

GAcollege411 Applying to College Transcript

Hi there and welcome to GAcollege411's College Application tutorial. Over the next couple minutes, I'll outline what you should do before filling out your college application, how to fill out an online application using GAcollege411 and finally, the next steps after you've applied to college.

Okay. So, let's begin. Before you can fill out a college application, you'll need to know which schools you actually want to apply to; start by using the 'School Finder' tool in the 'Explore Schools' section. Here you will have to a chance to select specific criteria that you want in a college. Begin with the important factors such a major, location and tuition and then gradually add more specifications until you have a handful of colleges to explore. Once you've reviewed a few college profiles and their websites, save the ones you like best to your portfolio. When you're confident that you know which colleges you want to apply to, then you're ready to take the next step.

Click on the 'Application' section beneath the 'College Planning' tab. Now, because anything worth doing is worth doing well, before you jump into filling out your college application you should start by filling out the practice application first. That way you'll know what to expect on the real thing and will be bettered prepared to put your best foot forward. It generally takes about 30 to 45 minutes to fill out a practice application, but consider it time well spent, just like how you would spend time studying before a test or practicing before a big game. So, a pop-up screen will appear with your practice application and as you see here, on the first screen, you'll start by filling out your name and address. On the second screen you'll have to provide some personal information. On the third is where you'll enter your enrollment information. On the fourth, you'll add your educational information. On screen five, you'll want to fill out your activities and interests. And then finally, on screen six, you'll include your family information. Once you're done, you'll submit your completed application and type your name at the bottom as though you were signing an official signature. Your practice application will be forwarded along to your designated advisor, so either your teacher or guidance counselor. Then, if you'd like, they can review it with you and provide any comments or suggestions they may have.

Alright, now, let's take a look at the real thing. This process generally takes a little longer so you should probably set aside about an hour or so. Now, if you'd like, you can search for schools either by name or alphabetically, by region or state but ideally, you should have saved your favorite schools to your portfolio in which case, there should be no need to do a search. Instead, we'll just click on your 'Saved Schools' tab and next, click on 'Apply' beneath the 'Undergraduate' column. Just like when we practiced, a pop-up screen will appear with your chosen school's online application. Every application may look slightly different depending on the school's colors and what-not, but they all more or less ask for the same info that we reviewed earlier. You'll want to read through all this information on the first page and when you're ready, click on 'Begin application'. So, you'll see here that they ask for the same type of info that we saw before even though the format is slightly different, which is to be expected. There are thousands of schools out there so not every application format is going to be exactly the same but, at least, if you do the practice application first, you'll have an idea of what to expect. Go through all the sections as we did before with the practice version and be sure to

double-check your information for any errors. You can skip back and forth between sections using the arrow buttons at the bottom or the page menu at the side. When you're done filling out the application, click 'Submit'. You will now receive a confirmation page. Print this page off for your records and follow the instructions provided for the specific college application. For instance, some schools will require you send the confirmation page back to the college with a check for the non-refundable application fee. Meanwhile, others will not. Application fees vary from school to school. They can be anywhere between \$15 to \$50 but they're generally pretty affordable. You can usually find out how much a school's fee will be on the first page of information before you fill out the application.

Now, if you don't complete an application, when you return to the 'Application and Transcripts' page, you'll see that it will say 'applications in progress' so you can just click here to resume filling it out later or, if for some reason you change your mind, you can just remove it. However, if you complete an application, then this page will track which colleges you've applied to and will link to a copy of the application confirmation form for your records.

Once you apply to all your schools, you'll want to work on your financial aid plan. If you're awarded any special grants from the schools you've applied to, then you'll be able to take those into account as you calculate cost using the 'Financial Aid Wizard'.

To take the next steps towards achieving your education and career goals, I recommend you also check out GAcademy411's Financial Aid Planning tutorial.