



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. But 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.

You are not required to have completed your tax returns in order to submit the FAFSA, but much of the information required is the same. You also can save time by using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool which automatically takes information from your tax return and fills in the the FAFSA form. If you are completing the 2021-2022 FAFSA (which opens October 1, 2020), use your 2019 tax returns.



September

Sign up for text alerts.

Sign up to receive free financial aid reminders at cfww.com.

Research and apply for scholarships.

Apply for as many scholarships as possible. Get started by researching programs at cfww.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

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. You can complete the FAFSA beginning October 1 of the year before you enroll in college. So if you are going to college in August of 2021, you can complete the FAFSA in October 2020. Complete it early to make sure you're at the top of the list! To find a free FAFSA workshop in your area, visit cfww.com.



November

Submit your scholarship applications.

Apply for as many scholarships as possible before Thanksgiving. This includes the WV PROMISE scholarship, the WV Invests Grant program, and other state programs. For a full list of scholarships and grants, visit cfwv.com.



December through March

Look for info from your college.

A few weeks after you've filed your FAFSA, your college and the state and federal governments will send you information on 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 advisor for information on upcoming test dates and ways to get free test prep help. Visit 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!