Financial Aid Checklist

First Thing, Make Sure You Complete Your Off-to-College Tasks
If you are going to college, make sure you complete and submit the required documents.

Deadlines include essay and application submissions, college visits, housing selection, and gathering those things for the move.

Our quick calendar of events can help: www.SayCampusLife.com/guide

How Much Is It Going to Cost
Depends on where you are going
Costs include tuition, housing, books, transportation and more.

TIP: print our tally sheet to keep tabs on cost and the available aid that you get. See: www.SayCampusLife.com/tools

Where is the Money Coming From
Billions of dollars are disbursed each year in financial aid for students. The largest percentage was grants & federal loans.

- Federal Loans
- Institutional Grants
- Federal Pell Grants
- Private & Employer Grants
- State Grants
- Education Tax Benefits
- Other Federal Programs
- Federal Campus Based

These are just some of the sources of financial aid. Other aid for college includes:

- scholarships
- campus aid
- private student aid and loans
- family contribution
Financial Aid Checklist

link to www.SayCampusLife.com for support information

What is EFC

EFC is the Expected Family Contribution for higher education. In other words, financial aid is awarded based on a formula that calculates the total cost of attending school and the expected family contribution to that cost.

Summary information about EFC: see Aid Step 1 at www.SayCampusLife.com/_steps

Do You Qualify for Financial Aid

Before you start the financial aid process, you must qualify as either a dependant or independent student.

Review qualifications:
Summary Information: see Aid Step 1 at www.SayCampusLife.com/_steps

Understand the Financial Aid Process

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

Link to our Financial Aid Steps to view the process:
Summary Financial Aid Steps: www.SayCampusLife.com/_steps

FAFSA Submission

Almost all financial aid begins with your filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

This form is required for all Federal Student Loans and many college aid programs, including some scholarships. You can file the FAFSA form starting in January for the upcoming Fall academic year.

What you will need to file:

• tax returns
• W-2 forms
• bank statements
• Social Security and VA Benefits, if any

Summary FAFSA Information: see Aid Step 2 at www.SayCampusLife.com/_steps
Financial Aid Checklist

link to www.SayCampusLife.com for support information

☐ Understand the Types and Sources of Student Financial Student Aid
Financial aid programs include grants, scholarships, loans, state programs, and other special aid.

We have complete information on types and sources.
Summary Information: see Aid Step 5 at www.SayCampusLife.com/steps

You can view a summary chart of financial aid options:

financial aid chart: for undergraduates
financial aid chart: for graduates
financial aid chart: for parents
financial aid chart: for continuing students

☐ 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 office to see how they can help. Be prepared to ask questions such as:

1. What are the filing deadlines?
2. What forms are required?
3. What percentage of the college costs is covered by the financial aid package?
4. Can the award package be negotiated?

Connect to your schools web site for the financial aid office

☐ Start Searching for Scholarship Money
Scholarship awards can go fast, so start early — usually in the Fall prior to the start of your college year.

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

over $24.3 billion
worth of scholarships and grants in one location

view scholarship directory: www.SayCampusLife.com/scholarships
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Learn About Student Stafford 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.

Summary information: [www.SayCampusLife.com/fedaid](http://www.SayCampusLife.com/fedaid)
Go to Federal Student Loans

View our Summary Loan Chart of available student loans

Graduates Can Use the PLUS Loan
Graduates and professional students can use the PLUS loan program to borrow up to the full cost of education. Deferment plans are available.

Summary Information about the GradPLUS loan: [www.SayCampusLife.com/fedaid](http://www.SayCampusLife.com/fedaid)
View GradPLUS Loans

View our Summary Loan Chart of available PLUS loans

See How Parents Can Help
Parents of undergraduate students can assist with their child's education by applying for the Federal PLUS loans.

Summary information about PLUS loans: [www.SayCampusLife.com/fedaid](http://www.SayCampusLife.com/fedaid)
View PLUS Loans

View our Summary Loan Chart of available student loans

Private Loans and Other Alternative Financing
Most financial aid awards do not cover the full cost of education. Many students are turning to private education loans and other alternative financing to finance their education.

These loans are not subject to Federal Government review and processing. You can get your money in as little as 5 business days.

Summary Information about Private Student Loans: [www.SayCampusLife.com/privateaid](http://www.SayCampusLife.com/privateaid)
View Private Student Loans

View our Summary Loan Chart of available student loans
Financial Aid Checklist

link to www.SayCampusLife.com for support information

- **Home Equity Loans**
  Parents or students with equity value in their home can use home equity loan to pay for college. Funds can be borrowed as they are needed — not all at once under most other loan programs.

  For more information: [www.SayCampusLife.com/privateaid](http://www.SayCampusLife.com/privateaid)

- **Use the Banker Home Equity Line of Credit (BLOC)**
  Parents or students with steady working income can use the BLOC to manage their money and fund education expenses. The program benefits those with positive discretionary income that helps to keep funding costs low.

  For more information: [www.SayCampusLife.com/privateaid](http://www.SayCampusLife.com/privateaid)

- **Managing Your Money**
  Money will be tight during school. You want to control spending and avoid unnecessary debt. View our recommendation on how to manage student funds while attending college.

  Money management tips: see budgeting tips at [www.SayCampusLife.com/budget](http://www.SayCampusLife.com/budget)

- **Building Your Credit**
  Starting school brings on many new responsibilities like building a strong credit report and managing your credit payments. This will benefit you in the future for:

  - buying a home
  - finding a good career
  - keeping lending costs down
  - perhaps starting a business

  We have complete credit and debt management tips including budgeting monthly expenses at our Money Management Center:

  View the ABCs of credit management: see tools at [www.SayEducate.com](http://www.SayEducate.com)