

# Financial Aid Timeline

by [DIYCollegeRankings.com](http://DIYCollegeRankings.com)

What is Happening		What You Need to be Doing
<b>SOPHOMORE Year</b>		
Fall		<a href="#">Review Financial Aid Strategies</a>  <a href="#">5 Financial Aid Strategies Parents of Sophomores Need to Know Before the Spring Semester</a>
Spring	Jan 1: Start of the tax year that will be used for financial aid.	<a href="#">Use College Board EFC Calculator</a>  <a href="#">Start using Net Price Calculators</a>
<b>JUNIOR Year</b>		
Jan		Save the information you use to complete your taxes for use in the fall.
<b>SENIOR Year</b>		
Sept		<a href="#">Collect required financial documents</a>  <a href="#">Check financial aid priority deadlines for all possible colleges and state aid program.</a>  <a href="#">Apply for FSAID (both parent and student for dependent students).</a>
Oct-Nov	<a href="#">Oct 1: CSS/Financial PROFILE available</a>  <a href="#">Oct 1: FAFSA is available</a>	<a href="#">Complete CSS/Financial PROFILE if required for early decision or early action.</a>  Complete FAFSA as soon as possible, submit any special circumstances information to financial aid office.
Jan-Mar	<a href="#">Time period for fine arts scholarship auditions, campus scholarship weekends.</a>	<a href="#">Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)</a>
Feb-Apr	Receive financial aid award letters	<a href="#">Compare financial aid awards</a> <a href="#">Check for better offers at TuitionFit.org</a> <a href="#">Appeal award if needed</a>
May	<a href="#">National Association for College Admission Counseling listing of colleges still accepting students and awarding aid available</a>	May 1: deadline to place deposit for school you accept. (some schools require an earlier and separate deposit for housing)

		<p>Accept part of or all of award</p> <p><a href="#">Report outside scholarships</a></p> <p>Check with college for following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">when/where work-study jobs are posted</a></li> <li>* how funds will be disbursed and how often</li> <li>* for start date of payment plans-9 month payment plans will often start in the summer before you ever receive a bill.</li> </ul>
Summer		<p><a href="#">Apply for loans part of award</a></p> <p><a href="#">Apply for PLUS loans</a></p> <p><a href="#">Apply for private loans</a></p>
July		<p><a href="#">Complete federal loan counseling and sign Master Promissory Notes</a></p>
Start of Freshman Semester	<p><a href="#">Financial aid award is being deducted from semester bill. Any remaining funds are disbursed to the student</a></p>	<p>Check statement for application of all funds especially outside scholarships.</p> <p>Change your monthly tuition payment amounts if necessary to reflect actual costs.</p>