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 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 normally available on October 1st of each year; but for the 2024-2025 academic year the FAFSA will not be available until December 2023 due to **FAFSA Simplification**.
    - Once it is available, complete your FAFSA for the appropriate academic year as soon as possible to ensure maximum aid eligibility
    - To complete the 2023-2024 FAFSA use 2021 tax information
    - To complete the 2024-2025 FAFSA use 2022 tax information
  - Make sure you put Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Federal 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 **FAFSA Submission Summary**
    - The **FAFSA Submission Summary** condenses all the information on your FAFSA for you to review
    - Carefully check for errors and make corrections to your FAFSA if 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
    - Signed copy of your Federal Tax Return
  - Check your email frequently
  - Check your SalukiNet for all outstanding requirements

December

- ☐ **Make Sure You Have Completed the General Scholarship Application**

February

- ☐ **Financial Aid Offer Notices Are Issued**
  - New and transfer students will receive their offer notice through SalukiNet
  - Students selected for verification and have outstanding requirements will receive an estimated offer (subject to change with completion of verification)
- ☐ **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 classes begin
  - SalukiNet shows all outstanding requirements
- ☐ **Sign Up for New Student Orientation**
  - Register online at orientation.siu.edu

May

- ☐ **Read and Accept the Terms and Conditions of your Financial Aid Offer**
- ☐ **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 studentaid.gov

July

☐ **Review your Bursar Bill**
- Bills 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 for which you are eligible to deposit directly 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; do not include this amount when comparing charges to financial aid offers
- 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 studentaid.gov
    - If approved, your parent needs to fill out a Master Promissory Note online at studentaid.gov
  - For All Students: Private Loan – A preferred lender list is available on the Financial Aid Office website: fao.siu.edu

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!

SIU Southern Illinois University
CARBONDALE