

The College Finance Timetable

Time	Things to Do
Anytime in High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a budget for annual college expenses Get an early estimate of your EFC at www.collegeboard.com Look for scholarships at www.finaid.org, www.scholarships.com and your state's higher education website
September, High School Senior Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CSS Profile becomes available Review the need based financial aid application requirements for all schools and for your state aid programs Review the admissions application for information about recruitment scholarships and begin to tailor the essays toward winning these
November, Senior Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students applying Early Action or Early Decision to a college may need to submit financial aid applications in November, in order to receive "early consideration" for financial aid
January, Senior Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 1 is the earliest day that the FAFSA can be submitted to the federal processor. Remember, look for the Student Aid Report (SAR) a few days after filing the FAFSA and review the SAR for accuracy
After the FAFSA or Profile has been filed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for "missing information requests" from the schools. Colleges may send letters or e-mails requesting more information
March and April, Senior Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start to receive responses to admissions & financial aid applications The student and the parents should send the college copies of their tax returns after they have completed them, if requested
Anytime during the Application Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the family's financial picture changes after filing the financial aid applications, report the change to the college. This is called "appealing" for more aid
May 1st, Senior Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision Day: Colleges expect students to accept, or turn down, their offer of admission Be prepared to pay a deposit to hold a place in the class, and perhaps the dormitories, by May 1 Sign up for a Payment Plan that allows you to pay the semester's balance on a monthly basis Investigate loan options
July, Summer before the Freshman Year in College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect a bill for the fall semester that will reflect costs billed by the college (tuition and fees, dormitory rooms, meal plans) and anticipated financial aid and loans. This will be due in full about a month later, unless the student has signed up for a payment plan
December, Freshman Year in College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect a bill for the spring semester Look for the financial aid application for the sophomore year