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 2020-2021 FAFSA use 2018 tax information
    • To complete the 2021-2022 FAFSA use 2019 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 form 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

December

☐ General Scholarship Application Closes on December 1st

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 school starts
  ▪ SalukiNet show 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

☐ 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 studentloanaid.gov
      - If approved, your parent needs to fill out a Master Promissory Note online at studentloanaid.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