

College and Career Information For Juniors

It's hard to believe that in a few short months you will be beginning your senior year! In this packet you will find lots of good information you will need to help you get a head-start in the college and career planning process.

AFTER GRADUATION WHAT?

Four-Year Colleges and Universities

There are six public and many private four-year universities and colleges in Washington State, as well as a myriad of institutions offering quality four-year degrees across the nation.

A four-year degree program option might be a good option if...

- You have strong academic record and test scores
- You want the breadth of training a four-year education can provide
- You are pursuing a professional occupation which requires training beyond the BA

Community and Technical College

Washington State has an excellent system of 33 community and technical colleges providing a broad array of technical degrees including 1 year certificate programs, 2-year non transfer Associate of Applied Science Degrees, and 2-year general education or professional degree transfer programs.

A community or Technical college might be a good option for you if...

- You want to complete general education courses before transfer to a 4-year school
- You need to bring up you grades, or save more money before you transfer
- You need specific technical training available at a CTC for your chosen career.

Apprenticeship (Washington State Department of Labor and Industries website: www.LNI.WA.GOV)

Apprenticeship students take at least 2000 hours on-the-job training (OJT) learning manual, mechanical or technical skills with a highly skilled craft person or trade professional with 144 hours minimum classroom instruction to learn practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation.

An apprenticeship might be a good option for you if...

- You are a hands-on learner, who learns better from application than from book learning
- You would like to boost your earning power to finance your way to college
- You respect people who earn money in the trades

The Military-Department of Defense: <http://www.defenselink.mil/sites/>

There are more than 4,100 different officer and enlisted jobs offered by the U.S. Military for both full-time and part-time duty. The U.S. Department of Defense has developed the ASVAB Career Exploration Program (www.asvabprogram.com) to help students identify and explore potentially satisfying occupations and to develop effective strategies to realize their career goals.

The military might be a good option for you if...

- You like or need a structured work environment to get things done
- You would like to earn money for a college you can't yet afford
- You seek adventure and opportunities for leadership

THINGS TO DO IF YOU ARE GOING ON TO COLLEGE or TECH SCHOOL

In your JUNIOR or early in your senior year:

- Research colleges and/or tech schools on their websites and/or come in to the Career Center and pick up specific college catalogs.
- Visit with college and tech reps when they are at CHS
- Prepare a list of questions you want answered.
- Plan on visiting the college(s) and/or tech schools you are interested in some time in your junior or early in your senior year.
- Find out what test you may need to take (SAT, ACT, ASSET)

In your senior year:

- Attend Senior College Night at CHS. Bring your parent to this important event.
- Visit with the reps from the colleges you are interested in when they are at CHS
- In November apply online to 4-6 institutions that fit your career and college plans.
- Attend the FAFSA night at CHS. Bring a parent; they'll need to know this information, too!
- Apply for your PIN for the FAFSA. www.pin.ed.gov
- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) beginning January 1st. www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Check application deadlines on the Career Center/Scholarships page of the CHS website.
- Check local scholarship due dates every month for deadline dates. Some will be due as early as Feb 1st.
- Sign up to take the SAT, ACT, or ASSET or Compass Test

If YOU ARE CONSIDERING GOING INTO THE MILITARY:

- Study all programs offered
- Visit with the recruiters
- Take the ASVAB-a military aptitude test that explores military career options
 - Check with the HS counselor for the dates
- Look into the ROTC programs

Young men must register for the selective service when they are 18 years old.

- Register online at www.sss.gov

Juniors:

Use this handy College Selection Worksheet to help you decide which college is right for *you*.

COLLEGE SELECTION WORKSHEET

(Borrowed from Mount Tahoma High School)

Step One:

Are there any colleges to which you are already interested in applying? List below.

Step Two:

Evaluate each of the following factors on the scale below. Then after rating each factor write down your preferences for each factor.

