

# Financial Aid Timeline for % 2018 Seniors

To use the hyperlinks below, go the guidance web page: [chuh.org/Heights High/Guidance & Counseling/Info for Seniors/Quick Links](http://chuh.org/Heights High/Guidance & Counseling/Info for Seniors/Quick Links)

**SEPTEMBER:** As you determine the application deadlines for the schools to which you are applying, check the school's deadlines and requirements for submission of financial aid forms.

All institutions require submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to be considered for financial aid. **You cannot apply until October 1, 2017.** However, *before October 1, **the student and one parent, each, must create a FSA ID in order to electronically submit the FAFSA. Create the ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>.***

A number of private institutions require parents to submit the [CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE](#), which is administered through College Board. The Profile becomes available **October 1**. Seniors who have used an SAT fee waiver are eligible to receive up to [eight PROFILE fee waivers](#). Students who did not use an SAT fee waiver may still qualify for a PROFILE fee waiver based on their income level.

Continue to note **deadlines and requirements** for your colleges and universities. Many institutions' financial aid web sites will list merit and need-based scholarships that are available as well.

**OCTOBER:** The FAFSA opens October 1 for completion and submission, go to: <https://fafsa.gov/>. and apply for the **2018 – 2019 year**. Colleges distribute federal aid to qualified students on a first-come basis, which is determined from the first date that you submit your FAFSA. Therefore, it is important to submit your FAFSA as soon as possible beginning **October 1, 2017**, use your parents' 2016 tax information.

**Reminders:** 1) The FAFSA cannot be submitted without a FSA ID from one parent and the student. 2) Attend the Financial Aid Night, **October 4, 2017 at 6:30 PM at Cleveland Heights High School, Auditorium**, sponsored by the Guidance Department.

Watch for communications from your colleges for **any further information requests or missing documents**.

**DECEMBER - APRIL:** You will begin to receive financial aid notification letters. If you have been accepted at a school, you should receive an award letter. If you don't receive one, contact the financial aid office at that school to make sure your application is complete. Read these letters carefully. If **additional information** is requested, send it immediately. If the amount offered is **not enough**, call (better yet, write) to the financial aid office for an appeal. A letter of appeal should clearly state your personal situation and why you believe you need more assistance.

**MAY 1, 2018: Deadline to accept the college of your choice.** Be sure to accept and finalize your financial aid and/or scholarship offers. Also, student loan borrowers must sign their promissory note and complete the loan entrance counseling, follow the directions from your college. In addition, thank your other colleges for their acceptance and politely, declining their offer.