

# 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](http://actstudent.org) and [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)
- Complete online college admission application to top schools.
- Males: Register with the U.S. Selective Service: [sss.gov](http://sss.gov)
- Register for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship at [askLela.org](http://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](http://fsaid.ed.gov).

## OCTOBER 2017

- Complete the FAFSA online at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://actstudent.org) and [collegeboard.org](http://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](http://www.osfa.la.gov)

## DECEMBER 2017

- Visit [actprofile.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:smith@lela.org)
  - South LA: Ann at [carmichael@lela.org](mailto:carmichael@lela.org)
- Once your FAFSA is submitted, register to win a \$1,000 scholarship at [askLela.org](http://askLela.org).
- Participate in the George Rodrigue Art Scholarship for Seniors. Check out [georgerodriguefoundation.org](http://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](http://askLela.org).

## MARCH 2018

- Register for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship, sign up at [askLela.org](http://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](http://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](http://askLela.org) by June 30, 2018

Have questions about FAFSA? Call askLela's FAFSA HELPLine. 844-GO-FAFSA • [info@lela.org](mailto:info@lela.org) • [askLela.org](http://askLela.org)

### AUGUST 2017

- Work with your School Counselor to confirm your class schedule for college.
- Aim to enroll in Advanced Placement (AP) classes.
- Visit [actprofile.org](http://actprofile.org) to create a personal student profile.
- Begin studying vocabulary words for the ACT or SAT. Check out the mobile App.
- Consider enrolling in a Dual Enrollment Program.

### DECEMBER 2017

- Work with your School Counselor to learn about scholarship opportunities.
- Seek part-time employment during holiday break.
- Visit [louisianabelieves.com](http://louisianabelieves.com) for great hot topics on college planning.

### APRIL 2018

- Consider volunteering to represent your school at a summer leadership conference (Boys/Girls State, Trailblazers, LYS, etc.).
- Evaluate what clubs or organizations you are a member of and consider running for a leadership position your senior year.
- If you are interested in the military for your career path, begin planning to take the ASVAP Test and meet with a military representative.

### SEPTEMBER 2017

- Prepare for the PSAT. Your School Counselor can assist you in registering for the October test.  
  
The PSAT is also used by National Merit Scholarship Corporation as an initial screening of entrants in its annual competitions.
- Make a list of three to five colleges that interest you and why.

### JANUARY 2018

- Consider putting together a portfolio that highlights your special skills, talents, community service, sports, hobbies, awards, and school activities.
- Think about financial aid. Talk with your parents about options on how to pay for college.
- Think about your college goals and the institutions you would like to attend.

### MAY 2018

- Apply for a summer job, apprenticeship or internship related to your career interest.
- Job shadow in a profession that interests you.
- Open a savings account and/or a checking account.
- Team up with a study buddy in your preparations for your senior year.
- Get an estimate of your financial aid eligibility at [FAFSA4caster](http://FAFSA4caster)
- Search for scholarships at [lela.org](http://lela.org)/[freemoneysearch](http://freemoneysearch)
- Include visits to colleges during your summer vacation.

### OCTOBER 2017

- Register for the PSAT Test being offered on October 11 & 25 and November 14.
- Begin researching and comparing the colleges you like at [actprofile.org](http://actprofile.org)
- Determine how to select the right college for you (Cost, Academics, Scholarships, Environment or Location.)
- Get involved in community activities related to your career interests.

### FEBRUARY 2018

- Register for the April ACT Test at [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org).
- Visit [March2Success.com](http://March2Success.com) for free ACT prep lessons.
- Start or update an academic and leadership resume.
- Continue to be on the lookout for any colleges that may have slipped under your radar.

### JUNE/JULY 2018

- Save a portion of your summer earnings for college expenses.
- Schedule a few hours each week preparing for the ACT/SAT Test.
- Enroll in an ACT/SAT preparation workshop or visit your local library for helpful resources.
- Read subject books to help you prepare for challenging senior courses.
- Create your FSA ID Username and Password at [fsaid.ed.gov](http://fsaid.ed.gov). Take good notes and keep in a safe place.

### NOVEMBER 2017

- Participate in the George Rodrigue Art Scholarship for juniors. Check out [georgerodriguefoundation.org](http://georgerodriguefoundation.org).
- Ask Lela for help!**
- Follow @AskLela on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for important college planning tips.

### MARCH 2018

- Visit your top colleges during a Preview Day or schedule a private visit through the Admissions/Recruiting Office.
- Volunteer for activities and clubs related to your career interests.
- Ask Lela for help!**