

EDUCAID[®]

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT'S GUIDE TO COLLEGE
KNOWLEDGE THAT HELPS PAY FOR COLLEGE[®]**

Pre-college calendar and
checklist included



WACHOVIA

What's Inside?

Preparing for college is a big job. Along with the issues of where to go and what to study, there's the concern of how to pay for college. Educaid® wants you to focus on getting your education, not financing it. In this guide, you'll find an introduction to financial aid, an introduction to Educaid, and resources to help make planning the financial aspect of your college education as painless as possible.

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EDUCAID®

1-800-EDUCAID® (1-800-338-2243) www.educaid.com

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getting ready

Knowledge That Helps Pay for College®

Educaid, the student loan division of Wachovia Corporation, is one of the top ten lenders of government guaranteed education loans in the United States. Because our business is student loans and only student loans, when you choose Educaid you'll get the great service, information, tools, and resources you want.

- ***www.educaid.com***—Our award-winning web site offers information about almost every aspect of financial aid: applying for aid, finding the right loan, deciding between aid options, cutting college costs, and much more.
- **Junior and Senior Year Pre-College Calendars**—Monthly to-do lists for college-bound students can keep you on the road to success. See pages 5 and 6 to get started right away.
- **Monthly email newsletters**—Stay up to date with helpful tips on subjects like choosing between colleges and aid options, finding scholarships, and understanding financial aid forms. Sign up at www.educaid.com.

- **Fast, friendly customer service**—When you need to talk to a real person, our knowledgeable customer service representatives can answer your financial aid questions.

Want to know more? Visit our web site or call us toll free at 1-877-318-2368 Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

Applying for Financial Aid

The financial aid process starts with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You'll hear people call it the "FAFSA" for short. If you don't send in a FAFSA, you can't receive any federal aid including grants, work-study assistance, or government loans. It's really important that you complete and send your FAFSA in on time.

To start the financial aid process:

STEP 1

Complete and submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 of your senior year in high school. You can get a FAFSA from your high school counselor or any college financial aid office. It is also available on the Internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov, where you can sign and submit it electronically.

STEP 2

Four to six weeks later, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail. When you filled out your FAFSA, you specified schools you were interested in attending. Those schools also receive a copy of your SAR. If you don't receive a SAR in time or if you need another copy, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243.

STEP 3

Check with any college you are considering to see if they require additional applications or forms.

STEP 4

Each college you list on your FAFSA will send you an award letter identifying sources and amounts of financial aid you can get if you attend school there. Follow the instructions in the letter to receive your aid.



Explore Your Financial Aid Options

Types of Financial Aid

Financial aid comes in three types: grants and scholarships, work-study, and loans.

Check with your high school counselor or the college you plan to attend to learn more about grants and scholarships and applying for them.

Funding is limited, so be sure to apply early. There are several resources on the Internet including scholarship search engines like www.scholarships.com that can speed you through thousands of helpful financial aid links.

When you've exhausted your free-money resources, you may have to work to get more assistance. Most colleges offer some kind of work-study program. The best part about work-study is that it isn't just flipping burgers for minimum wage. Often, your college will help you find an on- or off-campus job connected to your major so you can get some valuable experience that will help you when you're job hunting after college.

Unfortunately, scholarships or work-study may not cover all your college expenses. That's where loans come in. The good news about student loans is that you don't start repaying most of them until after you graduate. Some loans, like the Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan, don't even require you to pay interest during school. To learn more about student loans and how to get them, keep reading or check out www.educaid.com.

Types of Loans

There are two general types of student loans: government and alternative.

Government loans are guaranteed by the U.S. government, meaning the government gives the lender an "insurance policy" that protects the lender if the borrower doesn't repay the loan.

Alternative loans are guaranteed by private guarantee agencies in much the same way that your car is insured by a private insurance company. Alternative loans may also be self-insured by the lender.

Student Loan Definitions

Grants and scholarships: Generally known as **FREE MONEY!** The federal government offers several grants based on financial need while most scholarships are from private organizations and colleges.

Work-study: Part-time work, arranged by your school, that helps to pay for college. You don't need to repay the money you earn through work-study.

