



# Senior Year College Road Map



## August

### Sign up for text alerts.

Sign up for free college-planning reminders at [cfww.com](http://cfww.com).

### Research and apply for scholarships.

There are thousands of scholarships available – and often, few students apply! Don't leave money on the table. Apply for as many scholarships as possible. Get started at [cfww.com](http://cfww.com).

### Register and study for the ACT/SAT.

You probably already took the SAT your junior year. But if your score wasn't as high as you'd like, you can take it again or try the ACT instead. Map out a plan and start studying.



## September

### Plan your college visits.

It's crunch time – you need to decide on a college soon! Schedule visits to any campuses you're still considering and reach out to their admissions offices for more info.

### Meet with your high school counselor.

Let your counselor know about the colleges that you are considering and ask for advice. If you're unable to pay college application fees, ask how to apply for a fee waiver.



## October

### Submit at least two college applications.

Students who apply to more than one school are more likely to attend college and succeed. Researchers recommend applying to at least four colleges. Students who apply early are also more likely to qualify for scholarships.



### Create a WWSAM account.

Visit [cfww.com](http://cfww.com) and create a WWSAM account to apply for state financial aid.





## October through February

### Weigh the pros and cons.

Once you've submitted your college applications and your FAFSA, you'll start getting lots of information about college and financial aid opportunities. Begin narrowing your options by making a list of the pros and cons for each college or program to which you've been admitted.

### Complete the FAFSA.

The FAFSA is the most important financial aid form you will complete. By filling out this one form, you'll be considered for many different sources of financial aid.

### Make a decision.

Work with the admissions office of your first-choice college to complete your enrollment paperwork. Call the financial aid office at the college and work with them to make sure you are able to cover the costs of attending this school.

### Read College 101.

Ask your counselor for a copy of CFVW's College 101 guide or visit [cfv.com](http://cfv.com) and click on the "college student" link to download a copy. Begin following the steps outlined in the guide to enroll in college, register for housing, and prepare for life on campus.



## March

### Decide on housing.

Are you going to live on campus, rent a place off-campus, or commute? Does your college have rules about where you can live your first year? Talk with your admissions counselor about your housing options. Find out how to register for housing if you're planning on staying on campus.

### Register for orientation.

If you haven't already, register for a summer orientation session. During orientation, you'll learn all about your new school, register for classes, and take care of final details.



## April through August

### Stay on track – and in touch!

Over the summer, your college will send you emails with important info. Be sure to check your email often and follow their instructions. If you need help, ask questions!



College Planning

# Financial Aid Road Map

West Virginia ranks among the top states for providing financial aid for students. In fact, most West Virginia students receive financial aid to help pay for college. To be eligible, you need to stay on top of application deadlines. Follow this roadmap to make sure you get the most money possible to help pay for your education.



## April (Junior Year)

### Complete your income tax returns.

Tax returns are not required to be completed in order to submit the FAFSA, but much of the information needed is the same.

## September (Senior Year)

### Sign up for text alerts.

Sign up to receive free financial aid reminders at [cfwv.com](http://cfwv.com).



### Research and apply for scholarships.

Apply for as many scholarships as possible. Get started by researching programs at [cfwv.com](http://cfwv.com). Create a calendar of application deadlines. Set a goal and get to work. Can you apply for one a day? One a week?

## October

### Create your StudentAid.gov account.

Create your StudentAid.gov account (formerly FSA ID), which will be needed to complete and sign your 2025-2026 FAFSA, at [StudentAid.gov](http://StudentAid.gov). If your parents do not have an account, they will need to create one before completing the FAFSA too.



## October through February

### Complete the 2025-2026 FAFSA.

The FAFSA is the most important financial aid form you will complete. By filling out this one form, you'll be considered for many different sources of financial aid. When you complete the FAFSA, you are also applying for the WV Higher Education Grant. The FAFSA is the only application needed to apply.





### **Submit your scholarship applications.**

Apply for as many scholarships as possible before Thanksgiving. Create a WVSAM account to apply, edit, and check the status of state financial aid programs, including the Promise Scholarship, the WV Invests Grant and other state programs.

## **December through March**

### **Look for info from your college.**

A few weeks after you've filed your FAFSA, your college, state, and federal government will send you information about the amount of financial aid for which you qualify. Keep an eye out for communication from your college via mail and email. Make sure you respond to any requests for additional information in a timely manner. If you have questions or need financial advice, set up a meeting with your college admissions or financial aid counselor.

### **Keep applying for scholarships.**

There are many "late" and "last minute" scholarship programs. Keep searching for these opportunities and apply for as many as you can!

## **April**

### **Get those test scores in!**

If you haven't yet earned a high enough SAT or ACT score to qualify for the Promise Scholarship, sign up to take the tests one more time to see if you can hit the mark! Talk to your counselor or text a [cfwv.com](https://cfwv.com) advisor for information about upcoming test dates and ways to get free test prep help. Visit [cfwv.com](https://cfwv.com) to sign up for text message counseling.

## **May through August**

### **Pay your bills.**

Make sure you've paid any required deposits, signed off on any financial aid dollars you plan to use, and paid your tuition bills. If you have questions (and you will!), be sure to reach out to your admissions or financial aid counselors. That's what they're there for!

