

12TH GRADE FAFSA CHECKLIST & RESOURCES

TO DO: FALL

- ✓ As soon as possible after its Oct. 1 release, **complete and submit your FAFSA® form**, along with any other financial aid applications your chosen school(s) may require. You should submit your FAFSA form by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which you are applying, usually by early February.
- ✓ After you submit the FAFSA form, you should receive your **Student Aid Report (SAR)** within three days to three weeks. This document lists your answers to the questions on your FAFSA form and gives you some basic information about your aid eligibility. Quickly **make any necessary corrections** and submit them to the FAFSA processor.
- ✓ If you haven't done so already, register for and take the standardized tests required for college admission. Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require.
- ✓ Apply to the colleges you have chosen. Prepare your applications carefully. Follow the instructions, and PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!
- ✓ Well before your college application deadlines, ask your counselor and teachers to submit the required documents (e.g., transcript, letters of recommendation) to the colleges to which you're applying.
- ✓ Complete any last scholarship applications.
- ✓ Understand the FAFSA process better by watching the videos in the "FAFSA: Apply for Aid" playlist at **YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid**.

REMEMBER: Register for all tests in advance, and be sure to give yourself time to prepare appropriately! If you have difficulty paying a registration fee, ask your school counselor about getting the fee waived.

TO DO: SPRING

- ✓ Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll.
- ✓ Review your college acceptances and **compare the colleges' financial aid offers**.
- ✓ Contact a school's financial aid office if you have questions about the aid that school has offered you. In fact, getting to know your financial aid staff early is a good idea no matter what—they can tell you about deadlines, other aid for which you might wish to apply, and important paperwork you might need to submit.
- ✓ When you decide which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit. Many schools require this notification and deposit by May 1.
- ✓ Make informed decisions about student loans; the following resources are important at this point:
 - **Federal Versus Private Loans**
 - **Federal Student Loans: Basics for Students**

TO DO: ALL YEAR

- ✓ Work hard all the way to graduation—second-semester grades can affect **scholarship eligibility**.
- ✓ Stay involved in after-school activities, and seek leadership roles if possible.

RESOURCES

- **FAFSA Overview Video (Spanish version)**
- **My Future, My Way: First Steps Toward College—A Workbook for Middle and Junior High School Students**
- **2021 - 22 EFC (Expected Family Contribution) Formula**
- **Federal Student Loans: Basics for Students (Spanish version)**
- **Federal Student Loans: Direct PLUS Loan Basics for Parents (Spanish version)**
- **Financial Aid Process graphic (Spanish version)**
- **Federal Student Grant Programs (Spanish version)**
- **Federal Student Loan Programs (Spanish version)**
- **Financial Aid and Undocumented Students (Spanish version)**
- **Federal Student Aid and Homeless Youth**
- **2021-22 FAFSA on the Web Worksheet (Spanish version)**
- **2021-22 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) Form (Spanish version)**
- **After the FAFSA: What Happens Next Video (Spanish version)**
- **Federal Student Loans: Repaying Your Loans (Spanish version)**
- **Repayment: What to Expect (Spanish version)**
- **Repayment: How to Manage Your Student Loans (Spanish version)**