

# HIT YOUR DEADLINES WITH THIS KEY FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE

Completing the FAFSA® (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is your first step in financial aid. Some aid is offered on a first-come, first-served basis, so the earlier you complete the FAFSA, the better. In addition, certain scholarships and private grants are also awarded based on FAFSA information, so it can be a good idea to fill it out, even if you don't think you'll qualify.



## SEPTEMBER

**Create an FSA ID**, which is your username for certain US Department of Education sites, at [studentaid.gov/fsa-id](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id).

**Prepare for the FAFSA** by gathering financial and tax information as well as Social Security and driver's license or government ID numbers.

**Mark the calendar** with the financial aid deadlines for each school you are applying to and sign up for any financial aid workshop your school offers.

**Research and apply for scholarships.** Check with your high school counselor for suggestions and information about local options.



## DECEMBER

**Accept your early decision financial aid package**, if applicable.

**Make sure the FAFSA is sent to all schools you're applying to.** Applying to more than 10 schools? Once the FAFSA has been processed, you can continue to replace and add schools.



## MARCH

**Compare financial aid offers** from your potential schools with the [Award Letter Comparison Tool](#).

**Have your financial circumstances changed?** Send a letter with new information to appeal your financial aid package.



## JUNE 30

**Last day to apply for the FAFSA** for those already in college and seeking financial aid for the year you've just completed.



## OCTOBER 1

**The FAFSA and CSS Profile® become available.** on October 1. Complete these early, as some schools offer financial aid on a first-come, first-served basis.



## NOVEMBER

**It's National Scholarship Month!**

Visit [DiscoverStudentLoans.com/Scholarship](https://DiscoverStudentLoans.com/Scholarship) to search over 3 million scholarships worth more than \$18 billion.

**Once you submit your FAFSA**, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). Review the SAR and make any corrections to your FAFSA, if needed.



## JANUARY

**Continue applying for scholarships.** Talk with your high school counselor and teachers and see if they know of any local or state scholarships that might be a fit.



## MAY 1

**It's National Decision Day!** Notify the school you plan to attend and deposit no later than today.