

Realize your potential.



**Planning for
Financial
Success**

2016-17

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Take charge of your future – focus on your finances

As a student, you will face many new challenges as you finish high school and head to college or directly into the workforce. Choosing a school and a career that is right for you can have a huge impact on your future. How you manage your money is equally important. There is a lot to learn about financial aid, credit cards, living a practical lifestyle and basic money management.

Smart financial decisions made today can keep you on the right path well into the future. Likewise, poor financial decisions can produce negative consequences years down the road. Planning for financial success can help you reach your college and career goals and realize your potential.



Look into all forms of financial aid

A variety of financial assistance programs are available to help you fund your college education. Scholarships, grants and work-study assignments are available to students of all ages and backgrounds. Consider all types of financial aid from federal, state, institutional and local sources each year you are in school.

Find out if you qualify for financial aid.

Federal student aid

studentaid.gov

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant
- Federal Work Study
- Direct Subsidized Loan
- Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- Direct PLUS Loans
 - Parents of dependent undergraduate students
 - Graduate and professional students

State student aid

dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants

- A+ Scholarship
- Access Missouri Grant
- Advanced Placement Incentive Grant
- Bright Flight Scholarship
- Kids' Chance Scholarship
- Marguerite Ross Barnett Memorial Scholarship
- Minority Teaching Scholarship
- Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program
- Public Service Officer Survivor Grant
- Vietnam Veteran Survivor Grant
- Wartime Veteran's Survivors Grant

The first step for most of these programs is to complete and file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (fafsa.gov). File your FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1 each year. File your FAFSA by the February 1 priority deadline or by the April 1 final deadline to be eligible for the Access Missouri Grant. Check to see if your institution has an earlier priority deadline. Other Missouri state aid programs may have different deadlines. Visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants for more information.

If you need assistance completing the FAFSA, free help is available through the FAFSA Frenzy program. To find out more information or look for events near you, visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/fafsafrenzyforstudents.php.

Identify and follow up on scholarship opportunities.

- Do as much research as you can, and apply for every scholarship for which you think you may be eligible.
- Follow Journey to College on Facebook or Twitter for various scholarship opportunities and deadlines.
- Meet deadlines! Most programs have limited funding and may not even consider late applications.
- Do not overlook scholarships within your major.
- Contact the financial aid office at your college with any questions or concerns.

Know what it takes to keep your financial aid.

- For all forms of financial aid, be aware of grade point average, enrollment status and other requirements that must be met in order for you to keep receiving financial assistance each year.
- Do not forget, your FAFSA must be filed annually.

Consider student loans carefully

College can be expensive. Your objective is to limit the amount of student loans you have to borrow and, ultimately, pay back. If you decide to take out a student loan, use federal loans first because fees and interest rates tend to be lower and are capped. Consider alternative or private loans only as a last resort. You have the right to reject a portion or all of the loan amounts presented in your financial aid award letter. Borrow only what you need, and follow an academic plan to reduce unnecessary costs.

Manage your student loans.

Keep records regarding your loan(s). Make copies of all letters, canceled checks, receipts and any forms you sign.

If you have a Direct Subsidized Loan, the federal government will pay the interest on that loan while you are continuously enrolled at least half time or in deferment.

However, if you have a Direct Unsubsidized Loan, interest will begin accruing immediately after the first disbursement. It will continue to accrue until the principal balance of the loan is paid in full. So, while it is not mandatory, you are encouraged to make interest payments on Direct Unsubsidized Loans while you are still in school. If you do not, the loan will cost you significantly more in the long run.

Use the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) at nslds.ed.gov to access your student loan account and determine your total debt and the servicer(s) of your loans. You may also retrieve this information by calling 800-4-FED-AID. You will need your FSA ID to access your NSLDS records (studentaid.gov).

Be sure to contact your loan servicer(s) about any changes in your status or anything that may affect your ability to repay your loan. These changes include changing your address or name, transferring to another school, leaving school, or graduating.

Repay your student loans.

Remember, when you receive a student loan you agree to repay the loan even if you do not graduate, are unable to obtain employment, or are not satisfied with your education.

Your loan servicer should inform you of your repayment terms before you enter repayment. Your account will be placed on the Standard Repayment Plan unless you request a different plan from your loan servicer. To determine which repayment plan is best for you, use the repayment estimator at studentaid.gov.

