

College Preparation Checklist

Summer Before 12th Grade

Students

TO DO:

- () Create a username and password called an FSA ID that you'll use to confirm your identity when accessing your government financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents. You and your parent will each need your own unique FSA ID. Learn about the FSA ID, and create yours, at **StudentAid.gov/fsaid**. Note: You must create your own FSA ID; if your parent creates it for you, that'll cause confusion later and will slow down the financial aid application process.
- () Narrow down the list of colleges you are considering attending. If you can, visit the schools that interest you.
- () Contact colleges to request information and applications for admission. Ask about financial aid, admission requirements, and deadlines.
- () Decide whether you are going to apply under a particular college's early decision or early action program. Be sure to learn about the program's deadlines and requirements.
- () Apply for scholarships. Your goal is to minimize the amount of loan funds you borrow so you have less to pay back later.

TO EXPLORE:

- () Find out what government financial aid you can apply for, and how, in *Federal Student Aid at a Glance* at **StudentAid.gov/glance**.
- () Watch the "Overview of the Financial Aid Process" video at **www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid** to learn about getting student aid from the government.
- () Be careful when searching for scholarships. Read *Don't Get Scammed on Your Way to College!* at **StudentAid.gov/resources#consumer-protection** to learn how to avoid getting cheated out of money.

Parents

TO DO:

- () Create your own FSA ID if you don't have one yet. (See "To Do" in the "Summer Before 12th Grade: Students" section for details.)
- () Review your financial situation and make sure your child is looking into or already has applied for scholarships.
- () Ask your employer whether scholarships are available for employees' children.
- () Find out whether your child has added any schools to his or her college wish list since the last time you visited colleges. Visit additional campuses if possible.

TO EXPLORE:

- () Take a closer look at [StudentAid.gov/types](https://studentaid.gov/types) and [StudentAid.gov/fafsa](https://studentaid.gov/fafsa) to ensure you understand the federal aid programs and upcoming application process.