



BIG

ACADEMIC ALLIANCE

FreeApp

Participating Institutions:

University of Illinois

Indiana University

University of Iowa

University of Maryland

University of Michigan

Michigan State University

University of Minnesota

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Northwestern University

The Ohio State University

Penn State University

Rutgers University

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Would you apply to more graduate schools if you did not have to pay the application fee?

FreeApp is a program 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 Big Ten Academic Alliance universities.

The Big Ten Academic Alliance Graduate Schools offers fee waivers for students applying to graduate programs at participating institutions. By using the FreeApp form, Big Ten Academic Alliance universities may waive your graduate application fee (an average of \$75 per application).

Applicants must meet Big Ten Academic Alliance and local campus eligibility requirements to receive a FreeApp award.



Visit the FreeApp website for program details and eligibility:
www.btaa.org/FreeApp

FreeApp Coordinators

University of Chicago

Lindsey Weglarz

Email: lweglarz@uchicago.edu

University of Illinois

Ave Alvarado

Email: amalvara@illinois.edu

Indiana University

Judy Post

Email: jpost@indiana.edu

University of Iowa

Heidi Arbish-Kelm

Email: heidi-arbisi-kelm@uiowa.edu

University of Maryland

FreeApp Coordinator

Email: FreeApp@umd.edu

University of Michigan

Lee Eriksson

Email: rackadmis@umich.edu

Michigan State University

Aida Montalvo

Email: montalai@grd.msu.edu

University of Minnesota

Liang Xiong

Email: xiong640@umn.edu

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Casey Coleman

Email: ccoleman2@unl.edu

Northwestern University

Nicholas Alena

Email: tgs-admissions-staff@northwestern.edu

The Ohio State University

Linda MacCarthy

Email: maccarthy.5@osu.edu

Penn State University

Tierra Dinkins

Email: ogee@psu.edu

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Kristin Campiglia

Email: kristin.campiglia@rutgers.edu

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Nathaniel Haack

Email: feegrants@grad.wisc.edu

Graduate Application Fee Waiver Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the FreeApp Fee Waiver Program?

The Big Ten Academic Alliance 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 Big Ten Academic Alliance institutions. Through this program, you can request a fee waiver for your application to Ph.D. or Master of Fine Arts programs at Big Ten Academic Alliance universities.

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 November 15.

How do I request a FreeApp waiver?

- ✓ Complete the online request form. The form can be accessed from the Big Ten Academic Alliance 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.btaa.org/FreeApp