- Standard Repayment
- Extended Repayment
- Graduated Repayment
- Income Based Repayment (IBR)
- Income Contingent Repayment (ICR)
- Income-Sensitive Repayment
- Revised Pay As You Earn Repayment (REPAYE)

There are no penalties for pre-paying your student loans before they officially go into repayment. For more information on these repayment plans, visit studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/understand/plans.

Avoid default.

Communication with your loan servicer(s) and the use of smart financial practices will help steer you away from defaulting on your student loan. Unlike consumer debt, there is no statute of limitation on collecting federal student loan debt. Defaulting on a student loan can result in the following consequences:

- Damage to your credit rating
- Garnishment of your wages
- Withholding of your state or Federal Treasury payments (including tax refunds, Social Security benefits, etc.)
- Loss of professional licenses
- Civil lawsuit, with liability for court costs and/or legal expenses
- Loss of deferment entitlements and flexible repayment options
- Loss of eligibility for further financial aid
- Referral of your account to a collection agency, with liability for collection costs
- Requirement to pay the loan(s) in full
- Denial of employment
- Hold placed on your official college transcript

Live like a college student

“Live like a college student now, so you do not have to later.” It might seem a little cliché, but this expression offers sensible advice. While you may dream of making big bucks upon graduation, your best bet is not to spend money as if you have already landed a great paying job. There are some basic things you can do today to help ease the financial burden.

Be aware.

- Keep track of everything running through your checking account and your student account.

Be smart with your credit cards and other lines of credit.

- Charge only the amount you expect to be able to pay when your billing statement comes each month.
- Never let anyone else borrow your card.
- Limit the number of accounts you have to one or two.

Learn to say “no” to your friends.

- Chances are, others are also feeling a financial pinch, so, every once in a while, suggest an alternative that requires less (or no) money.

Avoid overspending on food.

- If you live on campus, choose the meal plan that is best for your needs.
- If you live off campus, make a trip to the grocery store to stock up before you spend all your money on fast food.

Take advantage of student discounts.

- Ask for special student offers; it usually involves no more than showing your school ID card.

Curb your vending machine usage.

- Spending just a dollar a day in vending machines during a four-year degree program will cost over \$1,000 more than purchasing the same volume of snacks from a grocery store.

Stay away from rent-to-own stores, pawn shops, payday and title loans and check cashing stores.

- The instant gratification you may get from using these businesses is sure to be overshadowed by the increased cost you pay for doing business with them.

Consider all costs when thinking about moving off-campus.

- Make sure you weigh all the costs of off-campus living, not just the cost of rent.
- Security deposits, utilities, food, cooking supplies, cleaning materials, insurance and basic household items should all factor into the decision and your future budget.

Talk to your roommates about money matters.

- Make sure it is clear up front what each person's responsibilities are.
- Know what is shared and what is up to you to provide or contribute.

Visit your school's student employment office.

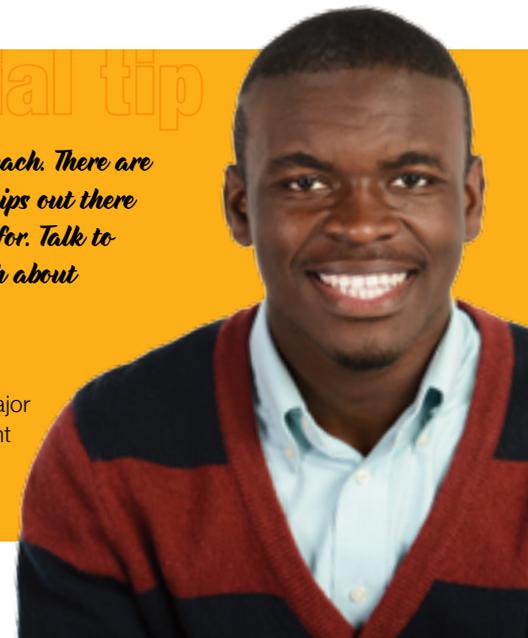
- Campus jobs often have flexible work hours and save you the expense of commuting to an off-campus location.
- A campus job that relates to your major can also be a nice addition to your resume.

