

If there's one thing that's certain about what college will be like this fall, it's uncertainty. Decisions made this spring may change for you by fall, and though that's unsettling, it will work out. Please know your counselor will be available to help you navigate this changing landscape even after you graduate. Here are some tips to guide your decision making now:

I don't want an online college experience. When will colleges decide if they will hold in-person classes this fall?

Currently, most colleges are optimistically planning for on-campus classes this fall. Each college will decide when to reopen based on a variety of factors, most centered on the safety of their community, you included. You will likely have to make a decision about where you'll attend without knowing for sure if you will be taking classes online.

I'm still not sure I want to start college courses without being on campus. What are my alternative options?

Many colleges have extended their May 1 deposit deadlines, and if you need more time, you can contact an admissions officer at your college of choice to ask for an extension. If you're thinking about putting off your enrollment, speak to your college about a deferral. Typically, a college will allow an accepted student to defer acceptance for up to one year. Most have specific restrictions about enrolling in another college's courses, so be sure to ask your admissions officer about the process. Most colleges will not allow you to defer for only a semester. If you have been awarded a scholarship, be sure to ask if it will be honored if you defer.

[Money.Com: Gap Year Pros and Cons](#)

I'm committed to play a sport at college. What are my options if I don't want to enroll in online courses? Can I defer my commitment?

Speak to your college coach directly. They can let you know your next steps. Also, check the NCAA Initial Eligibility website: <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

My family's financial situation has changed as a result of coronavirus. How can I find out if I'm eligible for more aid?

Colleges are aware that coronavirus has put financial strain on many families. Contact a financial aid officer at your school to find out if they have any way to assist you.

[NY Times: How to ask a College for More Financial Aid](#)

If I change my mind about where I have committed, can I apply elsewhere?

Yes. If colleges have space available, you can apply. The process is the same, and you will need to request your transcript and supporting documents from your guidance counselor.

What can I do if I take a gap year or gap semester?

Aside from the idea of finding a local job, a variety of options are possible for gap semesters. Many travel abroad programs are still accepting applications, and have generous cancellation policies because of Covid 19 concerns. Consider exploring from your own room by enrolling in courses offered through a variety of colleges (some are even no-cost) and cultural organizations. Groups like Global Citizen Year are offering online mentorships instead of in-person internships. AmeriCorps, Election 2020 Gap Year, and Service Year Alliance are all resources for volunteer opportunities.

[NY Times: Students Consider Gap Year](#)

