



Financial Aid Fall Checklist

We are glad you have made the decision to attend college. The following checklist is designed to assist you in the financial aid process:

- Register for and complete standardized testing** such as the ACT, the SAT reasoning test
- Apply for Admission – Narrow your list of colleges to between 5 and 10**
Financial Aid cannot be awarded until you have been admitted. Pay close attention to **DEADLINES!** *Note: Students who wish to be considered for financial aid must disclose their Social Security Number during the Admissions process.*
- Search for Scholarships Now**
Investigate private sources of financial aid for college. Check with your School Counselor, local library, local businesses and civic organizations and your parents' employer(s).
- Get a PIN Now**
The **student and at least one parent** should register for a Personal Identification Number (PIN). The PIN allows the student and the parent to electronically sign the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is your application for all federal and state financial aid, including federal student loans. Register for a PIN at <http://www.pin.ed.gov>
- Explore your Financial Aid Options**
Get an early estimate of eligibility for federal student aid by using FAFSA4caster. When you're ready to apply for aid, you can easily transition from FAFSA4caster to *FAFSA on the Web*. Much of the information that you enter in the FAFSA4caster will populate your *FAFSA on the Web* application, making the experience of applying for federal student aid a lot easier. <http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/>
NOTE: To apply for financial aid you must complete new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible) to maximize your eligibility.
- Complete any Institutional Scholarship or Aid Applications.** Ask each school what financial aid application is required and the **DEADLINE!**
 - The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Their own Institutional aid application
 - College Board, CSS Financial Aid PROFILE
- Attend financial aid information events in your area**
- Complete the FAFSA as soon after January 1 to maximize your eligibility!**
The FAFSA may be completed using estimated income. Remember you may correct your income once you have completed your federal income tax return, but you cannot correct being late. Some institutions require the FAFSA to be completed by a certain deadline to be considered for institutional scholarships. Complete the online FAFSA at <http://www.fafsa.gov>.