1-Not Important 2-Somewhat Important 3-Important
4-Very Important 5-Not Applicable

1) LOCATION 1 2 3 4 5
In what states/regions do you want to live? _____

2) SETTING 1 2 3 4 5
What size of community do you want? (Circle all that apply)

Urban
SmallTown
Suburban
Rural

3) ENROLLMENT SIZE 1 2 3 4 5
How big of a school do you want to attend? (Circle all that apply)

<1,000 1,000-5,000 5,001-10,000 >10,000

4) MAJOR 1 2 3 4 5
Subject area(s) in which you are thinking of
majoring _____

5) COST 1 2 3 4 5
Expense of tuition, housing, and books (Circle all that apply)

\$0-\$9,999 \$10,000-\$14,999 \$15,000-\$19,999 \$20,000+

COLLEGE SELECTION WORKSHEET CONT . . .

6) ENTRANCE DIFFICULTY I 2 3 4 5
How difficult is it to get into the school? (Circle all that apply)

Minimal Moderate Very Most

7) RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION I 2 3 4 5
What religion sponsors the school? _____

8) SPORTS
What college sports do you want the school to offer? I 2 3 4 5

9) OTHER FACTORS (List other factors that are important to you)
A. _____ I 2 3 4 5
Describe what you want from this factor _____

B. _____ I 2 3 4 5

Step Three:

Rank your choices from "most important" to "least important".

1) _____ 4) _____
2) _____ 5) _____
3) _____ 6) _____

Step Four:

Once you are done ranking then proceed to enter these factors into computer search programs such as access.bridges.com or peterson.com. This will give you a list of colleges that match your criteria. Also, talk with your family, teachers, friends, and school counselor about college options based on the information you provide on this sheet.

Applying to a College or University

The Process

- Make a list of things that are important to you in a college or university. Talk to your school counselor and your parents as you make your list.
- Do internet research, choose 4-6 institutions that fit your career and college plans and apply online.

College Application Checklist

The following checklist is a suggested list only. Check the specifications of each institution to which you are applying, to see if any additional information is required.

- Many college and university require you to apply online, so check their websites
- If you are using a paper application, make sure the application is complete, signed and dated.
- Official high school transcripts (get these from the counseling office)
- Nonrefundable application fee. Talk to the counseling office to find out about application fee waivers.
- Personal statement
- List of awards, achievement and activities (if required)
- Official test scores from SAT or ACT (these must be sent directly from the testing agency. www.collegboard.org **Your testing admission ticket number will be required**)
- Personal Letters of Recommendation (if required, usually three are adequate)

ADMISSIONS PERSONAL STATEMENT

Your personal statement is a critical part of your application for admissions and scholarships. A new shift in the admissions process is putting much more weight on the personal statement. Admissions officials are looking beyond grades and test scores to more intangible qualities that make a good college student. They want a student body with mix of experience, backgrounds and points of view-which makes the college learning environment exciting and rich. But they also want to know that each student they enroll is motivated, willing and able to work hard, and is someone who very much wants to be enrolled at that campus. The personal statement helps the admissions team reading your applications understand how you would contribute to the learning environment at their college. It lets them see you as a person as well as a student. You can also explain the obstacles and opportunities you've overcome along the way. Listed below are some tips that will help you write the best Person Statement you can.

Characteristics of a good Personal Statement:

- Be thoughtful and honest. Your personal statement should look different than any other personal statement the admissions officers will read. It is one only YOU can write.
- Go for depth, not breath. This is not a resume or laundry list of your accomplishments. Focus on particular evidence of your character and drive.
- Write to the prompt and follow the guidelines. Clearly and thoughtfully address the essay prompt. If you apply to six different institutions, you will write six different statements.
- Follow the dictates of good writing. Essay readers will read hundreds of essays. Distinguish yours with vivid descriptions only you can make. Brainstorm ideas, then draft, redraft and proofread your statements. Get feedback from others. But in the end, it is your words and your essay.
- If there are negative thing you need to explain, here's your opportunity. It's ok to have shortcomings- you're human. Explain how you have, or will, overcome them.
- Show the reader that you know their institution and really WANT to attend. Don't apply to a school with no engineering program and say that you've always want to be an engineer!

What to Avoid:

- Repeating information provided elsewhere in your application.
- Complaining about your circumstances or challenges: instead, rise above them!
- Talking about college as a way to make more money
- An essay that relies on gimmicks rather than substance
- Misrepresenting yourself. Lies or half-truths get found out. Be honest.
- An essay clearly not written for the prompt of this particular college.
- An essay that is too short or too long.
- An essay with typos or grammar errors. Don't rely on Spell Check alone. Have someone else proof your final.

