

CHECKLIST FOR FINANCIAL AID

- Have an open, frank discussion with your parents or guardians about the amount of money that your family is willing and able to contribute to the cost of higher education. Consider what resources are available, what is affordable, and whether you should apply for financial aid.

- Check for financial aid opportunities and scholarships in the Career Center. *Scholarship applications are available throughout the year.*

- Check to see if your schools require the PROFILE form. Many colleges use the information collected to help them award nonfederal student aid funds. Forms are available in Career Center.

- Males over 18 years of age must register for the draft in order to be eligible for financial aid.

- Bring your parents to your school's Financial Aid Night. Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, forms will be distributed. Filing the FAFSA is necessary to be eligible for financial aid packages as well as grants and some scholarships at community colleges, four-year colleges, and technical schools.

- Watch the Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) television show on financial aid, broadcast in December.

- Gather tax information and mail the FAFSA form as soon as possible after January 1. Aid is generally awarded on a "first come, first serve" basis. Keep a photocopy for your records.

- If you qualify, a financial aid package will be offered after admission to the college but before the deadline for making a deposit to hold a space in the freshman class.

Beware: Scholarship searches that charge a fee or guarantee a scholarship are very seldom worth the money. Many are scams.