

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CHECKLIST



STONEHILL COLLEGE

The most important step in applying for financial assistance is to complete and submit the FAFSA and CSS Profile by the priority deadlines.

Here you will find helpful information and a checklist to help you keep track of what needs to get done.

Complete the CSS Profile at student.collegeboard.org/profile

- While Stonehill requires the Profile, it is not required by all schools. To view a list of schools that require it, visit this website.
- The cost for the initial application and submission to one school is \$25. Additional schools are \$16 each.
- Meet the deadline (don't be late)
- Estimate to the best of your ability; use previous year's information as a guide.

DATE DONE: _____

Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) online at www.pin.ed.gov

- Choose to instantly view your conditional PIN, receive by email immediately, or have a PIN sent by postal mail (7-10 days)
- Dependent Students will need to request a PIN for a parent and a PIN number for the student
- Independent Students only need to request a PIN for themselves

DATE DONE: _____

Complete your FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov

- Complete this form as early as possible
 - January 1 is the first day you can complete this form
 - Meet the deadline (don't be late); use an estimate based on prior years taxes
 - Social Security number, date of birth, and name must match with SSA (refer to your Social Security card)
 - Go back and change the information once you have completed your taxes
- **NEVER PAY** to complete the FAFSA form. There are sites out there that will charge you up to \$150 to complete this form online.

DATE DONE: _____

Read your **Student Aid Report**

- Go to www.fafsa.gov and select "View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more..." Check this form for accuracy and read the comment section CAREFULLY. Make corrections, if necessary. If your application is selected for "VERIFICATION" you will be required to submit additional information to the financial aid office.
 - IRS Data Retrieval or Tax Return Transcript
 - Verification worksheet
 - Parents **signed** Federal Tax Returns
 - Students **signed** Federal Tax Return
 - Parents and students W-2s

DATE DONE: _____

When Applying for Scholarships

OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

- These types of scholarships can be found all over the internet some sites are listed below:
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.embark.com
 - www.gocollege.com
 - www.petersons.com
 - www.finaid.org
- Some things to remember when applying for scholarships
 - **NEVER PAY** any fee when applying for scholarships
 - Apply to as many as possible
 - Check in your local community for scholarship opportunities

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Things to Remember

1. Find out the deadlines for the schools you apply to

- All deadlines are not the same

2. Keep a date book and copies of all the information you complete and when it was done.

- If you call a college get the name of the person you spoke with and what they said

3. If you have questions always ASK!

- Schools are more than happy to help you along the way

4. Don't rule out a school based simply on cost.

5. Contact the school in the beginning of February (earlier if Early Decision or Early Action) to make sure they have received all the documents they need from you.

6. Think about your decision in terms of 2 or 4 years and make a choice based on that.

7. Relax and look at the big picture before making any decision

- Compare costs, financial aid and overall education at each school
- Some schools package a student with a full financial aid award and on paper it looks great but 85% of the award could be loans
- Compare criteria for renewal of aid, does aid carry over for study abroad
- Compare graduation rates at www.collegenavigator.gov

COLLEGE	BILLED COST	- GIFT AID	= TOTAL OUT OF POCKET COST	- LOANS	= TOTAL OWED
		-	=	-	=
		-	=	-	=
		-	=	-	=
		-	=	-	=
		-	=	-	=
		-	=	-	=