

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.org/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

OCTOBER 2022

- ☐ On or after Oct. 1, submit the FAFSA on online at 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.
- ☐ Visit 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.org/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

DECEMBER 2022

- ☐ 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, 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

JANUARY 2023

- ☐ For free FAFSA assistance, scan here: 
- ☐ 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 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

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 by December 31, 2023.

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