

Paying for College

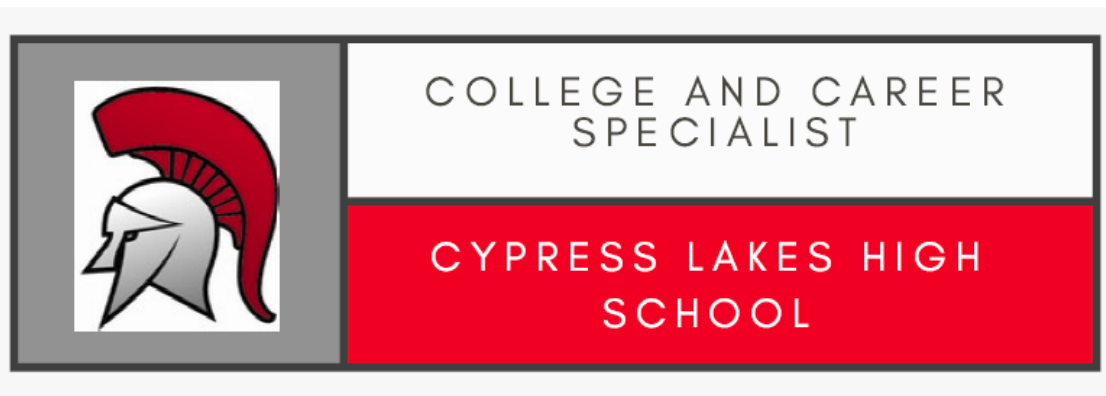
STEP-BY-STEP	Websites & Resources
<p>What is Financial Aid?</p> <p><u>Everyone should apply for Financial Aid</u></p> <p>FAFSA = <u>Free</u> Application for Federal Student Aid</p>	<p>FINANCIAL AID is <u>need-based</u> money awarded to a student to assist with the cost of higher education. Typically this category of monetary assistance for college includes; grants, loans (must be paid back), and work-study programs. Scholarships are included in financial aid package calculations; although there is often a different application process for most university scholarships. <u>To receive ANY money from a Financial Aid Office, (including university scholarships) most universities require students to complete a FAFSA application.</u></p>
<p>What documents do I need in order to complete the Financial Aid Application (FAFSA)?</p>	<p>https://www.kheaa.com/web/resources/pubs/ky/FAFSA_Completion_Guide_24-25.pdf</p>
<p>ALERT: The State Priority Deadline was extended to March 15, 2024, for the 2024-2025 application year by the THECB. It is important to complete and submit this application before to be considered for the most financial aid possible.</p>	<p><i>Make sure that you apply for the year in which you will be attending college. (2024 Lakes seniors will attend college is 2024-25) Remember that you will complete a FAFSA application every year the student attends college.</i></p>
<p>1. Create FSA ID.</p> <p>Both student and parent/guardian must complete FSA ID.</p>	<p>https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch</p>
<p>2. Complete an online FAFSA application.</p>	<p>https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa</p>
<p>Step-by-Step Guide to filling out the FAFSA.</p>	<p>https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/financial-aid/fafsa/fafsa-guide/</p>
<p>3. After the FAFSA.</p>	<p>Steps after FAFSA</p>
<p>Questions regarding FAFSA?</p> <p>Ask the experts, either contact Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) or contact the Financial Aid Office at the University you plan to attend.</p>	<p>https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/help Use live chat, phone, or email.</p> <p>Step by Step Guide to FAFSA</p> <p>Federal Student Aid You Tube Channel https://www.youtube.com/@FederalStudentAid/videos</p>

<p>Scholarships</p> <p>"Scholarship Season"-October – April</p>	<p>Scholarships are another source of money for college that are funded by many companies, schools, non-profits, and other organizations. The main difference between a scholarship and financial aid is that they're based on more than just financial need. Scholarships range from full tuition to a few hundred dollars. Each scholarship may have different requirements. Make sure that you are aware of the necessary requirements and deadlines.</p>
<p>Scholarship Tips</p>	<p>Research or contact the Financial Aid Office at your prospective school and learn about what opportunities are offered at the university for scholarships. Some schools have a general application for their scholarships.</p> <p>Find scholarships offered to a narrower pool of applicants. If the applicants must be local (like the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation) or in a certain field of study, you will cut down on the competition. The CFISD Scholarship site (see below) is a great place to look for scholarships.</p> <p>Read all the Class of 2022 Schoology messages sent from Ana Lockward. Mrs. Lockward will post scholarship opportunities that are sent to the Cy Lakes counseling office.</p> <p>Be willing to put in the work. A scholarship that requires an essay or creative element takes more time, but may pay off if awarded.</p> <p>Follow ALL directions. Make sure you pay attention to requirements and deadlines so that your application is not disqualified.</p> <p>Be professional. Keep your application neat and proofread anything you are going to submit. A messy application communicates carelessness to the scholarship sponsor.</p>
<p>Scholarship Sites</p>	<p>CFISD Scholarship site</p> <p>Fastweb</p> <p>Scholarship.com</p>
	<p>Cappex.com</p> <p>Niche</p>

[Cypress Lakes College and Career web-site](#)

[CFISD College Knowledge web-site](#)

College presentations on Applications, Essays and Expanded Resume.



Spartan Senior Timeline

JULY/AUGUST

- Have your Senior yearbook pictures taken.
- Start online college applications!
- Finalize college application essays –PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD, AND PROOFREAD!

SEPTEMBER

- Check the College & Career Center website and Class of 2024 Schoology group often for information.
- Make a calendar of application & financial aid deadlines, test dates, etc.
- Prepare to submit your college application (Don't meet deadlines, BEAT deadlines!).
- If required by colleges, request letters of recommendation. Allow for a 2/3 week turnaround AFTER you talk to your recommender.
- Register for SAT and/or ACT, if required.
- Gather data needed for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid); apply for PIN number on www.fafsa.gov
- Register & pay for AP Exams in November.

OCTOBER

Don't Trick-or-Treat until You're Complete!

- **FAFSA opens on October 1st and should be completed as soon as possible!**
- Senior conference with counselors.
- Participate in CFISD College Night.
- Take the SAT or ACT, if needed.
- Submit your college applications and all required information/documents BEFORE the deadline.
- Seek and apply for scholarships.

NOVEMBER

- Take the SAT or ACT if necessary.

DECEMBER

- Check your emails & online college accounts DAILY and follow-up on any missing info. Watch your admissions file status!

JANUARY

- Continue to monitor applications online.
- Continue to seek and apply for scholarships from a variety of sources.

FEBRUARY

- Complete mid-year report and order an updated transcript, if required by your college(s).
- Continue to seek and apply for scholarships from a variety of sources.

MARCH

- Watch your email for decision letters and financial aid award letters; compare financial aid packages.
- Get vaccinated and upload to your student account
- Texas law requires the bacterial meningitis vaccine (or waiver) in order for a student to register for college classes.

APRIL

- Finalize college housing arrangements.

MAY GRADUATION:

- Inform your college of your acceptance of their offer of admission & financial aid by May 1st
- Take AP exams (May 2024)
- Write thank you notes to the people who wrote letters of recommendation for you.
- RSVP for your college's summer orientation session
- Request a copy of your final transcript to be sent to the school you choose to attend. Every college requires a final transcript to be sent AFTER graduation.
- Complete Senior Surveys.

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

- Take part in summer orientation programs for incoming freshmen, meet with an academic advisor & register for classes.