

FINANCIAL AID CALENDAR

Here is a calendar outlining the financial aid-related tasks you and your child should complete during their senior year of high school.

Tip: Many states and colleges distribute financial aid on a first-come, first-served basis. For that reason, it is beneficial to complete the FAFSA and decide on a college as early as possible.

SEPTEMBER

- Create a timetable of financial aid deadlines for each college you're considering
- Get your FSA ID at fafsa.ed.gov (a prerequisite for submitting the FAFSA online)
- Obtain a username and password at collegeboard.org as a prerequisite for submitting the CSS Profile online

OCTOBER

- Gather the last two years of tax returns for parent (s) and student
- Complete and submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1
- Complete and submit the CSS Profile if your student is applying to college early action or early decision

NOVEMBER

- Research college and private scholarships and gather supporting materials. Take note that students may be considered for college scholarships automatically when they apply

DECEMBER

- Complete and submit the CSS Profile if student is applying regular decision
- Complete additional college-specific aid forms, if any

JANUARY

- Complete and submit private scholarship applications
- Review Student Aid Report (SAR) from FAFSA showing your expected family contribution (EFC)

FEBRUARY

- Verify that all required federal and college financial aid forms have been submitted, and submit any additional documents as requested
- Continue to complete and submit private scholarship applications

MARCH

- Watch for college acceptances; if acceptance contains offer of merit aid, make sure to understand requirements of any merit scholarships
- Receive financial aid award letters from colleges detailing financial aid package; read each award letter carefully
- Watch for notifications from private scholarship sources

APRIL

- Compare financial aid awards by looking at out-of-pocket costs at each college as well as total overall costs
- Decide on a college!
- Sign and return financial aid award letter

MAY

- Contact financial aid office to confirm all paperwork is in
- Notify financial aid administrator of any changes in circumstances that may affect your family's ability to pay EFC

JUNE

- **Congratulations!**
Celebrate high school graduation!

JULY

- Student signs student loan promissory notes, if applicable
- Student receives federal student loan counseling, if applicable

AUGUST

- Off to college!