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Important Dates to Remember

May 10: Registration deadline for June 4 **SAT**

May 20: Late registration deadline for June 11 **ACT**

May 23: Late registration deadline for June 4 **SAT**

June 4: **SAT** testing

College Students

- Have you considered taking summer coursework? It may not have been in your original game plan, but summer classes do offer some benefits. It may help you better focus and get through a difficult course or even help you pull ahead in your program of study.
- Make a plan for saving a portion of the money you earn at your summer job, and be ready to head back to school in the fall with a **personalized budget** in place.
- If you receive a letter from the Missouri Department of Higher Education stating we received conflicting information reported on your **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** 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 noted deadlines. Corrections can be made through the online 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.

- o **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.
- o **Sept. 30, 2011** - the deadline for Bright Flight students who took the ACT in June 2010 or missed the July 31 preferred deadline. If you do not provide all necessary information to the MDHE by Sept. 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 will be graduating this month 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**.

High School Seniors

- It's not too late to achieve an **ACT** or **SAT** score that qualifies you for the Bright Flight scholarship. Your eligibility will be based on the highest score you achieve on or before the **June 11, 2011**, national test date. 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

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- If you took the ACT or SAT in April, the MDHE should receive your score by the end of May or beginning of June. The MDHE receives scores approximately six to eight weeks after each national test date. Scores from the June test date should be received by the end of July or beginning of August.
- If you haven't already done so, carefully compare the financial aid packages offered to you and the cost of attendance at each school to help you make the decision that's best for you. Be aware that some postsecondary institutions pledge to eliminate or limit the amount of loans in aid packages for the highest need students.
- Take a few minutes to make sure you're straight about plans for freshman orientation or other activities scheduled by your college, and mark your calendars so you don't miss anything.

High School or Middle School Students

- 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>.

- Note registration deadlines for upcoming ACT and SAT exams. Taking these exams now may help you get ready to make decisions about college.
- Stay active and involved in extracurricular activities. Summer is also a great time to join community organizations.
- 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](#).

Nontraditional Students

- If you are planning to take summer courses, you already know that it's a great way to keep on track and make sure you graduate on time (or even early). It also provides the opportunity to let you really concentrate on just one class at a time, which can be ideal for tough courses. If you're not currently planning to take summer classes, do keep an open mind for future summers.
- Make a plan for saving a portion of the money you earn this summer, and be ready to head back to school in the fall with a [personalized budget](#) in place.

Parents

- Is your student actively searching for a summer job, but you're concerned that it might hurt their chances of obtaining student aid in the future? Don't fret. According to CBS Money Watch reporter Lynn O'Shaughnessy, summer jobs are a nonissue when it comes to factoring in how much aid your

son/daughter may be eligible to receive. Check out O'Shaughnessy's online article on this topic titled "[Summer Job: Can It Hurt Financial Aid Chances?](#)"

- 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.
- It's never too early to promote **healthy financial habits**. Continue to encourage your children to save a portion of what they earn and to exercise sound financial judgment – identifying “needs” from “wants” and acting accordingly.
- 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.

Scholarship Opportunities

College Students

- 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.

High School Students

- The Center for Student Opportunity College Center is offering a \$2,000 four-year renewable scholarship to first-generation college students graduating in the high school class of 2011 (entering the college class of 2015). The CSO College Center aims to promote college and access and opportunity to historically underserved, first-generation student populations. Qualifying students are currently high school (or home-schooled) seniors attending in the U.S., involved in extracurricular and leadership programs in school or in the community and seeking financial aid for college.

To qualify, the student's parents must not have earned a four-year college degree. The student must also be attending a CSO partner college or university. A complete list of CSO College Partners can be viewed here: http://csopportunity.org/college_partners/coll_partners.aspx. The application can be found at <http://www.csopportunity.org/scholarship> and the deadline to apply is **May 27, 2011**.