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Important Dates to Remember

November 2: Registration deadline for December 8 **ACT**

High School Seniors

- Double check all college admissions deadlines, and make plans to enlist the help of a parent or high school counselor to review your application.
- Meet with your guidance counselor to verify you are on track to graduate and that your transcripts have all the credits you need to get into the school of your choice.
- Have you created a schedule or master calendar so you don't overlook important admission or financial aid deadlines? If not, it's not too late.
- Complete college applications and work on any required admissions essays.
- Request letters of recommendation to submit with your application for admission.
- Attend local and regional college fairs. For your convenience, the **Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel** has created the **Show-Me to College website** to help you locate college fairs and other college planning events in your neck of the woods. The MDHE is planning to exhibit at a large number of fairs listed on the Show-Me to College website, and we encourage you to stop by our booth to obtain information that will better assist you and your parents in planning and paying for college.
- Visit the MDHE's website to learn more about the **Advanced Placement Incentive Grant**, a new program created for students who score well on advanced placements exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.
- Don't forget to register to take the **ACT** or **SAT** exam in October. 2013 seniors must have an ACT score of 31 to be in the top 3 percent for the **Bright Flight scholarship**. Students scoring a 30 qualify in the top fourth and fifth percentiles but awards at that level are not likely to be funded for the 2013-2014 college academic year. The SAT scores for 2013 seniors will be announced as soon as they are available.

High School Juniors

- If you haven't done so, visit with your guidance counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and that you'll have all the credits you need to get into the school of your choice. You may want to talk about Advanced Placement (AP) courses to beef up your transcripts.
- Visit the MDHE's website to learn more about the **Advanced Placement Incentive Grant**, a new program created for students who score well on advanced placements exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.

- Learn about the different types of colleges and universities available to Missouri, and check our **Institution, Program, and Degree Search** to help match up your interests and goals with the schools that are best for you.
- Make plans to register for any college entrance exams.
- The ACT or SAT test score you will need to achieve in order to qualify for the **Bright Flight Scholarship** have yet to be determined. Scores will be announced in September of your senior year in high school.
- Estimate your “net price” to attend a particular college or university by checking out the Net Price Calculator, which can be found on each college website. Net price is the difference between the full cost of attending college, minus any grants and scholarships for which you may be eligible. The full cost of attending college includes tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation and personal expenses.

High School Students

- If you're attending a **designated A+ high school**, touch base with your high school's A+ coordinator to make sure you're on track to meet the high school eligibility requirements for the **A+ Scholarship** before graduation. If you have questions about the scholarship or your eligibility for it, visit the **MDHE's website** or contact us toll free at 800-473-6757, option 4.
- Discuss college finances with your family. When performing your college search, you need to know how much your family will be able to contribute towards your college education. Always remember, just because a college may seem expensive and out of your reach, never assume anything. There are several types of financial aid that may enable you to attend a college that may seem too expensive.
- Estimate your “net price” to attend a particular college or university by checking out the Net Price Calculator, which can be found on each college website. Net price is the difference between the full cost of attending college, minus any grants and scholarships for which you may be eligible. The full cost of attending college includes tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation and personal expenses.
- Visit the MDHE's website to learn more about the **Advanced Placement Incentive Grant**, a new program created for students who score well on advanced placements exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.

Middle School Students

- Continue to look toward the future. Talk to your parents about college plans and work together to keep the lines of communication open. Discuss potential school choices, career options, and possibilities for paying for your education. The more you talk now, the smoother the process will be when you're ready to start making definite plans for college.
- Consider signing up for ACT or SAT preparatory courses. Be sure to check out free ACT practice test questions, test tips, and test descriptions for useful pointers.

Parents

If your child is...

A high school student:

- First, show your support for your student's desire to gain knowledge, experience, and expertise beyond high school.
- Provide encouragement for meeting deadlines and maintaining good grades. Encourage them to build their resume by taking college prep classes, participating in extracurricular activities, and volunteering at programs outside of school.
- Research financing options for your child's education. Explore local and organizational scholarships and learn more about programs administered by the MDHE ([Grants and Scholarships section](#)).
- Participate in campus visits and financial aid nights, and then openly discuss the options with your student.
- Attend local and regional college fairs with your high school junior or senior. For your convenience, the [Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel](#) has created a college preparation events calendar to help you locate college fairs in your neck of the woods. The MDHE is planning to exhibit at a large number of fairs listed on the [Show-Me to College website](#), and we encourage you to stop by our booth to obtain information that will better assist you in planning and paying for your child's education.

A middle school student:

- Stay involved. Take the opportunity to attend parent/teacher conferences and visit with your child's counselor for extra guidance. Also, help your child gain eligibility for Missouri's [A+ Scholarship](#) by encouraging good attendance and good behavior throughout the upcoming high school years.

- Start laying the groundwork for preparing for college. Invite your child to consider a variety of career options and discuss the possible coursework associated with different careers. Start asking what kind of college they might like to attend and provide encouragement for efforts made toward maintaining good grades.
- Consider opening a 529 college savings plan. The Missouri plan is called the **MOST program**, and it provides significant federal and state tax benefits, including a state income tax deduction of up to \$8,000 per year (\$16,000 if married, filing jointly) for Missouri taxpayers.

Scholarship Opportunities

- The Horatio Alger Missouri Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to seniors in Missouri who have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity and who aspire to pursue an education. The 2013 scholarship application is open until **October 25, 2012**. To see the requirements and/or apply, go to www.horatioalger.org.
- Eight \$1000 Missouri Community Service Commission (MCSC) scholarships are available to 9-12th grade student-volunteers through the 2012-2013 High School Student-Volunteer Community Service Scholarship Awards initiative. Please go to **MCSC Scholarship** for more information. All materials are due on **February 8, 2013**.