

Student Financial Aid Checklist

Use this simple checklist to guide you through the steps needed to maximize the amount of college financial aid that you can receive.

Step1: Complete Your Off-to-College Tasks

Make sure you have everything in order for college admission. This includes essays and application forms, college visits, housing selection and other.

Our quick calendar events can help:
www.OfftoCollege.com

Step2: How Much Is College Going to Cost

College costs include tuition, housing, food, books, transportation, and more. Your college will be required to provide this information.

TIP: use our FREE student tally sheet to keep track of costs and financial aid received:
www.SayStudent.com/tally

Step3: What is EFC

EFC is the Expected Family Contribution for higher education. In other words, it is the portion the family has to pay after factoring in all of your student financial aid.

Link to our Student Aid Note1 to understand EFC and to see if you qualify for federal financial aid:
www.SayStudent.com/note1

Step4: FAFSA Submission

Financial aid begins with your filing of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form is required for all federal aid program and many college aid programs. You can file the FAFSA form starting in January for the upcoming Fall academic year.

Link to our Student Aid Note2 for FAFSA submission forms and requirements: www.SayStudent.com/note2

Step5: Understand the Aid Process

First comes the FAFSA form, then the SAR, and then the Financial Aid award letter from your school.

Link to our Financial Aid Steps to view the process:
www.SayStudent.com/aid-steps

Step6: View the Types and Sources of Aid

Financial aid programs include grants, scholarships, loans, state programs, and other special aid.

You can view a summary charts for students and parents: www.SayStudent.com/charts

Step7: Check with Your Financial Aid Office

Your school's financial aid office is the control center for student financial aid. Talk with your college's financial aid center to see how they can help. Ask questions like:

- 1: *what are the filing deadlines?*
- 2: *what forms are required?*
- 3: *what percentage of costs covered by the aid package?*
- 4: *can the award package be negotiated?*

Step8: Start Searching for Scholarship Money

Scholarship awards can go fast, so start early — usually in the Fall of your High School senior year.

Check your field of study, ethnic background, social and religious affiliations, parent's employment, family club memberships, and local businesses:

www.SayStudent.com/scholarships

Step9: Learn About Stafford Student Loans

Student loans are the most widely used form of financial aid. These loans are backed by the Federal Government to guarantee low-interest rate loans.

Link to: www.SayStudent.com/stafford

Step10: Graduates Can Use the PLUS Loan

Graduates and professional students can borrow up to the full cost of education. Deferment plans are available. But graduates must use the full borrowing amounts from Stafford student loans prior to borrowing from Plus loans.

www.SayStudent.com/gradplus

Step11: How Parents Can Help

Parents of undergraduate students can assist with their child's education by applying for the Federal PLUS loan. You can borrow up to the full cost of education minus any financial aid received by the student.

www.SayStudent.com/plus

Step12: Private Student Loans

Many financial aid awards do not cover the full costs. So many students are turning to private education loans to finance college. You can borrow up to the full cost of education as certified by your institution.

www.SayStudent.com/private

Step13: Home Equity Financing

Parents or students with equity value in their home can use home equity programs to pay for college. Funds are borrowed when needed, giving you more flexibility and control of costs. You don't need to file federal forms







You can also use the Bank Equity program to get the overall best benefit: www.SayStudent.com/bank



Step14: Managing Your Money


Money will be tight during school. Students (and parents) want to control spending and avoid unnecessary debt. View our tools for tips on building a budget and using pre-paid cards to manage spending.

You can download budgeting forms and other tools FREE: www.SayStudent.com/tools

Free Student Tools

-  student aid tally sheet
-  student financial aid map
-  summary financial aid chart for undergrads
-  summary financial aid chart for parents
-  student loans pros and cons chart
-  college moving checklist

-  **cost comparison wkst:**
use to compare costs among colleges
-  **building success:**
free how-to book download

-  **link to:**
www.SayStudent.com/tools

Student Financial Aid Checklist

