

# YOUR FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE

# College Money Matters

No interest but yours  
[collegemoneymatters.org](https://collegemoneymatters.org)

## SEPTEMBER

For each college you're applying to, list:

- The financial aid forms each school requires
- The "preferred filing deadline" for each school

Note: The preferred filing date may depend on whether you choose regular or early decision.



HELPFUL HINTS

Do your best to submit your forms 1-2 weeks before the "preferred filing deadline."

Get an FSA ID.

- Go to [studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch) to receive your account username and password for Federal Student Aid.
- Both you (the student) and a parent or guardian will need an FSA ID. Only one parent name is necessary.

Gather the financial documents you'll need to complete your financial aid forms



HELPFUL HINTS

To find out which documents you will need, visit this page at [understandingfafsa.org](https://understandingfafsa.org).

Check your state's website to find out the deadlines to apply for state financial aid.



HELPFUL HINTS

For more information, visit this page at [collegemoneymatters.org](https://collegemoneymatters.org).

## OCTOBER

Start the FAFSA.

- Go to [studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa](https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa) to apply.
- If you're starting college in the Fall of 2023, make sure you complete the 2022-2023 FAFSA in October of 2022.

Note: The form may change for the class starting Fall of 2024.



HELPFUL HINTS

You'll need to use the tax return that was submitted in April 2022. (This would be the 2021 tax form.)

Start the CSS Profile.

- Go to [cssprofile.collegeboard.org](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org) to apply.
- CSS stands for College Scholarship Service, the financial aid division of the College Board.
- Many private colleges and universities use the CSS Profile to determine your eligibility for financial aid not provided by the US government.
- Not all colleges require the CSS profile for financial aid. To see if it's required by any college you are considering, check out this list.

Note: The CSS form costs money to submit. Fee waivers are available.

## NOVEMBER

Once you've submitted your FAFSA form, review your Student Aid Report (SAR) to make sure the information is correct.

- You'll receive an email containing a link to your FAFSA account from the US Government – so be sure to check both your email and spam folder.



HELPFUL HINTS

When reviewing your SAR online, be especially sure to confirm that your EFC (Expected Family Contribution) is correct.

# YOUR FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE (Continued from page 1)

## JANUARY



Confirm that all the colleges you applied to have received your financial aid forms.

- You can do this online or by emailing or calling the school's Financial Aid office.

Check with your high school's counseling office to find out about local or other scholarship opportunities.



### HELPFUL HINTS

To learn about the many ways you can apply for grants and scholarships, visit this page at [collegemoneymatters.org](http://collegemoneymatters.org).

Make sure you submit any additional information that may have been requested by FAFSA, CSS or the colleges where you have applied.

Work on and complete your scholarship applications.

- Be sure to get them in before the deadline.

## MARCH

Compare the financial aid packages you were offered from the colleges where you were accepted.

- If you have questions, your counselor should be able to help.



### HELPFUL HINTS

For a quick overview on how to evaluate your financial aid offers, watch this video at [collegemoneymatters.org](http://collegemoneymatters.org).

## APRIL



If you think you might qualify for more financial aid than a school offered, remember that sometimes these packages are negotiable.

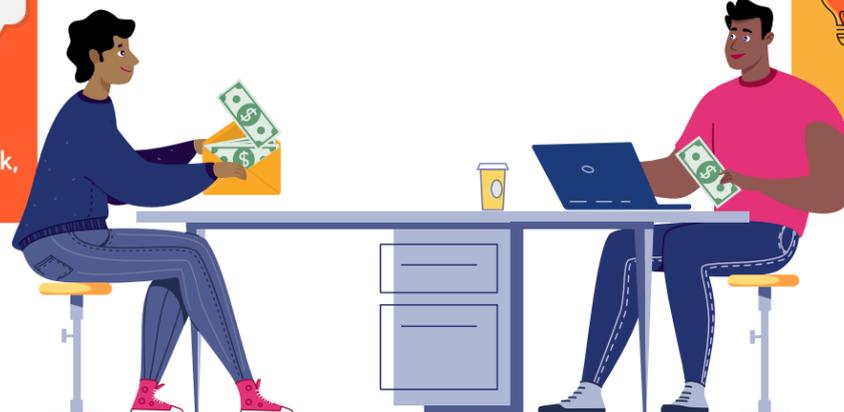
- You can potentially access more financial aid by appealing those decisions.



### HELPFUL HINTS

To learn ways to negotiate a financial aid offer, read Chapter 33 of Ron Lieber's book, *The Price You Pay for College*.

Before you send in a deposit for the school of your choice, do the math one more time to make sure your loans are affordable.



## MAY



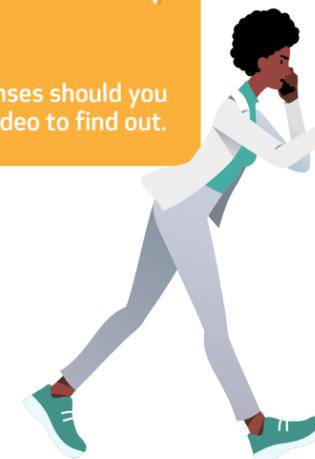
Submit your college deposit by May 1. Congratulations! You're on your way to a great future!



### HELPFUL HINTS

What kind of college expenses should you prepare for? Watch this video to find out.

## JUNE



At the end of your senior year, make sure your selected school has received your AP and other college-level class information, so they can apply the credits to your college transcript.

- Log on to [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) to confirm your AP scores have been sent to your college.
- Contact your selected school directly to inform them about college-credit classes you may have taken.

