

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- **Search** for private scholarships and grants. Check with employers and local organizations. You can apply for these throughout the year, but it's wise to get an early start on it.
- **Create** an FSA User ID for both you & your parents at <https://fafsa.gov>



- **Tax information** is required. Can use IRS data retrieval to transfer tax data from IRS to FAFSA (preferred). Pay attention to the requested tax year. Ex. 2015 taxes for 2017-18 financial aid
- **Submit** financial aid applications by schools priority deadlines to enhance your chances of receiving priority financial aid.
 - FAFSA available as of October 1st
 - CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE (if requested available Oct. 1)
 - TASFA (for non-US citizens) available as of October 6th
 - Institutional Aid Application (if requested)
- Contact college Financial Aid Office if you have been **selected for verification**. Additional information may be needed to determine eligibility.
- Fill out school specific financial aid forms by the deadlines specified.
- **Verify** that you have submitted all required financial aid forms.
- **Respond** in a timely manner to any requests from any colleges for additional documents such as IRS 1040 tax transcripts.
- If your family's financial circumstances have changed significantly since you submitted the FAFSA, send a letter to the financial aid administrator at the school, requesting a professional judgment review of your case. Describe the change in circumstances, and include documentation if possible.
- Compare the financial aid packages from each school. Do not look just at the total amount of aid, but conduct a bottom-line analysis of the net out-of-pocket cost of attending each school. The goal is that the schools will all be *affordable* options and you can choose the school that is the best fit for you. This may not mean that all schools will cost exactly the same.
- Consider whether you'll need additional aid from a private loan and/or grant. If you were awarded loans, choose a low-interest loan. You may need a co-signor to get a lower interest rate.
- Check flexible payment options at each college.
- **STAY ON TOP OF IMPORTANT DEADLINES AT YOUR CHOSEN COLLEGE (ENROLLMENT, SCHOLARSHIP, FINANCIAL AID, HOUSING, ETC.)**

Brought to you by the University of Dallas Offices of Admission and Financial Aid

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RESOURCES

www.fafsa.gov
www.studentaid.gov
www.studentloans.gov
www.collegeforalltexans.com
www.collegeboard.com
www.finaid.org
www.mappingyourfuture.org
www.FAFSA4caster.ed.gov
www.fastweb.com
www.studentscholarships.org
www.scholarshipamerica.org
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