

# 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](http://actstudent.org) [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)
- Complete online college admission application to top schools.
- Males: Register with the U.S. Selective Service. [sss.gov](http://sss.gov)
- Register for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship at [askLela.org](http://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](http://askLela.org).
- Attend a College Goal Sunday event in your area for assistance with your FAFSA. Details at [www.osfa.la.gov](http://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](http://fsaid.ed.gov).
- Complete the FAFSA online at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://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](http://March2Success.com) for free ACT prep lessons.

## MARCH 2017

- Register for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship, sign up at [askLela.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://actstudent.org) [collegeboard.org](http://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](http://lela.org/financialliteracy)

## DECEMBER 2016

- Visit [actprofile.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:smith@lela.org)
  - South LA: Ann at [carmichael@lela.org](mailto:carmichael@lela.org)
- Once your FAFSA is submitted, register to win a \$1,000 scholarship at [askLela.org](http://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](http://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](http://askLela.org) by June 30, 2017

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