Don't put this off; this is a time-consuming and critical part of your application!

Juniors,

If you are planning to attend college or tech school after you graduate you will probably need help paying for it. Applying for scholarships in your senior year will be one of the best ways to help finance your education.

SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENTS are responsible for making sure scholarship applications are postmarked and/or received by the organization offering the scholarship by the designated deadline.

Local Scholarships

Contact information and criteria for each local scholarship offered will be in the **SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP PACKET** you will get in your **senior year**. Local scholarships use either a standard application form which is found in this packet, your **SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP PACKET**, on the Career Center/Scholarships page of the CHS website www.chelanschools.org. and available in the Career Center, *or* a form specific to the organization. If a scholarship has a specific application form, it will be indicated by “See Career Center for specific form” under the listing. Qualifications for scholarships are most generally based on academics, financial need, service, and career choice. Some scholarship committees put emphasis on one or more of these areas and completely forget about others. Don't think that your chances for a scholarship are poor because you have a lower GPA or have never been in athletics. There are scholarships available for everyone! There is still time to raise that GPA!

Regional, Statewide and National Scholarships

Check the list of regional, statewide and national scholarships on the Career Center/Scholarships page of the CHS website www.chelanschools.org. These scholarships almost always have a specific application form and must be accessed through the organization's website (if applicable) or picked up in the Career Center. The standard local scholarship form cannot be used for these scholarships. Follow instructions for submitting these applications carefully. Apply for all scholarships for which you qualify. They will be awarded toward the latter part of the school year.

Refer to page 24 of this handbook for a list of college and financial aid resources. Scholarship search sites offer a free service; **you should never have to pay for scholarship lists.**

Scholarship offered by your college, university or tech school

Make sure to check the criteria and deadlines for scholarships offered by the colleges or tech schools you apply to. Some institutions require only your application for admissions for scholarships while others require a separate scholarship application.

HOW TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Getting Ready:

Scholarship Committees are looking for diversity in your interests and activities.

They want to see that you are well rounded. Start gathering materials on yourself. Build a file or resume, making complete and thorough lists of the following things:

- Grade point average, class rank, courses selected (know areas of emphasis);
- Letter of intent (Personal Statement) stating goals and intentions;
- Copies of ACT or SAT test scores, if you are planning to attend a 4-year institution
- Significant activities
 - School clubs, sports, etc. Avoid using acronyms and make sure the club's purpose is identified.
- Leadership, academic honors or other special achievements
 - Honor society, knowledge bowl, etc.
- Community involvement
 - Canned food drive, volunteering at a nursing home
 - Volunteer experience (community and school)
 - Coaching youth sports teams
- Hobbies and interest
- Work history from grade 9 and up.

Take appropriate tests if you haven't already. Many scholarship applications require a copy of your SAT or ACT scores. Register online at www.collegeboard.org. Keep your eye on registration dates and deadlines!

Contact at least three individuals to act as references. Check to see if they would be willing to write a letter of recommendation for you. Use the **Request for a Letter of Recommendation** form included in this packet.

Beginning the Application Process

START EARLY. Most scholarship applications require:

- an application form,
- A personal essay or letter of intent (150-500 words). For tips on how to write this essay, refer to the **Personal Statement Project** guideline included in this packet.
- Letters of recommendation.
- Your high school transcripts. Some will require an original and some will accept a copy. Get your transcripts from the counseling office. Be sure to specify if you need an original or copy.

Allow yourself at least 2 weeks to complete this process.

Complete the application forms. Many national and regional scholarships have online applications available to make applying even easier. Often a school representative (teacher, counselor or administrator) will be required to complete a section of your application confirming your academic record and perhaps recommending you. **Give the Counseling Office or Career Center at least one week to complete the school's portion of your application.**

BE AWARE OF DEADLINES! A late or incomplete application automatically disqualifies you.

Starting your Scholarship Personal Statement.

- You are writing for a purpose. Be persuasive in showing the reader you are deserving of the award. Remember your audience.
- State specifically your goals and major intentions for the future. State what college you will be applying to even if you are not completely sure.
- List all ideas--any possibilities. Be creative, brainstorm without censoring.
- Sort through ideas and prioritize. You can't tell them everything. Be selective.
- Choose information and ideas which are not reflected in other parts of your application. This is your chance to supplement your application with information you want them to know about you.