Student loans: Money that can make up the difference between the cost of education and your other financial aid. Loans are available for students and parents.

definitions



junior

Pre-College Calendar and Checklist

August

- ❑ Review your high school coursework and activity plans.
- ❑ Keep in mind that colleges look for the following:
 - challenging coursework
 - a strong GPA
 - involvement in extracurricular activities such as sports, volunteer work, or church.
- ❑ Obtain a Social Security Number if you don't already have one. You will need it to apply for college and financial aid.
- ❑ Sign up for Educaid's FREE monthly email for college-bound students at www.educaid.com.

September

- ❑ Identify sources of college and career information at your school. Start looking through guidance publications, college catalogs, and guidebooks.
- ❑ Put together a list of ten colleges that you would like to attend. Plan to apply to at least three to five schools.
- ❑ Talk to your parents and your high school counselor about where you want to go to school.
- ❑ Study and register for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).
- ❑ Obtain dates and locations of college fairs and "parent nights" in your local area.

October

- ❑ Take the PSAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQT). Remember to take your calculator.
- ❑ Inquire about Advanced Placement (AP) or summer college courses that may be available to you.
- ❑ Attend college fairs and financial aid/parent nights.

- ❑ Start learning about the colleges you're considering. The Internet is a good resource.

November

- ❑ Start looking into eligibility requirements for federal and alternative student loans. A good source of free, up-to-date information on low-cost student loans is Educaid. Helpful customer service representatives at Educaid can be reached weekdays at 1-877-318-2368, or visit www.educaid.com.
- ❑ Call (800) 4-FED-AID and ask for free copies of financial aid materials, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

December

- ❑ Look for your PSAT/NMQT score report.
- ❑ Start planning to take the SAT I and/or SAT II exams, if necessary. You may also need to take the ACT. Check with the colleges you are applying to find out specific testing requirements. Ask your high school counselor about registration deadlines.

January

- ❑ Go through the catalogs of the three to five schools that interest you the most.
- ❑ During your college visits, make sure you meet with an admissions representative and a Financial Aid Officer to find out what types of aid are available.
- ❑ Attend financial aid nights if you have not already done so.

February

- ❑ Start seriously investigating private scholarships and other student aid programs. Ask your teachers and counselor if any local organizations offer free use of a scholarship search program.

- ❑ Go to www.scholarships.com to review scholarships available to you.
- ❑ Register and study for the SAT (I and II) and/or ACT exams.

March

- ❑ Continue investigating outside funding sources.
- ❑ Register and study for the SAT and/or the ACT exams, if you have not already done so.
- ❑ For more information about financial aid and answers to your questions, visit Educaid's web site at www.educaid.com.

April

- ❑ Begin scheduling visits to each of the three to five schools that are on your final list. If appropriate, apply for an interview and/or an overnight stay.
- ❑ Consider taking the Advanced Placement (AP) exams while information is fresh in your mind.
- ❑ Take an SAT prep course to help prepare for the upcoming test.
- ❑ Begin preparing essays for college admissions and scholarship applications.

May

- ❑ Take the SAT (I and II) and/or the ACT exams.
- ❑ In early to mid-May, take Advanced Placement (AP) exams, which are given in high schools nationally.
- ❑ Mark a calendar with test dates and registration deadlines for the remaining SAT I and SAT II exams. You may take them during your senior year in high school.
- ❑ Continue compiling information to find out which organizations award scholarships to graduating seniors (you may have to begin applying the summer after your Junior year).

June

- ❑ Take the SAT (I and II) and/or ACT exams if you did not take them last month.
- ❑ Read a variety of books and magazines and review your math skills over the summer. This will help you to prepare for the SAT if you plan to take it in the fall.
- ❑ Obtain a summer job that might be related to your career interests.
- ❑ If possible, save some money from your summer job to pay for college costs.
- ❑ If you travel this summer, consider scheduling a college visit.
- ❑ Important numbers:

Educaid: 1-877-318-2368
www.educaid.com

Other: _____

Questions?

If you have questions or would like to find out more about our affordable student loans, call Educaid today!

1-877-318-2368 or visit us online at www.educaid.com.



Enter our Gimme FiveSM \$5,000 Scholarship Sweepstakes @ www.educaid.com

senior

Pre-College Calendar and Checklist

August

- Review your career plans and decide which type of school is right for you.
- Visit some college campuses.
- Narrow your college list to 3-5 schools.
- Request catalogs and admissions information.
- Contact your high school counselor for registration materials and test dates for the SAT and/or the ACT.
- Sign up for Educaid's FREE monthly email for college-bound students at www.educaid.com.
- Go to www.scholarships.com to review scholarships available to you.

