Financial Aid Checklist

FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

NEED HELP PAYING FOR SCHOOL?

Then you’ll need to apply for financial aid. Just follow the steps below!

APPLICATION PROCESS (October-March)

☐ 1. Compare what it will cost to go to college at the schools you’re interested in.
☐ 2. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 of your senior year (deadlines vary by state).
☐ 3. Visit www.pin.ed.gov to apply obtain pin numbers for you and your parent to sign your FAFSA.
☐ 4. Complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE at https://profileonline.collegeboard.org/prf/index.jsp 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. Complete the PROFILE as soon as possible after October 1 of your senior year.
☐ 5. Continue to search and apply for private scholarships.
☐ 6. Your FAFSA has been received and processed.
☐ 7. Receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) with your Expected Family Contribution.

VERIFICATION PROCESS (March-April)

☐ 8. Congratulations! You have been admitted. Now colleges will start offering you a financial aid award package (grant, work-study, loan and scholarships).
☐ 9. Compare the financial aid packages from the different 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 needs? If not, you will need to consider your loan options/payment plans.
☐ 14. If you were awarded Work-Study, search for a job at www.studentemployment.umich.edu.
☐ 15. You are off to college—CONGRATULATIONS!!

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