Writing the Draft--Apply what you have learned in English class.

- Develop paragraphs - one idea at a time. Include a topic sentence with examples of your point or convincing reasons.
- Make transitions between paragraphs.
- Select action verbs and avoid the passive voice.
- Use concrete examples. Often examples of behavior demonstrate an idea better than an adjective. (demonstrate how or why, don't just tell)
- Develop exact, concrete language. Avoid vague references, wordy usage or clichés.

Editing Your Draft

- Does your introduction capture the reader's attention?
- Are you consistent in your verb tense?
- Are you clear and coherent?
- Are you concise enough to adhere to the limits in length?
- Have you checked for grammatical and spelling errors?
- Does the essay present you as you wish to be seen?
- Did another person review your essay for possible mistakes?
- Does your closing paragraph present you as you wish to be remembered?

Would you remember your essay if you read two hundred others?

Completing your application.

- Should you type it? Some applications list a preference of either typed or hand-written work. Regardless of the preference, the application should be neat and legible.
- Not all scholarships require the same information to be included in the application. Make sure to go over each scholarship's checklist of what to include. Most scholarships may want you to include several or all of the following:
 - Transcript(s); check to see if they require an original or will accept a copy.
 - college acceptance letters
 - letters of recommendations
 - list of awards and honors
 - your own Personal Statement or letter of intent
 - work record from grade 9 on up
 - SAT/ACT test results and/or
 - Other information pertinent to the individual scholarship for which you are applying

Make and keep a copy for your records.

Follow up your application

- Thank those who assisted you in the application or write letters of recommendation. **Follow up with a Thank-You note**
- Acknowledge the scholarship's donors. If you are granted a scholarship be certain to keep in touch with the donors. It is especially crucial to maintain contact if the scholarship is renewable. **A Thank-You note would be especially nice.**

Clarify terms for scholarship renewal. Find out if you meet specific conditions to have your award renewed.

Personal Statement Tips for Scholarship Applications

Your personal statement is a critical part of your application for scholarships. Most scholarship applications require a 'Personal Statement' or 'Letter of Intent'. Listed below are some tips that will help you write the best Personal Statement you can. Your Personal Statement is the best way a scholarship committee has to get to know you.

Write about who you are. Write about those aspects of your life that are not apparent from the information provided on your application or high school transcript. Tell about the experiences that don't show up on your transcript; **a character-defining moment, a personal challenge you have faced, a hardship you have overcome or the cultural awareness you've developed. Tell why you want to continue your education and what having the opportunity to go to college means to you.**

When you write your Personal Statement, you may want to include at least one of the following topics:

Topics:

1. Describe an experience in your life that demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.
2. Describe any personal hardships or barriers you've had to overcome and explain how they have effected your education.
3. In the context of your life experiences, describe your understanding of cultural differences, how this awareness was acquired, and how it has affected you.

Make sure you have clearly stated:

- **your future educational goals**
- **what your plan is for achieving your educational goals**
- **if you have had to fame unusual hardships (i.e. personal, family, economic).**

Format:

Spelling, grammar and punctuation are considered. Don't rely on 'spell-check' alone. Grammar mistakes are often times not caught. Proofread your essay before you print it.

Type or write your statement. Double space your lines, and use on one side of each sheet. One to 1 ½ pages should be plenty.

Print your name, the date and the words "PERSONAL STATEMENT" at the top of each page.

REQUESTING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Make a list of possible people to ask. Consider teachers, coaches, employers, church leaders, family friends, and volunteer program coordinators. Ask people who have known you for a long time, who know your capabilities and can write a strong, positive letter of recommendation on your behalf. Relatives are not good choices.
- Ask 3-5 people to write a letter. It is acceptable to ask in person or over the telephone. Indicate to whom the letter is to be addressed, the purpose (acceptance to a program/college, recipient of a scholarship) and when the letter needs to be completed.
- Allow a minimum of **2 weeks** for the person to write the letter.
- In order to provide helpful information to the writer of your recommendations letter, **complete the ‘Request for Letter of Recommendation’ form on the next page.** Make as many copies as needed and give a copy to each person.
- You may then make copies of each letter of recommendation to include in your applications.
- **Once you have received your recommendation letter, send each person a Thank-You note.**

Request for Letter of Recommendation

Date needed by (please allow a minimum of two weeks) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

With whom are you living? (Circle one) Mother Father Both Other

Family members attending college: List current school.

