



Checklist for Financial Aid



1. Complete Financial Aid Forms (Oct 1 – March 2)

- Complete **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): www.fafsa.gov (1-800-433-3243)
- Make an FSA ID at : <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
- Complete **CSS Financial Aid Profile** if required by Private colleges: www.collegeboard.com

2. Review Student Aid Report (SAR) (Will be emailed to you in a few days if you file online)

- Check** the report for accuracy. Identify any errors.
- Make **corrections** immediately at www.fafsa.gov

3. Provide all requested information. Colleges may ask for:

- Copies of tax forms, documentation of residency, foster/independent status

4. Receive a California Aid Report (CAR) After FAFSA Completed + GPA (sent from District)

- You are eligible for a Cal Grant: A, B or C
- You are not eligible for a Cal Grant because _____. *Check and find out why. (Review SAR)
- Was Income reported correctly on FAFSA?
- California Student Aid Commission 1-888-224-7268

5. Set up a Web Grants for Students account

- Set up a “web Grants for Students” account at www.webgrants4students.org
- You can find out your Cal Grant Eligibility, update your address or make a school change.
- You will be required to verify your high school graduation date to release your Cal Grant.

6. Review financial aid award letter from college

- This letter tells you the specific award amounts that the college is offering you.
- Many colleges prefer to send this information on your portal. Check each portal carefully and often!

6. Accept/reject/negotiate financial aid offers

- Call your college’s financial aid office if you are uncertain about which offers to **accept** or **reject**.

*Loans: you can always request a reduced amount.

*Each year in college you will have to file a FAFSA Renewal: shorter and faster than 1st year!