Tips for Students who will need Clearances

At the beginning of the year:

1. Check your credit. Fix any erroneous records. See http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre34.shtm for details.

2. Create or update your Form SF86, which is used by investigators in getting you a clearance. This is available at http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/SF86.pdf. To speed up the vetting process, you can help yourself by getting current phone numbers for people they will want to interview, and use these on your form SF86 (rather than their old phone numbers from several years ago). These may include roommates, etc.

3. Hints from other Principal Investigators on the clearance process:

   a. The one thing that will for sure get you denied is lying. There are often mitigating circumstances for lots of other things. Indeed, there is one convicted bomber now working for NSA.

   b. Only answer the questions that are asked. Think "deposition mode."

   c. Answer questions honestly, but stop doing illegal things (e.g., downloading movies illegally). They are "in your past" once you get into this program.