_____ School _____

_____ School _____

Purpose of Letter Scholarship _____

College Application _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Present Cumulative GPA _____

Class Rank _____

SAT scores V _____

M _____

College(s) you are considering _____

Future Career Goals _____

What steps in high school have you taken to advance toward your goals?

Please list any College Prep, AP or Honors Classes you have taken in high school.

School _____

What college credits and/or certifications have you earned in high school? Please list.

Activities, Honors, Community Involvement

ACTIVITIES:

Please list significant activities you have been involved with during your high school career such as in-school clubs, sports, out-of-school clubs, work experience etc. Check year involved

Activity	How Were You Involved?	9	10	11	12

LEADERSHIP, ACADEMIC HONORS OR OTHER SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Such as honor society, knowledge bowl, etc.

Academic Honor or Award	9	10	11	12

COMMUNITY SERVICE/INVOLMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

Activity	How Were You Involved?	9	10	11	12

PERSONALLY SPEAKING...

Please answer the following questions to better enable the person requested to write an effective letter of recommendation for you. Feel free to answer these questions on a separate sheet.

What are some of your strengths? Weaknesses? How do these strengths and weaknesses affect your life?

When you look at your life, what accomplishments are you proud of? Why?

What are some of your future plans? What career fields are you looking at and why do those interest you?

Are there any particular life events that have made a significant impact on you? (positive or negative events?)

What would you like to see in the letter if you were writing it for yourself?

WHAT DOES A SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION LOOK LIKE?

Below is the form used by some of the local scholarships foundations that do not require a specific form. This is a SAMPLE of the information many scholarships will require.

Local Scholarship Application

Name of Scholarship _____

Full legal name _____

Home address _____

Place of birth _____

Parents or legal guardian(s):

Father _____

Mother _____

Address _____

Address _____

Occupation _____

Occupation _____

Living? ____ if deceased, when? ____

Living? ____ if deceased, when? ____

Total number of family members living at home _____

Number of children in family _____ Ages _____

Number of younger children in the family _____

Number of attending college (including yourself) _____

College, University or Tech School which you plan to attend:

Which quarter or semester do you expect to enter? _____

Do you plan to complete a full course in this institution? _____

If not, what are your plans? _____

What is your intended major or focus of study? _____

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

Why to you want to enter this field? -

Cumulative High School GPA _____

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES: (school clubs, sports, etc.)

Activity	How Were You Involved?	9	10	11	12

LEADERSHIP, ACADEMIC HONORS OR OTHER SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS: (i.e Honor Society, Knowledge Bowl, etc. **Do not** include Who’s Who list, attendance awards, student of the month or honor roll)

Honor or Award	9	10	11	12

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Include activities which involve 15 hours per activity that by your actions you are bettering the community by improving the life of an individual, group or the community as a whole) :

	9	10	11	12

Statement of Financial Need

Father's Employer _____

Position

Mother's Employer _____

Position

Please provide the following financial data with respect to the school you hope to attend.

1. Estimate College Expenses for one year:

Tuition & Fees:	\$ _____
Room & Board:	\$ _____
Books & Expenses:	\$ _____
Personal Expenses:	\$ _____
Transportation:	\$ _____

Total Estimated College Expenses for 1 year: \$ _____

2. Anticipated Money Available:

Personal Savings:	\$ _____
Family Help:	\$ _____
Applicant's job:	\$ _____
Scholarships money received:	\$ _____
Other:	\$ _____

Total Anticipated Money Available: \$ _____

3. Anticipated Unmet Need: \$ _____
(Subtract #2 from #1)

4. Do you have any outstanding debt (i.e.: credit card, car loans, etc.) \$ _____

5. Are you now working? If so, where and how many hours per week?

Criteria, Requirements, Conditions and Agreement

REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICATIONS

1. Completed application.
2. Transcript copy of high school credits signed by counselor or registrar.
3. A personal statement letter from the applicant stating why he/she wishes to further his schooling, including aspirations in a special field if one has been chosen.
4. Three letters of recommendation from persons other than your relatives.

