

Research Financial Aid Activity Guide

Instructions and purpose: *This is a research activity to help you identify all of the key dates and resources you'll need to complete your financial aid application on time. Use this document as a central location to track key dates, FAFSA tasks, and scholarship opportunities.*

Key dates

Look up federal and state financial aid deadlines: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/deadlines.htm>. Look up financial aid information for the colleges you applied to on their websites.

NOTE: While the federal deadline is listed in June, the FAFSA is accepted starting January 1st and you'll need to submit it well before the state deadline. It's best to submit as close to January 1st as possible to have the greatest chance of receiving aid that is distributed on a first come, first served basis.

| | Due date | Key information |
|---------------|----------|-----------------|
| Federal FAFSA | | |
| College A: | | |
| State: | | |
| College B: | | |
| State: | | |
| College C: | | |
| State: | | |

Confirm any state deadlines with the school's financial aid administrator as a safeguard to be sure the dates are current.

FAFSA checklist

- Apply for your PIN: <http://www.pin.ed.gov/PINWebApp/pinindex.jsp>
- Get an early estimate of your aid and become familiar with the FAFSA using the FAFSA4caster: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm>
- File taxes and ensure that your family does so as well
- Complete the FAFSA: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>

Scholarship search

Explore scholarship opportunities with your mentor. Start with the more general search engines provided and then look through the list of specific funding opportunities to see if one is a match for you. Use the table on page 2 to keep track of possible scholarship opportunities so that you have a centralized list at the end of your search. Be careful of scams while searching for scholarships. Learn more here: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/scams>.

1. Explore these search engines to find scholarship opportunities:

- Department of Labor: <http://www.careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch/ScholarshipCategory.asp?searchtype=category&nodeid=22>