Financial Aid Checklist

September - November
- **Complete Admissions Application**
  - Apply for scholarships at scholarships.siu.edu by submitting the SIU General Scholarship Application
  - Deadline for consideration for the University Excellence & Chancellor Scholarship is December 1st.

December
- **Apply for Additional Scholarships**
  - Visit scholarships.siu.edu for a Scholarship Search. You should check this periodically for new opportunities.
  - Look for scholarships from local organizations by contacting local banks, businesses, and overseers of any clubs or organizations you are a part of. You should also talk to your high school guidance counselor about possible scholarship opportunities.
- **Apply for College and Departmental Scholarships**
  - The common application period for these scholarships is December 1 – February 1. This means February 1st is the deadline.

January
- **File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
  - The FAFSA is available on January 1st of each year. Complete your FAFSA as close to January 1st as possible in order to ensure maximum aid eligibility. You can use estimates for financial information at this time. Once you have file your taxes, you can update your FAFSA.
  - Make sure you put Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s school code (001758) on your FAFSA. This ensures that SIU receives your information.
  - 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.

February
- **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.

March
- **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).

April
- **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.
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
  - For the Perkins Loan, this can be done at signmyloan.com

☐ 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 "MY Finances" tab

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 under the "My Finances" tab and will allow any refund you are eligible for to be directly deposited into your bank account. This is much faster than waiting for a paper check in the mail.

☐ 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 loan to help you with your charges. We will send your parent’s information out for a credit check. If approved, your parent will receive a loan for your educational expenses. If the credit is declined, you may be eligible for additional Unsubsidized Loans. You can apply for a Parent PLUS Loan online at studentloans.gov.
      - If approved, your parent needs to fill out a Master Promissory Note online at studentloans.gov. Your parent needs to sign in with his or her own information, not the student information.
    - For All Students: Private Alternative Loan – This is a loan from an outside lender. You will apply for this type of loan directly through the lender. This loan requires a credit check, so we do recommend a co-signer. Although a co-signer is not necessary, it can improve your chances of being approved and provide lower interest rates. You can find a list of lenders at the following link: http://fao.siu.edu/types/loans/alternative.html

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 by September 15th to avoid late fees.
    - There are multiple ways to pay your bill. You can see all of the options at the following link:
      http://bursar.siu.edu/account_services/payment.html.
    - Sign up for the payment plan on SalukiNet under the "My Finances" tab. More information is available online at bursar.siu.edu.

☐ The Saluki Family Welcomes you to Campus
  - Check out the activities available during Saluki Start Up and the Week of Welcome at nsp.siu.edu.

Investing in Student Financial Success Presentation