

# SENIOR'S Checklist for College Planning 2022-2023



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

## SEPTEMBER 2022

- 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.collegeboard.org](https://actstudent.collegeboard.org)
- Complete online college admission application to top schools on your list.
- Explore what government financial aid you can apply for at <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/do-you-need-money.pdf>
- Search and apply for scholarships. [www.lela.org/paying-for-college](http://www.lela.org/paying-for-college).

## OCTOBER 2022

- On or after Oct. 1, submit the FAFSA on online at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) for the upcoming 2023-24 school year using 2021 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 [www.lela.org](http://www.lela.org).
- Visit [March2Success.com](http://March2Success.com) for free ACT prep lessons.
- Review your FAFSA Student Aid Report. Make any necessary corrections and re-submit FAFSA.

## NOVEMBER 2022

- 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.
- 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.collegeboard.org](https://actstudent.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 [asklela.org](http://asklela.org)

## DECEMBER 2022

- Visit [myact.org](http://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](http://Lela.org) by December 31, 2022
- 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 [www.lela.org/parents-guide](http://www.lela.org/parents-guide)

## JANUARY 2023

- For free FAFSA assistance, scan here:  

- 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).
- 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](http://mylosfa.la.gov).

## FEBRUARY 2023

- Once your FAFSA is submitted, register for a chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship here:



- 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.
- Register for Advanced Placement Exams.

## MARCH 2023

- 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](http://louisianabelieves.com)

## APRIL 2023

- 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).

## MAY 2023

- 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 2023

- 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](http://Lela.org) by December 31, 2023.

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