



Building Missouri's future...
by degrees

Monthly Reminders

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Important Dates to Remember

July 31: Preferred deadline for corrections to state aid eligibility - Protect your eligibility for **Access Missouri** and/or **Bright Flight** funds by making sure all necessary corrections to your eligibility are completed

College Students

- If you received a letter from the MDHE stating we received conflicting FAFSA information that currently renders you ineligible for **Access Missouri** or **Bright Flight** funds for the 2011-12 academic year, you must submit necessary corrections by the deadlines noted below. Corrections can be made through the FAFSA correction process. **PLEASE NOTE:** The FAFSA is required to apply for the Access Missouri program; Bright Flight students are NOT required to complete the FAFSA but may choose to do so to apply for need-based aid. If the FAFSA indicates you are no longer an undergraduate student, Missouri resident or U.S. citizen, your Bright Flight eligibility can be affected.
 - **July 31, 2011** - the preferred deadline for Access Missouri and Bright Flight. The MDHE cannot guarantee that corrections to Access Missouri eligibility made after July 31 will be received in time to affect your final eligibility.
 - **September 30, 2011** – the deadline for Bright Flight students who missed the July 31 preferred deadline. If you do not provide all 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.
- If you receive the **Bright Flight scholarship**, keep in mind that as a renewal student you must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA to continue receiving the award. The most up-to-date information about the award amount for the 2011-12 academic year is available on the MDHE's website. Monitor the website periodically for changes to the award amount, which will be finalized in August.
- If you're a recent college graduate and borrowed a federal student loan, you have a **six-month grace period** before your first payment is due. Use this time to get prepared for **successful repayment**.

Recent High School Graduates

- If you received a letter from the MDHE stating we received conflicting FAFSA information that currently renders you ineligible for **Access Missouri** or **Bright Flight** funds for the 2011-12 academic year, you must submit necessary corrections by the deadlines noted below. Corrections can be made through the FAFSA correction process. **PLEASE NOTE:** The FAFSA is required to apply for the Access Missouri program; Bright Flight students are NOT required to complete the FAFSA but may choose to do so to apply for need-based aid. If the FAFSA indicates you are no longer an undergraduate student, Missouri resident or U.S. citizen, your Bright Flight eligibility can be affected.

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- The most up-to-date information about the **Bright Flight award amounts for the 2011-12 academic year** is available on the MDHE's website. Monitor the website periodically for changes to the award amounts, which will be finalized in August.
- If you take the ACT or SAT in June, the MDHE should receive your score by the end of July or beginning of August (six to eight weeks after you take the test).
- If you've exhausted all other methods of financial aid that do not have to be paid back, keep the following in mind if you decide to take out a student loan:
 - o Borrow only the minimum amount you need to help **keep your debt loads as minimal as possible**.
- Follow up with the financial aid office of the college or school you plan to attend. Make sure all paperwork is complete and the aid office has an updated list of all your awarded grants and scholarships.
- Firm up your plans for freshman orientation or other activities scheduled by your college. These events are a great opportunity to acclimate yourself to your new surroundings and meet new friends.
- Talk to your future roommate(s) to work out a system for making sure your residence hall or apartment has all the necessities. If you think there will be extra expenses involved, discuss a plan to work out the details so no one is burdened by surprise costs.

High School or Middle School Students

- Make a plan for saving a portion of the money you earn at summer jobs. To see how money in your savings account can add up over time, check out this **savings calculator**.
- 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 recently 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>.

- Stay active and involved in extracurricular activities and community organizations. Staying busy will help you gain experiences that can be used in the future for job and college applications.

Parents

- If you have a recent high school graduate about to head off to college, follow up to make sure they have completed all necessary paperwork.
- Encourage your student to stay active this summer and get involved in extra-curricular or community organizations. Such involvement can spruce up a college application when the time comes, and it may even help steer your son or daughter toward a future career interest.
- 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.

Scholarship Opportunities

- The Zonta Club is now accepting applications for the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business scholarship. Women of any nationality pursuing undergraduate business degrees and who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field are eligible. To apply, applicants must:
 - o Be eligible to enter the third or fourth year of an undergraduate degree program at an accredited university or college.
 - o Have achieved an outstanding academic record during the first two to three years of study.
 - o Demonstrate intent to complete a program in business and show outstanding achievement in business-related subjects, as recorded on the official university/college/institute transcript.

Applications are available online at www.zonta.org. Completed application forms must be postmarked on or before **June 15, 2011** in order to be considered.

Each Zonta Club chapter will select one applicant to be considered for a district scholarship. District recipients are forwarded to the Zonta International Foundation and are eligible for one of five \$5000 scholarships which can be used for tuition, books or living expenses at any university, college or institution offering accredited business courses and degrees.