

Free College Application Week Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Free College Application Week?

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

Q: When will Free College Application Week take place?

A: This year, Free College Application Week begins on Monday, October 12, and ends on Sunday, October 18, 2026. Students are encouraged to create profiles in ApplyTexas as early as possible to save time when submitting applications that week.

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: Undergraduate admission applications submitted through ApplyTexas between 12:00 a.m. CDT on October 12, 2026, through 11:59 p.m. CDT on October 18, 2026, will be free for Texas residents. Eligible undergraduate admission application types include Undergraduate (two-year), Undergraduate (four-year), Transfer, Returning Student, and Visiting Student applications.

Q: Is the fee waiver available to out-of-state or international students?

A: The fee waiver is available to Texas residents only. All Texas residents can submit undergraduate admission applications at no cost as part of Free College Application Week. For more information about who is considered a Texas resident, visit the THECB's [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.

Q: Are transfer students eligible to participate?

A: Yes, undergraduate transfer students can participate in Free College Application Week, including Texas residents who are transferring from an out-of-state school.

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

A: The THECB rules state that public institutions must waive fees for all undergraduate admission applications submitted through ApplyTexas during that week. Each individual institution must decide whether they want to waive fees using other admission platforms.

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

A: Yes, all public community colleges must waive application fees for eligible undergraduate admission applications submitted by Texas residents through ApplyTexas during Free College Application Week. Dual credit applications are not eligible for the fee waiver.

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

A: Yes, public colleges and universities will continue to accept application fee waivers for eligible students outside of Free College Application Week.

Q: How will institutions determine whether an application is eligible for the Free College Application Week fee waiver?

A: Institutions will use the submission time stamp in ApplyTexas to determine whether a student qualifies. Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CDT at the end of the designated week to be eligible for the application fee waiver. Applications created but not submitted during that week will not be eligible.

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

A: After submitting an application, the student should review the institution's admission requirements and submit any additional or supplemental materials requested by the institution.

Q: Are Returning Student and Visiting Student application types eligible for the Free College Application Week fee waiver?

A: Yes. Returning Student and Visiting Student are undergraduate application types. If the applicant is a Texas resident submitting one of these application types through ApplyTexas during Free College Application Week, the application is eligible for the fee waiver.

Q: Does Free College Application Week only apply to the upcoming fall semester?

A: No. Texas residents may submit eligible undergraduate applications for any available semester in ApplyTexas during Free College Application Week. To be eligible for the fee waiver, these applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CDT on October 18, 2026.

Q: Are private schools participating in Free College Application Week?

A: Private colleges and universities are not required to participate in Free College Application Week. However, some institutions may choose to waive fees during that time. Students should check the admissions department website of the private college or university they plan to apply to for information about available fee waivers.

Q: Where can students and parents find more answers or help?

A: Please feel free to contact our [help desk](#) or visit the Free College Application Week [website](#) for updates and information.