



Senior year checklist

Note: Timing for acceptance and school-specific financial aid information can vary by school.

Summer

- Request admissions information from the schools you want to apply to
- Start searching for scholarships
- Combine vacation plans with campus visits
- Start working on college application essays
- Start online Common Application
- Begin to gather information for the FAFSA®

September/October

- Take SAT, ACT®, or SAT subject tests
- Complete admission applications
- Ask your school counselor to send transcripts to selected schools
- Submit a CSS (College Scholarship Service)/ Financial Aid Profile, if required
- Ask for letters of recommendation
- Apply for financial aid
- (salliemae.com/gofafsa) beginning October 1

November/December

- If required, take SAT, ACT, or SAT subject tests
- After you apply for financial aid, you'll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR); make sure the info is accurate

Other payment options for parents

The **Federal Direct PLUS Loan** is an unsubsidized federal loan for parents of dependent students enrolled at least half-time in an eligible school.¹

Private parent loans are offered by some lenders. A parent or other creditworthy individual is the borrower for these loans, which can offer competitive interest rates and no origination fees.

Tuition payment plans let students or parents pay tuition in installments; there may be a fee for the service. Check with your school to see if they offer this type of plan.

Borrow responsibly

We encourage students and families to start with savings, grants, scholarships, and federal student loans to pay for college. Students and families should evaluate all anticipated monthly loan payments, and how much the student expects to earn in the future, before considering a private student loan.

Sallie Mae does not provide, and these materials are not meant to convey, financial, tax, or legal advice. Consult your own financial advisor, tax advisor, or attorney about your specific circumstances.

¹ Federal loan rate and fee information is provided by Federal Student Aid, an Office of the U.S. Department of Education

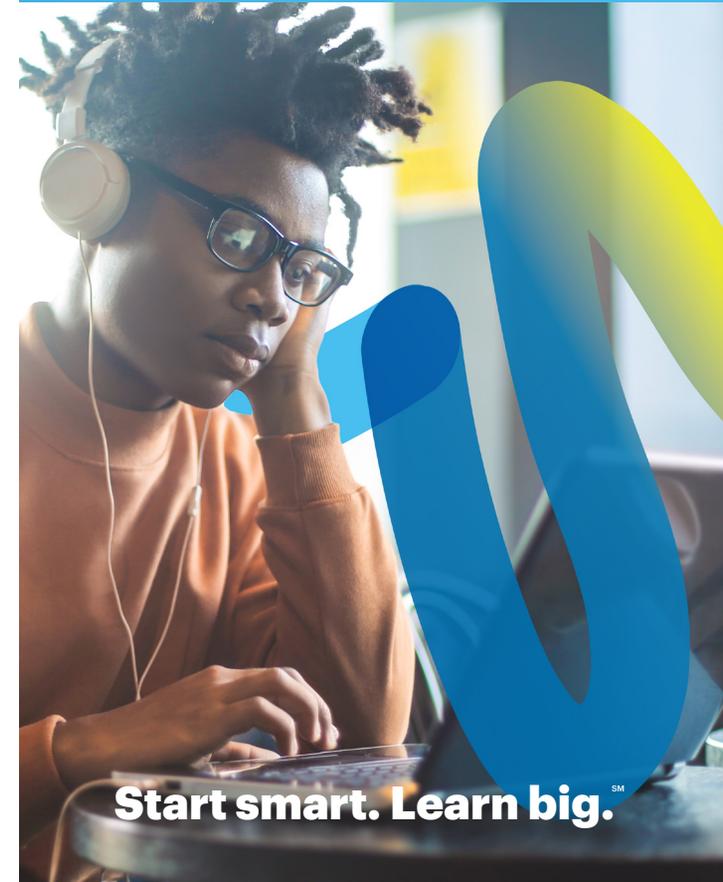
Private student loan information based on an June 16, 2021 review of national private loan programs offered by Sallie Mae and its publicly-traded competitors. Variable rates may increase over the life of the loan.

FAFSA is a registered service mark of U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid.

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Your 1-2-3 approach to paying for college



Start smart. Learn big.™

Senior year checklist continued

January

- Fill out and submit additional college or state financial aid forms, if required
- Stay on top of financial aid deadlines

February/March

- Check mail or email for college acceptances and financial aid offer letters
- Discuss special financial situations with the financial aid offices of your favorite schools

April/May

- Review all offer letters carefully
- Decide on a school and pay the deposit
- Review financing options; if a private student loan is needed, borrow responsibly and consider a cosigner
- If applicable, confirm with your school that you've met all the requirements for on-campus housing

June–August

- Pay first tuition bill
- Start packing!
- Attend orientation and register for classes

If you're not sure how you'll pay for college or what you can afford, taking it one step at a time can help.

1 Start with the money you won't have to pay back

College savings

Begin with any savings you or your family have put aside for college.

Scholarships

Get the most free money possible. Scholarships aren't just for straight-A students or athletes.

Find ones that fit you (for free!) at salliemae.com/scholarship.

Grants and work-study

These are both generally federal funded, so be sure to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) to apply for them. The FAFSA® is also used to apply for most state aid.

You can find more details at salliemae.com/collegeplanning.

2 Explore federal student loans

There are several types of federal student loans, including Direct Subsidized Loans, which are based on financial need and Direct Unsubsidized Loans, which are available regardless of family income.

You can apply for both types by filling out and submitting the FAFSA®.

3 Consider a responsible private student loan

If you still need more money for school, a private student loan can help.

Private student loans are different from federal student loans.

- They come from banks and credit unions.
- They're credit-based: the lender may review your credit score, history, and other information to determine if you qualify.
- Your rate may be based on several factors, including your creditworthiness.

Like federal student loans, private student loans need to be paid back with interest.

For more info on private student loans, visit salliemae.com/collegeplanning.

Learn more about planning and paying for college

