

Senior College Presentation

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Agenda

- Senior Year Timeline
- Applying to College & Deadlines
- Financial Aid Forms
- Admissions Decisions
- Financial Aid Award Letters
- Scholarships



September

- Create Common App Account and Start Application
- Secure Recommendation Letters (if you have not done so already)
- Note Early Action/Early Decision Deadlines
- LEAF Virtual Session Schedule

Applying to College

- Common App or College Specific Application
 - [CommonApp.org](https://www.commonapp.org)
- Review admission criteria for the schools/programs you are interested in pursuing
- Decide if you are applying Test Optional
- Create a list of all your extracurriculars, awards, volunteer and work experiences for application
- Ask trusted adult (teacher) to review Essay
- Check for mistakes and ensure all information is correct



Understanding Deadlines

Early Deadlines

Early Action

Non-Binding

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

Early Decision

Binding

Students make a commitment to a 1st choice school where, if admitted, they commit to enrolling and withdraw all other applications. Their application deadline and decision deadline happen in advance of regular decision deadlines.

Restricted EA

Non-Binding

Students apply to a school of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until **May 1** to confirm.





Understanding Deadlines

Regular Deadlines

Regular Decision

Non-Binding

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

Rolling Admission

Non-Binding

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.





Benefits of Applying Early

- Shows expressed interest in College/University
- More applicants accepted out of EA/ED than RD
- Admissions decisions, financial aid award letters arrive earlier allowing time to make final decision
- Less stress during senior year; giving yourself time to enjoy 12th grade and make decisions

Should I apply Early Decision (ED)?

- Has researched colleges extensively
- Has found a college that is a strong match academically, socially and geographically
- Is absolutely sure this college is their top choice
- Meets or exceeds the admissions profile for the college for ACT/SAT, GPA, and class rank
- Has an academic record that has been consistent over time
- Has gone through the Net Price Calculator and understands potential financial commitment

October - November

- Create FSA ID
- Complete CSS Profile if School Requires
- Request Transcripts as you finalize applications
- Submit Applications by Early Deadlines

December - January

- Attend Financial Aid Night in December*
- Complete FAFSA*
- Last Early Admissions Deadlines. Regular Admission Deadlines for Applications due.
- EA/ED Admissions Decisions Released
- Begin to Search for University and Local Scholarships

