



PARENT PLANNING GUIDE

4 YEAR COLLEGE

If your child is planning to attend a Four Year College in Fall 2021, here is a checklist of important steps that you can help them complete before graduation!

If your child has not already done so:

- ✔ **Complete Admissions Application:** If your child has not already applied, have them do so immediately.
- ✔ **Submit or update the FAFSA & State Grant Application:** Submitting the FAFSA requires your input and information, and will impact your child's financial aid options. If you have not already done this, this is your step to do now! Be sure that all colleges that your child applied to are included on the list. State Grant applications can be found here for PA and here for NJ
- ✔ **Apply for Scholarships:** Encourage your child to continue to search for scholarships that will help make college more affordable. Their College Advisor can provide resources.

Before May 1:

- ✔ **Review Acceptance & Financial Aid Award Letters:** Acceptance letters will be sent by mid-March. Schools may request additional information, so be sure to read all the additional paperwork that comes with the acceptance letter.
- ✔ **If Your Child is Waitlisted:** Have them notify the college or university that they are still interested and ask if there is anything they can do to increase the likelihood of acceptance.
- ✔ **Take a Campus Tour:** Some schools are beginning to offer in person campus tours with safety protocols, while others are offering virtual visits. Schedule a campus tour of your child's top choices as a refresher of strengths and differences to help with final decision making.
- ✔ **Schedule a Decision Meeting with your Child's College Advisor:** During this meeting, a member of Mastery's Post Secondary team will walk through your child's final decision and answer any questions you have about next steps and financial aid. Meetings will be held in late April.
- ✔ **Make a Final Decision:** After your child has received their acceptances, compared financial aid offers and picked the best next step for them, submit their enrollment form and deposit. This should ideally occur before May 1 to guarantee their housing options and spot.

Take a moment and celebrate, but there's still a few more things to do:

- ✔ **Prep for AP Tests:** If your child is taking AP classes, they will test in early May. Make sure they are up to date on course work and doing a bit of extra studying to prepare. AP test scores can earn your child college credit.
- ✔ **Get Ready for Graduation:** Your child's school will be in touch with their plans for a Covid-safe ceremony. You're almost at the finish line!

Students with Accommodations

After your child has submitted their enrollment paperwork, they will need to request accommodations from the disability services office at their intended college.

Talk to your child's case manager about the accommodations he/she has received during high school and how it has helped. Make sure to include your child in that conversation. Then have your child schedule an initial meeting.