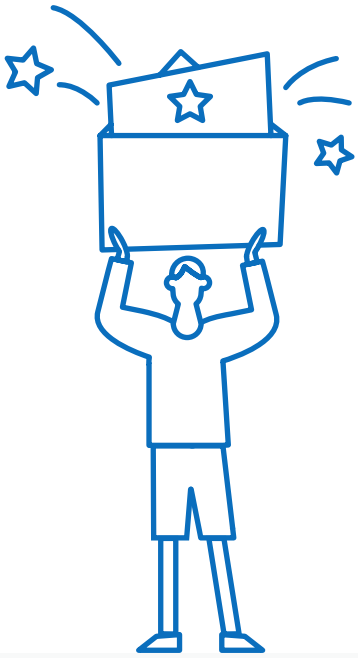
common app



Determining college fit from your direct admissions offer

You got a direct admissions offer (or many!)... now what? Getting a direct admissions offer doesn't mean you have to act on it. Remember, Common App limits you to 20 colleges you can apply to. Before acting on a direct admissions offer, use these tips to determine if it's the right fit for you.

Confirm major availability & career alignment

Check that the institution offers your intended major or minor and that that program is eligible for direct admission. If your intended field of study is not included in the direct admissions offer, you can reach out to the college admissions office to learn how to apply to that program. Also, it's ok not to know what you want to study just yet!

Calculate costs & financial aid

Review tuition expenses alongside financial aid offers, scholarship opportunities and matches in your Common App account, and overall costs to determine your true out-of-pocket expenses before deciding. Use a net price calculator or early cost estimation tool to determine your possible out-of-pocket expenses. You should compare all financial aid awards you get after you act on your offers before deciding where you will attend.

Look beyond college rankings

Focus on what's important to you — campus life, extracurricular activities, location, and available student resources — rather than brand prestige or school rankings. Use the college search section and college information pages to explore what the colleges have to offer.

Research internships & post-grad outcomes

Investigate career support, internship options, and job placement opportunities to confirm the school can support your professional goals.

Track deadlines & post-offer requirements

Verify that you meet all eligibility criteria, review post-acceptance application requirements, and keep track of decision deadlines.

Remember offers are non-binding

Keep in mind that direct admissions offers are non-binding — giving you room to weigh every factor without pressure before committing with a confident "Yes" or "No".

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