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### Important Dates to Remember

**September 9:** Registration deadline for October 1 **SAT**

**September 15:** Registration deadline for October 22 **ACT**

**September 21:** Late registration deadline for October 1 **SAT**

**September 30:** Late registration deadline for October 22 **ACT**

**October 7:** Registration deadline for November 5 **SAT**

## Returning College Students

- If you received a letter from the MDHE stating we received conflicting information reported on the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, which currently renders you ineligible for **Bright Flight** funds for the 2011-12 academic year, you must submit necessary corrections by September 30, 2011. 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.

Corrections can be made by contacting the MDHE at (800) 473-6757, option 4. 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.

- The deadline for eligible **Access Missouri** students to add a school choice to their record is also September 30.
- If you are a Bright Flight or Access Missouri renewal student, you must maintain a 2.5 GPA to continue receiving the award.

## New College Students

- Make copies of your financial aid forms, immunization records, and IRS tax documentation to aid in resolving issues that may arise during your first year of college.
- If you received a letter from the MDHE stating we received conflicting information reported on the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, which currently renders you ineligible for **Bright Flight** funds for the 2011-12 academic year, you must submit necessary corrections by September 30, 2011. 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.

Corrections can be made by contacting the MDHE at (800) 473-6757, option 4. 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.

- The deadline for eligible **Access Missouri** students to add a school choice to their record is also September 30.

## High School Seniors

- Meet with your guidance counselor to verify you are on track to graduate and that your transcripts have all the credits you need to get into the school of your choice.
- Keep on top of important deadlines. Mark your calendar with registration, admissions and financial assistance deadlines and fees.
- Find out if the schools that interest you have online admission applications, and if not, request them by mail. Schedule October campus visits with admissions counselors.
- Attend local and regional college fairs. For your convenience, the **Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel** has created the **Show-Me to College website** to help you locate college fairs and other college planning events in your neck of the woods. The MDHE is planning to exhibit at a large number of fairs listed on the Show-Me to College website, and we encourage you to stop by our booth to obtain information that will better assist you and parents in planning and paying for college.
- Ask employers, teachers, and guidance counselors for letters of recommendation to include with your admissions applications.
- Double check all college admissions deadlines, and make plans to enlist the help of a parent or high school counselor to review your application.
- If you haven't made a final decision about which college to attend, it might be helpful to check out College Board's recommendations for **questions to ask college representatives**. You should also check out the **MDHE's Institution, Program, and Degree** search to see which Missouri schools offer the programs that interest you most.
- Don't let senioritis interfere with your academic goals.

## High School Students

- Make note of registration deadlines and prepare for upcoming **ACT** and **SAT** exams. Taking the exam now may help you during the college decision process. You may also want to check with your high school counselor to see if there is still time to take the **PSAT**. Taken during the junior year, the PSAT is used to award scholarships by the **National Merit Scholarship Corporation**.

- Attend local and regional college fairs. For your convenience, the **Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel** has created the **Show-Me to College website** to help you locate college fairs in your neck of the woods. The MDHE is planning to exhibit at a large number of fairs listed on the Show-Me to College website, and we encourage you to stop by our booth to obtain information that will better assist you and parents in planning and paying for college.
- Have you completed your 0.5 credit for **personal finance** yet? If not, the MDHE wants to help you get a jumpstart on all that money smarts has to offer. Earn the grade you desire in your personal finance course by checking out the MDHE's **financial literacy Web pages**. A wealth of information designed to get you on the fast track to wise financial management can be found within our **"Planning and Paying for College"** section.
- Talk with your parents about setting up a **savings and spending plan** and see how much your money grows over the school year.

## Middle School Students

- Start the year off right. Make it a point to track assignments and keep up with your homework. If you find a particular assignment to be extra challenging, talk to your teacher about it. Tackle it head on; your teacher won't be as sympathetic if you put it off until the last minute before asking for help.

## Parents

**If your child is...**

**A high school student:**

- Help your student get organized about college plans. Talk with your senior about their goals for their educational experience and help make sure deadlines are met.
- Use College Board's **questions to ask college representatives** to start a conversation about choosing the right postsecondary institution. Discuss these topics with your child, and make plans to visit college campuses together.
- Attend financial aid and scholarship presentations with your high school junior or senior.
- Encourage your student to build his/her resume. Positive resume building includes: taking college prep courses, participating in extra-curricular activities, and volunteering at programs outside of school.

- Attend local and regional college fairs with your student. For your convenience, the **Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel** created the **Show-Me to College website** to help you locate college fairs in your neck of the woods. The MDHE is planning to exhibit at a large number of fairs listed on the Show-Me to College website, and we encourage you to stop by our booth to obtain information that will better assist you and parents in planning and paying for college.

## Scholarship Opportunities

- As one of the nation's largest college financial aid programs in the country, the Horatio Alger National Scholarship Program is the only major scholarship effort that specifically assists high school students who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their young lives. While many aid programs are directed primarily to recognizing academic achievement or leadership potential, the Horatio Alger program also seeks students who have a commitment to use their college degrees in service to others.

The National Scholarship Program is awarded to eligible students in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. National Scholars receive an all expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. during the spring of their senior year to participate in the National Scholars Conference. The Horatio Alger Association is pleased to be accepting applications from high school seniors of the class of 2012. For more information about eligibility requirements, visit <https://www.horatioalger.org/scholarships/apply.cfm>. To apply for the Horatio Alger Scholarship program, complete the **online application** by **October 30, 2011**.