

# Financial Options Checklist for Prospective Columbia Students

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN COLUMBIA COLLEGE. THIS CHECKLIST IS MEANT TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH YOUR FINANCIAL OPTIONS FOR THE FALL SEMESTER OF 2008. WE HOPE THIS IS HELPFUL TO YOU AND HOPE TO SEE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY NEXT FALL.

## 1 Finalize Admission Application

Some sources of financial aid may be affected by the date of your admission to Columbia. It is very important to finalize your Admission status once you decide Columbia is the right school for you.

## 2 Review Costs

Current Tuition and Fees, and Cost of Attendance breakdowns are available through our homepage [www.colum.edu/sfs](http://www.colum.edu/sfs), click on Tuition and Fees. The Cost of Attendance breakdown outlines a yearly budget for direct costs such as tuition, and indirect costs such as books and supplies.

## 3 Payment Options

Columbia offers a four month payment plan per semester. Through CCCPay our online payment and billing information system, students have the option of registering up to ten users such as a parent, guardian, or sponsor to view and pay the bill. An email notification is sent to all parties when a new bill arrives. Payers have the ability to make secure online-payments that automatically debit a checking or savings account. Student Financial Services has introduced direct deposit for student account refunds. This feature is accessed via CCCPay.

## 4 Apply for Federal Aid in Three Steps

First, apply for a PIN from the U.S. Department of Education's PIN Web site at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). If you are a dependent student one of your parents will also need a PIN. Second, file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible on or after January 1, 2008 at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Make sure to keep your PIN number handy because you will need it to sign your FAFSA electronically. Third, review the Student Aid Report (SAR) sent to you by the U.S. Department of Education and the Award letter sent by Columbia that will outline your aid eligibility and your next steps.

## 5 Columbia Scholarships

Columbia has two major scholarship opportunities for New Freshman and Transfer Students. The Presidential Scholarship is geared towards New Freshman and the Transfer Student Scholarship is geared towards Transfer Students. Columbia College scholarship opportunities, deadlines and applications are available at [www.colum.edu/scholarships](http://www.colum.edu/scholarships).

## 6 Non-Columbia Scholarships

Investigate private sources for scholarship and grant opportunities. Check local libraries, local businesses and civic organizations and your parent's employers. Take advantage of free internet scholarship search engines such as:

**Finad On The Web**  
[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

**The College Board**  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

**FastWeb**  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

**Scholarship Resource Network Express**  
[www.srnexpress.com](http://www.srnexpress.com)

**GoCollege: The Collegiate Webservice –**  
[www.gocollege.com](http://www.gocollege.com)

## 7 Review State Aid Options

Non-Illinois residents should check with their state for aid opportunities that might be transferable to Columbia. Illinois residents can go to [www.collegezone.com](http://www.collegezone.com) a website powered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), to review Illinois state financial aid programs, publications and other resources.

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Student Financial Services