
Rising Senior Summer Schedule

Search and Start the Scholarship Application Process

___ Learn how to [avoid scholarship scams and identity theft](#).

___ Review [this list](#) of top five scholarship search sites. Complete the heavy lifting for the requirements of scholarships you will apply for NOW, while you have free time! NEVER pay for a site or to apply.

Work, Save, and Explore Future Careers

___ Establish a specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time bound savings goal

___ Find a job that will provide the flexibility you need, with the greatest potential earnings (consider the impact of taxes), and that can be a beneficial experience for a future career.

___ Use this [handy interactive checklist](#) as a guide to set up a checking AND savings account. If your paycheck is sent with a direct deposit, split the deposit into checking AND savings. Ideally, your checking account is in one bank or credit union, and savings in another. Save regularly toward your goal.

___ Explore future career options at [this brand new site](#) developed by the department of labor for teens.

Prepare for the FAFSA

___ Create a username and password called an FSA ID that you'll use to confirm your identity when accessing your government financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents. [Learn about the FSA ID, and create yours](#). Note: You must create your own FSA ID; if your parent creates it for you, that'll cause confusion later and will slow down the financial aid application process. (By the way, you can [watch a video](#) about creating an FSA ID below.)

___ Narrow the list of colleges you are considering attending. If you can, visit the schools that interest you.

___ Contact colleges to request information and applications for admission. Ask about financial aid, admission requirements, and deadlines.

___ Decide whether you are going to apply for admission under a particular college's early decision, early action, or regular decision program. Be sure to learn about the program deadlines and requirements.

___ Use the FAFSA4caster financial aid estimator (found in the "Thinking About College?" section on the homepage of [fafsa.gov](#)), and compare the results to the actual costs at the colleges to which you will apply. To supplement any aid FAFSA4caster estimates you might receive, be sure to [apply for scholarships](#). Your goal is to minimize the amount of loan funds you borrow to have less to pay back.

___ Learn what government financial aid you can apply for, and how, in [Federal Student Aid at a Glance](#)
