

SENIOR'S Checklist FOR COLLEGE PLANNING

2024-2025



SEPTEMBER 2024

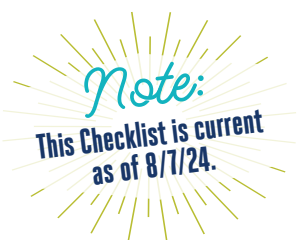
- Start a College Planning Folder for important notes and documents.
- Create your FSA ID account at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account>. Save it in your College Planning Folder.
- Register for Lela's \$1,000 "I Plan to Submit a FAFSA" Scholarship at lela.org/completed_fafsa/
- Meet with your School Counselor to review high school transcripts and to evaluate your top three college choices.
- Register for the ACT at actstudent.org and/or the SAT at collegeboard.org.
- Attend a College & Career Fair in your area.

OCTOBER 2024

- Complete college admission applications.
- Meet all admissions and scholarship requirements and deadlines.
- Devote time, energy, and thought to writing any required essays.
- Visit [March2Success.com](https://march2success.com) for free ACT prep lessons.
- Download ACT's "Encourage" College Planning App and search for colleges, scholarships, majors and more at encourageme.com.
- Register for Lela's \$1000 "I Plan to Complete a FAFSA" to access federal grants, work-study, and student loans at https://lela.org/completed_fafsa/.

NOVEMBER 2024

- Ask teachers and mentors to write Letters of Recommendation on your behalf for admission and scholarship applications.
- Finalize and have a teacher proof read any required essays.
- Register to take the ACT at actstudent.org and/or the SAT at collegeboard.org.
- Search and apply for scholarships at lela.org/paying-for-college.



DECEMBER 2024

- Submit your 2025-26 FAFSA at fafsa.gov on or after December 1st using your 2023 federal tax returns.
- Visit myact.org to compare colleges and research careers.
- Meet all college admission and scholarship deadlines by submitting your applications.
- Register for Lela's \$1,000 Choose Louisiana Scholarship at lela.org/register.
- Follow @AskLela on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook for important tips and scholarship opportunities.

JANUARY 2025

- Review your FAFSA Submission Summary, make any necessary changes and resubmit.
- Schedule a [Free Virtual FAFSA Session](#) by scanning this QR code, if you need assistance.



- Participate in the George Rodrigue Foundation Scholarship Contest at georgerodriguefoundation.org.
- Track your TOPS status on LOSFA's Student Hub at mylosfa.la.gov.

FEBRUARY 2025

- Register for a \$1,000 Choose Louisiana Scholarship if you plan to attend a college in Louisiana by scanning this QR code.



- If you applied for early decision, follow up with your admissions representatives.
- Attend a Financial Aid program at your school or in your area.
- Register for Advanced Placement Exams.

MARCH 2025

- Once you've completed the FAFSA and college admissions applications, you should begin to receive financial aid offers from your colleges.
- March 1 is the recommended FAFSA submission deadline at many schools. Check with your school for priority deadline dates.
- Apply for a LelaCHOICE Supplemental Loan if you need to fill a funding gap (after all grants, scholarships, federal and state aid is considered). Visit [LelaCHOICE.org](https://lela.org).**

APRIL 2025

- Compare your college financial aid offers and decide which college is best for you; then notify each college with your decision.
- Review your financial aid offer with your parents, making sure you understand the terms and conditions that apply to each type of aid offered.

MAY 2025

- Accept the financial aid offer from the college of your choice.
- If your award includes student loans, only borrow what you NEED.
- Apply for a summer job.
- GRADUATION! Congratulations!
- Arrange housing and a meal plan with your new school, if you plan to live on campus.

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2025

- Respond to all requests from your college admissions and financial aid office.
- Find out when payment of school charges (such as tuition, fees, and room and board) are due and meet deadlines.
- Plan to save a portion of your summer earnings to pay for college expenses.
- Attend Freshman Orientation at your new college.

LelaCHOICE
LOUISIANA'S NONPROFIT EDUCATION LOANS



HAVE QUESTIONS? CALL LELA'S HELPLINE.
844-463-2372 | INFO@LELA.ORG | LELA.ORG