

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

## DECEMBER 2020

- ❑ 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, 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](http://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](mailto:info@lela.org) or 844-463-2372.
- ❑ 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://Lela.org) by December 31, 2021.

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