



*Building Missouri's future...
by degrees.*

Monthly Reminders

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Important Dates to Remember

November 18: Late registration for December 10 **ACT**

November 20: Late registration deadline for December 3 **SAT**

High School Seniors

- If you'd like a little help filling out the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, make plans to attend a **FAFSA Frenzy event** in your area. Financial aid professionals will be available at various locations statewide in January, February, and March to help students and parents fill out the application and answer financial aid-related questions.

To find a FF location or other financial aid workshop near you, check out the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel's (MASFAP) **Show-Me to College events calendar**. The MDHE will also provide a list of sites and dates in the December Monthly Student Reminder.

- Take advantage of opportunities to meet with college representatives visiting your high school. Attend financial aid nights and college fair events in your community, and don't be afraid to ask questions. Go prepared with a list of questions about cost, financial aid, admissions, student population, academics, social life, surrounding community, housing, dining, recreational facilities, student services, security, etc.
- If you're still undecided, schedule school visits for your top choices. Consider characteristics such as the size of each school and its classes, location, campus environment, housing, social activities, facilities, job availability, and financial assistance. Our **Institution, Program, and Degree Search** can also help determine the schools that have programs in fields that interest you.
- Have you created a schedule or master calendar so you don't overlook important admission or financial aid deadlines? If not, it's not too late.
- Explore the wide variety of financial aid opportunities available to students. The MDHE administers **several grant and scholarship programs**, and many private and community organizations also provide scholarship funds (www.dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/scholarshipsearchtips.php) based on such items as course study, academic merit, or individual talents. Be aware that you should never have to pay a fee for scholarship money. Additionally, you may also visit the MDHE's Facebook page, **Journey to College**, and review the "Scholarships" tab. Visit and "Like" this page at <https://www.facebook.com/journeystocollege>.
- 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 placements 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 2012 will need to achieve

an ACT score of at least 31 to qualify in the top 3 percent or 30 to qualify in the top fourth and fifth percentiles on or before the June 2012 national test date. A qualifying score achieved as a sophomore or junior on a national test date will also be accepted. The MDHE is in the process of verifying the qualifying SAT scores with The College Board and will announce them as soon as possible.

Award amounts may be reduced based on the amount of funds appropriated to the program. Students in the top 3 percent must receive the \$3,000 maximum award before students in the top fourth and fifth percentiles will be awarded. Currently, award amounts are \$1,750 and \$0, respectively, for the 2011-12 academic year. Estimated awards for the 2012-13 academic year will be available in the spring. For more information about the Bright Flight Scholarship, visit the [MDHE's website](#) or contact us at 800-473-6757, option 4.

High School Juniors

- If you haven't done so, visit with your guidance counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and that you'll have all the credits you need to get into the school of your choice. You may also want to talk about Advanced Placement courses to beef up your transcripts and to help minimize your college costs later.
- 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 placements exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.
- Learn about the [different types of colleges and universities](#) available to 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.
- Discuss college finances with your family. When performing your college search, you need to know how much your family will be able to contribute towards your college education. Always remember, just because a college may seem expensive and out of your reach, never assume anything. There are several types of financial aid that may enable you to attend a college that may seem too expensive.
- Open a checking and savings account if you have not already done so.

High School Students

- Do you know how much college costs? Some people assume that college is out of their reach because of the cost. Before you blow it off, learn the facts and see what will work for you. Colleges come in all prices- depending on the type of school you choose. Check out the average cost to attend college at a variety of Missouri schools at www.dhe.mo.gov/data/tuitionandfees.php.

- Order the MDHE's "Planning and Paying for College" information packet via the [MDHE website](#).
- Open up the lines of communication. Talk to your parents about your college dreams and ways to save toward that goal. The earlier you start, the better off you'll be! Have your parents look into college savings programs. For example, MOST (<http://missourimost.s.upromise.com>) is specifically designed to help Missouri parents save money for their kids to go to college.
- Consider signing up for **ACT** or **SAT** preparatory courses. Be sure to check out free practice test questions, test tips, and test descriptions for useful pointers. Visit and "Like" the MDHE's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/journeytocollege, to receive information about scholarships, preparing for college tips, and more on your Facebook wall.

Parents

If your child is...

A high school student:

- If your student would like a little help filling out the **Free Application for Federal Financial Aid**, make plans to attend a **FAFSA Frenzy event** in your area. Financial aid professionals will be available at various locations statewide in February and March to help students and parents fill out the application and answer financial aid-related questions.

To find a FF location or other financial aid workshop near you, check out the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel's (MASFAP) **Show-Me to College events calendar**. The MDHE will also provide a list of sites and dates in the December Monthly Student Reminder.

- Attend financial aid and scholarship presentations with your high school junior or senior.
- Encourage your child to take college classes if they are available at your high school. Courses are usually offered at a reduced rate to high school students and can help your son or daughter earn a few credits toward a college degree.
- 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.

A middle school student:

- Look into college savings programs. For example, MOST (<http://missourimost.s.upromise.com>) is specifically designed to help Missouri parents save money for their kids to go to college.

Scholarship Opportunity

- The **Missouri Gaming Association** has announced contest guidelines for its Project 21 Scholarship Program. This marks the sixteenth year the scholarship campaign has been conducted in Missouri. The goal of this scholarship program is to inform youth that it is not permissible in Missouri for persons under the age of 21 to gamble in a casino and to also warn them about the dangers and consequences associated with underage gambling.

Project 21 2012 Scholarship Program provides students an opportunity to disseminate their message by writing an article or creating a poster or video addressing the issue of underage gambling. Project 21 scholarships will be awarded for 2012 as follows: two \$1,500 first-prize winners and four \$1,000 second-prize winners. For additional information regarding this scholarship opportunity, please visit http://www.missouricasinos.org/pdfs/2012_Project_21_Application.pdf.