FAFSA Checklist

September

- [ ] Go to the federal student aid website (https://studentaid.gov/) and create an FSA ID.

You'll need your:

- SSN
- Full and correct name
- Phone number or email address

Remember: Each person who submits information on your FAFSA will need their own FSA ID.

- [ ] Research the schools you'd like to apply to. Mark your calendar with each of their financial aid deadlines!

October — November

- [ ] **Submit your FAFSA when it opens on October 1.**

You'll need your:

- Social Security number (SSN)
- ID
- Tax information
- Non-taxable income
- Bank and financial account statements
- Parents' or spouse's information (if applicable)

Make sure you're taken to the FAFSA confirmation page once you submit!

- [ ] Explore the Federal Student Aid (FSA) website to see federal aid estimates and learn other helpful tips to prepare you to pay for college.
- [ ] Review your FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) and make sure the information that was sent to your schools is correct.
- [ ] Make any needed corrections by logging in to your FAFSA account.
- [ ] Call each school's financial aid office to let them know about any changes to your FAFSA information.
- [ ] Follow the instructions on your FSS to verify your financial and tax information (if needed).

FAFSA Checklist

December — March

- [ ] Review your financial aid award letters from the schools you applied to.
- [ ] Calculate the net cost of attending each college:

Total cost of attendance – your financial aid = net cost of attendance

- [ ] Ask yourself the key questions:
  - Which school would be the most expensive?
  - Which school would be the most affordable?
  - Are there any other ways to reduce the costs?
- [ ] Appeal an aid award with a school if a change in circumstances impacts your ability to pay for college.
- [ ] Accept the aid award that works best for you.

Reminder! May 1 is National Decision Day, meaning you must choose a school, notify them of your attendance, and pay your deposit by then.

Now, take a deep breath — you're almost off to college!