

Happy New Year!

This is your January reminder from the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

Important Dates

Jan. 22: **SAT** testing

Students · Students · Students · Students ·

If you are a graduate student...

- Applications for the 2011-12 David L. Boren Fellowships are available at www.borenawards.org. Boren Awards provide unique funding opportunities for U.S. students to study in Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East, where they can add important international and language components to their educations.

Boren Fellowships provide up to \$30,000 for language study and international research. Fellowship applications are due on **Feb. 1, 2011**.

The [National Health Service Corps \(NHSC\) loan repayment application cycle](#) is now open. The purpose of the NHSC Loan Repayment Program is to recruit and retain medical, nursing, dental, and behavioral/mental health clinicians in eligible communities of need designated as health professional shortage areas. [More information](#) about the program is available online.

If you are a college student...

- The [2011-12 Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) is now available online. It's recommended that you file your FAFSA - the first step in applying for student aid - as soon as possible.
 - o Your college's deadline for filing the FAFSA is different than the federal deadline, so be sure to check with your school so you don't overlook any important deadline and miss out on opportunities for additional dollars.
 - o Your FAFSA must be filed by **April 1, 2011**, in order to be eligible for some state financial assistance programs such as [Access Missouri](#).
 - o Filing your FAFSA early means you'll get information about your potential financial aid award amounts sooner.

Completing the **FAFSA** online after Jan. 1 can be a simple and stress-free task for the college student who wants to be “ahead” of the class when the spring semester begins. If you would like free professional help filling out your FAFSA, financial aid advisers will be available at locations throughout the state to help you during **FAFSA Frenzy (FF)**, a program of **College Goal Sunday**, in January, February and March.

To find a FF location or other financial aid workshop near you, check out the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel’s **Show-Me to College events calendar**. You may access a **list of FF sites** and dates via the Missouri Department of Higher Education’s website.

If you are unable to attend a FAFSA Frenzy event in your area, you may access the newest addition to the Missouri Department of Higher Education’s pre-recorded webcast lineup, **Seven Steps to Applying for Financial Aid**, for assistance with filling out the FAFSA. Complete with an overview of documentation needed to submit the FAFSA for the 2011-12 academic year, **Seven Steps to Applying for Financial Aid** provides a clear and concise explanation of terms and processes that often confuse new filers.

- Applications for 2011-12 David L. Boren Scholarships are available at www.borenawards.org. Boren Awards provide unique funding opportunities for U.S. students to study in Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East, where they can add important international and language components to their educations.

Boren Scholarships provide up to \$20,000 for an academic year. Scholarship applications are due on **Feb. 10, 2011**.

- In an effort to increase access to higher education and encourage the pursuit of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) degrees, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health is offering scholarships for students of Hispanic heritage. The Ciencia National Scholarships are open to current STEM majors of Hispanic heritage meeting eligibility criteria including:
 - o Full-time enrollment in an accredited college or university
 - o Good academic standing
 - o A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75
 - o Pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in a STEM field
 - o Residence in the 50 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., U.S. territories, or Puerto Rico

Students meeting these criteria can apply for a one-time scholarship of \$2,000.

Scholarship applications are due on **Feb. 15, 2011**. Students can apply online at <http://www.alliancescholars.org/>.

If you are a high school senior...

- If you think you will be using state or federal financial assistance to help pay for your college education, it's time to start thinking about filling out the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** for the 2011-12 academic year. The FAFSA is used to calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) or, in other words, the amount you or your family is expected to pay toward your cost of attending college. Your EFC is very important in determining how much financial assistance you may be eligible to receive.

Most colleges and universities have a much earlier deadline for filing the FAFSA than the U.S. Department of Education. While the official federal deadline is June 30, 2012 -for the 2011-12 academic year, you should check with the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend to make sure you know the deadline that applies to you.

In addition to meeting the timeframe for your school, your FAFSA must be completed and filed by April, 1, 2011, to be eligible for state financial assistance, such as the **Access Missouri program**. Since a large number of scholarships and grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, it's in your best interest to get your FAFSA filed as soon as possible.

If you would like free professional help filling out your FAFSA, financial aid advisers will be available at **locations throughout the state** to help you during **FAFSA Frenzy (FF)**, a program of **College Goal Sunday**, in January, February and March.

