



Should you get to this stage without applying to schools with different price tags, or not complete financial aid forms, you may have to send a deposit without knowing your real costs—or be forced to attend a school that costs more than you are prepared for

VISIBLE TIMELINE

INVISIBLE TIMELINE

Aug Colleges send marketing materials to students they are interested in

Sept Colleges set up visits for students, and may recruit at high schools

Oct Federal government makes FAFSA form available online

Oct "FAFSA 4caster" is online to help students estimate the financial aid they may expect

Oct State governments update websites for state scholarships and grants

Nov Federal government reviews FAFSA forms and inputs; requests more info if needed. Be sure to read your emails and respond! If you are confused, call FAFSA number: 1-800-433-3243

Dec Federal government informs you of how much they think your family should be able to contribute to your college education

Dec Federal government provides this information to the colleges you apply to

Jan State governments make the information you provide available to the colleges you apply to

Mar Colleges show federal loans on these forms; be aware that some of the money is not grants, but loans that need to be paid back. If, after loans, there is a shortfall between money you have and your cost to attend, you may have to borrow more—and at higher rates than those offered by the government

May Colleges prepare "financial aid package" including cost of tuition, room and board, grants the student may get from Federal or State governments and any grants or scholarships the schools may give

College Money Matters
No interest but yours

collegemoneymatters.org