Examples:

- a. Teachers who know you personally could write 2 of the three, but not all 3.
- b. Community member such as former employer, pastor, or personal friend of the family.
- c. A local businessman or woman.

NOTE: Some scholarships require a letter from parents or other special recommendation. Check criteria listed in Senior Scholarship Packet for individual scholarship.

5. It is optional to include copies of awards, certificates, and newspaper articles of yourself where you have received recognition on school and community activities. This is desirable because it adds clarity and documentation.
6. Applicant must place application in a clear plastic binder and mail to the address specified or before the due date listed on each scholarship.
7. List all activities and awards received on page 2.
 - Significant Activities (school clubs, sports, etc. which involve at least 15 hours per year per activity)
 - Leadership, academic honors or other special achievements such as Honor Society, Knowledge Bowl, etc. **Do not** include Who's Who list, attendance awards, student of the month or honor roll)
 - Community Involvement - Include activities which involve 15 hours per activity that by your actions you are bettering the community by improving the life of an individual, group or the community as a whole)

QUALIFICATIONS...This award is to be judged on the merit and worth of the applicant. In order to qualify the student must fulfill the following:

1. **SERVICE**.....Applicant must have taken an active part in service in the home, in the school, and in the community with a high degree of cooperation, courtesy and consideration for others.

2. **DEPENDABILITY**.....Applicant must have executed responsibility with truthfulness, loyalty and punctuality.

3. **LEADERSHIP**.....Applicant must have executed responsibility to lead with self-control, dignity and responsibility.

CONDITIONS:

THE AWARD.....An award will be given to a graduating senior from Chelan High School for any institution of higher learning in the United States unless otherwise specified for one year.

THIS AGREEMENT.....This is an agreement with donors of this scholarship that should I be awarded the _____ scholarship and accept, I shall complete one academic year in the school of my choice. If I fail in compliance with this agreement, and cannot show just cause, I shall repay the amount awarded to me in full within one year from the time of withdrawal.

SIGNATURE OF
APPLICANT _____

SIGNATURE OF
PARENT _____

Action Plan for High School Seniors

Fall

Pull Your Applications Together

- Narrow your list of colleges to approximately five to eight, and review it with your counselor. Get an application and financial aid info from each. Visit as many as possible
- Sign up to visit College Representatives who visit Chelan High School
- Sign up for October or November SAT and/or ACT
- Make a master calendar and note:
 - Test dates, fees and deadline
 - College application due dates
 - Required financial aid applications and their deadlines
 - Recommendations, transcripts, and other necessary materials
- Ask for letters of recommendations. Allow 2-4 weeks for each person writing a letter for you. Follow up with a Thank-You note
- Write applications essays and ask teachers, counselor and family members to read first drafts.

Decide Whether to Apply Early Action or Early Decision

- November 1: For early admission, colleges may require test scores and applications in early November. Send your SAT scores
- Ask if your college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility

Get Financial Aid Info

- Attend financial aid info events in your area. FAFSA Night at Chelan High School is usually in December.
- Research National, Regional and Local Scholarships. Log on to the Career Center/Scholarships page of the CHS website to find scholarship information

Winter

Review Application Details

- Most regular applications are due between early December and February 15. Keep copies of everything you send to colleges
- Ask the high school counseling office to send your transcripts to colleges.
- Contact colleges to make sure they've received all applications materials

Keep an eye on Local Scholarship Deadlines. This may be one of the best ways to help finance your education. Deadlines range from mid February to June 1st. Log on to the www.chelanschools.org, choose High School and then click on Career Center/Scholarships. Lists of the all the local and many regional and national scholarships are included in this webpage.

Apply for Financial Aid

- You and your family should save this year's pay stubs to estimate income on aid forms that you'll file early next year
- You and a parent will need to apply for your FAFSA Pin number. This serves as your electronic signature when filing online.
- Submit your FAFSA as soon as possible beginning January 1. **Men who are 18 years of age or older must register with Selective Service to receive federal financial aid.**
- If the SAR (Student Aid Report) asks for updated information, or you need to make a correction, do so ASAP. Failure to respond could cost you financial aid
- Many priority financial aid deadlines fall in February. To get the most attractive award package, apply by the priority date. **Keep copies of everything you send.**

Check to make sure you have submitted all required materials: admissions application, FAFSA and scholarship applications.

