

# FINANCIAL AID 101- SENIORS

## August

- Request any specific financial aid forms your college may use in addition to the CSS Profile and FAFSA.
- Create a calendar of all financial aid and scholarship deadlines
- Check with the State Dept. of Education for state aid applications and deadlines. Or, access at: [www.students.gov](http://www.students.gov)
- Download or send for scholarship applications.
- Attend financial aid workshops.

## September/October

- Register and complete the CSS/Profile, one month before a school's priority filing date- if the school requires it. Register online at: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

## December

- Apply for a FAFSA PIN at: [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)
- Get a copy of FAFSA by downloading at: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Start completing what information you have available.

## January

- Have your parents complete their income tax form 1040 as soon as possible.
- Complete FAFSA and send it as soon as it is completed.
- Make a copy of all financial aid forms.
- Complete a CAL Grant GPA verification form (needed to apply for a Cal Grant). See school registrar.

## February

- **Make sure your scholarship applications are complete and requirements met.**
- **Go over your SAR (student aid report) for errors (this report comes from filing your FAFSA). Correct any errors immediately.**
- **Cal Grant GPA verification needs to be submitted by the end of February.**

## **March/April**

- **Send copies of your tax forms and SAR to financial officers, if requested.**
- **Cal Grant GPA verification must be submitted by March 2<sup>nd</sup>.**
- **Compare financial aid packages.**
- **Make a final decision and advise the financial aid officers of the schools you won't be attending.**

## **May**

- **Check into local banks and lenders if a college does not participate in direct lending. Make sure your parents request information on federally-backed student loans.**

## **June**

- **Apply for a summer job to build up your money base for college**
- **Check with your college regarding student jobs on site.**

## **Misc Financial Info**

- If you are in doubt as to whether or not to apply for aid, apply! Even if you think you will not qualify for financial aid, scholarships cannot be funded unless a student has applied for the FAFSA.
- You will need a social security number to apply for the FAFSA
- File in January or February- the earlier the better. Prior to filing for the FAFSA, you will need a PIN (electronic password) before you can complete the FAFSA application.
- Cal Grant awards are state funded monetary grants given to students to help pay for college expenses. The awards do not have to be paid back.
- Cal Grant- two step process. Apply for the FAFSA and submit a Cal Grant GPA verification.
- Scholarships/Grants- please see the below listed websites for scholarships and grants.
- If you are applying to colleges that require PROFILE, try to file the form in late November or early December.
- Income taxes should be filed as soon as possible (in January, if possible). Accurate financial information is needed when applying for financial aid.
- Advise each college that you are applying for that you are interested in financial aid.
- Apply for federal and state funds by completing the appropriate questions of the FAFSA.

- Begin your Stafford loan application by checking the appropriate boxes on the FAFSA.
- File the Cal Grant GPA verification form by March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- CSS Profile- Financial application for many colleges and universities. Check with your college(s) of choice and see if they require this application.
- Please see or call Mrs. Sanchez if you have any further questions.  
243-4136 ext. 204

**Financial Aid/Scholarship Websites:**

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.scholarship.com](http://www.scholarship.com)

[www.eduprep.com](http://www.eduprep.com)

[www.allaboutcollege.com](http://www.allaboutcollege.com)

[www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)

[www.calgrant.org](http://www.calgrant.org)

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

[www.edfund.org](http://www.edfund.org)

**Career Websites:**

[www.act.org/discover](http://www.act.org/discover)

[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)

[www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)

[www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)