To find a FF location or other financial aid workshop near you, check out the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel's **Show-Me to College events calendar**. You may access a list of FF sites and dates via the Missouri Department of Higher Education's website.

Since this will be your first time completing the FAFSA, we thought it would be helpful to let you know what information you will need to bring with you to participate in FF. Make sure you have the following:

1. Your **FAFSA PIN** number.
2. Your Social Security number and your parents' Social Security numbers, if you are under the age of 24 and not married;
3. Your driver's license number, if you have one;
4. Your Alien Registration Number, if you are not a U.S. citizen;

5. 2010 federal tax information or tax returns (including IRS W-2 information) for your self and spouse if you are married, and for your parents if you are providing parent information. If you have not yet filed a 2010 income tax return at the time you complete your FAFSA, you can still submit your FAFSA but you must provide estimated income and tax information.
6. Records of untaxed income and veterans benefits, for yourself, and your parents if you are providing parent information; and
7. Information on savings, investments, and business and farm assets for yourself, and your parents if you are providing parent information.

If you are unable to attend a FAFSA Frenzy event in your area, you may access the newest addition to the Missouri Department of Higher Education's pre-recorded webcast lineup, [Seven Steps to Applying for Financial Aid](#), for assistance with filling out the FAFSA. Complete with an overview of documentation needed to submit the FAFSA for the 2011-12 academic year, [Seven Steps to Applying for Financial Aid](#) provides a clear and concise explanation of terms and processes that often confuse new filers.

- Contact the schools you submitted applications to. Make sure the admissions offices have everything they need from you, and be sure to follow up if there are missing items or paperwork. Ask about specific school deadlines and note them on your calendar.
- Schedule campus visits and in-person interviews, if required, at your top school choices. Check with your counselor about your high school's policy regarding absences for college visits. Many allow an excused absence if you provide the necessary documentation.
- Make plans to take the [ACT](#) or [SAT](#) again if you are not satisfied with your score. As a reminder, the students in the class of 2011 will need to achieve one of the qualifying scores below on or before the June 2011 national test date in order to qualify for the [Bright Flight Scholarship](#). A qualifying score achieved as a sophomore or junior on a national test date will also be accepted.

Award Tier	ACT	SAT
Top 3 percent	31	800 Critical Reading 790 Math
Top fourth and fifth percentiles	30	770-799 Critical Reading 770-789 Math

Students who score in the top 3 percent of all Missouri students taking the ACT or SAT will be eligible to receive an annual award of up to \$3,000, while students who score in the top fourth and fifth percentiles on those tests will be eligible to receive an annual award of up to \$1,000. The actual award amounts are conditional on sufficient state appropriations, and students in the top 3 percent must receive the full \$3,000 before students in the top fourth and fifth percentiles can be awarded.

- In an effort to increase access to higher education and encourage the pursuit of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) degrees, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health is offering scholarships for students of Hispanic heritage. The Alliance/Merck Ciencia (Science) Scholars Program is open to high school seniors of Hispanic heritage who meet certain eligibility criteria including:
 - A minimum cumulative high school GPA of 2.75
 - Intention to apply (or already applied) for full-time postsecondary study
 - Commitment to a STEM major
 - Attendance at a high school in Brownsville, Texas; Elizabeth, N.J.; or Los Angeles, Calif.

Students meeting these criteria can apply for a scholarship of up to \$20,000, disbursed over four years of college. In addition, students are eligible to apply for up to \$22,500 in summer internship stipends, paid out during each of three summers.

Scholarship applications are due on **Feb. 15, 2011**. Students can apply online at <http://www.alliancescholars.org/>.

If you are a high school junior...

- Begin collecting and requesting information from universities and colleges you may be interested in attending. This information may come in the form of e-mails, brochures, pamphlets or booklets. After you receive this information, your next step should involve finding a safe place to store it. To help you keep track of college-related materials, the MDHE developed the College Portfolio, which can be used to store institutional, federal and state aid documents, such as transcripts, admissions applications, Student Aid Reports, and the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**. If you are interested in obtaining this portfolio, please visit your high school counselors' office. If your school has yet to order the loan portfolios, ask your counselor to submit a request online via the **MDHE website**.
- To help you land on the school choice that's best for you, it's helpful to know your options. There are a variety of schools offering a wide mixture of both degrees and programs. Learn more about

the **different types of colleges and universities** available in Missouri and search our **Institution, Program, and Degree Search** to help match up your interests and goals with the schools best suited to meet them.

