

Happy New Year!

2016 has arrived, and it's time to start fresh. It's not too late to set some goals for the new semester. Focus on things that will help improve your chances for scholarships. Make goals to raise your grade point average, get more involved in extra curricular activities, start tutoring younger students or do some job shadowing.

Remember Me

ACT Registration
January 8

SAT Test Date
January 23

SAT Registration
February 5

ACT Test Date
February 6

ACT Registration
March 4

SAT Test Date
March 5

Connect
with us!



High School Students

- There are thousands of scholarships available for high school students. It's never too early to start applying. There are even scholarships geared toward students as young as middle-school age. Just remember, never pay to apply! Scholarships are free.
- For more tips and scholarship opportunities follow *Journey to College* on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

High School Seniors

- The first step to applying for financial assistance for college is to complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#), or the FAFSA. As of January 1, you can complete the 2016-17 FAFSA! First things first — get 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.
- If you want help completing your FAFSA, plan to attend one of the 100 [FAFSA Frenzy](#) events offered throughout Missouri. Find a complete list of sites [online](#).
- If you haven't chosen a college yet, don't worry! You can list up to 10 colleges on the FAFSA.
- You need to complete the FAFSA in order to be considered for federal and [state financial aid](#), as well as many scholarships. Some financial aid is first-come, first-served, so complete the FAFSA as soon as possible.
- Avoid these [common FAFSA mistakes](#).

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

- You need to complete the [FAFSA](#) each year you plan to attend college. If you'll be returning next fall, now is the time to apply for financial aid. The 2016-17 FAFSA needs to be completed prior to April 1 in order to be eligible for the [Access Missouri Grant](#).
- As you start your new slate of classes, think about what dropping even one of those classes could do to your plans to finish college on time. Could it effect your scholarship or state funding eligibility? Consider all the possibilities before dropping a class.
- Did you transfer to a four-year university for the spring semester? Make the transition smooth with these [transfer tips](#).
- 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

- It's time to file the [2016-17 FAFSA](#). If you have a high school senior or returning college student, you'll want to get this filed as soon as possible. Remember, you can get free help completing the FAFSA at [FAFSA Frenzy events](#) throughout Missouri in January, February and March.