Would you apply to more graduate schools if you didn’t have to pay the application fee?

The Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) offers fee waivers for students applying to graduate programs at CIC institutions. By using the CIC FreeApp form, CIC Universities may waive your graduate application fee (an average of $75 per application).

The CIC FreeApp program is designed to increase access to graduate education for students who possess qualities and experiences that enhance the diversity of the intellectual, cultural and social environments at CIC universities.

Applicants must meet the CIC and local campus eligibility requirements to be awarded a FreeApp award.
Graduate Application Fee Waiver Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the FreeApp Fee Waiver Program?
The CIC FreeApp program is designed to increase access to graduate education for students who bring qualities and experience that will enhance the diversity of the graduate students at CIC institutions. Through this program, you can request a fee waiver for your application to Ph.D. or Master of Fine Arts programs at CIC institutions.

Who is eligible to apply for a FreeApp waiver?
- Complete a bachelor's degree by the August preceding enrollment in the graduate program
- Apply for admission to a Ph.D. program or Master of Fine Arts program
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale)
- Intend to pursue an academic and/or research career

If I meet the eligibility criteria, will I automatically receive a fee waiver?
No, each institution grants FreeApp waivers according to local criteria and on a case by case basis.

Is there a deadline?
We process FreeApp requests throughout the year, but priority will be given to students that submit a request before November 15. The University of Minnesota deadline is December 15.

How do I request a FreeApp waiver?
- Complete the online request form. The form can be accessed from the CIC FreeApp program website.
- You are responsible for obtaining graduate applications directly from the institutions where you plan to apply. Consult the list of participating universities on the FreeApp website.

Visit the FreeApp website to complete the waiver request form:
www.cic.net/FreeApp

FreeApp Coordinators

University of Chicago
Elyse Longiotti
Phone: (773) 834-6769
Email: elongiotti@uchicago.edu

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Elizabeth Kibler
Phone: (217) 244-4637
Email: gradadmissions@uiuc.edu

Indiana University
Judy Post
Phone: (812) 856-4503
Email: jpost@indiana.edu

University of Iowa
Joseph Henry
Phone: (319) 335-2138
Email: joseph-henry@uiowa.edu

University of Maryland
Teddy Wu
Phone: (301) 405-0281
Email: twu@umd.edu

University of Michigan
Regina Sims
Phone: (734) 647-7548
Email: riams@umich.edu

Michigan State University
Aida Montalvo
Phone: (517) 353-3063
Email: montalai@msu.edu

University of Minnesota
Derek Maness
Phone: (612) 625-3524
Email: dmaness@umn.edu

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Jason Cruise
Phone: (402) 472-2845
Email: jcruse2@unl.edu

Northwestern University
Cate Arron
Phone: (847) 491-8536
Email: c-arron@northwestern.edu

Ohio State University
Cyndi Freeman
Phone: (614) 292-6998
Email: freeman.414@gradsch.ohio-state.edu

Pennsylvania State University
Stephanie Preston
Phone: (814) 863-1663
Email: ogee@psu.edu

Purdue University
Michelle Goodin
Phone: (765) 494-2599
Email: mgoodin@purdue.edu

Rutgers University
Linda Costa
Phone: (848) 932-7743
Email: linda.costa@rutgers.edu