

Countdown to Financial Aid

Know the facts.

38%

That's the percentage of dependent students whose family incomes were greater than \$100,000, who received institutional grants. The average grant size? \$10,200. Aid is available, even for wealthier families.¹

05

250%

That's how much tuition and fees at four-year public colleges have risen over the past 30 years.²

70%

That's the percentage of undergraduates who received some form of financial aid in the 2011-12 school-year.³

Mind the deadlines.

Research your schools of interest. Each has different aid deadlines and many are early in the year. Research your state's unique requirements. Most states provide aid on a first come, first served basis so submit your request as early as possible after January 1.⁴ Don't miss the June 30 federal deadline.

04



Submit the FAFSA® early.

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as you can after January 1. The best way to apply is online. Don't wait until your taxes are complete. You will be asked to submit income verification later on.⁵

03



Carefully assess offers.

Compare apples to apples when reviewing award letters.⁶ Determine what percentage will come from free money. Understand the obligations of each offer. Know how you will cover any remaining funding gaps.

02



Have faith — it's worth it!

In 2013, the annual earnings for millennials with a bachelor's degree or more was \$45,500 compared to average earnings of \$28,000 for those with only a high school education. College graduates have lower rates of unemployment and higher job satisfaction.⁷

01

\$45,500
\$28,000

1 AEI.org

2 USA Today

3 USA Today

4 FastWeb.com

5 PHEAA.org

6 YouCanDealWithIt.com

7 Pew Research