



senior

August

- ❑ Review your career plans and decide which type of school is right for you.
- ❑ Visit some college campuses.
- ❑ Narrow your college list to 3-5 schools.
- ❑ Request catalogs and admissions information.
- ❑ Contact your high school counselor for registration materials and test dates for the SAT and/or the ACT.

September

- ❑ Meet with admissions representatives who are visiting your school.
- ❑ Make a list of test names, dates, fees, registration deadlines, and deadlines for college admissions and financial aid applications.
- ❑ Remember you must take tests like the SAT and ACT at least six weeks before the deadline for scores to be submitted to colleges.
- ❑ Begin asking teachers, guidance counselors, and employers for letters of recommendation to include with your admissions and/or scholarship applications.

October

- ❑ Take the SAT or ACT exam if necessary.
- ❑ Work on admissions application essays.
- ❑ Visit your top school choices. Interview some students, faculty, and staff.
- ❑ Attend special programs such as college fairs and financial aid nights.
- ❑ Find out which financial aid applications your college choices require and when the forms are due.

- ❑ Some private universities may require that you register for CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE™ at this time. (This determines your qualification for private school aid.)

November

- ❑ Take the SAT or ACT exam if necessary.
- ❑ Obtain financial aid applications from your guidance office or college of choice. Read them carefully to determine what information is required and when the applications are due.
- ❑ Begin preparing your college applications. Check with the colleges to find out when materials must be postmarked.
- ❑ To apply for federal and state financial aid, you will file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in January. This is best done on-line. To file your FAFSA on-line, both you and one of your parents must have a PIN code. Apply for a PIN now by visiting www.pin.ed.gov.

December

- ❑ To prepare for filing your on-line FAFSA, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov to obtain a FAFSA on the Web Pre-application worksheet. Answer the questions on the worksheet to be ready to file your FAFSA in January. If you will not be able to file on-line, obtain a paper FAFSA application at your high school counseling office or by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 433-3243.
- ❑ Apply for outside funding or scholarships.
- ❑ PARENTS: Save your year-end payroll stub if it shows your earnings for the year. You may need it for financial aid eligibility reviews by schools.
- ❑ Ask your high school counselor to send your GPA to the California Student Aid Commission for Cal Grant consideration. The deadline is March 2. The school will either send the GPA directly on-line or certify a GPA Verification Form for you to mail but it is up to you to make sure they send it in.

January

- ❑ Submit your FAFSA on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov or mail the paper application. Have your high school certify your GPA for Cal Grant consideration.
- ❑ KEEP COPIES OF ALL FORMS YOU SUBMIT.
- ❑ PARENTS: It's helpful to get your income tax returns prepared early—schools may request them to prove eligibility for financial aid.

February

- ❑ Check to see if your midyear transcripts have been sent to the schools to which you have applied.
- ❑ Submit your FAFSA if you have not already done so.
- ❑ Research taking Advanced Placement (AP) or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.
- ❑ Rank your finalized list of colleges.
- ❑ February is Financial Aid Awareness Month. Look for special programs in your area.
- ❑ Verify that your high school has certified your Cal Grant GPA and either sent it on-line to the Student Aid Commission or given it to you to mail.

March

- ❑ March 2 - Submission deadline (postmark if mailed) for FAFSA and Cal Grant GPA. Some schools and financial aid programs may have earlier priority filing deadlines.
- ❑ Look for your Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail. Your SAR contains federal financial aid information.
- ❑ Submit your SAR to the financial aid office and tax forms if requested. Contact each office to make certain that your application is complete. Find out what else you need to do to establish and maintain your eligibility for financial aid.
- ❑ KEEP COPIES OF ALL FORMS YOU SUBMIT TO THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE.
- ❑ If you have not received your SAR four weeks after sending in your FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243.

April

- ❑ Watch the mail for college acceptance and financial aid award letters. Compare the financial aid awards you receive.
- ❑ Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline.
- ❑ Check with the college you've chosen about the details of signing and returning financial aid award letters.
- ❑ Notify the other schools that you will not be attending.
- ❑ Watch for important deadlines (housing, financial aid, etc.) at your chosen college.

May

- ❑ Take AP examinations which are given in high schools nationwide.
- ❑ If you have not received a notice regarding your Cal Grant application from the California Student Aid Commission, contact them at 1-888-CAGrant, as soon as possible.

Important numbers and web sites:

Federal Student Aid Information
Call for free copies of financial aid materials, including the FAFSA
1-800-4-FED-AID

1-800-433-3243
www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.pin.ed.gov

California Student Aid Commission
1-888-224-7268
1-888-CAGrant
www.csac.ca.gov
www.calgrants.org

CSS Profile Information
1-305-829-9793
www.collegeboard.org

Financial Aid Information Page
www.finaid.org



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