

FINANCIAL AID



COLORADO CHECKLIST

Follow these steps in your senior year of high school to apply for financial aid. Deadlines vary by state and college so complete the steps when you can, even if it's passed the suggested timing.

PREPARE

SEPTEMBER

Make college list

Work with your advisor/counselor to identify and apply to at least one financially safer school – a college that you're likely to be accepted to and able to afford.

Create FSA ID

Username and password that all students and their parent(s) must create to start the FAFSA.

- Watch [How to Create a Username & Password \(FSA ID\)](#)
- Create an FSA ID at studentaid.gov

APPLY

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

Submit CSS Profile

Required by some private colleges for students to apply for financial aid directly from the college.

- Visit cssprofile.collegeboard.org to see if your college(s) require the CSS Profile and to submit the application
- Collect information needed using the [CSS Profile Checklist](#)

Submit FAFSA or CASFA

Available **December 2023**, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required by all colleges, universities, and technical programs for eligible students to apply for financial aid. The Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CASFA) allows undocumented, [Colorado ASSET](#) students to apply for financial aid.

- Watch [FAFSA Overview](#)
- Collect information needed using the [FAFSA/CASFA Checklist](#)
- Fill out and submit your FAFSA at fafsa.gov
- Fill out and submit your CASFA at cdhe.colorado.gov/CASFA

FOLLOW UP

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Review FAFSA or CASFA Submission Summary

The Submission Summary becomes available shortly after you submit your financial aid form. It summarizes the information you reported on it, includes your Student Aid Index (SAI), and flags any issues that must be resolved.

Complete verification

If you're selected for verification, a process colleges use to ensure the information reported on your financial aid application is correct, you're required to provide the requested documents in order to receive financial aid.

- See our [Verification Handout](#)

DECIDE

MARCH-MAY

Review financial aid offers

Aid offers show you the amount of financial aid you will receive if you attend a specific college. Compare all offers before deciding where to attend college.

- Use the [College Cost Calculator](#) to compare your offers and estimate your indirect costs

Pay tuition deposit

A non-refundable down payment required by most 4-year colleges and universities to hold your spot at the college, due by May 1.

- See our [Tuition Deposit Handout](#) for more information



Scan or go to uaspire.org/COFinancialAidChecklist to view checklist online