September

- Meet with admissions representatives who are visiting your school.
- Make a list of test names, dates, fees, registration deadlines, and deadlines for college admissions and financial aid applications.
- Remember you must take tests like the SAT and ACT at least six weeks before the deadline for scores to be submitted to colleges.
- Begin asking teachers, guidance counselors, and employers for letters of recommendation to include with your admissions and/or scholarship applications.

October

- Take the SAT or ACT exam if necessary.
- Work on admissions application essays.
- Visit your top school choices. Interview some students, faculty, and staff.
- Attend special programs such as college fairs and financial aid nights.
- Find out which financial aid applications your college choices require and when the forms are due.
- Some private universities may require that you register for CSS/Financial Aid PROFILETM at this time. (This determines your qualification for private school aid.)

November

- Take the SAT or ACT exam if necessary.
- Obtain financial aid applications from your guidance office or college of choice. Read them carefully to determine what information is required and when the applications are due.
- Begin preparing your college applications. Check with the colleges to find out when materials must be postmarked.

December

- Pick up a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at your high school counseling office or your local library. Begin working on it. DO NOT SUBMIT IT BEFORE JANUARY 1.
- Apply for outside funding or scholarships.
- PARENTS: Save your year-end payroll stub if it shows your earnings for the year. You may need it for financial aid eligibility reviews by schools.

January

- Submit your completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the processor as soon after January 1 as possible.
- KEEP COPIES OF ALL FORMS YOU SUBMIT.
- January is Financial Aid Awareness Month (in some states). Look for special programs in your area.
- PARENTS: It's helpful to get your income tax returns prepared early—schools may request them to prove eligibility for financial aid.

February

- Check to see if your midyear transcripts have been sent to the schools to which you have applied.
- Mail your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if you have not already done so.
- Research taking Advanced Placement (AP) or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.
- Rank your finalized list of colleges.
- February is Financial Aid Awareness Month (in some states). Look for special programs in your area.

March

- Look for your Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail. Your SAR contains federal financial aid information.
- Submit your SAR to the financial aid office and tax forms if requested. Contact each office to make certain that your application is complete. Find out what else you need to do to establish and maintain your eligibility for financial aid.
- Keep copies of everything you submit to the financial aid office.
- If you have not received your Student Aid Report four weeks after sending in your FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243.

April

- Watch the mail for college acceptance and financial aid award letters. Compare the financial aid awards you receive.
- Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline.
- Check with the college you've chosen about the details of signing and returning financial aid award letters.
- Notify the other schools that you will not be attending.
- Watch for important deadlines (housing, financial aid, etc.) at your chosen college.

May

- Take Advanced Placement (AP) examinations which are given in high schools nationwide.
- If you need and are eligible for a student or parent loan, call Educaid at 1-877-318-2368 for a loan application.
- Finalize summer school or summer job plans.

June

- Important numbers:
Educaid: 1-877-318-2368
www.educaid.com
Other: _____

Questions?

If you have questions or would like to find out more about our affordable student loans, call Educaid today!

1-877-318-2368 or visit us online at www.educaid.com.

Government Loans

The federal government offers Stafford Loans to students and the PLUS Loan to parents of undergraduate students. These loans offer low interest rates, excellent repayment terms, and are guaranteed by the government.

Government Loan Comparisons

	Subsidized Stafford Loan	Unsubsidized Stafford Loan	PLUS Loan
Loan is for...	Students	Students	Parents
How much you can borrow every year	\$2,625 (more after the freshman year)	\$2,625 minus any subsidized loan amount (more after the freshman year)	Cost of education minus any other financial aid
Based on financial need	Yes	No	No, but parent borrowers must have no unfavorable credit
Interest rate	Capped at 8.25%; variable interest rate adjusted each July	Capped at 8.25%; variable interest rate adjusted each July	Capped at 9.00%; variable interest rate adjusted each July
Interest subsidized (paid) for you during school	Yes	No	No
How long you have to pay it back	Generally up to 10 years	Generally up to 10 years	Up to 10 years
Date you start repayment	6 months after you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment	6 months after you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment	60 days after all loan money is disbursed





Alternative Loans

If you need more financing than government loans can provide, alternative loans are offered by banks and other financial institutions. They are not guaranteed by the federal government so the interest is not subsidized, but these loans offer similar repayment terms. The table below describes some of Educaid's alternative loans.

