

Congratulations, You've Applied! Now What?

Promptly After Submission/ Before Acceptance:

- Set up your "portal" and/ or email at each school you applied to. (Some require both!)
- ☐ Keep a list of log-in IDs and passwords. (Each school has different requirements.)
- ☐ Check portals, personal email, and school emails **regularly**. They will be continually updated with essential information, dates, and deadlines.
 - ↪ Some universities require additional information such as transcripts and classes you intend to take in the following semester. **These will have strict deadlines and require processing time!**
- Research and apply to scholarships at your potential schools. *(Yes, even before you know if you're in. You can always reject an offer later, but you can't get an offer unless you apply!)*
- ☐ Make a priority list of the schools you would like to attend by order of preference.
 - ↪ What are your personal priorities? *i.e. child care, study abroad, research, housing, financial aid.*
- ☐ Begin a budget and review each school's Estimated Cost of Attendance.
- ☐ Visit as many of your potential schools as possible. While there, make an appointment or stop by your department (major or program).
- ☐ Make an appointment with advisors/counselor, peer mentor, or program staff to discuss options.
- ☐ Do not slack during your last semester(s) at Columbia! Those grades transfer too!
- ☐ DO NOT make a decision and accept an offer until you have heard from all of the schools.
- Explore each schools' website and see what programs they offer:
 - ↪ Special programs for transfer, re-entry, parents, and other services
 - ↪ Look into TRiO programs, they might have a different name but similar services

After Acceptance:

- ☐ Update your initial priority list; explore your university portals because NEW information will be added once you are accepted!!
- ☐ **Check your financial aid award.** The amount awarded varies by school and can change throughout the summer.
- ☐ Research loan information and update you personalized budgets.
- ☐ Attend transfer day at all the schools you are considering and visit the schools you have not yet seen.
 - ↪ Most schools have a day dedicated to transfer students in which services can be explored and basic questions can be answered.
 - ↪ **Speak to your major department or other transfer counselors, in person or on the phone.**
- ☐ Explore the department website in which you were accepted to:
 - ↪ Staff members in the department and classes offered. (Look in the catalogue!)
 - ↪ Research and internship opportunities.
 - ↪ Department **specific scholarships** and resources (i.e. peer advisors or mentors and tutoring).

After You Choose:

- ☐ **BY THE POSTED DEADLINE** accept the offer from the school and financial aid, loan, and/or scholarship offers. (**Intent to Enroll/Attend deadlines are strict!** May 1st for CSUs, June 1st for UCs generally but ALWAYS CHECK- they will not remind you to take action, you must do it yourself.)
 - ↪ Usually done through your student portal.
- ☐ **Apply for housing ASAP-** they fill up fast! Explore options for employment, child care, and community resources (i.e. public transportation) in the area you are planning to live
- ☐ **Finalize a budget.** (see a TRiO Peer Mentor or Advisor for help)
- ☐ Sign up/Attend the University Orientation (this usually has a cost).
- Apply for more scholarships offered by the school and your major's department.
- ☐ Further explore the major/department you were accepted into, use their website or call staff/faculty.
- ☐ Update portal and email to watch for deadlines! Each school varies but extra paperwork **will** be required such as final transcripts, immunization records, and financial aid documents.

***** Remember your TRiO Peer Mentors, Counselors, and Project Director are available for appointments to help with every step of the process. So don't wait, start as soon as possible!! *****