

At-a-Glance Checklist for High School Seniors



AMERICAN INDIAN
EDUCATION FUND

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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 in my home community or state?
- ✓ Is there a strong Native American presence and support at the school?
- ✓ Can I meet the school's application requirements?
- ✓ Does the school have the courses that interest me?
- ✓ Do I want to participate in sports?
- ✓ Is the school accredited (so I can use my financial aid)?
- ✓ 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 or vocational school, or four-year college or university

FAFSA Checklist:

Step 1: Get a PIN

- Go to www.pin.ed.gov to get a PIN
- One parent or guardian should get a PIN as well
- Use the PIN to sign the FAFSA, make corrections, and access online information



Step 2: Fill out the FAFSA

- Fill out the FAFSA in January of senior year (or the year before you enter college)
- The online form is fastest, but a paper form is available if needed. Get a form from the financial aid office of the school you plan to attend, or from your guidance counselor.
- Visit FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This site guides students and parents through step by step, lets you know if you have forgotten anything, and provides online help (including private online chats for questions).



ACT & SAT Checklist:

- ✓ Which test you want to register for (depending on whether the ACT or SAT is more common for your high school and the school(s) to which you are applying)
- ✓ How to register to take the test(s)
- ✓ How much it will cost you to take the test
- ✓ Where the test will be held
- ✓ The date and time the test will be administered, and how you will get to the test site

College Application Checklist:

- ✓ Request a college application from the school you want to attend (ask about fees)
- ✓ Request letters of recommendations. Give teachers, counselors or others plenty of time to complete the recommendation forms. Select teachers with whom you have a good relationship.
- ✓ Find out if you are eligible for an application fee waiver
- ✓ Fill out and return the application
- ✓ Write an essay and return with the application (if necessary)
- ✓ Have your high school send a copy of your transcripts to the school(s) to which you are applying
- ✓ Fill out and return the FAFSA form
- ✓ Search and apply for scholarships. (See page 11 of our scholarships guide for helpful tips.)