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**Important Dates to Remember**

**Feb. 7:** Registration deadline for March 8 **SAT**

**Feb. 24:** Late registration deadline for March 8 **SAT**

## College Students

- The **2014-2015 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is now available online. It is 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 do not overlook any important deadlines and miss out on opportunities for additional dollars.
  - o Your FAFSA must be filed by **April 1, 2014**, 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 2013 taxes.

Completing the FAFSA online after Jan. 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**, a program of **College Goal Sunday**, in February and March.

To find a location near you, check out the **complete list of FAFSA Frenzy sites** via the **MDHE's website**.

- Check with your school's financial aid office to make sure all scholarships and financial aid have been received and applied to your account.
- The Access Missouri statutory maximum and minimum award amounts will change beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year. The chart below compares the statutory maximum and minimum award amounts for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years. If you have any questions about your actual 2013-2014 award amount, visit the MDHE's student portal or contact the MDHE at 800-473-6757, option 4. Based on early projections of the program's funding levels for 2014-2015, it is recommended you use the statutory minimum to estimate your award.

	Public 2-Year		Public 4-Year and Linn State Technical College		Private	
	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
<b>2013-2014</b>	\$1,000	\$300	\$2,150	\$1,000	\$4,600	\$2,000
<b>2014-2015</b>	\$1,300	\$300	\$2,850	\$1,500	\$2,850	\$1,500

- Visit the MDHE's website to learn more about the **Advanced Placement Incentive Grant**, a program created for students who scored well on advanced placement exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.
- Check out the MDHE's **student portal**, where you can access information about how to prepare and pay for college. If the MDHE has received your FAFSA and/or ACT or SAT information, you may also be able to review your eligibility for several state student financial aid programs, as well as your payment history for those programs.
- Use social media, like Facebook and Twitter, wisely. Social media platforms are being used more frequently to bring job seekers and employers together in an effort to fill vacant or newly-created positions. To better position yourself to compete for various job opportunities, check out Yes You Can's "**Do's & Don'ts of Using Social Media in Your Job Search.**"

## High School Seniors

- If you think you will be using state or federal financial assistance to help pay for your college education, it is time to start thinking about filling out the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** for the 2014-2015 academic year on or after January 1, 2014. 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 towards 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 FAFSA filing deadline in late February or early March. In addition to meeting the timeframe for your school, your FAFSA must be completed and filed by **April 1, 2014** to be eligible for some state financial assistance such as the **Access Missouri program**. Because a large number of scholarships and grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, it is 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**, a program of **College Goal Sunday**, in February and March.

To find a FAFSA Frenzy location near you, check out the **complete list of FAFSA Frenzy 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.

1. Your FAFSA PIN number.
  2. Your Social Security number and your parents' Social Security number 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. 2013 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 providing parent information. If you have not yet filed a 2013 income tax return at the time you complete your FAFSA, you can still submit your FAFSA with 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're planning to take the ACT this month, don't forget that 2014 seniors must have an ACT score of 31, or an SAT critical reading score of 800 and an SAT math score of 800, to be in the top 3 percent for the **Bright Flight scholarship**. Students scoring a 30 qualify in the top fourth and fifth percentiles, but awards at that level are not likely to be funded for the 2014-2015 college academic year.
  - If you are an A+ student and plan to use the A+ Scholarship for the summer 2014 term, check with your financial aid office to ensure you complete the FAFSA for the correct academic year.
  - Check out the MDHE's **student portal**, where you can access information about how to prepare and pay for college.
  - Visit the MDHE's website to learn more about the **Advanced Placement Incentive Grant**, a program created for students who score well on advanced placements exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.

## High School Juniors

- Register and take college entrance exams this spring. If you don't feel like you're ready just yet, remember both ACT and SAT offer prep classes that might be worth your while, allowing you to get ready for the test and putting your mind at ease.
- Start researching scholarship opportunities. The earlier you start, the better off you'll be. This may



sound cliché, but it's true. As tuition costs rise, so does the need to score free dollars for college.

- Learn about the different types of colleges and universities available in Missouri. Check out the [MDHE's College & Degree Search](#) to help match up your interests and goals with the schools that are best for you.
- Visit the MDHE's website to learn more about the [Advanced Placement Incentive Grant](#), a program created for students who score well on advanced placements exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.
- Check out the MDHE's [student portal](#), where you can access information about how to prepare and pay for college.

## Nontraditional Students

- If you would like free professional help filling out the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#), financial aid advisors will be available at locations throughout the state to help you during [FAFSA Frenzy](#), a program of [College Goal Sunday](#), in February and March.

To find a FAFSA Frenzy location near you, check out the [complete list of FAFSA Frenzy sites](#) via the [MDHE's website](#).

## Parents

**If your child is...**

**A college student or high school senior:**

- Provide your son or daughter with encouragement to make the most out of the next semester. If your plans include using financial assistance to help with college expenses, encourage him/her to complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) on or after January 1 in order to meet all school and state aid deadlines, and help gather any required materials necessary to complete the application.

If you would like free professional help filling out the FAFSA, financial aid advisors will be available at [locations throughout the state](#) to help you during FAFSA Frenzy, a program of [College Goal Sunday](#), in February and March. You may find [a complete list](#) of FAFSA Frenzy events via the MDHE website.

- What should you bring to FAFSA Frenzy? Your 2013 tax returns, if they are ready; W-2 forms, and student and parent [PINS](#). If you have yet to do your 2013 taxes, bring paycheck stubs from December 2012 that show year-to-date earnings, your 2012 tax forms, and 2013 statements of interest earned. Even if you don't have any 2013 tax information yet, plan to attend anyway to learn valuable information about obtaining



financial aid and filling out the FAFSA.

## Scholarship Opportunities

- Eight \$1000 Missouri Community Service Commission scholarships are available to 9-12th grade student-volunteers through the **2013-2014 High School Student-Volunteer Community Service Scholarship Awards initiative**. Please go to [www.movolunteers.org](http://www.movolunteers.org) for more information. All materials are due on or before **March 3, 2014**.
- For more scholarship opportunities, "Like" the MDHE's **Journey to College page on Facebook** or follow J2C on Twitter. During calendar year 2013, the MDHE posted more than 100 different scholarship opportunities.