

Planning for College

- ▶ Let CEFCU® help you plan for your future...

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FINANCIAL AID GUIDE

You can never be too prepared when it comes to college. Follow these steps to set yourself up for success.

- ▶ **Fill out the FAFSA.** Schools use this form to award most types of financial aid and scholarships. Visit fafsa.gov after October 1 for the upcoming academic year to complete this free application.
- ▶ **Estimate your total college costs.** Most often, your ideal school will provide you with a net price calculator that will give you an estimate of your total cost and your financial aid award. Actual costs and awards may vary.
- ▶ **Determine additional college expenses.** Your financial aid may not cover all of your college expenses. To calculate what will be your out-of-pocket expenses, deduct your aid award from your estimated total cost, and that will give you an estimate of what you'll still owe.
- ▶ **Explore financing options.** When financial aid and federal loans aren't enough to cover college costs, count on an affordable Private Student Loan from CEFCU®. There are no processing or origination fees, and you'll enjoy competitive interest rates.*
- ▶ **Know your financial aid deadlines.** Use the month-by-month college planning outline on the next page to keep track of important dates and to be on your way to success.
- ▶ **Utilize resources — like Red Kite.** Financial aid can be confusing, but Red Kite makes it simple! Just start by answering some questions about yourself. Then, Red Kite looks through \$20 billion in scholarships to find the ones you could qualify for — which could save you money on your college expenses. Learn more at myredkite.com.



*Subject to change quarterly.

COLLEGE PLANNING MONTH-BY-MONTH

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER:

- Make a list of your top college choices.
- Download or request admissions information and school catalogs.
- Visit colleges.
- Compare the tuition and other costs for the schools that interest you.

OCTOBER:

- Complete the FAFSA online at fafsa.gov as soon as possible after October 1.
- Apply to the colleges you want to attend.
- Check with the college(s) where you applied to see if you need to complete a College Scholarship Services (CSS) profile or a Financial Aid form.
- Search for scholarships.

NOVEMBER–MARCH:

- Check with your top colleges for FAFSA, institutional, and state aid priority deadlines.
- Watch the mail for your:
 - Student Aid Report
 - Financial Aid Award letter

APRIL/MAY:

- Make your final choice of which college you want to attend.
- Send in your deposit before the deadline.
- Review your award letter to learn about funding options to cover costs of college.

JUNE/JULY:

- Determine how much additional money you may need to pay for college expenses.
- After exhausting grants, scholarships, and other aid — if you have additional expenses — consider applying for a Private Student Loan from CEFCU to help cover your educational costs.

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Ready to apply?

Scan the QR code below,
visit cefcu.com/student,
or call **309.633.3474** or
1.800.633.7077, ext. 33474.



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