

Senior Year at a Glance

The Financial Aid Process Kept Simple

September – December: Attend a MEFA College Financing seminar or webinar for a detailed explanation of how financial aid works.

September: Create an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov. Your FSA ID will be used to log in to certain websites including the FAFSA website, fafsa.gov. Both the student and one parent will need an FSA ID.

October 1: The FAFSA and the CSS Profile are available. Check to see which applications are required from each college on your list and be sure to submit your application(s) before the deadline. Every college will require at least the FAFSA.

October - February: Attend a free FAFSA Day workshop to receive assistance submitting the FAFSA. To find a workshop near you, visit FAFSADay.org

March – April: Financial aid award letters are sent to accepted students. Read each carefully. Don't just compare the total amount of the awards — make sure you understand the entire financial aid package. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the financial aid office at the college.

May 1: National deadline to select your college and submit the tuition deposit.

FALL

WINTER

SPRING

September: As you finalize your college list, use the online Net Price Calculator at each school for a customized estimate of your financial aid. Make sure to have some affordable college options on your list.

September-May: Use the MEFA Pathway Scholarship Search to build a list of scholarships you may be eligible for and manage deadlines and award status.

October – December: Early Action/Early Decision applicants may have early financial aid deadlines. Check with each college's financial aid office.

February – March: Most financial aid applications are due at colleges. Deadlines may be earlier for some colleges, and later for community colleges. Check each college's deadline to make sure you submit applications on time.

March-April: Use MEFA's College Cost Calculator to help you compare financial aid award letters and make an informed final decision.

Spring: Attend a MEFA After the College Acceptance seminar for help reviewing your financial aid awards. Check mefa.org/events for details.

MEFA offers a variety of resources to help you through the financial aid process.

To help you stay on track, sign up for MEFA emails on mefa.org and connect with us on social media:

