

CEC College & Career Planning

How Do I Apply To College?

- Step 1:** Look on your prospective college websites for important application deadlines and requirements like letters of recommendation. We recommend getting a wall calendar or some other type of calendar and start to mark the deadlines on the calendar for the various universities.
- Step 2:** Meet with your advisor if you need assistance. College planning can be done during your regular advising appointment each semester or email your advisor to schedule a separate appointment.
- Step 3:** Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). Colleges and most scholarship applications require that you submit a FAFSA. The Application for the following school year opens October 1st.
- Step 4:** Start the application process for your chosen universities! Check to see if the universities you have chosen accept the [Common App](#). For students applying to Colorado universities, there is a [free application day October 18-20](#) where application fees are waived and free community college transcripts can be ordered.
- Step 5:** Don't forget to request letters of recommendation from teachers and advisors. While the request may be sent through the common app, **it's common courtesy to reach out to your teacher and advisor to let them know you are requesting a letter. Make sure you are giving them ample time to write the letter.** [Click here for the letter of recommendation request form.](#)
- Step 6:** Order your CEC transcripts through Parchment. Create a [Parchment Account here.](#)
- Step 7:** Take the SAT and/or the ACT. CEC offers the SAT for free in the spring. Many students take the SAT or ACT more than once to improve their scores. Additional tests come with a fee, but you can register to take them again through the [College Board](#). You will also go to College Board to request your scores be sent to the universities to which you are applying.

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Senior Timeline

September/October:

- October 1: Complete the [FAFSA application](#) if you are a US Citizen or Permanent Resident. If you are not a US Citizen or Permanent Resident, complete the [Colorado Application for State Finance Aid \(CASFA\)](#).
- October 18-20: During [Colorado Free Application Days](#), you can submit college application to most state colleges for free!
- Complete the online Graduation Application before your spring academic advising appointment.
- Pay attention to early application deadlines for the colleges to which you are applying.
- Register to retake [ACT &/or SAT](#) tests if original scores were lower than desired.
- Begin requesting letters of recommendation for college applications. Email staff directly for recommendations.
- Fall is a great time to take your senior photos!

November:

- Submit college applications and plan visits (ongoing)
- If you think there are errors on your CEC transcript, submit a [CEC Transcript Correction Form](#)
- Graduating from Arapahoe Community College? Log into your MyACC student portal to apply for graduation.
- Request CEC Transcripts through [Parchment](#).

December:

- [CEC Transcript Correction Form](#) due to Ms. Connelly/Ms. Webb by December 1
- [CEC Graduation Application](#) Form due to Ms. Connelly/Ms. Webb by December 1

January:

- Order yearbook (link to order coming soon)
- Complete [FAFSA application if you haven't done so already](#).
- Senior Pictures and Senior Ads due (T.B.D).
- Apply for college scholarships (ongoing)
- Complete and submit college financial aid applications if not already done.
- Submit college applications, if not already done.
- Graduating from Red Rocks CC in the spring? Graduation application deadline is _____
- Graduating from CCD? Graduation application deadline is _____

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February:

- CEC auditions for walking graduates wishing to perform in the ceremony is T.B.D.
- Contact the admissions office for the college(s) to which you have applied, and make sure you have submitted all necessary paperwork
- Place Jostens order for graduation announcements (link to order coming soon)

March:

- Contact the financial aid office at the college(s) and make sure your information was received
- Order cap and gown (link to order coming soon)
- Graduating from ACC in the spring? Deadline for the graduation application is _____

April:

- [CEC Post-Graduate Questionnaire](#) Form due to Ms. Connelly/Ms. Webb.

May:

- Decide on which college you are attending and notify the school by May 1
- CEC fees and books due by (Date and Time T.B.D.) (diplomas and transcripts will be held until balance is current)
- CEC Yearbooks arrive and distributed
- Graduation Rehearsal: Date and Time T.B.D.
- Senior Breakfast: Date and Time T.B.D.
- CEC Graduation: May 19

June:

- CEC diplomas available for pickup in front office in June (account must be current; records will not be released if there is a balance on the student account)
- Send final transcript to the college you plan on attending

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There's help available in reaching your academic and career goals!

The scholarship search and application process are tailored to each student's academic and co-curricular interests and future post-graduate goals. The advising team is here to guide students through the financial aid and scholarship process. We want to help you reach your goals. Please contact your advisor if you have any questions!

Listed below are several resources to help students with the college decision and application process.



ONLINE COLLEGE RESEARCH TOOLS

- [Big Future by the College Board](#)
- [National Center for Education Statistics](#)
- [Trade Schools, Colleges and Universities](#)
- [National Center for Education Statistics](#)
- [College Confidential](#)
- [Colorado Community College System](#)
- [My Colorado Journey](#)
- [Petersons](#)
- [The College Board](#)
- [GoCollege](#)
- [NCAA Eligibility Center for College Sports](#)

ONLINE CAREER RESEARCH TOOLS

- [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)
- [O*NET](#)
- [My Colorado Journey](#)

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH ENGINES

Before you start looking for scholarships using a scholarship search service, you may want to read this [article by Collegescholarships.org](#) that reviews some of the search services.

- [FAFSA 4Caster](#)
- [FAFSA YouTube Channel](#)
- [FastWeb Scholarship Search](#)
- [FinAid!](#)
- [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)
- [SallieMae](#)
- [CAPPEX](#)
- [UNIGO](#)
- [BIGFUTURE](#)
- [BROKESCHOLAR](#)
- [The University Network](#)
- [Colorado College Opportunity Fund \(COF\)](#)

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Below are some of the scholarships available to Colorado students.

[Daniel's Fund Scholarship: October 15](#)

- Be a **high school senior** graduating from a school in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming
- Be a **resident of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming**
- Be a **citizen or permanent resident of the United States**
- Earn a minimum **Grade Point Average of 3.0 in high school** (on an unweighted 4.0 scale)
- Earn a minimum **SAT Math score of 490 and a minimum Evidence-Based Reading & Writing score of 490**, or a minimum **ACT score of 18** in each category (writing score not required). Super scoring is not accepted.
- Meet financial eligibility requirements as described.

[Coca-Cola Scholarship: October 31](#)

- Current high school (or home-schooled) student attending a school **in the U.S.** (or select DoD schools) who will graduate during the 2022-2023 academic school year
- U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, U.S. Permanent Residents, Refugees, Asylees, Cuban-Haitian Entrants, or Humanitarian Parolees - based on the guidelines utilized by U.S. Department of Education for Federal Financial Aid eligibility
- Expecting to receive high school diploma during current academic year
- Planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S. post-secondary institution
- Able to verify a minimum overall B/3.0 GPA in high school coursework

[Boettcher Scholarship: November 1](#)

- Be a graduating Colorado high school senior who has lived in Colorado for your full junior and senior years of high school;
- Apply during the fall of what is your final year of high school (the equivalent of your senior year), even if you are graduating early or considering taking a gap year after graduation;
- Graduate from a Colorado high school; and
- Be a citizen, legal permanent resident, or lawfully present (including through Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)) in the United States OR Meet the requirements and have applied or started the process of applying for citizenship, legal status or lawful presence. (Although students can be in the application process for citizenship, legal status, or lawful presence during the Boettcher selection timeframe, in order to become a Boettcher Scholar, you must provide documentation that shows you have successfully completed the process.)