

# Financial Aid Timeline for Seniors

## 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 you will be applying to and their deadlines. Use a checklist to keep track of completed applications.

Use the FAFSA4Caster to determine estimated federal aid.

## October:

Find out if your school is offering a College Night and make plans to attend.

Start learning about the FAFSA requirements for your state and colleges of interest. Register for an FSA ID ([fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov)); your parents will need to register for one, too.

**Complete and submit your FAFSA!** FAFSA submission window opens October 1.

## November:

Review your Student Aid Report (you'll receive it after submitting your FAFSA). Make corrections to your FAFSA if needed.

Ask for letters of recommendation if needed for scholarship or college applications.

## December:

Check your scholarship deadlines checklist. Many colleges have November and December scholarship application deadlines.

## 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, making 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 top college.

## May:

Consider your student loan options, if applicable.

Send thank-you notes to anyone who wrote a recommendation letter or helped you along the way.