Call us at 1-877-318-2368 or visit www.educaid.com for more information about these and other alternative loans.

Alternative Loan Comparisons

	TERI Alternative Loan	Educaid Select Loan®
Loan is for...	Undergraduate students	Undergraduate and graduate students
How much you can borrow every year	Between \$1,000 and the cost of education, minus other financial aid received	Up to the cost of education, less aid received if creditworthy
Based on financial need	No	No: Up to \$15,000 for graduates borrowing on their own signature
Interest rate	Variable, based on Prime Rate + .5% ¹	Variable, based on Prime Rate + .5% ²
Fees	None	0% to a maximum of 6% based on credit quality
How long you have to pay it back	Up to 25 years ¹	Up to 15 years ²
When you start repayment <i>(see our web site or loan application for repayment details)</i>	Three options: Deferred principal and interest during school, interest-only payments during school, or immediate repayment	Three options: Immediately after you receive all of your loan funds or after you leave school or just pay interest during school and start payments after you leave school

¹TERI Alternative Loan payment example (deferred principal and interest repayment): \$10,000 loan, no guarantee fee, \$81.54 monthly payments, 240 payments, 5.10% APR subject to quarterly adjustment.

²Educaid Select Loan® payment example (deferred principal and interest repayment): \$10,000 loan, 0% guarantee fee, \$97.27 monthly payments, 180 payments, 5.07% APR subject to quarterly adjustment.



How Much Will I Need?

Need to figure out what college will cost you? Here's a quick and easy worksheet to help you figure out how much money you'll need. If your total income minus expenses is less than zero, you'll need to reduce your expenses, increase your income, or take out a student loan.

borrowing

Calculate What You Need to Borrow				
Add the following to determine your income	Multiply Amount By the Number Below		Total Item \$	
Your monthly income if you'll work during college	x 9			
Your total income from a summer job	x 1			
Monthly help from parents	x 9			
Scholarships and grants	x 1			
Total income for the school year		=		
Add the following to determine your expenses				
Monthly food including groceries, snacks, eating out	x 9			
Monthly housing, off- or on-campus (<i>rent, utilities</i>)	x 9			
Monthly transportation (<i>car expenses or public transportation</i>)	x 9			
Monthly telephone	x 9			
Monthly entertainment	x 9			
Personal items (<i>clothing, laundry, shampoo</i>)	x 9			
Tuition and books	x term			
School supplies (<i>computer, paper, pens, parking permit etc...</i>)	x term			
Moving expenses to and from school	x 1			
Insurance (<i>medical, car, etc.</i>)	x 1			
Medical costs (<i>deductibles, prescriptions</i>)	x 1			
Total expenses for the school year		=		
Total Income Minus Expenses		=		

Many college catalogs will give you an idea of what expenses to expect, including tuition, fees, housing, and other costs. If you want to calculate your expenses more thoroughly, we suggest you try Educaid's budget calculator, available online at www.educaid.com

Where to Go From Here

You did your homework, you submitted your FAFSA, and you're ready to move on from high school to the big time—college! It's a big step, but it doesn't need to be a tough one. Educaid can help.

