



Financial Aid

CHECKLIST

Follow these steps in your senior year of high school to apply for financial aid. Deadlines vary by state and college so complete the steps when you can, even if it's passed the suggested timing.

PREPARE

SEPTEMBER

☐ **Make college list**

Work with your advisor/counselor to identify and apply to at least one financially safer school – a college that you're likely to be accepted to and able to afford.

☐ **Create FSA ID**

Username and password that all students and their parent(s) must create to start the FAFSA.

- Watch [How to Create a Username & Password \(FSA ID\)](#)
- Create an FSA ID at studentaid.gov

APPLY

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

☐ **Submit CSS Profile**

Required by some private colleges for students to apply for financial aid directly from the college.

- Visit cssprofile.collegeboard.org to see if your college(s) require the CSS Profile and to submit the application

☐ **Submit FAFSA**

Available **December 2023**, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required by all colleges, universities, and technical programs for students to apply for financial aid.

- Watch [FAFSA Overview](#)
- Collect information needed using the [FAFSA Checklist](#)
- Fill out and submit your FAFSA at fafsa.gov





FOLLOW UP

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

- ☐ **Review FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)**

The FSS becomes available shortly after you submit the FAFSA. It summarizes the information you reported on it, includes your Student Aid Index (SAI), and flags issues with your FAFSA that must be resolved.

- ☐ **Submit institutional forms**

It is important to note that some colleges mandate that you complete their unique financial aid forms. These forms are typically accessible online or are sent to you via mail or email. To find out if your college requires an institutional form, visit their website(s).

- ☐ **Complete verification**

Verification of FAFSA Information: What to Expect
Colleges may choose to verify the accuracy of the information provided on your FAFSA form. If selected for verification, you will be asked to submit the required documentation to receive your financial aid. If you need assistance, don't hesitate to seek help from our GO Center College Advisors.

Decide

MARCH-MAY

- ☐ **Review financial aid offers**

When considering a specific college, aid offers indicate the amount of financial assistance you could receive. To make an informed decision about where to pursue your education, compare all of your options. You can utilize the GO Center and College Advisor to compare offers and estimate your indirect costs.

- ☐ **Pay tuition deposit**

To secure your spot in most 4-year colleges and universities, a non-refundable down payment is typically required. This payment is due by May 1st and ensures your place in the incoming class.