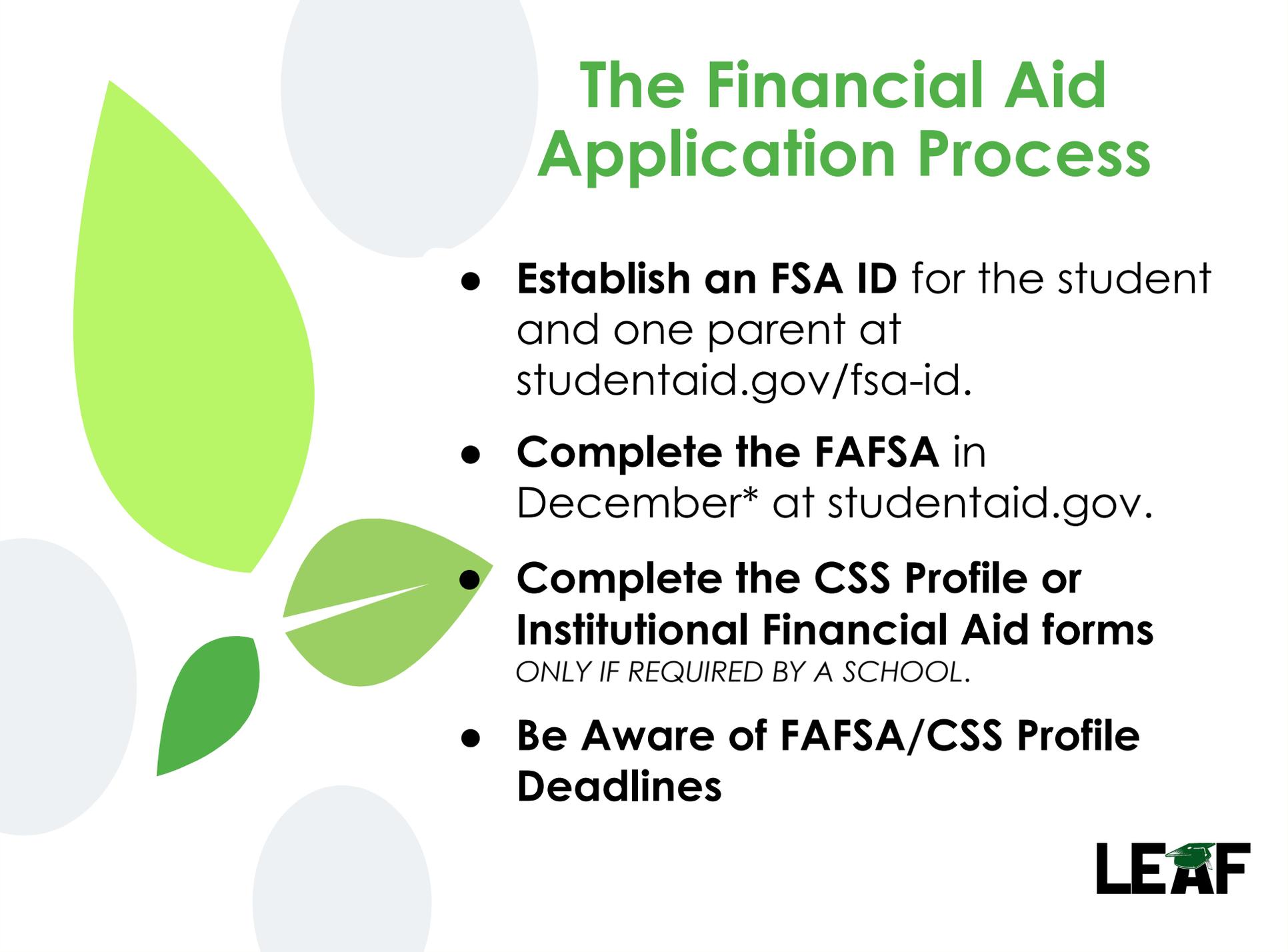
Key Financial Aid Forms

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is required to be considered for:

- Federal Grants
- Federal Student/Parent Loans
- State Grants
- Institutional Aid at *most* colleges

Some colleges require another form for their Institutional Aid:

- **The CSS Profile**
- **Institutional forms**



The Financial Aid Application Process

- **Establish an FSA ID** for the student and one parent at studentaid.gov/fsa-id.
- **Complete the FAFSA** in December* at studentaid.gov.
- **Complete the CSS Profile or Institutional Financial Aid forms**
ONLY IF REQUIRED BY A SCHOOL.
- **Be Aware of FAFSA/CSS Profile Deadlines**



Admissions Decisions

Accepted/ Declined

A clear decision has been reached regarding your admissions into the institution.

If accepted, you pay a deposit to show your intention to attend after receiving Financial Aid Award Letter.

Deferred

Application placed in regular decision pool of applicants for consideration. You continue to wait to see if you are accepted, declined, or waitlisted.

A school may want additional information during this time.

Waitlisted

Not accepted or declined, but institution has put you on a waiting list for admission.

Review past statistics on waitlist acceptances from institution. Have a plan to apply and attend somewhere.

February - April

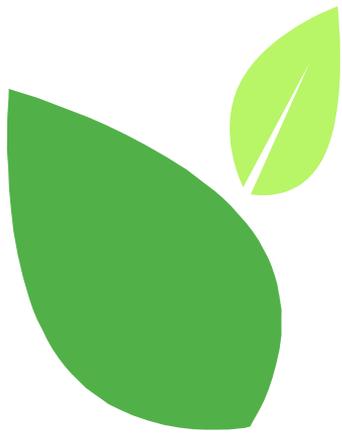
- Regular Admissions Decisions Arrive
- Financial Aid Offer Letters Sent (Email or Mail)
- Continue to Apply for Local Scholarships
- Unsure where you want to attend? Visit one more time.



Financial Aid Offer Letters

- School may offer merit aid (based on GPA, test scores, application) when accepted.
- WAIT until you receive Financial Aid Offer Letter to understand full financial offer
 - May receive additional grants/scholarships
- Offer Letters may come in mail, email, or on school portal (pay attention to emails!)
- You have until May 1st to accept.
- You can always call Financial Aid office with questions.





