

Financial Aid Timeline for Seniors

Check the boxes as you complete tasks!

BEFORE SENIOR YEAR:

- Research scholarship opportunities. Start early so you can be aware of deadlines and requirements.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER:

- Ask about local scholarships; visit your counselor for more info.
- Make a list of all the scholarships to which you will be applying and their deadlines. Use a checklist to keep track of application statuses.
- Use the Federal Student Aid Estimator to determine federal aid.

OCTOBER:

- Find out if your school is offering a college night or college fair(s) and make plans to attend.
- Start applying to your colleges of choice. Be sure to apply to SAFETY (you exceed requirements), MATCH (you reach requirements), and REACH (you *almost* meet requirements) colleges.
- Ask for letters of recommendation if needed for scholarship or college applications.

NOVEMBER:

- Start learning about the FAFSA requirements for your state and colleges of interest. Register for an FSA ID (fsaid.ed.gov); your parents will need to register for one, too.
- Ask for letters of recommendation if needed for scholarship or college applications.

DECEMBER:

- Complete and submit your FAFSA!** FAFSA submission window opens in December for the 2024-25 FAFSA. The 2025-26 application should open October 1, 2024.
- Review your Student Aid Report/FAFSA Submission Summary after submitting your FAFSA. Make any needed corrections.

JANUARY:

- Search for local scholarships for which you might be eligible. Your school counselor is a great resource for finding local apps, which often have spring deadlines.
- Continue searching and applying for other scholarships and financial aid, keeping copies for your records.

FEBRUARY:

- File your taxes for the current required tax year (you'll need to use those records for future FAFSAs).
- Make housing arrangements with your college(s) of choice, if living on campus. Many residence halls are first-come, first-served.

MARCH-APRIL:

- Send additional documents (if required) to your institution.
- Compare financial aid award letters and contact colleges if you have questions about their offers.
- Make a final decision and accept the financial aid offer from your college.
- Consider travel arrangements to get to college and whether you will take a car or need a parking permit.

MAY:

- Consider your student loan options.
- If you haven't already, send thank-you notes to those who wrote a recommendation letter or helped you along the way.

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