

# My **SENIOR YEAR FINANCIAL AID** Checklist

## AUG-DEC

### ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

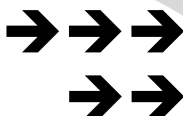
- Take challenging courses in core academic subjects and stay on track to complete state-required curriculum for college admission requirements
- Take the ACT and maximize my score ASAP
- Attend school visits by college admissions reps
- Narrow down the list of colleges being considered and apply to top 3-5 college choices
- Visit college campuses and talk to Financial Aid while there

### SCHOLARSHIPS

- Stay involved in school and community-based activities
- Ask teachers, counselors, and employers for recommendation letters to include with scholarship applications
- Apply for institutional scholarships and meet the deadlines for applications
- If eligible, begin my Gates Millennium and Dell Scholarship applications
- Review and apply for national scholarships at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

### FINANCIAL AID

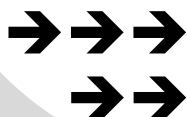
- ☐ Estimate my federal financial aid eligibility with the FAFSA4caster at [www.studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate)
- ☐ Estimate college costs using each college's Net Price Calculator
- ☐ Begin collecting wage and income information for the FAFSA



## STUDENT LOANS

*Helpful Hints to Borrow Wisely*

- \* Educational loans can be useful to pay for college, but be sure to borrow ONLY enough to cover necessary educational expenses
- \* Don't borrow more than what is reasonably affordable to repay each month based on expected income—view earning potential at [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco) and [www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)



## IAN-FEB

### ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

- Attend school visits by college admissions reps
- Begin a comparison chart of the schools I get admitted to
- Attend school visits by financial aid administrators
- Review housing options and save for the deposit

### SCHOLARSHIPS

- Research and apply for local scholarships
- Continue applying for national scholarships

### FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ File taxes ASAP
- ☐ Check for a local College Goal Sunday event in my area for help completing my FAFSA at [www.collegegoal.org](http://www.collegegoal.org)
- ☐ Apply for the FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
- ☐ Communicate any special circumstances to each college's financial aid office

## MAR—MAY

### ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

- Compare the pros/cons for each college
- CHOOSE MY COLLEGE
- Sign up for orientation at my chosen college
- Study and take the Advanced Placement (AP) exams
- Send my final transcript

### SCHOLARSHIPS

- Complete the Kansas Board of Regents Scholarships Applications  
★ [www.kansasregents.org/scholarships\\_and\\_grants](http://www.kansasregents.org/scholarships_and_grants)
- Continue applying for local scholarships
- Continue applying for national scholarships
- Send thank you notes to donors and organizations that award scholarships to me

### FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ Submit any requested documents to each college
- ☐ Review and compare my financial aid award offers from each college
- ☐ Contact your college's financial aid office with any questions
- ☐ Research loans offered and other financial aid options, if necessary
- ☐ Accept/decline my financial aid award offers

Compliments of [www.kasfaa.org](http://www.kasfaa.org)

**KASFAA**  
Kansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

# My **JUNIOR YEAR FINANCIAL AID** Checklist

## AUG-DEC

### ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

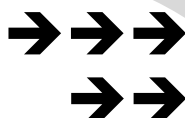
- Take challenging courses in core academic subjects and stay on track to complete state-required curriculum for college admission requirements. Colleges look for:
  - \* Challenging coursework
  - \* A strong GPA
  - \* Involvement in extracurricular activities such as sports, volunteer work, or church
- Request a catalog and admission information about a variety of colleges and universities
- Go to college fairs and college-preparation presentations by college representatives
- Explore career options and their earning potential in the Occupational Outlook Handbook at [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)
- Sign up for the PSAT and practice, practice, practice

### SCHOLARSHIPS

- Stay involved in school and community-based activities
- Dare to dream—take on a new leadership role
- Apply for institutional scholarships (Don't miss deadlines!)
- Review and apply for national scholarships at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

### FINANCIAL AID

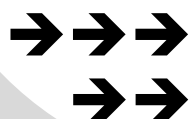
- ☐ Estimate my federal financial aid eligibility with the FAFSA4caster at [www.studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate)



## SAT...ACT...PSAT

*Helpful Hints to Score Well*

- \* Register in advance to give yourself time to prepare appropriately
- \* Take advantage of test-prep opportunities through your high school, online, or through colleges
- \* Eat a healthy breakfast the morning of the test and get several good nights of rest in the days before the test



## IAN- MAY

### ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

- Visit college campuses (and talk to Financial Aid while I'm there)
- Narrow my college choices to 5-7 schools
- Ask your teachers or community leaders for recommendations for professionals who you can job-shadow for a day
- Take the ACT and practice, practice, practice
- Talk to parents/family about my goals after high school

### SCHOLARSHIPS

- Begin drafting a scholarship essay
- Ask teachers, counselors, and employers for recommendation letters to include with scholarship applications
- Review and apply for local scholarships geared toward juniors
- Review and apply for national scholarships at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

### FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ Estimate college costs using each college's Net Price Calculator

## JUNE- JULY

### ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

- Visit college campuses and talk to Financial Aid while I'm there
- Narrow college choices to 5-7 schools
- Begin applying to colleges

### SCHOLARSHIPS

- Prepare a second draft of your scholarship essay
- Visit [www.college.gov](http://www.college.gov) and click on "how to pay" to see how other young people paid for college
- Review and apply for national scholarships at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

### FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ Visit [www.college.gov](http://www.college.gov) and click on "how to pay" to see how other young people paid for college
- ☐ Review [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/guide](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/guide) for different ways to pay for college
- ☐ Save money from my summer job to pay for college applications and college costs

Compliments of [www.kasfaa.org](http://www.kasfaa.org)

**KASFAA**  
Kansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators