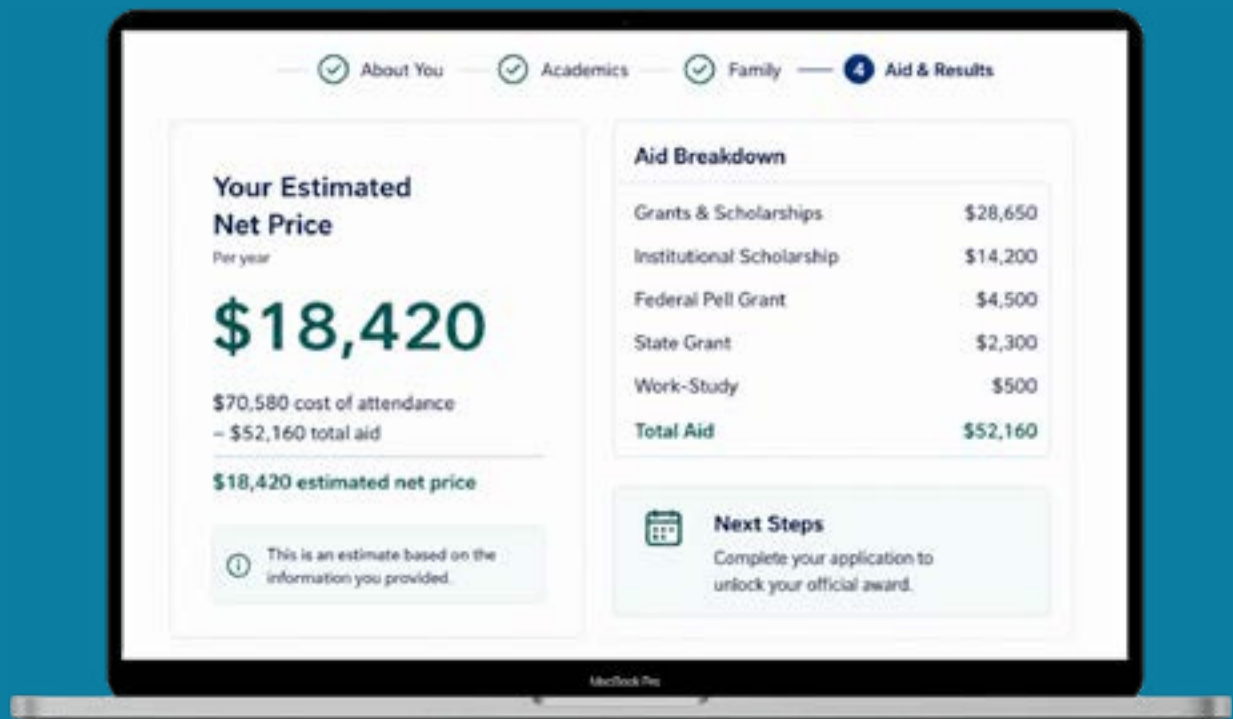




Bringing Noodle Tuition Assistant to Campus

This guide covers the collaboration between your team and ours to bring Noodle Tuition Assistant to your campus, from the first discovery conversation through the model refresh a year after launch. This guide lays out every stage of that work. Use it to track where you are, determine who needs to be in the room at each stage, and understand the decisions that shape everything downstream.

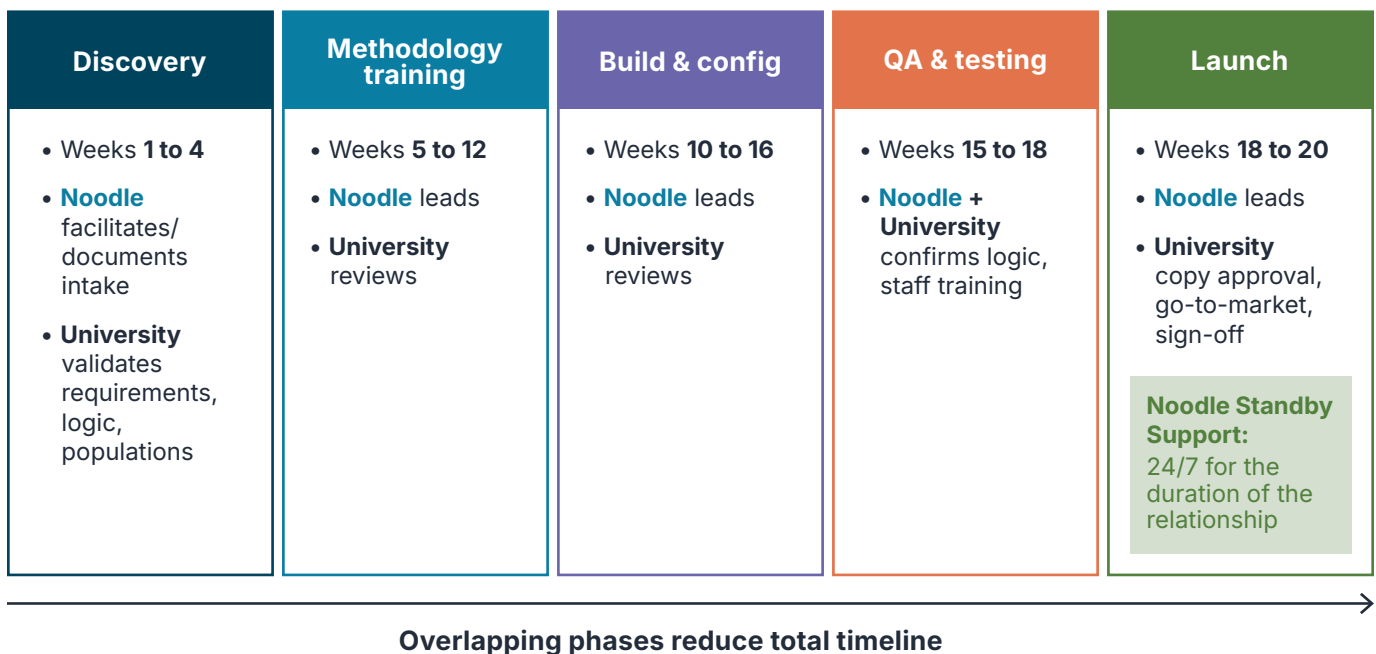


Before You Begin

The questions that follow will help you plan around your own team and calendar. Working through them early—before kickoff rather than midway in—means fewer unforeseen hurdles and a smoother path to launch.

