

Section III: What is needed to apply for college

Applying for college is not a simple process. There are some things parents and students need to do to ensure they make the most informed choice about which colleges to apply to is made. It is important to know the sequence and the steps to follow when applying for college. Following are some examples of what parents and students should do to learn more about the application process and about those colleges in which the student may be interested:

- Participate in college-related activities at high school.
- Request catalogs, financial aid information, and applications from specific colleges.
- Request materials and applications in a timely manner, and keep track of application deadlines.
- Review requirements for admission.
- If possible, visit the schools in consideration, or at least communicate with their representatives to get more information.
- Find out which test—the SAT or ACT—the institution requires and make arrangements to take the test.
- Identify at least three people who can write letters of recommendation. It is important to give these people as much time as possible to write and send the letters of recommendation.
- When preparing the college application(s), read the entire application carefully and follow the instructions. If the application is difficult to understand, seek help from a counselor, teacher, or person with experience and knowledge.
- It is good to practice filling out the application on a copy of the original, so that the original final version has no mistakes. Complete all sections of the application form, and double check all the facts for accuracy and correctness.
- Mail the applications on time, and ensure that all required materials such as transcripts, health certificates, application fees, and test scores also arrive to the institution on time.
- It is helpful to keep a list of the applications sent, as well as keep track of acceptances, rejections, and financial aid awards. If an acceptance letter is issued, it is important to communicate with the institution regarding the decision in a timely manner. It is equally important to meet deadlines when accepting or rejecting any financial aid awarded.
- Arrange for a final high school transcript to be sent to the chosen college upon graduation.

To find additional information about helping your child prepare for college, go to Student Aid Website at

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/spanish/parents.jsp>.