

**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID**

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Financial Aid Checklist FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

NEED HELP PAYING FOR SCHOOL?

Follow the steps below to apply for financial aid!

APPLICATION PROCESS (October-January)

- 1. Compare what it will cost to go to college at the schools you're interested in.
- 2. Visit fsaid.ed.gov to apply obtain a Federal Student Aid Id (FSAID) for you and your parent. These allow you and your parents to sign the FAFSA.
- 3. Visit www.fafsa.gov to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Complete the FAFSA after October 1 of your senior year (deadlines vary by state). If you complete your taxes before filing, your tax data can automatically be transferred to the FAFSA form.
- 4. Complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE at student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile if your school, state, or scholarship program requires it. Speak with your financial aid office regarding any additional financial aid forms you might need to complete. The PROFILE is also available on October 1 of your senior year.
- 5. Continue to search and apply for private scholarships.
- 6. Receive notice that your FAFSA has been received and processed.
- 7. Receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) with your Expected Family Contribution.

VERIFICATION PROCESS (January-April)

- 8. Congratulations! You have been admitted. Colleges will now begin offering you estimated financial aid award packages (grant, work-study, loan and scholarships).
- 9. Compare aid packages from various colleges.
- 10. Decide which college you want to attend and accept your package.
- 11. Turn in requested documents from colleges/universities (tax returns and university documents).

FINAL STEPS (May-September)

- 12. Did financial aid cover 100 percent of your financial need? If not, you should consider working part time, borrowing if needed, using college payment plans, or other options to pay your balance.
- 13. Before school begins, complete your required online Loan Entrance Counseling and sign your Master Promissory Note for your loans (studentloans.gov).
- 14. If you were awarded Work-Study, search for a job at studentemployment.umich.edu. This allows you to earn a paycheck to help pay your college expenses.
- 15. You are off to college — CONGRATULATIONS!!