

My Junior Year

Financial Aid Checklist

Aug - Dec

Admissions & College Planning

- Take challenging courses in core academic subjects and stay on track to complete state required curriculum for college admission requirements. Colleges look for:
 - * Challenging Coursework Completed
 - * A strong GPA
 - * Involvement in extracurricular activities such as volunteer work, sports, organizations, or church.
- Explore career options and their earning potential. Find information in the Occupational Outlook Handbook at: www.bls.gov/oco

Scholarships

- Stay involved in school and community-based activities.
- Dare to dream - take on a new leadership role.
- Apply for scholarships for high school students if I am taking any college courses this school year. ****Don't miss the deadlines!****

Financial Aid

- Get an estimate of how much Federal Student Aid I could be eligible for at www.studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/

Jan - May

Admissions & College Planning

- Visit college campuses (talk to Financial Aid while I'm there.)
- Look for and engage in job-shadowing opportunities.
- Attend college fairs and presentations by college representatives.
- Talk to my parent(s)/family about my goals after high school.

Scholarships

- Begin drafting a generic scholarship essay.
- Research scholarships for high school students and apply if I plan to take any courses during my senior year.
- Ask teachers, counselors, and employers for letters of recommendation to include in scholarship applications.

Financial Aid

- Estimate college costs using each college's Net Price Calculator.
- Discuss paying for college with my parent(s)/family.

June - July

Admissions & College Planning

- Visit college campuses of interest.
Talk to Financial Aid about how their process works after I would submit a FAFSA and what institutional scholarship opportunities would be available if I am accepted.
- Start narrowing down my college choices. Use www.collegescorecard.ed.gov to help me.
Take the ACT and practice, practice, practice.

Scholarships

- Refine my scholarship essay so it is ready to use when I am ready to apply for college scholarships.

Financial Aid

- Save money from my summer job to pay for college applications and college costs.
- Practice my budgeting skills. Create a budget and try to stick to it. Learn more at:

www.studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/students/budgeting

HELPFUL RESOURCES

AT WWW.STUDENTAID.GOV

How Financial Aid Works:

www.studentaid.gov/h/understand-aid/how-aid-works

FSA ID Credentials

- * Students and parents will both need their own FSA ID.
- * Use an email address I will always have access to.
School assigned emails will eventually expire.

Student:

Username: _____ Password: _____

Parent:

Username: _____ Password: _____



My Senior Year

Financial Aid Checklist

Aug - Dec

Admissions & College Planning

- Take challenging courses in core academic subjects and stay on track to complete state required curriculum for college admission requirements.
- Take the ACT and maximize my score ~ the sooner, the better.
- Attend campus visits at schools of interest. Be sure to visit with Financial Aid about FAFSA, Scholarships, and other financial opportunities..
- Narrow down the list of colleges I'm considering and apply to top 3-5 college choices. *Be aware of deadlines.*

Scholarships

- Stay involved in school and community-based activities.
- Research and apply for institutional, community, and state scholarships. Create a list with deadlines and requirements.
- Review and apply for national scholarships at www.fastweb.com and scholarships.com
- Ask teachers, counselors, and employers for recommendation letters to include with scholarship applications.

Financial Aid

- Apply for FAFSA as early as October 1st. Use my FSA ID to log in to studentaid.gov and apply.
- Follow-up with the institutions I send my FAFSA to. Check if there are further steps before my eligibility can be determined.

STUDENT LOANS

Helpful Hints to Borrow Wisely

- * Borrow **ONLY** enough to cover necessary educational expenses. These funds have to be repaid once I finish school or drop below half-time. Visit studentaid.gov/loan-simulator for an idea of what repayment will look like.
- * Use Federal Direct Subsidized Loans first if I am borrowing any funds. These loans don't start accruing interest until I finish school or drop below half-time.
- * Create an account with my loan servicer right away and keep an eye on my loan status.



Jan - Mar

Admissions & College Planning

- Attend final college visits.
- Create a comparison chart of schools I get admitted to.
- Review housing options and save for the deposit. *Apply for housing as early as possible.

Scholarships

- Continue submitting scholarship applications.
- Complete FAFSA by April 1st if applying for KBOR scholarships/grants.

Financial Aid

- Continue working with Financial Aid Offices to assure my file is complete.
- Communicate if I have experienced any special circumstances that have created a change in my family's financial situation since the tax year used on the application.

Apr - May

Admissions & College Planning

- CHOOSE MY COLLEGE.
- Sign up for orientation/enrollment day.
- Study and take Advanced Placement (AP) exams.
- Send official High School transcript once final grades and graduation date are posted.

Scholarships

- Check with my chosen institution if I am eligible to apply for the Kansas Promise Scholarship.
- Complete the KBOR Scholarship App - Priority deadline May 1st: www.kansasregents.org/scholarship_and_grants
- Send thank you notes to donors and organizations that award scholarships to me.

Financial Aid

- Contact my college's Financial Aid office with any questions.
- Confirm my Federal Student Aid eligibility has been determined.
- Review Financial Aid eligibility and research other financial aid options if necessary.
- Create a budget - tuition, books, fuel, food, insurance, etc.
- Accept financial aid offers as necessary. If accepting loans, complete Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note at www.studentaid.gov