

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Spring Fever

The excitement of the new year and the new semester may be slipping away as spring fever most likely sets in. As you push through, remember February is one of those months that can be critical to your end-of-the-year grade point average. Spend cold nights inside studying, prepping for standardized tests, and catching up on reading. Make good use of the extra day we get this month — you won't regret it.

Remember Me SAT Registration February **ACT Test Date** February ACT Registration SAT Test Date March SAT Registration ACI Test Date Connect with us!

High School Students

- Focus on your grades. Yes, taking the ACT and/or SAT is important, but your GPA can put you in a good position for scholarship eligibility and college acceptance.
- It's never too early to start saving for college-related expenses. Look at 5 ways you can make smart financial choices before you even set foot on a college campus.

High School Seniors

 Seniors, you need to complete the 2016-2017 FAFSA. FAFSA Frenzy provides free help for you and your family to complete the Free

Application for Federal Student Aid, often the first step to eligibility for most forms of financial

aid — including some scholarships!

FAFSA Frenzy events will be held throughout
 February and March, with a main event date of Feb.
 28. See if your school, or one nearby, will be hosting an event. Find a complete list of sites online.

- Before attending a FAFSA Frenzy event, register for your FSA ID. You and at least one of your parents will each need to create an FSA ID in order to sign the FAFSA electronically.
- You need to complete the FAFSA in order to be considered for federal and state financial aid. Check with your intended college for its financial aid deadline and be sure you complete the FAFSA by April 1 to be eligible for the Access Missouri Grant.

FAFSA Checklist

- Social security number
- Alien registration or permanent resident card
- Federal income tax return*
- W2s and other income earned
- Parents' federal income tax return*
- Record of untaxed income
- Current bank statements
- Other records of investments
- * The FAFSA can be filed using estimated tax information from 2014. Parents and students will need to update their information after filing their 2015 taxes. Once your 2015 taxes are filed, use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool

College Students

- If you plan to be enrolled again next fall, you should complete the 2016-2017 FAFSA. Find a FAFSA Frenzy event near you for free help with this process.
- In order to be eligible for the Access Missouri Grant, you need to complete your FAFSA by April 1. Most colleges have their own financial aid deadlines too, so make sure you check with your financial aid office to meet that deadline as well.
- Are you finding yourself putting off assignments and creating poor study habits? Here are 5 ways to beat procrastination this semester.
- If you are a recipient of Bright Flight or the A+ Scholarship, keep in mind that as a renewal student, a 2.5 cumulative GPA is required to continue receiving the award.

Parents

- The 2016-2017 FAFSA should be completed if you have a high school senior or returning college student. Remember, you can get free help completing the FAFSA at FAFSA Frenzy events now through March.
- Haven't filed your 2015 taxes yet? That's okay; you can still complete the FAFSA using
 estimated tax information. You'll just have to go back in and update your information.
 Once your taxes have been filed you may be eligible to use the IRS data retrieval tool,
 which should be available starting Feb. 7.