How long does this take, and what does your team actually carry?

Plan on 18 to 20 weeks from signed agreement to live tool, in five overlapping phases:



Noodle carries full process management throughout, including data connectors, document handling, and the calculation logic itself. Your team's time, in practice:

- **Office of Financial Aid:** Two staff, roughly 3 to 4 hours a week during discovery
- **Central IT:** A few hours during discovery (Weeks 1-4) for DNS, email, and website redirects
- **Office of Admissions:** Testing during QA (weeks 15 to 18) and half a day of training for the whole team before launch
- **Copy approval lead:** a standing commitment across all 18 to 20 weeks, not bound to a specific stretch. Copy approval covers email content, Terms & Conditions, and consent language. That person needs final sign-off authority and the ability to turn requests around in under 48 hours every time a request comes in.

Who needs to be at the table, and when?



Discovery (weeks 1 to 4): Your team leads. Financial aid validates requirements, logic, and population definitions (transfers, international students, and other edge cases). IT starts on DNS, redirects, and email setup. Get your copy approver looped in now, since approvals start here too.



QA & testing (weeks 15 to 18): Joint work with Noodle. Financial aid confirms logic and calculation rules, admissions attends staff training, copy approval continues.



Methodology training and build & config (weeks 5 to 16): Noodle leads. Your team stays in a review role.



Launch (weeks 18 to 20): Your team leads again. Admissions and communications finalize copy and go-to-market, IT confirms everything's live, executives sign off.

Where will you need to bring in a decision maker?

You should have a designated decision maker for each of the key milestone points. This may be the same person.

- Finalization of the aid model and Expected Family Contribution (EFC) methodology (End of Week 5)
- Finalization of the cost guarantee terms (End of Week 4)
- Determination of available entry term (End of Week 4)
- Persona prioritization for launch (End of Week 4)
- Go/no-go before public visibility (Week 18-20)

These are the points at which Noodle needs a clear answer from you.

What could put your launch at risk?

Most delays trace back to an aid policy owner who isn't empowered to rule on edge cases, a copy approval turnaround slower than 48 hours, or a Discovery phase that gets rushed and leaves gaps for later phases to absorb.

Track Where You Are

Every checklist item below has an owner on Noodle's side and a counterpart on yours. Where you see a box, both sides should agree it's checked before moving forward.

Pre-Build & Discovery

- ☐ Core team named on both sides, with clear escalation pathways for financial aid policy questions, data questions, and technical issues
- ☐ Persona types identified and prioritized, including which student and family situations the platform needs to handle first
- ☐ University aid norms gathered: how your institution defines need, awards merit, and handles common edge cases today
- ☐ Historical aid and enrollment data collected and shared, covering at least one full year of financial data to train the model against your actual outcomes
- ☐ Kickoff scope confirmed: which personas, which entry terms, and which aid programs are in scope for the initial build

Ready to Build

- ☐ Financial Aid policy owner named and empowered to approve institutional aid model, EFC methodology, and edge cases. Current build includes approximation of CSS EFC modeling.
- ☐ Tuition rates, aid budget parameters, and merit criteria locked and signed off
- ☐ All hard-coded copy compiled, reviewed, and approved by legal and communications
- ☐ Policy decisions made on entry terms, nature of cost guarantee, sessions per family, and data retention
- ☐ Sequencing of persona eligibility determined for beta and full release

Ready to Launch

- ☐ Staff training completed for the full admissions/financial aid team, including student workers
- ☐ Known-limitations reference and escalation protocol distributed to staff
- ☐ Follow-up posture decided: who owns outreach to families, and through what channels
- ☐ Terms of Use and any required consent language finalized
- ☐ DNS/site redirect, CRM integration, and email delivery tested end to end
- ☐ Shared Slack channel and support email live and monitored on both sides

At Beta Launch

- ☐ Gated soft launch live to a known, limited audience with beta label
- ☐ First-batch data review completed and anomalies resolved and addressed
- ☐ No outstanding critical or high-priority bugs

At Full Launch

- ☐ Communications/PR plan aligned on timing for public visibility
- ☐ Standing data review cadence in place until all personas are within error tolerance

After Launch

- ☐ Retro and roadmap session scheduled (~30 days post-launch)
- ☐ Recurring rituals (check-in, roadmap review, data review, quarterly strategic review) on the calendar
- ☐ Named owner confirmed for the annual model refresh for ongoing optimization of enrollment yield, financial aid office efficiency, and platform accuracy

Why This Keeps Paying Off

Eighteen to twenty weeks gets your Noodle Tuition Assistant live. But launch isn't the finish line. The tool gets more accurate over time, because your team and Noodle keep working on it together: reviewing data, checking in, refreshing the model once a year. This ongoing work is what keeps the numbers matching your actual aid decisions as your policies change. The goal stays the same as when you started: more families see themselves as applicants, earlier, because they know the real cost, while you gain unprecedented insight and ability to shape your incoming class.



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About Noodle

Noodle delivers the people, process, and technology for institutions to grow and innovate.



Want to learn more? Reach out!

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