**The Senior Year: Financial Aid Checklist & Timeline**

Facilitator Materials (Answer Key)

**September**

* With your parents, finalize the list of colleges you would like to apply to
* Speak with your school counselor and parents about the financial aid process
* Be sure you know all the application deadlines for your chosen colleges including early decision
* Begin searching for scholarships, grants and loans to cover the cost
* Complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® to determine your eligibility for non-federal aid

**October**

* Fill out the FAFSA
* Apply to colleges
* Ensure your school submits your transcripts and all other documents ahead of the deadlines

**November - December**

* Make any necessary changes to your FAFSA
* Complete any scholarship applications
* Continue to search for alternative funding sources

**January - March**

* Compare and contrast your financial aid award letters
* Contact institutes’ financial aid offices to either appeal for an increase in your aid or have any questions answered. Notify them of any special circumstances that may affect you financially
* Submit any additional documentation required by the financial aid office of your chosen school
* Continue to search for other grants and scholarships that you do not need to repay
* Some financial aid offices may require tax documentation from your parents. Ensure that they have filed them early so that you can submit to the financial aid office if necessary

**April**

* Ensure you have a banking account set up for your financial aid deposits. Choose one closest to your campus
* Accept only what you NEED from your college. Remember that all loans must be repaid. Also, be sure to inform them if you have outside scholarships they are not aware of

**May - June**

* Respond immediately to any communication from the college you will be attending. Sometimes they need additional time-sensitive information to process your aid. Keep copies of everything you send

**July – August**

* Follow up on any private loans
* Continue to apply for scholarships
* Sign up for Direct Deposit of your financial aid