

Save Your \$\$\$: How to Get Fee Waivers

Between college application fees, sending your test scores, and filing the CSS Profile you could be on the hook for anywhere between [\\$400-1,000 to apply to colleges](#). Yikes! Not to worry though! There are plenty of ways to obtain *fee waivers* which can help reduce, if not outright remove, this cost to you!

Fee Waivers in the Common Application & Coalition App

Common App: If you meet certain criteria, you can go into the [Common App portal](#) and obtain fee waivers. **Coalition App:** Similarly, you must indicate that you meet certain criteria within the [Coalition App portal](#).

School-Specific Applications

If you are applying to a school that doesn't use the Common or Coalition App: A quick Google search of "[Insert School Name Here] Fee Waiver" will take you to the schools fee waiver policy page.

Ask Your Counselor

High schools are usually able to provide a small number of fee waivers – set up an appointment with your counselor as soon as you to see if you can obtain some from them.

Ask Colleges Themselves!

If you can't find the answer, or for whatever reason hit a wall trying to obtain a fee waiver, **contact a school's admissions office!** Most colleges want to be accessible, and will waive your application fee if you can explain to them why you can't pay!

Non-profits/Community Based Organizations

If you work with any other non-profits or community based organizations that help you with school, they may be able to provide additional fee waivers (we unfortunately cannot!).

How do I know if I qualify for a fee waiver?

Generally, if you fit any of the following criteria you qualify for a fee waiver:

- You received an SAT or ACT waiver
- You are enrolled in a Free or Reduced Price Lunch program
- You are enrolled in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income backgrounds (TRIO, Upward Bound, etc.)
- Your family is on public assistance
- You live in federally subsidized housing or are homeless
- Are a ward of the state or an orphan

Even if you don't fit these criteria, if you can show colleges that application fees are a financial burden for your family, you may be able to receive waivers!