

# SENIOR YEAR COLLEGE/FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

## At any point - ask for help

- From your high school counselor
- From College & Career OPTIONS (530) 244-4022 [collegeandcareeroptions.org](http://collegeandcareeroptions.org)
- From the college you applied to; don't hesitate to call the Admissions, Financial Aid or Housing office—they want to help!

## September

- Attend the Financial Aid Information Night at your school. (check with your counselor for your school's date)
- Estimate your Student Aid Index (SAI)
- U.S. Citizens and eligible non-citizens: Complete the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet at [studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out](http://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out)
- Check out DACA/Undocumented Student information and resources at [oregonstudentaid.gov/daca-undocumented-students](http://oregonstudentaid.gov/daca-undocumented-students)
- Create a personalized electronic or paper calendar of deadlines for college admission and financial aid applications.
- Start drafting essays for college applications and scholarship applications, including letters of recommendation.
- Check out SAT and/or ACT resources and information at [sat.collegeboard.com](http://sat.collegeboard.com) or [act.org](http://act.org)
- Memorize your Social Security number. If you do not have a Social Security number, talk to your counselor.
- Obtain a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) for yourself and one parent at [studentaid.gov/](http://studentaid.gov/) You will need this to file your FAFSA.

- Research career options thoroughly; the better informed you are, the more effective your college search will be. <https://www.onetonline.org/>

- Your e-mail address should be appropriate for communicating with colleges, lenders & employers. Do not use your school email address.

## October

- Oct 1:** FAFSA and ORSAA Applications are available online at [studentaid.gov/fafsa](http://studentaid.gov/fafsa) or [www.oregonstudentaid.gov/fafsa-orsaa/](http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/fafsa-orsaa/). Submit the appropriate application as early as possible. Complete OSAC student portal login information. **NOTE: For this year the FAFSA will be available in December 2024.**
- Oct 1:** Oregon college and university applications are available. Check other colleges for application availability. **NOTE: Early Action Deadline is November 1.**
- The College Board's CSS PROFILE is an additional financial aid application that some private colleges require. Research if you need to complete this application. [cssprofile.collegeboard.org](http://cssprofile.collegeboard.org)
- Attend the Financial Aid Information Night at your school. (check with your counselor for your school's date)
- Attend local college fairs and meet college representatives visiting your school.
- Visit colleges and/or take a virtual tour online.
- Planning to live on-campus? Research your potential colleges' housing application processes. **(some have application deadlines as early as October)**

## November

- Start researching and applying for scholarships. Some have early deadlines.
- Attend the Financial Aid Information Night at your school. (check with your counselor for your school's date)
- Review your FAFSA Submission Summary and make corrections if necessary. If you don't receive your report within three weeks of submitting your FAFSA, call toll free at 800-433-3243.
- Nov 1 Oregon university early deadline applications are due. Check other colleges for deadlines.
- November 1 opens application for scholarships at OSAC student portal. Early bird deadline is February 1. Final deadline is April 1.

## December

- Confirm official SAT/ACT scores were sent to colleges as needed.

## January

- Watch for application confirmation emails from your college(s); create a "portal" for each college you applied to. Monitor each portal for admissions decisions.
- Check your online portal at each college you applied to and your email on a weekly basis. Respond to colleges' requests for information promptly.
- Keep a copy of everything you submit (paper or electronic copy).
- Apply for local scholarships!

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## February

- Manage your OSAC student portal status online using OSAC website for Students at [app.oregonstudentaid.gov](http://app.oregonstudentaid.gov)
- Math and English assessment tests: check each college you applied to. Do you need to take these tests? You may be able to waive these assessments through SAT, ACT or AP exam scores.
- Apply for scholarships!

## March

- Watch for college acceptance letters and financial aid offers via email and your college portal(s).
- Planning to attend a community college? Complete the Oregon Promise application in OSAC student portal by deadline. See deadline at <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/grants/oregon-promise-grant/>
- Apply for scholarships!

## April

- Watch for college acceptance letters and financial aid offers via email and your college portal(s).
- Evaluate all financial aid offers carefully. Ask questions!
- Utilize College & Career OPTIONS Cost of Attendance Comparison Worksheet to determine your actual “net” cost at each college you are considering. Carefully examine you and your family’s budget and “cash flow.” Can you afford your intended college for the 4-5 years you will be attending?  
[collegeandcareeroptions.org](http://collegeandcareeroptions.org) (look in the Financial Aid section)

- Consider grants, work-study and other aid (e.g., scholarships) you don’t have to repay before accepting a student loan.
- Notify the financial aid offices at all your possible colleges of any scholarships received that are not on your award offer. Ask them how these changes will affect your award offer from them.
- If you are short of funds necessary to pay mandatory deposits to the college (e.g. tuition, dorms, meal plans, etc.), ask the college if you can defer deposits and/or make payments on an installment plan.
- Use your college portal to accept and/or decline your financial aid awards.
- Manage your OSAC grant status using [app.oregonstudentaid.gov](http://app.oregonstudentaid.gov)
- If you do not have any information available on the site tab by mid-April, call (541) 687-7400 and ask them to help you determine your status.
- Make sure you have fulfilled any financial aid verification requests from your college’s financial aid office. If you are unsure if you have any requirements, check your portal or contact the financial aid office.

## May

- Apply for scholarships!
- May 1** is the deadline to notify the four-year college that you plan to attend. Use your college portal to accept your offer of admission (you might have to make an enrollment deposit and/or register for orientation by May 1 as well).
- Look for a summer job, sign up for a summer class at the community college or volunteer with a business or organization to help investigate your career interests.
- Arrange your college housing plans.
- Missed the Oregon Opportunity Grant? Complete the FAFSA to be considered for federal and institutional aid and to be considered for a OSAC Grant or the Oregon Promise. Funds may be still available.

## Summer

- Confirm your high school graduation and college of attendance at your OSAC student portal at [app.oregonstudentaid.gov](http://app.oregonstudentaid.gov)
- Keep checking your college portal. Follow through on any “to-do” items.
- If you have Special Circumstances due to job loss, death, hardship, divorce, large medical expenses, an unusual family/parental situation, etc., which were not reflected on your financial aid application, contact your college’s financial aid office ASAP so they can determine if they can use Professional Judgment to make adjustments to your financial aid award.
- Make sure your “master promissory note” is signed for any Federal student loans. [studentloans.gov](http://studentloans.gov)
- Read the fine print on your student loan agreement, especially if the loan is a non-government (private) loan. Know your repayment obligations while you are in school as well as after you graduate.
- Financial aid “disbursements” (distribution of the funds) typically come after the semester/quarter starts. If you are unable to afford any costs that will come due before aid disbursements, communicate with your college’s financial aid office.
- Four-year college-bound students: Attend your college’s orientation.
- Register for classes.
- Claim scholarships you won. You may need to turn in copies of your fall class schedule (or some other proof of enrollment). Check with each scholarship provider.

**Apply for financial aid and scholarships every year you plan to attend college.**

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