

# SENIOR'S Checklist for College Planning 2023-2024



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

## SEPTEMBER 2023

- Start a College Planning Folder for all of your important notes and documents.
- Create your FSA ID account at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). Save it in your College Planning Folder.
- Register for Lela's \$1,000 "I Plan to Submit a FAFSA" Scholarship at [lcla.org/completed\\_fafsa/](https://lcla.org/completed_fafsa/)
- 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](https://actstudent.org) and [collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org)
- Complete college admission applications.
- Attend a College & Career Fair in your area.

## FEBRUARY 2024

- 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.

## OCTOBER 2023

- Register for Lela's \$1,000 "I Plan to Submit a FAFSA" at [lcla.org/completed\\_fafsa/](https://lcla.org/completed_fafsa/)
- Meet all admissions and scholarship application deadlines at your college.
- Devote time, energy, and thought to writing any required essays.
- Visit [March2Success.com](https://March2Success.com) for free ACT prep lessons.
- Download ACT's "Encourage" College Planning App and search for colleges, scholarships, majors and more.



*NOTE: Federal Student Aid updates are in progress. This Checklist is current as of 9/7/23.*

## MARCH 2024

- Once you've completed the FAFSA and college admissions applications, you should begin to receive financial aid offers from your colleges.
- 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](https://louisianabelieves.com)

## NOVEMBER 2023

- 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 at [actstudent.org](https://actstudent.org) or the SAT at [collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org).
- Search and apply for scholarships. [www.lcla.org/paying-for-college](https://www.lcla.org/paying-for-college).

## APRIL 2024

- Compare your college financial aid offers and decide which college is best for you; then notify each college with your decision.
- Review your financial aid offer with your parents, making sure you understand the terms and conditions that apply to each type of aid.
- 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). Visit [LelaCHOICE.org](https://LelaCHOICE.org).


## DECEMBER 2023

- Submit your 2024-25 FAFSA at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) using 2022 federal tax returns.
- Visit [myact.org](https://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 at [lcla.org/register](https://lcla.org/register).
- Follow @AskLela on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook for important tips and scholarship opportunities.

## MAY 2024

- Accept the financial aid offer from the school of your choice.
- Apply for a summer job.
- GRADUATION! Congratulations!
- Arrange housing and a meal plan with your new school, if necessary.

## JANUARY 2024

- For free FAFSA assistance, scan here:  

- Register for Lela's \$1,000 "I Plan to Submit a FAFSA" at [lcla.org/completed\\_fafsa/](https://lcla.org/completed_fafsa/)
- Participate in the George Rodrigue Art Scholarship for Seniors. Check out [georgerodriguefoundation.org](https://georgerodriguefoundation.org).
- Track your TOPS status at LOSFA's Student Hub. Visit [mylosfa.la.gov](https://mylosfa.la.gov).
- Review your FAFSA Student Aid Report. Make any necessary corrections and re-submit FAFSA.

## JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2024

- Respond to all requests from your college.
- Find out when payment of school charges (such as tuition, fees, and room and board) are due.
- Plan to save a portion of your summer earnings to pay for college expenses.
- Attend Freshman Orientation at your new college.
- Register for Lela's \$1,000 Choose Louisiana Scholarship [lcla.org/register](https://lcla.org/register)

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