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Important Dates to Remember

January 11: Late registration deadline for January 26 **SAT**

January 11: Registration deadline for February 9 **ACT**

January 18: Late registration for February 9 **ACT**

February 8: Registration deadline for March 9 **SAT**

College Students

- The **2013-2014 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 deadlines and miss out on opportunities for additional dollars.
 - o Your FAFSA must be filed by **April 1, 2013**, 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.
 - o You can file your FAFSA with estimated tax information, if necessary, to meet some early deadlines. You can correct the information using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool after filing your 2012 income taxes.

Completing the FAFSA online after January 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 also access a **complete list of FF sites and dates** via the Missouri Department of Higher Education's website.

- Check out the **MDHE's new student portal**, where you can access information about paying for college and monitor your eligibility and payments for some state student financial aid programs. You will need a Microsoft Live ID to sign into the portal.
- 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 placement exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.

High School Seniors

- 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 2013-2014 academic year as soon after January 1, 2013 as possible. The FAFSA is used to calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) or, in other words, the amount you or your family can be reasonably 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, 2014 for the 2013-2014 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, 2013**, to be eligible for some 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 also access a complete list of FF sites via the **MDHE's website**.

Because 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.

1. Your FAFSA PIN number. (For more information regarding the FAFSA PIN, check out the MDHE's new "*Federal Student Aid PIN*" webcast at <http://www.dhe.mo.gov/webinars.php>.)
 2. Your Social Security number (SSN) and your parents' SSNs 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. 2012 federal tax information or tax returns (including IRS W-2 information) for yourself and spouse if you are married, and for your parents if you are under the age of 24 and not married. If you have not yet filed a 2012 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, business and farm assets for yourself, and your parents if you are providing parent information.
- If you are an A+ student and plan to use the **A+ scholarship** in the summer 2013 term, check with your financial aid office to ensure you complete the FAFSA for the correct academic year.

- 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 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.
- Check out the MDHE's website to learn more about the **Advanced Placement Incentive Grant**, a new program created for students who score well on advanced placement exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.
- Interested in obtaining the **Bright Flight Scholarship**? Make plans to take the ACT or SAT again if you aren't satisfied with your score. As a reminder, the students in the class of 2013 must have an ACT score of 31 or an SAT critical reading score of 790 and an SAT math score of 780 to be in the top three percent for the Bright Flight Scholarship. Final award amounts for students in the top three percent will be announced in August 2013. Students scoring a 30 on the ACT or between 770 to 789 on the critical reading section of the SAT and between 760 to 779 on the math section of the SAT will qualify in the top fourth and fifth percentiles. Awards for the top fourth and fifth percentiles are not likely to be funded for the 2013-2014 college academic year.
- Check out the **MDHE's new student portal**, where you can access information about how to prepare and pay for college. You will need a Microsoft Live ID to sign in to the portal.

High School Juniors

- Learn about the **different types of colleges and universities available in 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.
- Begin collecting and requesting information from universities and colleges you may be interested in attending. This information may come in the form of emails, 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 (SARs), and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you're interested in obtaining this portfolio, please visit your high school counselors' office. If your school has yet to order these sturdy organizational portfolios, ask your counselor to submit a request online via

the [MDHE website](#).

- Check out the MDHE's website to learn more about the [Advanced Placement Incentive Grant](#), a new program created for students who score well on advanced placement exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.
- Check out the [MDHE's new student portal](#), where you can access information about how to prepare and pay for college. You will need a Microsoft Live ID to sign in to the portal.

Nontraditional Students

- 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 also access a [complete list of FF sites](#) via the MDHE website.

Parents

- If you have a high school senior or a student who will be returning to college for the 2012-2013 academic year, please plan to attend FAFSA Frenzy (FF), a program of [College Goal Sunday](#). Available at 55 locations statewide, this helpful tutorial leads students and parents through filling out the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#), which is the first step in obtaining student financial assistance.
- What should you bring? Your 2012 tax returns, if they're ready; W-2 forms, and student and parent [PINs](#). If you haven't done your 2012 taxes yet, bring paycheck stubs from December 2012 that show year-to-date earnings, your 2011 tax forms, and 2012 statements of interest earned. Even if you don't have any 2012 tax information yet, plan to attend anyway to learn valuable information about obtaining financial aid and filling out the FAFSA.

Scholarship Opportunities

- Create a video that encourages students to take the ACT and attend college, and you can win scholarship money. You can choose from [5 contest categories](#). Make sure you read all of the [contest information](#)

and follow the guidelines including how to use the ACT logo. Submissions are due January 28, 2013.

- 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**.
- The **Vegetarian Resource Group** will award \$10,000 in college scholarship money to graduating U.S. high school students who have promoted vegetarianism in their schools and/or communities. Vegetarians do not eat meat, fish, or fowl. Two awards of \$5,000 each will be given. **Entries may only be sent by students graduating from high school in spring 2013**. Deadline is **February 20, 2013**.
- The Adult Students in Scholastic Transition Scholarship is available to adults facing economic, social or physical challenges, who are looking to improve their situation through educational opportunities. Last year, local Executive Women International chapters and corporate ASIST scholarships totaled over \$250,000. Local chapters of EWI partner with educational providers and social services agencies to identify potential ASIST candidates. Students first apply and compete at the local chapter level. Chapter-level winners are submitted to the corporate level for the opportunity to be selected for one of twelve \$2,500 scholarships. Each EWI chapter has its own deadline date for submitting an **application**.