

Affording College Checklist

- **Junior year:** Start your school research, and begin a conversation about paying for higher education by visiting collegescorecard.ed.gov. Some considerations include:
 - Desired program
 - Size of school you want to attend
 - Distance from home
 - Graduation rate
 - Cost
- **August and September of senior year:** Organize your documents, and schedule a meeting for early October to meet with your GRASP Advisor. Bring these documents:
 - Social Security numbers — your own and your parents' if you're a dependent student
 - Driver's license number or state ID
 - Alien registration number if you're not a U.S. citizen
 - Last two years of tax returns for your household, including W-2 information and IRS Form 1040
 - Records of untaxed income, such as child support, interest income, veteran's benefits, welfare benefits, and Social Security income
 - Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
 - Net worth of investments, businesses, and farms
 - List of schools you're interested in attending
- **October:** Complete the FAFSA on your own or during your [GRASP Advisor appointment](#).
 - This will tell you what aid you qualify for and help universities that offer you acceptance determine your eligibility for financial aid.
 - Deadline to apply for federal aid is June 30, but do not wait! Some states have earlier deadlines, and the early bird gets the worm!
- **October - February:** Focus on college applications, scholarships, and grants!

Pro tip!

Consider 5-10 schools. These should include safety schools and reach schools.

Scholarship and Grant Resources:

fastweb.com schev.edu
careeronestop.org vacu.org/scholarships

- **Rolling March - April:** School acceptance letters and financial aid awards for “regular decision” start coming in. Sometimes these are sent together, and sometimes they are separate. **Pro tip: Ask the school if you should expect an offer by email or snail mail, and be on the lookout!**
 - Timing depends on the school, FAFSA lag time, and submission date. Some colleges send out offers as early as November, and others may send them out later in spring or summer.
- **Before institutions' deadlines:** Accept the offer to the institution of your choice after reviewing the financial aid packages.
 - Accepting admission and holding a spot typically requires a cash deposit. This could be around \$500.
- **June or July:** If you are enrolling for fall, expect the first college bill, which is normally due by the first day of classes.

Note: In October of every year, you have to submit a new FAFSA if you need aid for the coming year.



vacu.org/learn/college