

SENIOR'S Checklist for College Planning 2020-2021



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

SEPTEMBER 2020

- 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 collegeboard.org
- Complete online college admission application to top schools on your list.
- Males: Register with the U.S. Selective Service: sss.gov
- Explore what government financial aid you can apply for at studentaid.gov/glance
- Download the Federal Student Aid app, **myStudentAid**, and create your FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov or on the app.

OCTOBER 2020

- On or after Oct. 1, submit the FAFSA on the **myStudentAid** app or online at fafsa.gov for the upcoming 2021-22 school year using 2019 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.
- Download and print Lela's FAFSA Completion Guide at lela.org.
- Visit March2Success.com for free ACT prep lessons.
- Review your FAFSA Student Aid Report. Make any necessary corrections and re-submit FAFSA.

NOVEMBER 2020

- 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/paying-for-college.
- 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 and Career Fair at your high school or in your area.
- Submit an entry for a chance to win Lela's \$1,000 FAFSA Completion Scholarship at lela.org

DECEMBER 2020

- Visit myact.org to compare colleges and research careers.
- Submit all completed admission and college academic scholarship applications. Meet deadlines.
- Register for Lela's \$1,000 Choose Louisiana Scholarship. Sign up at Lela.org by December 31, 2020
- Ask Lela for help! Call the FAFSA HELPLINE @ 844-463-2372**
- Follow @AskLela on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook for important tips and scholarship opportunities.
- Your parent can request a **free** Parent Planning Guide lela.org/planning-for-college.

JANUARY 2021

- Contact an askLela FAFSA Completion Specialist for FREE one-on-one help with your FAFSA or financial aid questions info@lela.org or 844-463-2372.
- 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.
- If your FAFSA has been selected for "verification", submit additional requested information to your school.
- Track your TOPS status at LOSFA's Student Hub. Visit mylosfa@la.gov.

FEBRUARY 2021

- 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 lela.org.

MARCH 2021

- If you have completed the financial aid process, be on the look out for your school's 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 LDOE's Graduation Pathways for graduation requirements and much more at louisianabelieves.com

APRIL 2021

- 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.
- Consider the LelaCHOICE Supplemental Loan if you need to fill a funding gap (after all free money and federal & state dollars) at lela.org.

MAY 2021

- 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 2021

- 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.
- Register for Lela's \$1,000 Choose Louisiana scholarship. Sign up at Lela.org by December 31, 2021.

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