

# Parents' planning guide

As a parent, there are a few different ways you can lend a hand to your student during the college-planning process. From helping find scholarships, to reviewing award letters together, your role is important.



Here's a checklist to help you get started:

## SCHOLARSHIPS

- ☐ Check whether there are scholarships available through your workplace or organizations to which you belong. You can also encourage your student to visit Tuition Funding Sources for access to 7 million scholarships totaling more than \$41 billion to help pay for college: **[tuitionfundingsources.com](http://tuitionfundingsources.com)**.

## COMPLETE APPLICATIONS AND SECURE REFERENCES

- ☐ Help your student create a way to organize the application and reference-gathering process.
- ☐ Suggest potential references.
- ☐ Emphasize the importance of following up with a thank-you note for each person that was a reference.

## COMPLETE THE ACT OR SAT

- ☐ If your student needs to take or re-take these tests, help ensure he or she is registered and ready to go.

## APPLY TO SCHOOLS

- ☐ Together, meet with the financial aid offices at any schools your student has applied to — in order to better understand their process, costs, and expectations.

## APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ Together, complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible after January 1 for each academic year your child is in school.
- ☐ Learn more about the financial aid process by reviewing *Your financial*

*aid journey in 5 steps*, which can be found at **[wellsfargo.com/fivesteps](http://wellsfargo.com/fivesteps)**.

## REVIEW AWARD LETTERS

- ☐ Along with your student, carefully review any award letters received. Help your student determine what aid to accept and may not be needed.

## CELEBRATE

- ☐ Graduation day is a big achievement. Celebrate your student's accomplishment together!