



Students

All Year

- Review the “Every Year in High School” checklist available on our [Resources webpage \(www.monroecc.edu/college-now/resources/\)](http://www.monroecc.edu/college-now/resources/).
- Work hard all year; second-semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.
- Stay involved in after-school activities, and seek leadership roles if possible.

Fall

- Meet with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements.
- Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require. Register for and take such exams.
- Apply to the colleges you have chosen. Prepare your applications carefully. Follow the instructions, and **pay close attention to details and deadlines!**
- Well before your application deadlines; ask your counselor and teachers to submit required documents (e.g., transcript, letters of recommendation) to the colleges to which you're applying.
- To prepare to apply for federal student aid, be sure to get an [FSA ID \(studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch\)](http://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch) so that you can complete your application and access your information online. One of your parents also should get an FSA ID.

Winter

- Encourage your parent(s) to complete income tax forms early. If your parent(s) has (have) not completed their tax forms, you can provide estimated information on your federal student aid application, but remember to make any necessary changes later.
- As soon after Jan. 1 as possible, complete and submit your [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\) \(studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa\)](http://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa), along with any other financial aid applications required. You should submit your FAFSA by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which you are applying, usually by early February.
- If you have questions about the federal student aid programs or need assistance with the application process, call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or the TTY for the hearing impaired, 1-802-730-8913. If applying to MCC, learn more about FAFSA and the [financial aid application process \(www.monroecc.edu/tuition-aid/\)](http://www.monroecc.edu/tuition-aid/).
- Complete any remaining scholarship applications.

Spring

- Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll.
- Review your college acceptances and compare the colleges' financial aid packages.
- Contact [MCC's Financial Aid Office \(www.monroecc.edu/tuition-aid/\)](http://www.monroecc.edu/tuition-aid/) if you have questions about the aid offered you. In fact, getting to know the financial aid staff early is a good idea no matter what - they can tell you about deadlines, other aid for which you might wish to apply, and important paperwork you might need to submit.
- When you decide which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit. Many schools require this notification and deposit by May 1.

To Explore

- Not all financial aid packages are the same! Make informed decisions about financial aid. Review each source of aid in your package and call the schools financial aid office if you have questions.

Parents

- Review the “Every Year in High School” checklist available on our [Resources webpage \(www.monroecc.edu/college-now/resources/\)](http://www.monroecc.edu/college-now/resources/).
- Work with your child on filling out the FAFSA.

To Explore

- Make sure your child's personal information is safe when he or she applies for financial aid. “Avoiding scams” at studentaid.ed.gov.
- Read [IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Higher Education \(www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-publication-970\)](http://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-publication-970) to see how you might benefit from federal income tax credits for education expenses.
- Look at communications from schools to which your child sent FAFSA information. If a school has offered Federal Direct Loans (also called William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans, Direct Stafford Loans, or Direct PLUS Loans), the Direct Loan Basics brochure might be useful. Learn about [subsidized and unsubsidized loans \(studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized\)](http://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized).