scholarships.
- Use scholarship searches to find private scholarships and grants. Some reputable sites include: IHaveAPlanIowa.gov, ScholarshipAmerica.org, FastWeb.com, CollegeGreenLight.com, careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch and chegg.com/scholarships.
- Determine whether you will be living on or off campus. If you will be living on campus, submit a housing request and room deposit.
- Make certain that you understand your financial aid award letter from your college and what your options are to pay for your college expenses prior to accepting all or part of the aid offered.
- Watch for information from your college on how to register for summer orientation and any required testing.
- Attend orientation and enroll in classes. While there, ask about testing out of courses you excel in.
- Get to know your roommate and determine what you will need to bring to furnish your dorm or apartment.
- Don't melt this summer! "College Melt" means not showing up to college in the fall, even after following all the admissions and financial aid steps. You can avoid "College Melt" if you:
 1. Make plans for how to physically get to college in the fall and ask for help if you need it.
 2. Stay active over the summer through jobs, internships, sports and clubs.
 3. Ask for help if you have questions over the summer about your orientation, financial aid, college costs, placement tests or class registration.