Scholarships

Institutional Scholarships

- Check college websites for more information and application procedures.
- Funded by the college; vary by institution.

Local Scholarships

- Check with your HS Guidance Office

National Scholarships

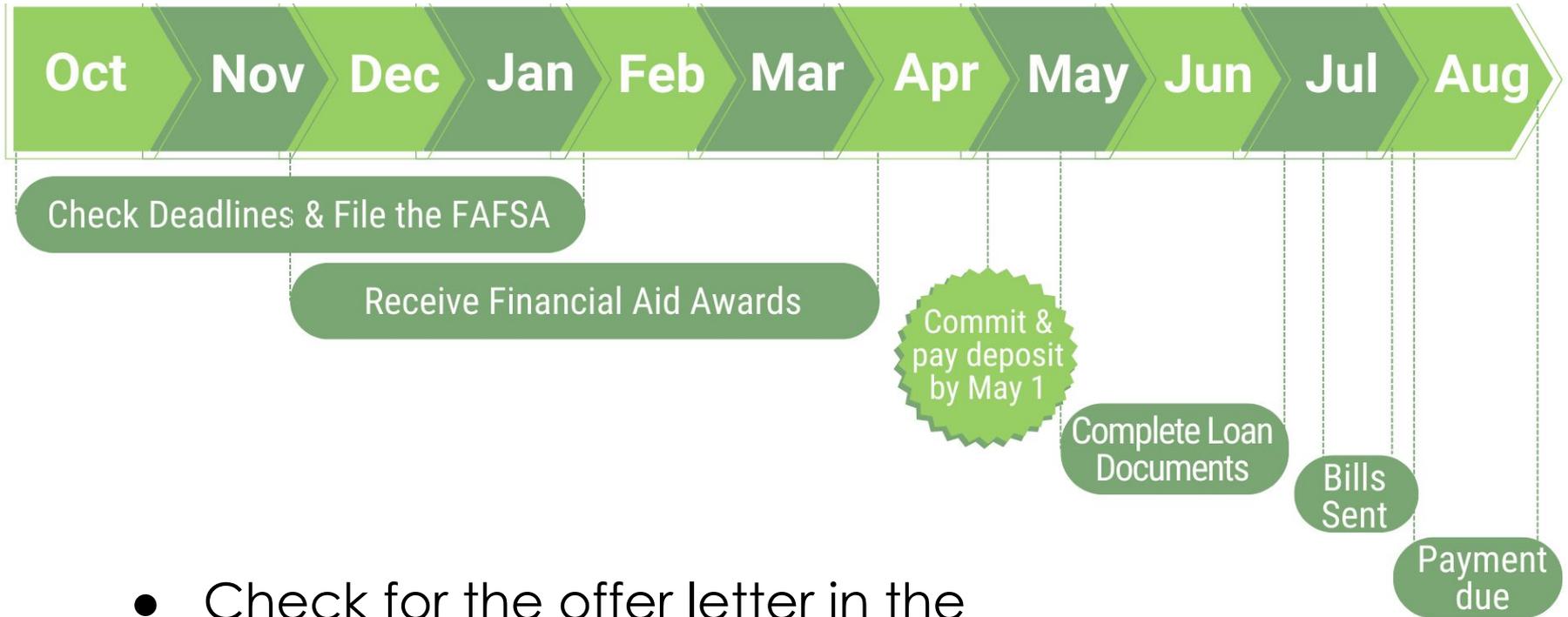
- clevelandfoundation.org
- collegeboard.org
- collegescholarships.com
- salliemae.com/ohio
- petersons.com
- hsf.net
- uncf.org



May

- May 1st - All College Decisions Due
 - Deposit sent
- Notify School Counselor of your decision
- Final Transcripts Sent
- Attend any Scholarship Receptions and write thanks you notes

Financial Aid Timeline



- Check for the offer letter in the student's portal.
- Financial aid should be accepted and processed by August.
- Bills are sent prior to each semester.



Questions?

A reminder your Guidance
Counselor(s) and LEAF
Advisor are here to help.

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