In just a few short months, high school seniors will be full-fledged college freshmen. For seniors who have applied for and will be receiving financial assistance, it’s very important to know the details.

Here’s what to expect:

• Most colleges use an online format to deliver financial aid information to students.
• Some colleges begin contacting students about financial aid awards in March.
• Advise seniors to check their email and online student accounts once a week.
• Financial aid awards vary between schools.
• Students should carefully review each item on their award letter.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

It’s important for prospective college students to have a general idea of the balance due on their college account. Billing estimates often are available on the college’s website or through the financial aid and/or business office and help students decide how much financial aid to accept.

COST OF COLLEGE

Must be repaid after the student’s education is complete. Loans should only be taken after all other types of aid have been accepted. Before taking out a loan, it’s important to understand that a loan is a legal obligation that must be repaid with interest. Access http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/loans#considerations to view borrower responsibilities and other details concerning student loans. College counselors also are an excellent resource.

FEDERAL LOANS

Gift aid that is not repaid. These types of aid should be accepted first since they do not bear a financial obligation to the student.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Provides students with the opportunity to earn money throughout the semester. Students only receive this type of aid when they are hired in specific campus employment. This type of aid does not credit the student’s bill.

WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

College entrance exams are important because the scores students achieve are not only used for admission purposes, but also as scholarship award criteria. At SFA, we recommend retaking the SAT and ACT at least once. Students are often less nervous when taking it a second time and yield better scores. Encourage students to utilize study materials for college entrance exams. Study guides are generally available for check out at the school or public library. Resources also are available online and at local bookstores.

CONTACT YOUR COUNSELOR

936.468.2403 ✉ finaid@sfasu.edu

Necole Beason: A - D
LaShanda Parkhurst: F - J
Tammy Mitchum: E, K - N
Sara Williams: O - S
Donna Story: T - Z

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

collegeforalltexans.com
fastweb.com
studentaid.ed.gov
going2college.org
scholarshipexperts.com

Stephen F. Austin State University
FINANCIAL AID ISSUE 2