

# Supporting Your Student: A Checklist for Families

College is about defying expectations, breaking the mold, and finding yourself. You have an important role to play in your student's journey to college whether or not you've been to college yourself. Use the timeline below to empower your student as they take this important step and reach higher.



**“No matter where you come from, or how much money your family has, I want you to know that you can succeed in college, and get your degree, and then go on and build an incredible life for yourself.”**

—Michelle Obama, Former First Lady of the United States and first-generation college graduate

## Your Checklist

### AUG - OCT

- Visit [CommonApp.org/Explore](https://www.commonapp.org/Explore) to discover nearly 900 colleges—many of which have no application fee and flexible testing policies.

### NOV - JAN

- Support your student in completing college applications.
- Help them gather materials, and visit [CommonApp.org/Ready](https://www.commonapp.org/Ready) for a guide.
- Keep an eye on deadlines.
- Offer to review and give feedback on their application and essays.

### APR - JUNE

- Help your student decide where to attend college. The deadline is usually May 1, but be sure to check with each school to find the most up-to-date information.
- Many campuses now offer virtual college tours. Be sure to incorporate either in-person or virtual tours to the college search.
- Review financial aid award letters when they arrive.

### OCT

- Complete financial aid forms together, including the FAFSA\*. You'll need to have these things ready: Tax Returns, Bank Statements, ID and other documents.
- Don't wait! Complete the FAFSA as early as possible because federal funds and state grant programs may be limited.

### DEC - MAR

- Encourage your student to apply for scholarships to reduce the cost of college. They can come from colleges and many nonprofit organizations.
- After submitting an application, your student can connect with Scholar Snapp through their Common App account.



QUESTIONS? VISIT [COMMONAPP.ORG](https://www.commonapp.org) FOR SOME KEY RESOURCES:

**College Roadmap** - [commonapp.org/plan/your-path-to-college](https://www.commonapp.org/plan/your-path-to-college) **Applicant Guide** - [commonapp.org/apply/first-time-students](https://www.commonapp.org/apply/first-time-students)

**Explore Colleges** - [commonapp.org/explore](https://www.commonapp.org/explore) **Parent Resources** - [commonapp.org/plan/for-parents](https://www.commonapp.org/plan/for-parents)

\*FAFSA - **The Free Application for Federal Student Aid** - [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov)

Reach Higher, a college access initiative started by former First Lady Michelle Obama, joined with Common App to make college a reality for more students.