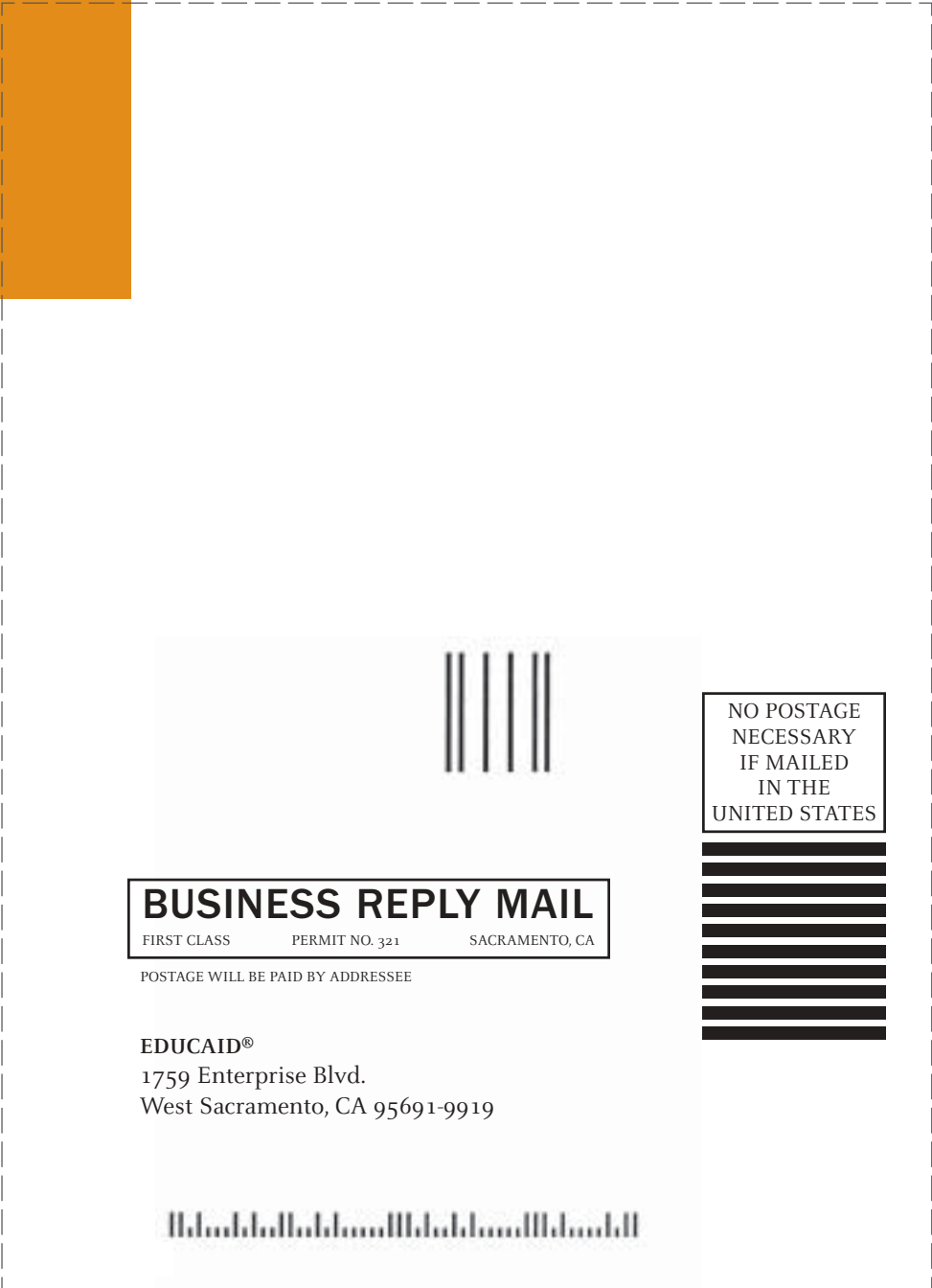
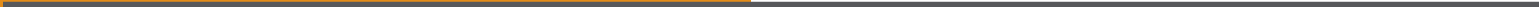
Go to www.educaid.com now and familiarize yourself with our online applications so that as soon as you get your SAR, you can apply for any additional loans you'll need to make your dream a reality. If you have questions about financial aid, call 1-877-318-2368 or visit www.educaid.com for answers.



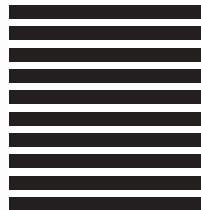
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Apply Now

Go to www.educaid.com now and apply online or, if you prefer, complete the form below, fold in half, seal shut, and mail with business reply panel showing.

Please send me a loan application for the following loans.
(Check with your school to find out if a paper application is required for a Stafford or PLUS loan.)

- Federal Stafford Loan – for all college students
- Federal PLUS Loan – for parents of undergraduate college students
- TERI Alternative Loan – for undergraduate college students
- Educaid Select Loan® – for all college students

YOUR NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE/ZIP

GRADUATION DATE

PERMANENT PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

- Check this box if you do not wish to receive Educaid's free monthly CollegeBound email newsletter.