

# Senior Year Timeline to College Readiness

## Take/Retake the ACT or SAT

Although taking the ACT/SAT costs money, it may save you more by helping you earn academic scholarships. Some private scholarships will ask for your scores as well.

## File the FAFSA!!!

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

The FAFSA is the #1 place to get financial aid for college. Even if you feel like you wouldn't be eligible, still apply, it's free!  
*\*Many scholarships and some colleges require it to be completed.*

The FAFSA provides:

**Grants:** free money for eligible students.

**Loans:** borrowed money for all students.

**Work-Study:** funding for a campus-affiliated part-time job for eligible students.

## Apply for scholarships

There are many different types of scholarships.

The best way to find them is:

- Search scholarship websites,
- Talk to your counselor about local scholarships,
- Apply to college department scholarships

## What's next?

- **Choose your school**
- **Deferment**, if applicable. This is for those taking gap years for religious service, military, work, etc.
- **New student orientation**
- **Meet the academic advisor** at your college
- **Register** for classes

Beginning of senior year



In the fall



All year



October 1st



FAFSA



**DREAMERS, DACA, & Undocumented students cannot file the FAFSA.**

However, there are many resources to assist you in paying for college. Search for private scholarships and reach out to colleges' Dream Centers.

November



All year



In the spring



End of the school year



1st day of college

## Meet with your high school counselor

Meet with your high school counselor as soon as possible to ask about ACT/SAT, scholarships, FAFSA, and college deadlines! Write down any questions you have before and during your appointment.

## Keep your GPA up all year

Your GPA plays a big role in scholarships and some college applications. Many colleges in Utah offer academic scholarships that take your GPA and ACT/SAT scores to determine an award amount. You can earn this scholarship just by applying to the college!

## Look up college deadlines & apply!

In Utah, some colleges have priority deadlines starting at the beginning of November. Look up the deadlines for the colleges you are interested in and apply ASAP. Then, if you're going to live on-campus, apply for housing.

## Accept your financial aid awards

In the spring, or sooner, you may receive your financial aid award. The award will consist of scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study (if you filed the FAFSA and applied to scholarships). Ask the college or your high school counselor how to accept those.

*\*Some students may need to provide extra paperwork to the college verifying their FAFSA information before the college can give an award. Follow their instructions.*