Financial tip

“College is not out of reach. There are hundreds of scholarships out there that you could apply for. Talk to people and do research about schools and tuition.”

Brian B.

international relations major
Access Missouri recipient
St. Louis Community
College–Meramec



Learn to create and use a budget

Create your own budget using this worksheet and these simple steps to make sure your money goes toward your needs first, and then your wants.

1. Know how much money you have coming in.

- Employment
- Family
- Financial aid
- Other

2. Know how much money you have going out.

- Tuition
- Living expenses
- Books
- Fees
- Transportation costs
- Insurance
- Personal/discretionary expenses
- Savings

3. Establish a budget that works for you.

- Think of your budget as a spending plan, a way to be aware of how much money you have, where it needs to go, and how much is left over.
- If your income does not cover your expenses, you will need to adjust your budget (and your spending) by deciding which expenses can be reduced and/or how income can be increased.

4. Be realistic. Keep it simple. Give it time.

- Do not cut basic necessities or make your budget so restrictive that it becomes a chore instead of a useful tool.
- You may need to make adjustments the first few months, but you will get the hang of it. Your budget will prove itself over the long term if you reevaluate as your income increases and circumstances change.

Income	Monthly	Annually
Savings, family contribution and gifts		
Employment		
Grants		
Scholarships		
Loans		
Miscellaneous financial aid		
Total income		

Expenses	Monthly	Annually
Housing		
Utilities		
Food		
Transportation		
Educational		
Health insurance		
Entertainment		
Personal care		
Miscellaneous		
Student loan payment		
Savings		
Total expenses		

Totals	Monthly	Annually
Total income		
— Total expenses		
= Total remaining funds		

Manage your bank account wisely

You may already have a checking account and some experience using a debit card. And though the ground rules for maintaining your account while you are at school are pretty much the same as they are at home, there are a few pointers that can help keep you on track as you adjust to college life.

Record all transactions immediately.

- Keep track of every single purchase, payment and cash withdrawal you make. Forgetting may mean the difference between having enough money to get through to the end of the month and coming up short.
- Fill out your checkbook register with each transaction, even if you bank online.
- Check your balance online (and often), but do not automatically assume the account balance you see on your ATM receipt or your bank's website is up to date.

Watch for ATM and debit card fees.

- If you are going away to school, but keeping your checking account with your hometown bank, you need to know if you will be charged a service fee for using other banks' ATMs.
- You may want to consider getting a local account if you anticipate heavy ATM activity.
- Some accounts charge a fee for using a debit card as a debit transaction. Treating such purchases as credit transactions (when swiping your card) may help you avoid the fee.

Safeguard your account information.

- Sign the back of your debit card, memorize your unique personal identification number, and keep the card in a safe place that only you can access.
- Be wary of phishing expeditions that seek to gain your personal information online. If you receive an email that looks like it is from your bank, do not click on the link within the email message, and never provide details about your account. Contact your bank directly to verify its authenticity.

Balance your account regularly.

- Balance your account every month with your bank statement.
- Ensure no unauthorized transactions have occurred.

Create a savings plan

Taking charge of your finances should also involve regular contributions to a savings plan. As a college student, you may feel you are merely trying to get by one semester at a time; however, even small contributions made on a regular basis will work to your benefit. And the younger you start, the better off you will be — in terms of the smart habits you establish and the amount of money you will earn because of those habits.

Make it happen by paying yourself first.

- When you receive your paycheck or other money, deposit or electronically transfer a portion of the funds into your savings account.
- Ask your employer to directly deposit some of your earnings into your savings account.
- Save loose change in a jar and set a goal for how much you want to collect. At the end of each month, deposit your collection into your savings account.

Watch your savings grow.

- Even very small sums of money add up... over time... with interest. The interest that you earn today is added to your savings total, further increasing the amount of interest you earn in the future.

Get a jump start on fall tuition by landing a summer job or paid internship.

- Make arrangements to have some of your paycheck deposited into a back-to-school savings account. By completing this simple task, you may dispel the need to take out additional loans.
- Additionally, there are benefits of part-time jobs and internships while in school in terms of higher starting salaries upon graduation.