Spring

Review Acceptance Letters

- You should get acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April
- Use Compare Your Aid Awards (www.collegeboard.com) to compare awards from different colleges. Talk to financial aid officers at your college if you have questions about the award offered.
- If you haven't already, visit your final college before accepting.

Make your Final Choice by May 1

- You must tell every college of your acceptance or rejection of offers of admission or financial aid by May 1. Send a deposit to the college you choose.
- Apply for on-or off campus housing.
- Respond to all letters from your college of choice by due dates.
- Wait-listed? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions officer your intent and ask how to strengthen your applications. Need financial aid? Ask if funds will be available if you're accepted.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

- _____ 1. Read the section on financial aid in the college catalog/bulletin of the institution you plan to attend.
- _____ 2. Research scholarships and financial aid. <http://www.collegeboard.com/pay>
- _____ 3. Call or e-mail the financial aid office of the college/vocational school you plan to attend requesting financial aid literature, applications, etc.
- _____ 4. Visit the Career Center and find out how local, state and national scholarships are announced and deadlines for applying.
- _____ 5. Check with your parents to determine if their employers, unions, lodges or churches offer scholarships. If so, apply. Check to see if you have to take the SAT or ACT to qualify.
- _____ 6. Do you have special talents in the arts, athletics, or vocational talents? Check with the institution you plan to attend to determine if they offer scholarships for these talents.
- _____ 7. Apply for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov beginning JANUARY 1st. Applying online is faster and easier than the paper FAFSA, although you may still complete and submit the FAFSA in paper form. A FAFSA on the Web Worksheet is available online (www.fafsa.ed.gov) or in the Career Center. You will need to apply for your FAFSA pin number (your electronic signature) before submitting your FAFSA application. This may be done PRIOR to January 1st.
- _____ 8. Are you interested and do you qualify for ROTC and/or service academy programs that pay for most or a major portion of your education? Tune into deadlines and continuing obligations!
- _____ 9. Have you determined a major? If so, contact the department head at the college, vocational or technical school to determine if there are scholarships available for these majors.
- _____ 10. Middle of your senior year: It may be appropriate to make a personal contact with the financial aid officers at the college, vocational or technical school you plan to attend.
- _____ 11. Interested in a loan? Guaranteed Student Loans may be received only if you apply for Financial Aid (FAFSA) The loan is awarded through financial aid.
- _____ 12. Your bank may have a student college loan program. Check with them.
- _____ 13. Saving money is like getting a scholarship!

**NOTE:* Financial aid is granted to those students who apply and are accepted to the college of their choice.

College and Financial Aid Resources

checkoutacollege.com
collegeboard.org
www.collegeportraits.org

Scholarship Search Engines:

www.thewashboard.com
www.fastweb.com
www.scholarships.com
www.gmsp.org
www.fastaid.com
www.mach25.com
www.cashe.com
www.scholaraid.com
www.freshinfo.com

Financial Aid Websites:

www.fafsa.ed.gov (FAFSA)
www.pin.ed.gov (PIN # for FAFSA)
www.finaid.org
www.edfund.org
www.nasfaa.org
www.educaid.com
www.collegeboard.com
www.collegenet.com
www.salliemae.com

<http://www.hispaniconline.com/magazine/2005/march/Features/top25colleges.html>
(The Top 25 Colleges for Latinos)

www.semy.org (Secondary Education for Migrant Youth):

***Links to State / National Migrant Education Program Scholarships & Opportunities**

***Scholarship Listings for Migrant or Hispanic Students**

***Additional Links Worth Checking Out!**

Additional Resources:

www.hispanicscholarship.com
www.hisp.com
www.waef.org
<http://www.migrant.net/scholarships.htm>
www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/edcams/scholarship/index.html (Federal Trade Commission site on scholarship scams)
www.ncaa.org/eligibility/cbsa (NCAA Clearinghouse - student athlete information)

