Financial Aid Timeline

1. Apply for admission
   - The sooner you are offered admission, the sooner you hear about scholarships and other financial aid information.
   - The transfer admissions application opens one year prior to when you plan to enter Iowa State (ex: entering fall 2014 semester, apply early fall 2013).
   - The admissions application automatically puts you in contention for some merit-based transfer awards.

2. Apply for additional scholarships (be mindful of deadlines!)
   - College/department/other ISU scholarships can be viewed and searched at http://financialaid.iastate.edu/scholarships
   - Most scholarships are for the academic year as opposed to by semester; typically the scholarship application window is November-February.
   - Home communities and/or community colleges often provide scholarship listings.
   - National searches are also available
     - FastWeb (http://www.fastweb.com) is a free online resource connecting students with potential scholarships.
     - Never pay anyone a fee to conduct a scholarship search!

3. File the FAFSA (http://www.fafsa.gov) between January 1-March 1
   - March 1 is the priority date for completing the FAFSA at Iowa State University; be mindful that each school may have different deadlines.
   - File the FAFSA by this date even if taxes are not yet completed/filed, indicate estimated information and update the FAFSA once taxes are filed.
   - Iowa State school code: 001869
   - List Iowa State on FAFSA even if you’re planning to attend another college or university fall semester and then transfer during spring semester.
   - Students can still complete the FAFSA (or update to include Iowa State) after March 1 but are not considered for some need-based grants.

4. Receive financial aid award letter via US Mail
   - Early April (fall entering) or early October (spring entering)

5. Deadline to cancel acceptance and receive partial refund of acceptance fee
   - May 1 (fall entering) or November 1 (spring entering)

Other Financial Aid-related resources:
Iowa State Net Price Calculator: http://www.financialaid.iastate.edu/planning/financialcalculator.php
Iowa State Cost of Attendance: http://financialaid.iastate.edu/faq/costofattendance.php
Iowa State Payment Options: http://www.ubill.iastate.edu/ubill/paymentoptions
FAFSA4caster: http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov