

# 3-2-1, LIFT OFF!

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## Easy steps to launch your college experience!

**L**ook for free aid first like Federal and State Grants and State, Private or Institutional (offered by your college) Scholarships. Other good sources: FastWeb.com, <http://www.collegegold.com/scholarships/unusalscholarships>, or <http://www.asla.info/collegeplanning/fundmyfuture.htm>.

**I**dentify deadlines and time frames for applications.

**F**ile a FAFSA by visiting [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and use your and your parent's tax forms.

**T**ools and calculators are good resources for you to find out how much aid you may be eligible for (try [FinAid.org](http://FinAid.org)), and how much your student loan payment may be when you graduate (try [SLGFA.org](http://SLGFA.org)). Find more calculators at [SLGFA.org](http://SLGFA.org) so you'll be in the know!

**O**pen all mail from your college of choice. The Admissions and Financial Aid offices may need more information from you and taking too long to respond can cause delays

**F**ind out how much aid you're actually eligible for (your school will notify you), determine which aid you would like to accept and immediately return your financial aid award letter to your school.

**F**ollow up with your financial aid advisor on any additional paperwork you may have to complete like a Master Promissory Note or Entrance Counseling for your student loans.