Use credit cards responsibly

Getting a credit card is easy. Sometimes it can be too easy, and college students are often targeted by credit card vendors. Keep the following tips in mind for responsible credit card use:

Understand that any time you use a credit card, you are borrowing money.

- If you do not pay off your balance each month, interest will be added to the total amount you owe.

Think before getting your first credit card.

Do you really need a credit card or would another option work just as well?

- Debit card — deducts charges directly from your checking account so you only spend money you have.
- Secured credit card — works similar to a credit card, except that a savings account is established specifically for the card to make payments if you do not.
- Waiting — just put off the decision for six months or a year and see how well you do without a credit card.

Choose wisely.

When selecting a credit card, you should shop around for the best deal. Compare different cards based on your own situation. Look for the following:

- Low fixed annual percentage rate
- Interest calculation method
- Low or no annual fees
- All other charges (late payment fees, transaction fees, over-the-limit fees, etc.)
- Grace period
- Credit limit
- Services and features (cash rebates, frequent flier miles, extended warranties, etc.)

Keep just one card.

It will be easier to keep tabs on your spending.

Think about ways you can track your expenses.

- Check your account online frequently.
- Save receipts.

Photocopy the front and back of your card or keep a record of the following in case your card is lost or stolen:

- Account number
- Issuer's name
- Phone number

The bottom line: do not spend more than you can afford to pay on a monthly basis.

- Wise use of your credit cards will help you establish a solid credit rating and avoid financial problems.
- Find a credit card that best fits your financial needs at bankrate.com/credit-cards.aspx.

Financial tip

“Set a weekly or monthly budget for yourself and stick to it. I also find it handy to download an app on my phone to easily access my credit card account and to ensure that I am aware of the amount I have charged.”

Danielle L.
elementary education major
Culver-Stockton College



Review your credit report regularly

Your credit report is a collection of information about you and your credit history, and it can have a major impact on your life.

Know whether you have a credit report.

You have a credit report if you have ever applied for any of the following:

- Credit card
- Student loan
- Auto loan
- Mortgage

Understand who looks at your credit report.

- Potential creditors
- Landlords
- Potential and current employers
- Government licensing agencies
- Insurance underwriters

Know what these entities are asking.

- How promptly do you pay your bills?
- How many credit cards do you have?
- What is the total amount of credit extended to you?
- How much do you owe on all of your accounts?

Be aware of the consequences of credit mistakes.

Any negative information found on your credit report (late payments, bankruptcies, too much debt) can have a serious impact on your ability to:

- Get credit
- Get a new job
- Advance in your current job
- Rent or buy a home

Know what IS on your credit report.

- Personal identifying information
- Credit account information
- Public record information
- Inquiries

Know what is NOT on your credit report.

- Checking or savings account information
- Medical history
- Race
- Gender
- Religion
- National origin
- Political preference
- Criminal record

Be aware of how long information stays on your credit report.

- Positive information — indefinitely
- Inquiries — six months to two years
- Most negative information — seven years
- Some bankruptcies — 10 years

Request your free credit report.

AnnualCreditReport.com

- You are entitled to one free credit report a year from each of the three credit reporting agencies — Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian.
- Be wary of websites with similar names that may require you to pay for a service in order to receive your free credit report.

Check your three credit reports at least once a year.

- Check all three at once, or one at a time throughout the year.
- Make sure the information is accurate.
- Report information that is not accurate.

Know your credit score.

- Your credit report is free, but you usually have to pay to receive a credit score.
- Various components of your credit history are evaluated to determine your credit score, including:
 - Payment history
 - Outstanding credit owed
 - Length of time your credit has been active
 - Types of credit you have
 - Acquisition of new credit

Improve your credit score.

If you have had financial problems, take these steps to clean up your credit:

- Pay off your current debt.
- Make your payments on time.
- Do not sign up for any new credit cards.
- Stop using your credit cards for new purchases.
- Keep your oldest account open, even if you no longer use it.

Prevent identity theft

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the United States. Perpetrators use someone else's personally identifying information to commit fraud, including borrowing money in another person's name. Victims of identity theft often face debt and credit problems that require extensive time and effort to sort out.

Millions of Americans have fallen victim to identity theft. The stereotypical college student who is careless with personal information and unaware of credit changes can be an enticing target for a would-be identity thief. Do not become a statistic!

