



# South Dakota College Application Week

## Parent Checklist: December

As the New Year approaches, it's important to start thinking about options available to help pay for college. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opened October 1, and the sooner your student fills it out online, the more money they may be able to receive in the form of grants and loans for college. More information about the FAFSA will be available next month.

For the time being, help your student make sure that all applications are in and he/she is on track to apply for scholarships and financial aid.

- Finish applying to colleges.**
  - Make sure your student has submitted ALL of the information necessary for the application including letters of recommendation, transcripts, and test scores. Encourage him/her to check e-mail regularly as this is how most colleges will communicate.
- Talk to current college students.**
  - Talk to parents of current college students about the transition to college and what to expect. Ask them what they wish they had done when their students were seniors.
- Get set for scholarships.**
  - Help your student search for scholarships online and check with your employer or organizations you might be a part of for scholarship opportunities.
- Figure out FAFSA**
  - The Free Application for Federal Student Aid opened October 1! Your student will likely need your help in obtaining all of the documents they need to file the FAFSA. This includes social security numbers, tax returns, and other financial information. See [studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa](http://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa) for more information.

**This month's conversation starter:** "What are your plans for helping to pay for college?"