



ST. JOHN'S
NORTHWESTERN
ACADEMIES

Enrollment Deadlines, Housing Contracts, and More!

National College Decision Day is May 1st. This is the deadline most universities (aside from colleges with rolling admissions) have in place for students to pay their enrollment deposit to secure their spot as incoming freshmen. After this date, if a university does not get your enrollment, they may determine that you are no longer interested and your admissions spot may be passed along to deferred students or those on the waitlist. To commit to a college, you must pay a non-refundable deposit that will go towards your tuition and follow other specific steps for enrollment. **College-bound seniors must commit to their school of choice before May 1st to ensure that their enrollment is secured.** *Some schools have extended the deadline to May 15 - check your admissions portal to confirm which deadline you need to meet.*



In this *College and Career Corner*, we'll go over the enrollment process and some key steps that students and their families will need to complete before they are officially enrolled as university students.

Since the beginning of the year, students have received a variety of admissions decisions from colleges and universities. Now is the time for them to reconsider all of their acceptances, weigh the pros and cons of each school, and come to a decision on where they want to enroll. They will reexamine the cost of attendance at each institution, the various majors, programs, and curriculum of each school, the travel time and location, and the multifaceted student life experiences at each.



Once they have narrowed down where they want to go, now it is time to enroll. Regardless of how simple or complicated the enrollment process is, following this straightforward checklist can help ensure that students complete the necessary paperwork and affirmations to confirm their interest in attending a college or university.

Step 1 - Access Your Student Portal. After applying to a school, each student should have received instructions on what to do next and how to register their student portal account at each university. These portals provide helpful information such as financial aid offerings, to-do lists, messages, updates, and more. The portal also is where students will accept their admittance and officially enroll at the university.

Step 2 - Notification of Intent and Enrollment Fee. Enrolling could be as simple as clicking a “confirm my enrollment” button or be an 8-step admissions contract that students need to go through and electronically sign. There is typically an enrollment fee, which is later put towards your tuition, that you pay as a deposit to secure your spot at the college. These fees are sometimes waived, but they typically range from \$250 - \$500.

Step 3 - File FAFSA. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2022-2023 school year has been open since October of last year and the majority of students have already filed to see if they qualify for any need-based aid, grants, work-study opportunities, or federal student loans. If you have not yet filed your FAFSA, the federal deadline for filing is June 30, 2022. Most universities will have financial aid deadlines well in advance, so if you have not yet filed, make sure you do so as soon as possible.

Step 4 - Apply for Housing. Most universities that offer residential housing will require a student to choose from a variety of housing options and sign a contract. This contract typically includes both room and board (the on-campus housing/dorm rooms and meal plan options), but they may be separate contracts depending on the university. Before signing up for housing, students should research which dorm options are available to them as freshmen and determine which building or location they like best. They often have the ability to list multiple top choices or preferences for housing, or can list “no preference,” in which case the university would pick housing at random for them.

Step 5 - Take Placement Tests. Regardless of what your grades are in any former or current classes, most universities require that their incoming freshmen take placement tests in a variety of core subjects in order to determine which classes to place them into. Math and English are the most commonly required placement tests, though some universities may also require you to take tests in Writing, Reading, or Foreign Language. Most placement tests are online and can be done at your convenience. In some instances, students may submit their ACT scores in lieu of placement tests, but



this varies greatly depending on the institution. Check your to-do lists in your student portal for clarification.

Step 6 - Register for Orientation. Once your placement tests are completed, your last step to complete your enrollment is to sign up for an on-campus orientation. Orientation helps ease the transition into college and provides you with all of the necessary information you'll need for move-in day, registering for classes, and more! You will also have the opportunity to tour your campus again, meet other incoming students, and become more familiar with campus services. Orientations are usually a mandatory part of enrollment and are conducted over the summer. Depending on the size of the school you will attend, there could be multiple orientations offered throughout the summer that you could register for. Just make sure your placement tests are completed first so you can register for the appropriate classes.

Step 7 - Sending Final High School Transcripts. The final step in enrolling at a college or university is to have your College and Career Counselor submit your official high school transcript, which includes all of your final grades from your senior year. This is available after graduation and must be submitted to your university of choice over the summer as proof that you completed all of your necessary high school courses and have graduated. All that students or their families have to do is to notify the College and Career Counselor of which college they would like the transcript sent to.



If you have any questions or would like help with the enrollment process, please visit the College and Career Counselor, Ms. Catherine Lewis, in room 116 or reach out via email at clewis@sjnacademies.org or call 262-646-7283.