Keep your information safe.

- Protect your Social Security number.
- Do not give out personal information unless you know who you are dealing with.
- Shred financial and personal information.
- Use firewalls, anti-spyware and anti-virus software on your electronic devices.
- Do not use obvious passwords.
- Keep your personal information in a secure place.
- If you pay bills by mail, send your payments through a postal mailbox instead of leaving it for a carrier in your home mailbox.

Monitor your financial information.

Review your various financial accounts and statements on a regular basis. Request a free copy of your credit report at AnnualCreditReport.com every year and review it. Be alert to the following items that require immediate attention:

- Statements containing purchases you did not make
- Calls or letters about purchases you did not make
- Bills that do not arrive as expected
- Unexpected credit cards or account statements
- Denials of credit for no apparent reason

Act quickly when you suspect identity theft.

Review the Federal Trade Commission's information at ftc.gov/idtheft on what to know and what to do in the case of identity theft. You should also understand identity theft as it relates to student loans and financial aid. For instance, a federal student loan may be canceled if it was falsely certified as a result of the crime of identity theft.

It is important to check NSLDS regularly while you are in school to make sure that you have actually received all/any financial aid listed for you. If you have any suspicions of fraud or identity theft, contact the U.S. Department of Education's Ombudsman immediately. Visit studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/disputes/prepare/contact-ombudsman for more information.



Explore career options

With more than 800 occupations to consider, choosing a career can be a challenge. To help with this decision, the Missouri Department of Economic Development issued a report, “The ABCs of Missouri Career Grades 2012–2022,” that shows which occupations have the best outlook over the next several years. Occupations are graded A through C. Grades are based on a combination of job openings, percent growth and the average wages of an occupation. The complete report can be found at missourieconomy.org/pdfs/career_grades.pdf.

The following charts show the occupations with the best outlook and those with the most job openings.

Grade A careers

- These careers have the best outlook with average or above projected growth rates, total openings and wages when compared to all occupations in the state. These occupations are expected to grow at nearly double the rate of the state average over the next decade. Grade A careers cover a wide range of career opportunities and require short, medium and long term education and training.

Grade B careers

- These careers account for the largest number of current Missouri workers and are projected to produce the largest number of total openings from 2012 to 2022. The average annual wage for these careers is slightly below the state average and openings will occur at all levels of education and training.

Grade C careers

- These careers represent a large portion of Missouri’s current workforce and are expected to experience a smaller than average growth during the projected period and require a lower level of education and training.

Before choosing a career:

- Think about the type of education or training required for your chosen career. Do your research and decide on a major or program you can stick with. Changing your course of study will increase the time it takes to finish school and, in turn, the cost of your education.
- Use the Missouri Department of Higher Education’s “College and Degree Search” (collegesearch.mo.gov).
- Consider the total cost of your educational program compared to the potential salary you will earn. Keep your future salary in mind when deciding what you can afford to borrow (and repay) in student loans while attending school.

Top job outlook – statewide

Grade	Occupation	Total openings	Average wages
A+	General and operations managers	15,031	\$91,952
A+	Accountants and auditors	10,935	\$65,144
A+	Carpenters	7,097	\$49,187
A+	Electricians	4,273	\$54,978
A+	Computer systems analysts	3,877	\$80,088
A+	Lawyers	3,812	\$116,183
A+	Software developers (applications)	3,224	\$85,772
A+	Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	2,806	\$60,324
A+	Cost estimators	2,785	\$63,260
A+	Nurse practitioners	1,379	\$90,092

missourieconomy.org/customer/statewide.stm

Top job openings – statewide

Grade	Occupation	Total openings	Average wages
B+	Combined food prep and service workers	37,256	\$17,979
B	Retail salespersons	33,312	\$24,851
C+	Cashiers	31,096	\$19,572
C+	Waiters and waitresses	26,542	\$19,273
A	Registered nurses	21,004	\$58,037
B+	Customer service representatives	19,622	\$31,661
B+	Laborers, freight, stock, and material movers	16,902	\$26,311
B	Office clerks (general)	15,950	\$30,036
A+	General and operations managers	15,031	\$91,952
B+	Nursing assistants	13,195	\$22,799

missourieconomy.org/customer/statewide.stm

Determine your future earning potential

Does your financial plan include a realistic idea of the salary you will be earning after college? Log on to Missouri Connections (missouriconnections.org) to get a feel for the salary it will take to live the life you are planning. You can find both state and national salary averages for a number of professions under “Occupational Profiles.”

