

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> of each year
    - Complete your FAFSA starting October 1 as soon as possible in order to ensure maximum aid eligibility
    - To complete the 2018-2019 FAFSA use 2016 tax information
    - To complete the 2019-2020 FAFSA use 2017 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**

## 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

- 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](http://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](http://studentloans.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 15<sup>th</sup> of every month
- Visit [bursar.siu.edu](http://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](http://studentloans.gov)
    - If approved, your parent needs to fill out a Master Promissory Note online at [studentloans.gov](http://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 10<sup>th</sup>.
- 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