Student Instructions on Day of Event

Congratulations! You are taking the first step necessary for going to college – applying! OCAM is a program designed to assist you with this process. Be aware, there are several things you will need to do after today to complete the college application process. Most importantly, as part of this event, you will have an opportunity to begin the process of submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) which will help you determine the financial aid you are eligible to receive.

The college and financial application process in 10 Steps!

Step 1: If you are applying online, go to the college application website and find the colleges to which you are prepared to apply. This could be a website with multiple college applications or the specific website of the college(s) to which you are applying. Check with your school counselor or a volunteer if you are unsure. If you are not applying to college online, get a hard copy of the admissions application from your school counselor.

Step 2: If you think you qualify for an application fee waiver – talk to your school counselor.

Step 3: Complete the application(s) to the colleges and universities to which you want to apply.

Step 4: Make note of any additional items you need to submit with your application (essay, transcripts, SAT or ACT scores, recommendation letters).

Step 5: Print out a copy of your confirmation page if you applied online. If you are applying through a paper application, talk to your school counselor about how to make a copy of your application. Keep the confirmation page or a copy of the application for your records!

Step 6: Register for your FSA ID – you will need this to complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid after your college applications are submitted. Many grants, loans, and scholarships will require that you submit a FAFSA so this is a very important step. Go here to register for your FSA ID: https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid

You will need your Social Security Number (SSN), your mailing address, and an email address to complete the process. REMEMBER YOUR FSA ID! Write it down and take a picture of it on your phone, if that will help you remember it and keep it in a safe place!

Step 7: After you submit your college application and register for your FSA ID, be sure to submit the OCAM's student survey. Your feedback is extremely important to us.

Step 8: Complete the student sign-out sheet before you leave the computer lab. You will need to list the colleges you applied to and whether you completed the FSA ID process.

Step 9: Be sure to get the handouts provided by your school after you sign-out!

Step 10: Follow-up! Make sure you submit any additional information the colleges you applied to require. This could include recommendation letters, test scores, and high school transcripts. Also, the next important step in the process is completing your FAFSA. You already have your FSA ID, make sure you submit your FAFSA early – it is available October 1st!

Congratulations! You are on your way!