What is the point of looking at this now? You will develop reasonable expectations about your future income so you can make practical financial choices you will be prepared to live with. This repayment chart will help you determine the salary you will need to earn in order to make your student loan payments.

Total amount borrowed	Minimum payment	Total interest paid	Minimum annual salary needed	Minimum hourly salary needed
\$5,000	\$57.54	\$1,904.83	\$8,631	\$4.15
\$7,500	\$86.31	\$2,857.24	\$12,946	\$6.22
\$10,000	\$115.08	\$3,809.66	\$17,262	\$8.30
\$12,500	\$143.85	\$4,762.07	\$21,577	\$10.37
\$15,000	\$172.62	\$5,714.49	\$25,893	\$12.45
\$17,500	\$201.39	\$6,666.90	\$30,208	\$14.52
\$20,000	\$230.16	\$7,619.31	\$34,524	\$16.60
\$25,000	\$287.70	\$9,524.14	\$43,155	\$20.75
\$30,000	\$345.24	\$11,428.97	\$51,786	\$24.90
\$35,000	\$402.78	\$13,333.80	\$60,417	\$29.05
\$42,500	\$489.09	\$16,191.04	\$73,363	\$35.27
\$57,500	\$661.71	\$21,905.53	\$99,256	\$47.72
\$65,000	\$748.02	\$24,762.77	\$112,203	\$53.94
\$72,500	\$834.33	\$27,620.01	\$125,149	\$60.17

Learn about Missouri's fastest growing occupations.

As you begin making long-range goals for your future and your finances, take a look at salaries and the projected employment for 20 of Missouri's fastest growing occupations from 2012–2022.

Occupation	2022 projected employment	2013 entry wage
Insulation workers (mechanical)	726	\$29,238
Diagnostic medical sonographers	1,518	\$49,151
Interpreters and translators	1,273	\$27,219
Brickmasons and blockmasons	3,133	\$40,385
Nursing instructors and teachers (postsecondary)	1,781	\$43,978
Health specialties teachers, (postsecondary)	4,422	\$50,811
Skincare specialists	1,863	\$18,637
Food scientists and technologists	822	\$40,097
Medical equipment repairers	2,091	\$28,681
Occupational therapy assistants	1,028	\$38,933
Information security analysts	1,911	\$49,675
Meeting, convention, and event planners	2,577	\$28,986
Operations research analysts	1,153	\$35,585
Dental hygienists	3,551	\$56,256
Physician assistants	1,621	\$44,779
Market research analysts and marketing specialists	8,235	\$32,988
Logisticians	2,789	\$42,092
Medical secretaries	19,762	\$22,779
Biochemists and biophysicists	1,613	\$43,162
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	9,536	\$35,435

Source: Missouri Economic Research and Information Center

Refresh your financial literacy skills

Everyone's financial situation is unique, and sometimes it seems like too much information to track. Analyzing the options to see which are best for your personal circumstances can be daunting. If you bypassed personal finance in high school or need a quick refresher, there are a variety of avenues available to learn the basics.

Practical Money Skills

practicalmoneyskills.com/games

Several games are available including "Financial Football" and "Financial Soccer."

Budget and goals

practicalmoneyskills.com/calculators

Developing a spending and savings plan can help you live within your means. It can also help you plan for the future. Use the budget calculator to take an objective look at your income and expenses to create a plan that will best help you meet your financial goals.

Student loan repayment estimator

studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/understand/plans#estimator

Use the repayment estimator to help you choose a repayment plan you can afford.

Savings and investments

practicalmoneyskills.com/calculators

The accumulation of interest will show you just how valuable saving and investing can be. Whether you are looking to save a million or planning to invest your money, these calculators will show you how much your account will be worth in the future, including the amount of interest earned.

Manage your accounts online

mint.com

Mint.com brings all your financial accounts together online, automatically categorizes your transactions, lets you set budgets, helps you achieve financial goals, and lets you customize electronic alerts linked to your financial account.

