

## ***Timeline for Admissions and Financial Aid***

July 15, 2017

### **Junior Year**

- Request information from colleges that interest you. Visit LEAF's website [leaf-ohio.org](http://leaf-ohio.org), (or make an appointment with your LEAF advisor) to perform a college search.
- Attend college fairs: Lakeland Community College (Fall), Cleveland National College Fair (Spring)
- Take the ACT and/or SAT. You must have taken the PSAT in the fall of your junior year to be considered for the National Merit Scholarship program.
- Start looking for scholarships. Use the LEAF website to help get you started.
- Get organized! Create a resume of activities and volunteer experiences for all of High School. Get organized for college applications and financial aid/scholarship information.

### **Senior Year (September—December):**

- Apply to the school(s) you have selected by November 1. Work with your LEAF advisor and guidance counselor. Ask teachers or counselors for recommendations well before due dates.
- Schedule admissions interviews, if required.
- Keep a College Application Organizer to help you compare schools.
- Check college websites under Admissions, Financial Aid and Scholarships to learn about important deadlines....AND MEET THEM!
- Apply for institutional scholarships and search national scholarship websites.
- Establish an FSAID from the U.S. Department of Education at [fsaid.ed.gov](http://fsaid.ed.gov) before October 1. Have your parent apply for an FSAID also. The FSAID will act as your electronic signature when you file the FAFSA online or apply for federal loans.
- Complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online as early as October 1 (by the school's FAFSA Priority Filing Deadline) at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov).
- Some colleges may also require additional applications. LEAF Advisors can help you with this process.
- You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) 3-10 days after submitting your FAFSA. Review it and follow instructions (if applicable.)

### **Senior Year (January - May):**

- Apply for local scholarships. Find applications in your Guidance Office and in the *LEAF Scholarship Directory* online at [leaf-ohio.org](http://leaf-ohio.org).
- After your acceptance to the college(s) and their receipt of your FAFSA, Financial Aid Award notifications are posted in your online college portals, sent electronically, or are sent in the mail. Look for award notifications from December through April. The award letter gives details of financial aid amounts offered to you by each college. Follow the instructions to accept, decline, or modify the aid offered by the deadline given.
- Read and respond to all correspondence with both the Admissions and Financial Aid Offices!
- Complete any additional paperwork required by the college. Your FAFSA may be selected for a double-check process called *verification*. If selected, you must complete the process before aid can be awarded.
- Loan papers and promissory notes must be submitted if you intend to borrow funds for college.
- Make your official college decision by 5/1.