

Homestretch

It's finally May – possibly the most anticipated month of the school year. No matter what grade you're in, you're probably looking forward to a little summer vacation. School isn't out yet, though. There are still final projects, tests and graduations to get through. Don't forget to finish strong!

Remember Me

ACT Registration

May 6

SAT Registration

May 8

SAT Test Date

June 6

ACT Test Date

June 13

June is the last month seniors can take the ACT or SAT in order to qualify for some scholarships, including Bright Flight. Late registrations are taken through May 20 for the ACT and through May 27 for the SAT, although a late fee is required.

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High School Students

- Finals and aptitude testing are always a big part of the end of the school year. You've made it this far, don't give up now! Focus on your final tests and projects, and be sure to study. By finishing strong you're ensuring those good grades you've worked hard for all year long won't be compromised.
- As you finalize your classes for next semester, consider enrolling in [Advanced Placement](#) or dual-credit courses. Taking college credit courses in high school can save you time and money when you start working on a college degree.
- For those moving into their senior year, try to plan a few college visits for the summer.
- Don't miss out on college tips and information about scholarship opportunities. Follow Journey to College on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Seniors

- Congratulations! You're almost there. As graduation nears, be sure to study and get those projects turned in on time or early. Graduation should be a time to celebrate. Getting your work in early will help you relax and enjoy your last few weeks of high school. Don't let senioritis stand in the way of finishing up and doing it well.
- If you haven't finalized your college plans yet, now is the time to do so. Get in touch with the schools you've been accepted to and let them know if you're planning to attend in the fall. Be sure to complete all the necessary paperwork for housing, registering for classes and attending orientation.
- Do you have a plan for summer employment? By [saving](#) a portion of your summer earnings, you could offset some of your college expenses.
- Keep applying for [grants and scholarships](#) throughout the summer; every little bit helps.
- If you plan to utilize [student loans](#), only borrow what you need. You can return a portion or all of the loan awarded to you back to your college's financial aid office.
- Because financial aid is first come, first served, if you haven't filed your [FAFSA](#) yet, complete it as soon as possible to receive available financial aid.

College Students

- When you receive your [financial aid](#) award offer for next semester, keep in mind you should use all the "free" aid first. You don't have to accept all the student loans available to you. You won't just be [paying that money back](#), you'll be paying it back with interest.
- Consider taking a summer class to help keep you on track to graduate in four years.
- 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

- May can be a busy and distracting month for families. Encourage your son or daughter to finish the school year strong, turning in homework and projects on time, and studying for tests and final exams.
- If you have children attending college next semester, keep in mind they do not have to accept all the student loans available to them. Encourage them to develop [smart money habits](#) and only borrow what they actually need.
- If you filed the 2015-2016 [FAFSA](#) without your 2014 tax information, be sure to go back and update your information using the IRS Data Retrieval tool.