



How do you apply for college?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

It looks like you're going to graduate early. What do you plan on doing with that extra time?

RANCH KID:

Workin'.

RANCH KID (V.O.):

I'll be putting up fence. It's hard work, but I like it.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Where do you work?

RANCH KID:

My family has a ranch. I've been helping my dad work since I was three. When I was little I'd carry the medicine when they would vaccinate the calves. But now that I'm older, I help with pretty much everything during branding season.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Are you going to work on the ranch after you graduate?

RANCH KID:

I wanna go to college, but I don't have time to apply. Maybe next year.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Do you know what college you would like to attend?

RANCH KID:

A technical school. I already know how to weld so I want to get certified.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Did you request an application from the school?

RANCH KID:

I got the admissions application from their web site. I filled everything out, even the housing and meal program applications. I just haven't had the time or money to send it back.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Although most public and private colleges and universities will charge an application fee, some don't. Many tribal colleges and technical schools don't charge the fee.

The application fees vary depending on the school. Most colleges offer an application fee waiver to low income students. Call the school to find out if any application fee is charged, and whether they accept application fee waivers.

RANCH KID:

I don't know. If I can't even afford the fee to apply, how am I going to be able to afford the classes?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

First, we'll fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is commonly referred to as the FAFSA.

The website is fafsa.gov. Don't forget to list in the application all the colleges which interest you. Colleges use the FAFSA to determine your estimated contribution and what forms of financial assistance you are eligible for. I can help you identify scholarships sources, and you can also get help from the admissions counselor at the college you are interested in attending.

RANCH KID:

I read that they also need my high school transcripts. Why do they need to see my grades if it's a new school?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

In order for a school to accept you, they must be able to assess how well you have done in high school.

Most schools will request that an "official" copy of your high school transcripts be sent to them directly from your high school. To have these records sent, you must contact your guidance counselor or the high school office.

RANCH KID:

The school I'm applying to also wants some sort of essay? What the heck am I supposed to write about?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Yeah, that's a requirement of some schools.

Let's take a look at the college web sites and see what guidelines they provide for you in writing your essay.

Unless the school gives you specific questions to answer, you should write about your life, your plans to pay for your college and what you'd like to accomplish with your degree, the biggest barrier you've overcome, and how you've gotten to where you are today.

RANCH KID:

I'm not the best writer. How am I supposed to know if I'm doing it right?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Talk to a teacher or your counselor about the essay or ask them to review what you have written.

You can also get tips online. Try collegeboard.org and click on "Essay Skills."

That should cover most of it. However, most colleges provide a checklist for admissions.

If it's not on the web site, just request one from the admissions office and you'll be set. Just like that, you'll be admitted to college!

Find a College

ndus.edu

nd-can.com

aihec.org

college.gov

Pay for College

fafsa.gov

nd-can.com

studentaid.ed.gov

Prepare for College

nd-can.com

actstudent.org

collegeboard.org

For more information, call 1.800.554.2717.

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