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Important Dates to Remember

August 12: Registration deadline for September 10 **ACT**

August 26: Late registration deadline for September 10 **ACT**

September 9: Registration deadline for October 1 **SAT**

Returning College Students

- If you are a **Bright Flight** renewal student, you must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA to continue receiving the award.
- The deadline for eligible **Access Missouri** students to add a school to their record is **September 30**.

New College Students

- If you will be borrowing a student loan, you may be required to complete **entrance counseling** before you can receive those funds. Many schools offer entrance counseling through online sources while other schools may require you to attend entrance counseling in person. Check with your school's financial aid office to verify what you need to do to satisfy this requirement.
- Are you ready to live like a college student? Traditional wisdom advises you to "live like a college student now, so you don't have to later." There are some very simple **steps you can take now to help ease future financial burdens**.
 - Keep track of everything running through your student account so small purchases don't unexpectedly add up and leave you with less money in your account than you were counting on.
 - Be smart with **credit cards**. Understand that any time you use a credit card, you are borrowing money. If you don't pay off your balance each month, interest will be added to the total amount you owe. (Do you really feel like paying interest on a pizza you ate three months ago?)
- If you are a **Bright Flight** student who took the ACT in June 2011 or missed the July 31 preferred deadline, you must submit any required eligibility information by **September 30, 2011**. If you do not provide all the necessary information to the MDHE by September 30, you will be considered a late applicant and your award will be subject to funding availability, even if you have previously received an approval letter.
- The deadline for eligible **Access Missouri** students to add a school to their record is **September 30**.

High School Seniors

- Meet with your counselor early in the year to verify everything is in order for you to graduate with what you need to meet college admission requirements. Inquire about classes you can take for college

credit and research taking Advanced Placement or College-Level Examination Program exams.

- Make sure you know the test dates and get registration materials for the **ACT** and/or **SAT** assessment tests.
- Don't quit extracurricular activities like sports, drama, or newspaper. Seniors usually take over leadership roles in activities like these, and continued involvement just might provide you with valuable experience and leadership skills that will serve you in college.
- Check out the MDHE's **Journey to College page on Facebook**. Developed and maintained by MDHE high school interns, Journey to College provides an avenue in which to obtain a variety of information geared toward future and current college students. If you're interested in planning and paying for college, receiving financial aid updates and learning more about financial literacy, "Like" Journey to College at www.facebook.com.

If you prefer to tweet, the MDHE created a Twitter account to assist students just like you. Receive short updates regarding various scholarship opportunities, federal and state aid deadlines and money management tips by following Journey to College at <http://twitter.com/#!/Journey2College>.

High School Students

- Now is a great time to prepare for your future. Consider pursuing extracurricular activities, such as sports, performing arts, or volunteer work, and start thinking about different career possibilities. Talk to your guidance counselor or teachers for help as you explore a variety of occupations. You might also want to check out **Missouri Connections' online career clusters**.
- It's never too early to start saving your money. Before you spend your summer income on that pair of \$90 shoes, stop and think about the impact of your purchase. Sometimes taking a day to really consider an item's worth can put things in perspective.
- Talk with your parents about setting up a **savings and spending plan**. Watch how much your money grows over the upcoming school year.
- Check out the MDHE's **Journey to College page on Facebook**. Developed and maintained by MDHE high school interns, Journey to College provides an avenue in which to obtain a variety of information geared toward future and current college students. If you're interested in planning and paying for college, receiving financial aid updates and learning more about financial literacy, "Like" Journey to College at www.facebook.com.

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Middle School Students

- Start the year off right by laying the ground work that will get you through middle school, high school, and eventually college. Pay attention in class, be ready when test time rolls around, and remember what you're working for:
 - College graduates have more choices than those without a college education.
 - Continuing your education after high school increase your chances to make more money.
 - College graduates usually enjoy a better quality of life, higher savings, and more consumer power
- Now is a great time to prepare for your future. Consider pursuing extracurricular activities, such as sports, performing arts, or volunteer work, and start thinking about different career possibilities. Talk to your guidance counselor or teachers for help as you explore a variety of occupations. You might also want to check out [Missouri Connections' online career clusters](#).

Parents

- If your child is preparing for his or her senior year of high school, don't overlook all the mail from various colleges. Encourage them to look through the materials to evaluate which schools are best suited for their future plans. In addition, the MDHE's [Institution, Program, and Degree Search](#) allows you to search for Missouri schools based on school type, type of degree, type of program, and location. Information about [tuition and fees](#) can also be found on the [MDHE website](#).
- Encourage your high school student to check out the MDHE's blogs on Facebook. Developed and maintained by interns who welcome your student's questions and comments, Journey to College provides an avenue in which to obtain a variety of information geared toward future or current college students. If your son or daughter is interested in planning and paying for college, receiving financial aid updates or learning more about financial literacy, encourage him/her to click "Like" at www.facebook.com/journeytocollege.

If your student prefers to tweet, the MDHE recently created a Twitter account to meet their postsecondary needs. By following the [MDHE's Twitter page](#), students receive short updates regarding various scholarship opportunities, federal and state aid deadlines and money management tips.

- It's not too late! If you're feeling the financial crunch, remember that financial options, such as a [Federal Plus Loan](#), are still available. Contact your child's financial aid office for more information.