

What to Do if You are Not Accepted?

15 Steps to Future Success

1. **Apply earlier next year.** Avoid the last six weeks before the deadline.
2. **Apply to more schools.** Three or four is usually considered a good number.
3. **Apply to more “safe” schools.** Even 4.0 students and those who exceed the program’s entrance criteria can, and do, get rejected.
4. **Research similar programs** with less competitive application requirements.
5. Visit the programs you really want to pursue. **Demonstrate your interest and build relationships** with faculty and staff of the program.
6. Contact the program and **inquire about ways you could improve your applications** to become a stronger candidate.
7. **Go to summer school** in the targeted subject to demonstrate your interest in the area.
8. **Take one class at a time** in the targeted subject area and make great grades! Remember, the most recent grade counts the most.
9. **Study and retake required standardized tests.** With practice and appropriate studying techniques, you will **improve your scores.**
10. Get a **volunteer or internship experience** in the targeted area. It will boost your credentials even if it’s part-time, a few hours per week, or unpaid.
11. **Work in a “real job”** in the targeted field to gain related experience and to add recommendations from people working in the profession.
12. Get an **intermediate degree** like a certificate or other professional credential.
13. **Get experience and try again.** Many admissions committees value maturity.
14. **Re-evaluate your interest** in pursuing advanced studies. Is it possible your lack of passion for the subject area was evident?
15. **Review all application materials** before submitting to catch errors. Sometimes this simple check can make all the difference.

*In order to succeed,
your desire for
success must be
greater than your
fear of failure...*

~
Bill Cosby

*There are no
failures...
just experiences and
your reactions to
them.*

~
*Tom Krause,
Teacher/Coach*