Financial Aid Checklist



- [ ] Calculate how much financial aid you will need to afford the college of your choice
- [ ] Understand all student costs involved, besides tuition
- [ ] Know what the college might truly cost you - the net price (which is tuition minus grants & scholarships)
- [ ] Rely on family friends to share ideas about how you can afford college
- [ ] Begin saving early for college - birthday money, high school jobs, anything you can to help pay for college later
- [ ] Work hard in school! A great report card not only makes your application look great to colleges, but it can also help **pay** for your tuition in the form of grants & scholarships.
- [ ] Be active in clubs and organizations in high school in areas you're passionate about (playing sports, volunteering, etc.). This can also lead to scholarship opportunities.
- [ ] Take the PSAT/NMSQT tests, which, if passed, qualify you into the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- [ ] Research various types of financial aid available (like the differences between a grant and a loan)
- [ ] If you have time, consider taking a class for college credit while in high school
- [ ] Once you hone in on your top college picks, begin researching scholarship opportunities
- [ ] If your school offers an informational event about college financial aid, definitely attend!
- [ ] Gather all documents associated with financial aid applications and fill them out.
- [ ] Complete your FAFSA
- [ ] Take note of all deadlines for applications
- [ ] Find out which colleges your interested in (if any) might require you to complete CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE
- [ ] Apply to both local and private scholarships
- [ ] Compare financial aid awards from the colleges who've offered you financial assistance

- [ ] Be sure to confirm a financial aid package by its deadline
- [ ] Contact any college's financial aid office, if needed, to clarify any misinformation or discrepancies
- [ ] Complete the remainder of any financial aid documents to be submitted
- [ ] Now, you are ready to pay for the first tuition bill of college :)

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