

SENIOR'S Checklist for College Planning 2016-2017



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

SEPTEMBER 2016

- Meet with your School Counselor.
 - Review high school transcripts.
 - Evaluate top three college choices.
- Register to take the ACT and/or SAT.
actstudent.org
collegeboard.org
- Complete online college admission application to top schools.
- Males: Register with the U.S. Selective Service.
sss.gov
- Register for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship at **askLela.org** by September 30, 2016. (Louisiana high school seniors are allowed to enter once for the scholarship drawing.)

FEBRUARY 2017

- 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 **askLela.org**.
- Attend a College Goal Sunday event in your area for assistance with your FAFSA. Details at **www.osfa.la.gov**

OCTOBER 2016

- Prepare for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by registering for your FSA ID at **fsaid.ed.gov**.
- Complete the FAFSA online at **fafsa.ed.gov** for the upcoming 2017-18 school year using 2015 tax returns.
- Attend a College Application Month event in your area.
- Meet all admissions, financial aid and scholarship application deadlines at your college or university.
- Devote time, energy, and thought to writing any required essays.
- Remember to complete your admission application to your top three schools.
- Visit **March2Success.com** for free ACT prep lessons.

MARCH 2017

- Register for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship, sign up at **askLela.org** by March 31, 2017.
- If you have completed the financial aid process, be on the look out for your 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 Lela's College Planning Center in Baton Rouge for assistance with FAFSA and other college planning needs. Call to schedule an appointment.
- Attend a College Goal Sunday event in your area. Details at **www.osfa.la.gov**.

NOVEMBER 2016

- If colleges request Letters of Recommendation from you, compile a list of teachers, counselors, mentors, and other adults 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/freemoneysearch
- Finalize and have a teacher proof read any required essays.
- Register to take the ACT or SAT. Highest composite score will be accepted.
actstudent.org
collegeboard.org
- Attend a College and Career Fair at your high school or in your area.

APRIL 2017

- 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.
- Participate in askLela's Financial Literacy Awareness activities for a chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship!
lela.org/financialliteracy

DECEMBER 2016

- Visit **actprofile.org** to compare colleges and research careers.
- Submit all completed admission and college academic scholarship applications. Meet deadlines.
- Register to win a \$1,000 scholarship at **askLela.org** to be eligible for the December 31, 2016 drawing.
- Ask Lela for help! Call the FAFSA HELpline @ 844-GO-FAFSA or 844-463-2372**
- Follow @AskLela on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook for important tips and scholarship opportunities.

MAY 2017

- 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.

JANUARY 2017

- Contact your askLela representative for FREE one-on-one help with your FAFSA or financial aid questions.
 - North & Central LA: Christie at **smith@lela.org**
 - South LA: Ann at **carmichael@lela.org**
- Once your FAFSA is submitted, register to win a \$1,000 scholarship at **askLela.org**.
- Collect family tax information for 2016 to prepare for filing the 2018-2019 FAFSA.
- Participate in the George Rodrigue Art Scholarship for Seniors. Check out **georgerodriguefoundation.org**.

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2017

- 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.
- If you haven't registered for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship, sign up at **askLela.org** by June 30, 2017

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

AUGUST 2016

- Work with your School Counselor to confirm your class schedule in accordance with your post high school plans.
- Aim to enroll in Advanced Placement (AP) classes.
- Visit actprofile.org to create a personal student profile.
- Begin studying vocabulary words for the ACT or SAT. Check out the mobile App Store to get daily vocabulary words.

DECEMBER 2016

- Work with your School Counselor to learn about scholarship opportunities.
- Seek part-time employment during holiday break.
- Visit louisianabelieves.com for great hot topics on college planning.

APRIL 2017

- Consider volunteering to represent your school at a summer leadership conference (Boys/Girls State, Trailblazers, LYS, etc.).
- Evaluate what clubs or organizations you are a member of and consider running for a leadership position your senior year.
- If you are interested in the military for your career path, begin planning to take the ASVAP Test and meet with a military representative.

SEPTEMBER 2016

- Prepare for the PSAT. Your School Counselor can assist you in registering for the October test.

The PSAT is also used by National Merit Scholarship Corporation as an initial screening of entrants in its annual competitions.
- Make a list of three to five colleges that interest you and why.

JANUARY 2017

- Consider putting together a portfolio that highlights your special skills, talents, community service, sports, hobbies, awards, and school activities.
- Think about financial aid. Talk with your parents about options on how to pay for college.

MAY 2017

- Apply for a summer job, apprenticeship or internship related to your career interest.
- Job shadow in a profession that interests you.
- Open a savings account and/or a checking account.
- Team up with a study buddy in your preparations for your senior year.
- Get an estimate of your financial aid eligibility at FAFSA4caster
- Search for scholarships at lela.org/freemoneysearch
- Include visits to colleges during your summer vacation.

OCTOBER 2016

- Register for the PSAT Test being offered on October 15 & 19 and November 2.
- Begin researching and comparing the colleges you like at actprofile.org
- Determine how to select the right college for you (Cost, Academics, Scholarships, Environment or Location.)
- Get involved in community activities related to your career interests.

FEBRUARY 2017

- Register for the April ACT Test at actstudent.org.
- Visit March2Success.com for free ACT prep lessons.
- Start or update an academic and leadership resume.
- Continue to be on the lookout for any colleges that may have slipped under your radar.

JUNE/JULY 2017

- Save a portion of your earnings for college expenses.
- Schedule a few hours each week preparing for the ACT/SAT Test.
- Enroll in an ACT/SAT preparation workshop or visit your local library for helpful resources.
- Read subject books to help you prepare for challenging senior courses (trig, statistics, calculus, etc.).
- Create your FSA ID Username and Password at fsaid.ed.gov

NOVEMBER 2016

- Consider enrolling in a Dual Enrollment Program.
- Participate in the George Rodrigue Art Scholarship for juniors. Check out georgerodriguefoundation.org.
- Ask Lela for help!**
- Follow @AskLela on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for important college planning tips.

MARCH 2017

- Visit your top colleges during a Preview Day or schedule a private visit through the Admissions/Recruiting Office.
- Volunteer for activities and clubs related to your career interests.
- Ask Lela for help!**