

SENIOR'S Checklist for College Planning 2017-2018



Louisiana's Non-Profit Resource for FAFSA Completion and College Access

SEPTEMBER 2017

- Meet with your School Counselor to review high school transcripts and to evaluate top three college choices.
- Register to take the ACT and/or SAT. Visit actstudent.org and collegeboard.org
- Complete online college admission application to top schools.
- Males: Register with the U.S. Selective Service: sss.gov
- Register for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship at askLela.org by September 30, 2017.
- Prepare for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by creating your FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov.

OCTOBER 2017

- Complete the FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov for the upcoming 2018-19 school year using 2016 tax returns.
- Meet all admissions, financial aid and scholarship application deadlines at your college or university.
- Devote time, energy, and thought to writing any required essays.
- Remember to complete your admission application to your top three schools.
- Visit March2Success.com for free ACT prep lessons.
- Attend a College and Career Fair at your high school or in your area.

NOVEMBER 2017

- If colleges request Letters of Recommendation, compile a list of teachers and mentors you can ask to submit a letter on your behalf. This may also be needed for scholarship applications.
- Search and apply for scholarships. lela.org/freemoneysearch
- Finalize and have a teacher proof read any required essays.
- Register to take the ACT or SAT. Highest composite score will be accepted. Visit actstudent.org and collegeboard.org
- Attend a College Goal Sunday event in your area for assistance with your FAFSA on Nov.5, 2017. Details at www.osfa.la.gov

DECEMBER 2017

- Visit actprofile.org to compare colleges and research careers.
- Submit all completed admission and college academic scholarship applications. Meet deadlines.
- Register to win a \$1,000 scholarship at askLela.org to be eligible for the December 31, 2017 drawing.
- Ask Lela for help! Call the FAFSA HELPLine @ 844-GO-FAFSA or 844-463-2372**
- Follow @AskLela on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook for important tips and scholarship opportunities.

JANUARY 2018

- Contact your askLela representative for FREE one-on-one help with your FAFSA or financial aid questions.
 - North & Central LA: Christie at smith@lela.org
 - South LA: Ann at carmichael@lela.org
- Once your FAFSA is submitted, register to win a \$1,000 scholarship at askLela.org.
- Participate in the George Rodrigue Art Scholarship for Seniors. Check out georgerodriguefoundation.org.

FEBRUARY 2018

- Register for Advanced Placement exams.
- If you applied for early decision, responses should be coming to you. If not, follow up with your admissions representative.
- Attend a Financial Aid program at your school or in your area.
- Once your FAFSA is submitted, register to win a \$1,000 scholarship at askLela.org.

MARCH 2018

- Register for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship, sign up at askLela.org by March 31, 2018.
- If you have completed the financial aid process, be on the look out for your Award Letter or electronic notification.
- March 1 is the recommended FAFSA submission deadline at many schools. Check with your school for priority deadline dates.
- Visit Lela's College Planning Center in Baton Rouge for assistance with submitting your FAFSA. Call to schedule an appointment.

APRIL 2018

- Compare the offers you receive from each college.
- Decide which college to attend and notify the school of your decision.
- Review your financial aid award package with your parents; be sure you understand the terms and conditions that apply to each type of aid offered.
- If your award package includes student loans, only borrow what you NEED.
- Participate in askLela's Financial Literacy Awareness activities for a chance to win a \$500 scholarship! lela.org/financialliteracy

MAY 2018

- Notify the offices of Admissions and Financial Aid at the colleges you decided not to attend.
- Ask Lela for help!**
- Apply for a summer job.
- GRADUATION! Congratulations!
- Arrange housing and a meal plan with your new school, if necessary.

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2018

- Respond to all requests from your college.
- Find out when payment of school charges (such as tuition, fees, and room and board) are due.
- Make a plan for saving a portion of your summer earnings.
- Attend Freshman Orientation at your new college.
- If you haven't registered for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship, sign up at askLela.org by June 30, 2018

Have questions about FAFSA? Call askLela's FAFSA HELPLine. 844-GO-FAFSA • info@lela.org • askLela.org