If you are a nontraditional student...

- If you would like free professional help filling out the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, financial aid advisers will be available at **locations throughout the state** to help you during **FAFSA Frenzy (FF)**, a program of **College Goal Sunday**, in January, February and March.

To find a FF location or other financial aid workshop near you, check out the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel's **Show-Me to College events calendar**. You may access a **list of FF sites** and dates via the Missouri Department of Higher Education's (MDHE) website.

If you are unable to attend a FAFSA Frenzy event in your area, you may access the newest addition to the Missouri Department of Higher Education's pre-recorded webcast lineup, *Seven Steps to Applying for Financial Aid*, for assistance with filling out the FAFSA. Complete with an overview of documentation needed to submit the FAFSA for the 2011-12 academic year, *Seven Steps to Applying for Financial Aid* provides a clear and concise explanation of terms and processes that often confuse new filers.

- Applications for 2011-12 David L. Boren Scholarships are available at www.borenawards.org. Boren Awards provide unique funding opportunities for U.S. students to study in Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East, where they can add important international and language components to their educations.

Boren Scholarships provide up to \$20,000 for an academic year. Scholarship applications are due on **Feb. 10, 2011**.

- In an effort to increase access to higher education and encourage the pursuit of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) degrees, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health is offering scholarships for students of Hispanic heritage. The Ciencia National scholarships are open to current STEM majors of Hispanic heritage meeting eligibility criteria including:
 - o Full-time enrollment in an accredited college or university
 - o Good academic standing
 - o A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75
 - o Pursuit of a bachelor's degree in a STEM field

- o Residence in the 50 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., U.S. territories, or Puerto Rico

Students meeting these criteria can apply for a one-time scholarship of \$2,000. Scholarship applications are due on **Feb. 15, 2011**. Students can apply online at <http://www.alliancescholars.org/>.

If you are a younger teen...

- Your life is busy. In addition to school, you've got friends, interests, and other activities to take care of. Get in the habit now of scheduling your day so that you can make time for all the areas of your life that are important to you. No one can remember everything, so keep a calendar and jot things down. Keep track of homework and school assignments, sporting events, work, music lessons, and all the stuff that takes a chunk out of your day. You'll enjoy your "free" time a lot more if you know you've got all the bases covered. Besides, the practice you get in managing your time now will pay off as you move through high school and into college.

Parents • Parents • Parents • Parents • Parents

- If you have a high school senior or a student returning to college for the 2011-12 academic year who will likely use some sort of financial assistance to help pay for postsecondary education expenses, please plan to attend **FAFSA Frenzy (FF)***, a program of **College Goal Sunday**. Available at 58 locations statewide, this helpful tutorial leads students and parents through filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (also known as the **FAFSA**), which is the first step in obtaining student financial assistance.

What should you bring? Your 2010 tax returns, if they're ready; W-2 forms, and student and parent **PINS**. If you haven't done your 2010 taxes yet, bring paycheck stubs from December, 2010 that show year-to-date earnings, your 2009 tax forms, and 2010 statements of interest earned. Even you don't have any 2010 tax information yet, plan to attend anyway to learn valuable information about obtaining financial aid and filling out the FAFSA.

To find a FF location or other financial aid workshop near you, check out the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel's **Show-Me to College events calendar**. You may access a **list of FF sites** and dates via the Missouri Department of Higher Education's (MDHE) website.

If you are unable to attend a FAFSA Frenzy event in your area, you may access the newest addition to the MDHE's pre-recorded webcast lineup, **Seven Steps to Applying for Financial Aid**, for assistance with filling out the FAFSA. Complete with an overview of documentation needed



Monthly Reminders

to submit the FAFSA for the 2011-12 academic year, [Seven Steps to Applying for Financial Aid](#) provides a clear and concise explanation of terms and processes that often confuse new filers.