

At-a-Glance Checklist for High School Seniors



Provided by American Indian Education Fund, a program of Partnership With Native Americans: www.aiefprogram.org

Questions to Ask Yourself:

- How much can I afford to pay for school?
- Do I want to stay within my community or go out of state?
- Is there a strong Native American presence and support at my school of choice?
- Do I meet the school's application requirements?
- Do I need to take any standardized tests? (ACT or SAT)
- Does the school have the courses/programs that interest me?
- Do I want to participate in sports?
- Is the school accredited?
- Do I want to live at home, on campus, or somewhere else?
- How long am I planning to spend on working towards my degree?
- Which type of college is right for me?
- Tribal college, community college, trade/vocational school, or four-year college/university



Apply for Federal Student Aid:

- **Step 1: Create an Account (FSA ID)**
 - Go to <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch> to get a FSA ID
 - You, and your parent if you're a dependent student, should get an FSA ID as soon as possible. You can apply for an FSA ID at any time, but in some cases, you'll need to wait up to three days before you're able to use your FSA ID. We recommend registering early.
 - Use the FSA ID to make corrections, access online information, and sign the FAFSA.
- **Step 2: Fill out the FAFSA**
 - Fill out the FAFSA, either via paper copy or online, in December or January of senior year (or the year before you enter college.) You will need your parent or guardian's assistance in filling out the FAFSA because it will ask for their income.
 - Visit the FAFSA website <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out> using your FSA ID. This site provides a step-by-step guide to assist students and parents in applying for Federal Student Aid. It lets you know if you have forgotten anything and provides an online chat for you to ask questions.

ACT/SAT Checklist:

- Which test are you registering for? (Determine this based on your college application requirements)
- Find your local test site and register online before college applications are due
- Determine the cost of taking the test(s)
- Mark the date/time your test will be administered and how you will get to the test site
- Study, get plenty of sleep and show up early with the required instruments



College Application Checklist:

- Acquire Application – Check the school's website to determine how to apply (fees may apply)
 - Find out if you are eligible for an application fee waiver through your counselor.
- Gather requirements – Letters of recommendation, official transcripts, test scores, etc.
 - Give teachers, counselors or others plenty of time to complete the recommendation forms.
- Write your required essay (check for prompts on the application)
- Have your high school send a copy of your transcripts to the school(s) which you are applying
- Completely fill out, double (or triple) check and then submit your application
- Fill out and submit the FAFSA form
- Search and apply for scholarships (Check our Tools for Success booklet for other scholarship opportunities)