I've decided:

Lane Community College is the plan for next year!

Uh…now what?

1. **Start by filling out the FAFSA or the ORSAA**. (The ORSAA is the alternative form for students who are undocumented or are DACA recipients living in Oregon).

   - **Why bother?** These applications are used by so many organizations that if you want any aid at all, you *need* to fill one of them out.
   - **Be sure to:** list LCC as one of the colleges you plan to attend when the question comes up.
   - **How do I sign the FAFSA?** The FAFSA requires you and one parent to create an FSA ID (only takes a few minutes) in order to sign it electronically and send it digitally. Note: if your parent does not have a social security number, you must sign, print, and mail the signature page instead. You will see a printable form on the signature section of the FAFSA.
   - **Which parent's financial information do I share on my FAFSA besides my own?** Find out here. Oh, and by the way, when FAFSA asks you if you want to provide financial information, the answer is always yes!
   - **When should I?** Hurry! Some financial aid is offered first to the folks who apply first.

2. **Complete LCC's Steps to Enroll for First Time in College Students (Step 1 of 4 - Admissions Application).**

   - **Why bother?** Even though every student who applies automatically gets into LCC, you do still need to apply**.**
   - **Even if I've taken College Now classes?** If you already have an L number because you took College Now classes, your L number will remain the same, but you do still need to apply.
   - **When should I?** ASAP. You'll need it for the LCC Foundation Scholarships and for RTEC 101. (See below.)
   - **Then what?** The admissions department will process your application within one to three business days. On the day it gets processed, you will receive two emails. One email will include your L number and Lane email address, and the second email will include your myLane temporary password/next steps. Read both emails carefully.

3. **Apply for OSAC Scholarships.**

   - **Why bother?** You only need to fill out one application with four short essays (250 word limit) in order to apply for the 600+ scholarships administered by OSAC. You won't be eligible for all of them, but even if you're eligible for 5 of them, that's a great return on your investment of time.
   - **Don't forget:** There might be extra information to submit if you're pursuing certain scholarships, so don't wait until the last minute.

- **When should I?** Submit your application by the early-bird deadline of 2/15 in order to be entered in a drawing for a $1,000 scholarship or by the final deadline of 3/1. If you submit at the last minute, there is a risk of OSAC's system crashing.

4. Apply for the LCC Foundation Scholarships.

- **Why bother?** Like I just mentioned about the OSAC Scholarships, you only need to fill out one application, this time with *seven* short essays (170 word limit), in order to apply for the hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of scholarships administered by the LCC Foundation. You won't be eligible for all of them, but even if you're eligible for 5 of them, that's a great return on your investment of time.
- **Plus:** Four of the short-essay questions in the application are very similar to the OSAC questions. How easy is that?
- **Don't forget:** There might be extra information to submit if you're pursuing certain scholarships, so don't wait until the last minute.
- **When should I?** Submit your application by the final due date of 3/2. If you submit at the last minute, there is a risk of the LCC Foundation's system crashing.

5. If possible, sign up to take the free, 1-credit LCC course, RTEC 101.

- **Why bother?** This class is all about giving you the tools to be successful at Lane. It includes topics such as:
  - Overview of degrees and first term advising
  - Financial aid beyond filling out the FAFSA
  - Communication and time management
  - How to use LCC's systems
- **When should I?** Reserve your spot as soon as you can commit to the class times. Sometimes classes fill up.

6. Apply for the Oregon Promise Grant.

- **Why bother?** If you meet the criteria, you're pretty much guaranteed to get the grant. Right now, the criteria don't even include a maximum income (although that may change). To be eligible, you must:
  - Be an upcoming Oregon high-school graduate or GED®-test graduate.
  - Attend an Oregon community college within 6 months of graduating high school.
  - Have a 2.00 cumulative high school GPA or higher or a 145 grade on all GED® tests.
  - Be an Oregon resident for at least 12 months prior to college attendance. For dependent students, your parent(s) must also live in Oregon.
  - Have no more than 90 college credits completed or attempted.
- **Plus:** Oregon Promise covers a good-sized chunk of your LCC tuition. See here for details about how much the grant is worth.
- **When should I?** The due date is 5 pm on 6/1, but I wouldn't wait that long if I were you. Makes me nervous that they could run out of money, although they've never actually said

that it's awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. Apply (including having submitted your FAFSA or ORSAA with LCC identified as the school you plan to attend) ASAP.

7. Complete Lane's remaining steps to enroll.

- **Why bother*?*** The remaining steps are required to register for classes.
- **How do I?** Go here. The steps can be completed online. If, after completing them, you still have questions about which classes to enroll in, reach out to your Lane academic advising team. To find your advisor go here.
- **When should I?** Before late May. That's when class registration opens for fall students. That way, your application will be done in time to register for the classes you want before they fill up. The final due date is in September, but I definitely wouldn't wait that long if I were you.

8. Check for any remaining financial-aid requirements.

- **Why bother?** LCC can't offer you financial aid if you still have work left to do.
- **How do I?:**
  - Log in to your *myLane* student portal.
  - Click the *myFinances* tab.
  - Click *Financial Aid Status*
  - Click *Financial Aid, Eligibility Requirements*, then select 2023-2024 as the aid year. If you see any unsatisfied student requirements listed, complete them. If you need to submit anything to the Financial Aid Office, do so via their Digital Dropbox.
- **To accept your financial-aid offer:**
  - Login to your *myLane* student portal.
  - Click the *myFinances* tab.
  - Click *Financial Aid Status*
  - Click *Financial Aid Offers Information*; click the *Offer by Aid Year* and *Accept your Offer* link. Then select 2023-2024 as the aid year. You must have all of your *Student Requirements* completed and processed from above before you can accept your offer.
- **When should I?** Before the end of the school year if you're hoping to get help and information from South staff.

9. And one freebie piece of advice:

- You've *got* to check your email (both Lane gmail and personal email) regularly. LCC (and most other schools) communicate via email, and students lose out on a lot of opportunities (and money!) by not checking their inboxes and spam folders. Don't give out your 4J email as your best email, either. When you graduate and lose access to your 4J account, you'll be very sad to miss out on opportunities that you can no longer access.