Financial Aid Checklist

June-July-August
- **Complete Admissions Application**
  - Many scholarships are automatically awarded based upon information provided when you apply for admissions (such as ACT/ SAT scores and grade point average)
- **Complete the SIU General Scholarship Application**
  - Students must be admitted to the university to be considered for scholarship opportunities

October
- **File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
  - The FAFSA is available on October 1st of each year
  - Complete your FAFSA starting October 1 as soon as possible in order to ensure maximum aid eligibility
  - To complete the 2016-2017 FAFSA use 2015 tax information
  - To complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA use 2015 tax information
  - Make sure you put Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s school code (001758) on your FAFSA
  - Three to ten days after completing your FAFSA (if you filed electronically) you will receive an email with a link to your Student Aid Report (SAR)
  - The SAR summarizes all the information on your FAFSA for you to review
  - Carefully check for errors and make corrections to your FAFSA in necessary
- **Submit Verification Documents, if selected**
  - Verification is a process to ensure all the information on the FAFSA is accurate
  - Verification forms will be mailed through the United States Postal Service
  - Federal tax information will be required
    - Request Federal Tax Return Transcript from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or
    - Complete your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval
  - Check your email frequently
  - Check your SalukiNet for all outstanding requirements

January
- **Financial Aid Award Notices Are Issued**
  - New and transfer students will receive their award notice through the United States Postal Service
  - Students selected for verification and have outstanding requirements will receive an estimated award offer (subject to change with completion of verification)

February
- **General Scholarship Application closes on February 1st**
- **Follow up with the Financial Aid Office Regarding Unsatisfied Requirements**
  - Documentation should be submitted as soon as possible so that you can be sure to have your financial aid when school starts
  - SalukiNet show all outstanding requirements

March
- **Sign Up for New Student Orientation**
  - Register online at orientation.siu.edu

May
- **Read and Accept the Terms and Conditions of your Financial Aid Award**
- **Accept or Reject your Federal Direct Loans**
- **Complete Entrance Loan Counseling and Master Promissory Note for Accepted Loans**
  - For the Unsubsidized and Subsidized Loans, this can be done at studentloans.gov
  - For the Perkins Loan, this can be done at signmyloan.com
- **Submit Final High School Transcript**
• Speak with your high school to be sure that they send your final, official high school transcript to the SIU Undergraduate Admissions Office
  • Your financial aid cannot pay until transcript has been received

June

☐ Check out iGrad to Learn About Financial Literacy
  ▪ Tools available to help you understand the fundamentals of money management, your career, financial aid and student loans
  ▪ iGrad is available through your SalukiNet on the Saluki Cents icon

July

☐ Review your Bursar Bill
  ▪ Bill are posted to SalukiNet the 15th of every month
  ▪ Visit bursar.siu.edu for billing information

☐ Sign Up For Direct Deposit
  ▪ This can be done on SalukiNet and will allow any refund you are eligible for to be directly deposited into your bank account

☐ If Needed, Consider Additional Financial Aid Options
  ▪ Compare charges to aid offered to see if you may need additional loans to help with the cost of attending SIU
  ▪ Remember, Federal Work Study will not pay toward your bill, so do not include this when comparing charges to financial aid
  ▪ If you do need additional loans, you have the following options:
    • For Dependent Students: Parent PLUS Loan – Your parent can apply for a Parent PLUS Loan online at studentloans.gov
      ▶ If approved, your parent needs to fill out a Master Promissory Note online at studentloans.gov
    • For All Students: Private Loan – A preferred lender list is available on the financial aid website

August

☐ Pay Bill
  ▪ The bill will be due on August 10th.
  ▪ Pay any remaining balance that was not covered by Financial Aid or sign up for the Payment Plan to avoid late fees

☐ The Saluki Family Welcomes you to Campus
  ▪ Check out the activities available during Saluki Start Up and the Weeks of Welcome