




Senior Year: Financial Aid Countdown

The financial aid process can often be confusing and overwhelming. The timeline below provides an over-view of the process and when each step in the process occurs. Deadlines will vary depending on the school that you are attending and the aid that you are applying for, so know the application deadlines specific to you, and make sure you leave enough time to collect all the necessary information and documentation. Apply as early as possible for each program to ensure that you receive maximum consideration and don't miss out on financial aid. Please note that beginning in the 2018-19 application cycle, students will use their "prior-prior year" tax return information to complete aid applications. In other words, students starting college in the fall of 2018 will use family income data from the 2016 tax return.

<p>July-August</p>	<p>Research local Scholarships</p> <p>More on scholarship.</p>	<p>Determine what your "expected family Contribution" will be. EFC calculator</p>	<p>Use the FAFSA 4 Caster to estimate your federal student aid</p>	<p>Get an estimate of what colleges on your list will cost. Check the Net price calculator for your school.</p>	<p>Look up priority deadlines and required forms for each school.</p>	<p>Check web sites and call financial aid offices to confirm.</p>
<p>September-October</p>	<p>CSS/Financial Aid Profile Available October 1st</p>	<p>FAFSA Available October 1st</p>	<p>Get to know the FAFSA and CSS/Financial Aid Profile</p>	<p>Continue Scholarship Search</p>	<p>Find out if you need to file the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE (Mostly private colleges)</p>	<p>Complete the PROFILE (if Required) and FASA</p>
<p>November-December</p>	<p>Narrow down list of colleges.</p>	<p>Submit applications for admissions</p>	<p>Gather w-2 and other financial information needed to complete the applications.</p>	<p>Apply for Outside Scholarships</p>		<p>File FAFSA and PROFILE early, preferably when your child applies to college.</p>
<p>January-February</p>	<p>File taxes as close to Feb 1st as possible.</p>	<p>Add schools to FAFSA and PROFILE as needed</p>	<p>Submit any other institution applications for Aid</p>	<p>Continue to research scholarship applications</p>	<p>Scholarships!</p>	<p>Scholarships!</p>
<p>March-May</p>	<p>Speak with Financial Aid office at your school If you have significant change in your parent's income.</p>	<p>Or if your family has other circumstance that cannot be reported on the FAFSA</p>	<p>Compare your financial Aid awards</p>	<p>Communicate any special circumstances to financial aid offices</p>	<p>Research loans offered and other financing options.</p>	<p>Make your decision no later than May 1st.</p>

Students applying early decision or early action may have earlier aid application deadlines. It's generally best to submit aid applications at the same time as admission applications. Always call the college's financial aid office to check deadlines and requirements. Need-based financial aid and merit scholarships are not available at all US universities.

