



The STEM Academy at Showalter

"Unlocking Young Minds for the Future"

FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE

Senior Year

September

- Research scholarship opportunities and deadlines. Request application materials, if needed.
- Visit www.collegeboard.org. Check whether the colleges to which you are applying use the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE and register, if applicable.
- Apply for a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at www.fafsa.gov. Keep your ID in a safe place where you can refer to it often.

October through March

- Work with your parents or guardians to gather the financial documents and materials necessary for filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You will use the "prior-prior-year" tax return.
- Complete and submit the FAFSA form (www.fafsa.ed.gov or www.studentaid.ed.gov/PDFfafsa or 1-800-4-FED-AID) to apply for state, federal, and institutional grants and loans.
- After you have submitted your FAFSA, you will receive your Student Aid Report (SAR). Check it for any errors. Return the SAR only if you need to make corrections.
- Follow the directions in all financial aid correspondence that you receive from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) in a timely manner.
- Continue to complete and submit scholarship applications.

April

- Review and compare the financial aid packages offered in the financial aid award letters sent by the colleges that accepted you.
- Identify a financial aid contact at each college where you have been accepted should you have questions.
- Organize all correspondence that you receive regarding financial aid in a safe place.
- By May 1, accept an offer and make a deposit, if applicable, at the college you plan to attend.

May/June

- Work with your parents or guardians to apply for Federal Direct PLUS Loans (Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students) and other private loans, if necessary. If your Federal Direct PLUS application is denied, inform your college's financial aid office.
- Double-check with PHEAA to make sure that your grant funds are sent to the correct college.
- Visit www.studentloans.gov to complete your Loan Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note for any federal loans noted on your financial aid letter.
- Review all bills for tuition, room and board as well as other correspondence from your school's financial aid office. Follow all directions carefully and meet all deadlines.