
Free College Application Week Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Free College Application Week?

A: Free College Application Week is a new program created by Texas Senate Bill 2231 (2025). It requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to set the **second full week of October** as a free application period. During this week, all Texas residents can apply to public undergraduate programs in Texas through [ApplyTexas](#) without paying application fees.

Q: When will Free College Application Week take place?

A: The Free College Application Week begins in the 2025–2026 academic year, with the first week being October 13 – October 19, 2025. In the future, Free College Application Week will begin on the second Monday in October and continue through the following Sunday.

Q: Who is eligible?

A: All [Texas residents](#) applying through ApplyTexas for undergraduate admission to public higher education institutions in Texas are eligible.

Q: How does Free College Application week work?

A: Applications that are submitted between 12:00 a.m. CST on October 13, 2025, through 11:59 p.m. CST on October 19, 2025, through ApplyTexas will be free.

Q: Is the fee waiver available to international students?

A: The fee waiver is available to Texas residents only. All Texas residents can apply for free as part of Free Application Week. For more information about who is considered a Texas resident, students should visit [The Texas Residency Guidelines](#). This site provides details on the residency classification process.

Q: Does the waiver apply to graduate program applications?

A: No, the fee waiver currently applies only to undergraduate admissions. Texas residents can submit their applications with no fee to undergraduate programs only during Free Application Week. Graduate program applications are not covered by this fee waiver during the event.

Q: Are transfer students eligible to participate?

A: Yes, transfer students can participate in Free College Application Week.

Q: Are public institutions required to make all applications free during Free College Application Week?

A: THECB rules state that public institutions must waive fees for applications submitted through ApplyTexas. It is up to each individual institution to decide if they want to waive fees using other admissions platforms.

Q: Are community colleges included in Free College Application Week?

A: Yes. All community colleges funded and operated by the State of Texas are public and must waive application fees during Free College Application Week.

Q: Will public colleges and universities still accept fee waivers outside of Free College Application Week?

A: Public institutions will follow their regular procedures for accepting fee waivers for eligible students outside of Free College Application Week.

Q: How will institutions determine if a student qualifies for Free College Application Week?

A: Institutions will use the submission timestamp in ApplyTexas to determine if a student qualifies. Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST at the end of the designated week to be eligible for free status. Applications created but not submitted will not be eligible.

Q: What are a student's next steps after submitting an application during Free College Application Week?

A: The student will need to submit any supplemental materials the institutions of higher education request.

Q: Are students applying as returning or visiting students eligible?

A: If the student is completing an undergraduate application, yes, the student's application is eligible for the fee waiver.

Q: Does Free College Application Week apply to all available semesters in ApplyTexas?

A: Yes, students may submit applications to any available semester if the application is submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST on October 19, 2025.