

Senior Year Calendar for Students Applying for Financial Aid

SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR

- ❑ **Research scholarship opportunities for which you might be eligible.** An early start will give you time to meet deadlines and to prepare a competitive application.
- ❑ Create the FSA ID and password for yourself and at least one parent at studentaid.gov/fsaid.

SEPTEMBER

- ❑ **Ask your school counselor about local scholarships** offered by community groups, civic associations, and businesses in your area.
- ❑ Start gathering what you need to complete the FAFSA. Visit FAFSA online at fafsa.gov for a list of required documents.
- ❑ If you're going to apply **Early Decision** to a college, and financial aid is an important part of your decision to attend, review application deadlines and requirements carefully.
- ❑ Use the online **financial aid calculator** on collegeboard.org to estimate your family's expected family contribution (EFC).
- ❑ Complete the Net Price Calculator on the college website. The Net Price Calculator is a tool that students can use to get an early indication of how much and what types of financial aid they might receive.

OCTOBER

- ❑ Find out if there's a **family financial aid night** at your high school or in your area.
- ❑ If you need to fill out the **CSS /Financial Aid PROFILE**, you can register on student.collegeboard.org/profile starting Oct. 1.
- ❑ If any **scholarship applications need recommendations**, request them now, or at least four weeks before the deadline.
- ❑ If a college you're applying to has an early **financial aid priority date**, submit your FAFSA as soon as you can. Be sure you have completed any supplemental applications required by the college.
- ❑ **File the FAFSA and other aid forms now.** Remember: Some funds may be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Apply early to ensure you meet deadlines and maximize your aid award.

NOVEMBER

- ❑ **Check each college's financial aid section of their website** for deadlines and the required forms.

DECEMBER

- ❑ Check the status of your admission and financial aid applications. If any outstanding items are required by your college, ensure you respond by required deadlines. Many colleges provide online resources where you may check the status of your application.

JANUARY

- ❑ If needed, correct or update your **Student Aid Report (SAR)** that follows the FAFSA. Contact the college financial aid office for additional guidance.
- ❑ If you submitted the **CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE**, check your **acknowledgment** and send any corrections, if necessary, directly to the colleges that require it.

MARCH

- ❑ Submit any final, outstanding information or documentation that may be required to process your aid award.

APRIL

- ❑ Most admission decisions and financial aid award letters arrive this month. **Carefully compare financial aid award letters** from the colleges that accept you.
- ❑ Contact the colleges if you have any **questions about the financial aid packages** they've offered you. Make sure you understand all terms and conditions.
- ❑ If you didn't get enough aid to be able to attend a particular college, explore other alternatives to cover the cost. Additional options, might include federal loans, such as the Parent Loan to Undergraduate Students (PLUS), which may not have been included in your initial award. If your family's financial circumstances have changed or you have special circumstances that may impact your eligibility, contact your financial aid office to discuss your options.
- ❑ Make a final decision, **accept the aid package, and mail a deposit check** to the college you select before May 1 (the acceptance deadline for most schools).
- ❑ On the **waiting list** at your first-choice college? Don't let being wait-listed jeopardize your aid at another college that has accepted you. Accept that award in case you don't make it off the waiting list.

MAY

- ❑ **Thank everyone** who wrote you recommendations or otherwise helped with your scholarship applications.

JUNE

- ❑ Think about your summer job options. The more money you make, the easier it will be to finance college — and have some fun during the school year.