Application Hacks

SMASH ⸗

1 ☐ **Accessing the Application:** To apply, create an account at **smash.org/apply** (bookmark this!). Answer the pre-qualification questions in order to access the full application. You can save and return to the application at any time, so make sure you write down your login information.

2 ☐ **Student Profile + Household Information:** Who knows you better than yourself? Don't rush through this section, but complete it early so that you can focus on other parts of the app.

3 ☐ **Essay:** Start working on your 500 word essay early. Share drafts of it (using a Google Doc) with others who you trust and know you best, e.g. your parents, mentors, older siblings, etc. in order to get their feedback and edits. Submitting your best work is key as this essay allows us to get to know you and identify what makes you unique from other applicants.

4 **Uploads:** Give yourself at least one month to collect these documents:

☐ **8th grade transcript**, official or unofficial.*
☐ **9th grade transcript**, official or unofficial.* (optional)
☐ **Math standardized test scores** - ask your school for your most recent scores. (8th grade recommended) (optional)
☐ **Income verification** - ask your parent/guardian for their most recent 1040 tax return (likely 2019) and upload the first two pages, **OR** ask your school counselor for proof of your free/reduced lunch eligibility.
☐ **If you attend a private school**, you will also need to upload proof of financial assistance.

*You can go to your school's front desk for help, OR if your school uses an online tool, get login credentials and download a copy to submit.

5 ☐ **Recommendation Forms:** Give your math AND science teachers or another teacher **at least 3 weeks** to submit their recommendation forms. Enter their contact information in the application, and they will receive a form via email to fill out. (Make sure to talk to them in person before entering their information in the application.)

6 ☐ **Questions?** You can access our FAQs by logging in to your application and clicking on the question mark in the top right hand corner. If we don't answer your question there, email us at **programs@smash.org**.