

Applying to College Timeline

Step 1

Starting in
September of
senior year

Complete your online college application.

The UW application is fairly long and contains 2+ essay-type questions. Some UW schools will use that application to also determine freshmen scholarship awards. UW applications can be submitted on or after August 1 of your senior year at <https://apply.wisconsin.edu>.

Many private colleges/universities will accept the Common Application, which can be found at <https://www.commonapp.org/> Each school will probably also have their own application on their own website. Each private college/university is its own “entity”, so their application procedures vary depending on the school.

Wisconsin’s Technical College applications can be found on each technical college website, or at <https://www.wistechcolleges.org/apply/apply-now>. Some colleges/programs allow students to apply at the end of their junior year, but most students will apply at the beginning of their senior year.

Step 2

Very soon after
application

After completing the application, students should watch their personal email for access codes/student ID’s. Once students receive this information, it is VERY important that they **should set up their college/university emails and their student portals**. After this, students and parents need to **be vigilant about checking the emails and portals** for information and “next steps” for the student.

Step 3

2 weeks to 1 month after application

Acceptance letters/notices may come via email and/or via paper mail. These acceptance letters will often be sent to the student at their college/university email and/or portals, which is why it is very important to set these up as soon as possible after applying to college.

After being notified of acceptance, students should get on top of any college/university-specific scholarships.

Keep a copy of the acceptance letter for future scholarship needs.

Step 4

throughout senior year

Colleges/Universities will notify students (via their college emails and portals) of many things throughout the senior year, including:

- ⇒ **An enrollment deposit:** schools often ask for a fee (\$100 is common) to confirm that the student is planning to attend their school.
- ⇒ **Housing:** if the student plans to live in on-campus housing, then watch for housing applications, deadlines, and housing deposit requirements. If the student plans to live off campus, plan to search for available housing any time during the student's senior year.
- ⇒ **Placement testing:** many UW schools will require math and English placement tests. The tests can be done at various UW campuses in the spring of the senior year.
- ⇒ **Advising appointments:** some colleges will ask their future students to meet with advisors in their major area. If advising appointments are not required, students can still request to meet with someone on the campus of their choice.
- ⇒ **Class registration and Freshmen days:** watch for information about registering for freshmen classes and/or attending freshmen visit days.