Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

#CAP

EXEMPLIFYING *Excellence*

THROUGH SUSTAINABLE SERVICE

TOOLKIT

DR. GLENDA GLOVER
SUPREME BASILEUS

NAME: _____ **CLASS OF:** _____

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Financial Aid Resources

This page is all about the "Benjamins"! As the cost of tuition continues to rise, it is imperative that you as a student take advantage of financial aid opportunities such as scholarships and grants to alleviate the cost of attendance. As a senior, you can apply now for resources to help pay for college. On this page you will find tips and resources to begin your search!

What is financial aid?

- Financial aid is money that helps pay for college.
- Financial aid can come from the U.S. Federal Government, your local state resources, the college you attend, or a nonprofit or private organization.
- Federal student aid includes:
  - **Grants**: financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid (aka free money!)
  - **Loans**: borrowed money for college; you must repay loans and their interest
  - **Work-study**: a work program through which you earn money to help pay for school

What is the difference between paying for college with scholarships and grants versus paying with loans?

- Scholarships and grants are basically free money.
  - This is money you will never have to pay back and can go towards anything (i.e. housing, tuition, books, etc.).
- Loans must be repayed with interest.
  - **Federal loans**: provided by the government with a fixed interest rate and income-driven repayment plans.
  - **Private loans**: provided by private organizations such as banks, credit unions, and state-based or affiliated organization.
    - Typically more expensive than federal loans.

As juniors and seniors you can apply for scholarships and grants now!

- Start your scholarship search early, look for scholarships everywhere, and apply for many.
- Gather letters of recommendation and list your accomplishments and awards.
- Have someone proofread your essays and review your entire application.
- Apply for scholarships you are qualified for first, then some you may not be qualified for.
- Use scholarship matching tools as a database to find scholarships fit for you, like:
  - www.akaeaf.org
  - www.uncf.org/scholarship
  - www.unigo.com
  - www.fastweb.com
  - www.cappex.com
- Or use apps on your phone to find scholarships on the go, like:

www.scholly.com

www.raise.me

www.scholarships.com

For more information visit: www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/

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May 2019

HBCUs serve a high percentage of low-income students; 70% of students attending HBCUs receive Pell Grants.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 College Signing Day	2	3	4 SAT Test Date
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- ◯ Register to take the SAT or ACT.
  - May or June
- ◯ Schedule college visits for over the summer.
- ◯ Update resume.
- ◯ Document awards and achievements.
- ◯ Apply for scholarships and grants.
  - www.myscholly.com
- ◯ Search for financial aid sources.
  - www.studentaid.ed.gov
- ◯ Ask teachers for recommendation letters.

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- ◯ Celebrate College Signing Day.
  - May 1
  - Wear your new college gear
- ◯ Notify schools with your final decision.
  - May 1
  - Acceptance or denial
- ◯ Send final transcript to selected college.
- ◯ Apply for scholarships and grants.
  - www.myscholly.com
- ◯ Register for Accepted Student Weekend.

Goal of the Month

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The summer leading up to your senior year is a vital time to get ahead in the college admissions process. Typically, applications are due in November for Early Decision and in January for Regular Decision. By starting now, you'll be able to relax and enjoy your senior year!

June

- ○ If needed, retake the SAT or ACT to improve your score.
  - Check page 13 for test dates.
- ○ Schedule and visit college campuses.
- ○ Work part-time, intern, or volunteer to add experience to your resume.
- ○ Ask teachers for letters of recommendation with a 2-week notice.
- ○ Begin writing college essays by researching previous essays from your selected colleges.
- ○ Apply for scholarships and look for financial aid opportunities.

July

- ○ If needed, retake the ACT.
  - Check page 13 for test dates.
- ○ Schedule and visit college campuses.
- ○ Work part-time, intern, or volunteer to add experience to your resume.
- ○ Ask teachers for letters of recommendation with a 2-week notice.
- ○ Edit college essays and get it reviewed.
- ○ Write a personal statement for applications and scholarships.
- ○ Apply for scholarships and look for financial aid opportunities.

August

- ○ Prepare for a productive senior year of high school!
- ○ Ask summer employers or mentors for letters of recommendation with a 2-week notice.
- ○ Finalize your personal statement and have it reviewed.
- ○ Write down deadlines for FAFSA, admissions applications, and scholarships.
- ○ Organize and research information about financial aid.
  - Check out page 16.
- ○ Now relax, you got this!

Check out ***www.mappingyourfuture.org*** for additional resources and information to prepare for college.

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