

Seniors:

Prepare for the FAFSA at

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Remember to check the Scholarship Board in the upper commons. Check the resources in room 600.

Hint: Organize your scholarship applications in a folder by deadline date.

Let Mrs. Easter know about your college acceptances! Bring in your college acceptance letter even if you are undecided about which institution you will choose to attend in the fall.

Juniors:

Don't forget to sign up for your baseline testing

SAT sign up by:

Dec 30 for the

Jan 28 test

Feb 10 for the

March 10 test

April 6 for the

May 5 test

May 8 for the

June 2 test

www.collegeboard.com

ACT sign up by:

Jan 13 for the

Feb 11 test date

March 9 for the

April 14 test date

May 4 for the

June 9 test date

www.actstudent.org

Scholarships continue to be updated... Check the board in the upper commons and the [College and Career website](#) for what is available for juniors.



DECEMBER NEWS

ACADEMIC ADVISOR NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

Twenty Questions to Ask About Financing College

From the College Board's College Counseling Sourcebook.

Phase 1. Questions to ask during the application process.

1. What are the average costs for tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation, and other personal expenses for the first year? What are the ranges of room costs (single, double), board costs (meal plans), and special tuition rates (flat rate for 15-18 credits, etc.)? By how much will total costs increase each year? (A three to five year printed history of tuition and fee increases, as well as room and board increases, should be available?)
2. Does financial need have an impact on admissions decisions?
3. Does the decision to apply for Early Decision affect financial aid?
4. Does the institution offer financial aid programs as well as merit or other scholarships that do not include consideration of financial need? How and when should applications for need- and merit-based aid be completed?
5. What non-institutional sources of aid and information are available? (Check

with the financial aid office regarding fee-based sources.)

6. What application forms are required for completing the financial aid process? What is the priority deadline for applying for financial aid? When will I be notified about financial aid decisions?

The College Board 3 phase college financing break down. Note the answers to most questions will be institution specific. Check individual financial aid and college catalog web pages for the answers. Financial aid officers are also available to answer questions not found on the web pages by e-mail or phone contact.

Phase 2. Questions to ask as you decide which college to attend.

7. How much financial aid will I receive? Will I be billed for my share of the costs? Are there any other costs not accounted for in the aid offer that I should plan for, such as expenses for books, room and board, transportation, or personal needs?
8. If I and/or my family cannot meet the financial responsibilities with our current income or assets, what financing options are available to help us pay our share?
9. Will the financial aid office provide me with an explanation of how my expected family contribution, financial need, and award package were determined?
10. If the financial award package is insufficient, then under what conditions, if any, will the aid office reconsider its offer?
11. What are the terms and conditions of the aid programs included in my award package (e.g. treatment of outside scholarships, loan repayment policies, renewal criteria)? Regarding renewal, what are the academic requirements or other conditions for the renewal of financial aid, including scholarships?
12. How will my aid package change from year to year? Will loan amounts increase? What impact will cost increases have on the aid package? What will happen if my or another family member's enrollment status changes?
13. What amount of student loan debt does your typical student borrower have once he or she finishes college?

Twenty financial questions cont.



You really are in the driver's seat for most of the college process. Do your research on the front end beginning with a number of colleges that would be a fit for you! If you have been accepted to a variety of colleges take the time to compare again making your choice the best fit.

Beware of scholarship or financial aid scams. You should **NOT** have to pay to learn about scholarships or financial aid!



Phase 3. Making sure you understand the financial obligations of college.

14. When can I/my family expect to receive bills from the college? How many times a year will bills be sent? If the bill is not paid by the deadline, will there be penalties? Does the college accept payment by credit card? Is there an option to pay monthly?
15. Is all financial aid credited to my account, or will I receive checks for some or all of the financial aid awarded? What about student employment earnings? If the aid exceeds billed charges, how do I receive the funds?
16. How much money will I need during the first week of school for necessities such as books and a parking permit? Can I use financial aid to pay for books and supplies? Can books and supplies be charged to my account?
17. Is information provided to students regarding budgeting resources, money management, and credit card usage?
18. Are there banking services with no-fee ATMs and/or check-cashing facilities on or near campus? Does the college have a debit card?
19. Will the college be responsive to midyear changes in family financial situations?
20. Regarding student employment, including the Federal Work-Study Program: How are jobs assigned? How many hours per week will a student be expected or allowed to work? How often and in what manner will I receive earnings payments? Will earnings be automatically credited to

Financial Aid Resources

FastWeb: www.fastweb.com

FinAid: www.finaid.org

Student Aid on the Web: www.studentaid.ed.gov
To download *The Student Guide*, annually updated, type Student Guide into the search engine.

Mapping Your Future: www.mappingyourfuture.org

my account?

Avoiding Scholarship Scams!

Scholarship scams have been around for years. According to the Federal Trade Commission, if you hear these lines from a "service" you may be getting duped:

"The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back". You should NOT have to pay to learn about scholarships or financial aid. Nor can anyone guarantee that you'll get a grant or a scholarship up front.

"You can't get this information anywhere else." It is highly doubtful that a company would have an exclusive list that couldn't be found through other sources.

"We'll do all the work". Don't be fooled. You must apply for scholarships or grants yourself.

"I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship".

Ideas for Winter Break

JUNIORS may wish to:

Create a "long list" (a range) of colleges to research. Forms are on the College & Career bulletin board in the upper commons.

Make a plan to visit and tour colleges when they are in session, even if it's in your local area.

Sign up to take at least one SAT and/or ACT by late winter or early spring

SENIORS may wish to:

Make a plan to visit colleges you have been accepted to once they are back in session. Be prepared to compare financial aid awards/packages. Make sure your college choice is the best fit for you! Continue filling out scholarship applications.