



Looking ahead

By now you're probably thinking about spring break and possibly even the end of the school year. As you look ahead, be thinking about what you can do now to be better prepared for your future.

Remember Me

ACT Registration

March **13**

SAT Test Date

March **14**

SAT Registration

April **6**

ACT Test Date

April **18**

SAT Registration

May **2**

ACT Registration

May **8**

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High School Students

- Remember, if you're a junior, you will be required to take the [ACT](#) this spring. Ask your school counselor when you'll be taking the test and start [prepping](#) now to get the best score possible. Your ACT score can determine scholarships and school admittance.
- It's almost time to start registering for classes for next fall. As you hash out the best schedule for you, consider the following recommended courses. According to most Missouri colleges, these are the courses you need to be [college and career ready](#).

Communication arts.....4 units
Social studies.....3 units
Mathematics.....4 units
Science.....3 units
Fine arts.....1 unit
Physical education.....1 unit

Health education.....0.5 unit
Personal finance.....0.5 unit
*Electives.....7 units
**Two units of a single foreign language are strongly recommended for college-bound students.*

Seniors and College Students

- There is still time to file the 2015-16 [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA).
- Filling out the [FAFSA](#) is the first step in applying for most federal, state and institutional financial aid. You must complete the [FAFSA](#) each year you plan to attend school. Even if you may not qualify for certain grants or scholarships, you still need to file the FAFSA to qualify for federal loans and financial aid awarded by colleges and universities.
- In order to qualify for the [Access Missouri Grant](#), you must file a FAFSA prior to April 1. Some higher education institutions have their own FAFSA deadlines as well for institutional aid, so be sure to check with your school's financial aid office.
- Before you file, register for a [Federal Student Aid PIN](#), or if you've lost or forgot your PIN, [apply for a duplicate](#). You'll use the PIN to sign your FAFSA before submitting it.
- Get help completing the FAFSA at one the remaining [FAFSA Frenzy events](#) this month.
- For the 2015-16 school year: the [Kids' Chance Program](#) has an April 30 deadline; and the [Marguerite Ross Barnett Memorial Scholarship](#) has an Aug. 30 deadline.
- If you've already filed the FAFSA, continue applying for scholarships. Now is also a great time to secure summer employment and internships.

Parents

- [Help](#) your child complete his or her 2015-16 [FAFSA](#) as soon as possible. The Access Missouri Grant eligibility deadline is April 1.
- Even if you aren't planning to help pay for college, your child most likely is considered a dependent student. [Find out](#) what classifies a student as [dependent versus independent](#).
- Although you do not need to have your 2014 taxes filed in order to fill out the FAFSA, you will need to go back and update the FAFSA information once your 2014 taxes are complete. Remember to use the IRS Data Retrieval tool if available.
- Take time to do these [five things](#) with your child after completing the FAFSA.
- College can be expensive. Encourage your child to secure summer employment now and save a portion of the earnings to put toward college expenses.