

# A PARENT'S GUIDE FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR'S PREPARTION FOR COLLEGE FUNDING



- Start your scholarship search and complete available scholarship applications now. You can use the “free scholarship search sites” as your search terms to find the free scholarship search sites. Fastweb.com is usually the best site to find scholarships, internships, grants, fellowships, and even part-time work.
- Check to see what the deadline is for your university/college based scholarships. You do want them to award you their scholarships. It can mean the difference whether or not you have to take out a college loan. The deadlines can be in October, November, or December.
- Retake or take the ACT or SAT Test. The higher your scores, the better the chance you have of receiving free tuition from your college. It is best to take the tests before April. By April, most universities/colleges have already awarded the major part of their scholarships to other students.
- Complete your FAFSA and submit it by February 15, 2012 in order to qualify for college, state, and federal aid. If you do not complete the FAFSA, your college may not award you state, additional federal grants or private scholarships. The universities and colleges use your FAFSA application as a guideline of your financial aid need.
- You should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) about four weeks after you have submitted your FAFSA. If you apply online, you will receive your report within three weeks.
- If you have applied to more than one university or college, you can compare financial aid packages when you receive admissions notifications. Look for the best rather than the most. If the university that is the “best” offers the lower financial aid package, contact their financial aid office and see if they will make a better offer based on the other universities offer. It works!
- Finalize your college choice and notify the college of your plans to enroll. Sign and return financial aid forms to the university you plan to attend. Send your final transcript and student loan application.
- Notify the schools whose enrollment offers you decline. They need to be able to award their money to someone else who needs it.

Contact Billie J. McGhee at (251) 368-9136 extension 2243 for additional Native American scholarship information.