Seek help when you need it

Maybe you have tried everything, but you are still having difficulty paying your bills on time. It may be time to speak to a professional credit counselor.

Consumer credit counseling calls and sessions are confidential.

A credit counselor can help you deal with:

- Financial responsibilities
- Creditor calls
- Pending consumer legal action against you
- Purchasing a home
- Bankruptcy
- Repairing and rebuilding your credit
- Reading credit reports
- Getting back on the road to financial success

To contact a credit and debt counseling agency, visit yellowpages.com and search for credit and debt counseling or contact the Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies (aiccca.org) or the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (nfcc.org). Be sure to choose a nonprofit organization.

If you are having trouble making your federal student loan payments, contact your servicer(s) immediately to learn about your different repayment options.

Financial tip

"For me, the best way to save money has been to simply keep track of how much money I make each pay period. After I establish that, I set myself a budget."

Dalton C.

biology major

A+ recipient

Metropolitan Community College–Maple Woods



Ten ways to graduate with less debt

1

Complete the FAFSA annually.

2

Understand the federal grants available to you.

3

Research state scholarship and grant programs.

4

Apply for institutional scholarships.

5

Explore private scholarships.

6

Inquire about work programs available on your campus.

7

Set up a payment plan for your tuition.

8

Secure summer employment.

9

Invest in MOST, Missouri's 529 college savings plan.

10

Live like a college student now, so you do not have to later.

Helpful links

Annual Credit Report

AnnualCreditReport.com

Budget and goals

practicalmoneyskills.com/calculators
thesimpledollar.com/debt-payoff-calculator

Compare credit cards

bankrate.com

FAFSA Frenzy

dhe.mo.gov/ppc/ffsites.php

Federal Student Aid

studentaid.gov

Federal Trade Commission's scholarship scams

consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0082-scholarship-and-financial-aid-scams

Financial Football

practicalmoneyskills.com/games/trainingcamp/ff

Financial Soccer

practicalmoneyskills.com/games/worldcup

Financial Literacy Month

financialliteracymonth.com

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

fafsa.gov

Mapping Your Future

mappingyourfuture.org

Missouri Connections

missouriconnections.org

Missouri Department of Higher Education

dhe.mo.gov

Missouri Economic and Research Information Center

Top job outlook and openings — statewide
missourieconomy.org/customer/statewide.stm

Missouri career grades report
missourieconomy.org/pdfs/career_grades.pdf

Missouri's fastest growing occupations
missourieconomy.org/pdfs/fastest_growing_state_2013-15.pdf

Missouri student aid programs

dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants

National Foundation for Credit Counseling

nfcc.org

National Student Loan Data System

nslds.ed.gov

Planning and paying for college

dhe.mo.gov/ppc

Practical Money Skills

practicalmoneyskills.com

Savings and investments

practicalmoneyskills.com/calculators
annuity.org/financial-literacy

The Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies

aiccca.org

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

va.gov

Yellow Pages

yellowpages.com

August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes	
	1 FAFSA filing deadline for Marguerite Ross Barnett scholarship for the 2016–2017 academic year. ¹	2	3	4	5	6		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Are you ready to live like a college student? ²		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
28 Be smart when approached by credit card vendors. ³	29	30	31 ¹ Learn more about funding your education on pages 4–7. ² Save money whenever you can so you do not end up paying for it later. See pages 8–9 to learn more. ³ Tips for using credit cards responsibly can be found on pages 14–15.	July 2016 <i>S M T W Th F S</i> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		September 2016 <i>S M T W Th F S</i> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes
<p>August 2016</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>	<p>October 2016</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30 31</p>	<p><i>Did you know?</i> If you take 15 credit hours per semester, you can graduate with a bachelor's degree in four years.</p> <p>¹Know what is on your credit report and clean it up, if necessary. See pages 16–17 to learn more.</p> <p>²Using financial calculators is easy. See page 24 for more details.</p>					
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	Labor Day						Check your credit report through Equifax. ¹
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Grandparents Day							U.S. Constitution Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		
Use online calculators to help manage your income. ²							

October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes
<p>September 2016</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>November 2016</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30</p>	<p><i>Did you know?</i> You can receive free help completing the 2017–2018 FAFSA at a FAFSA Frenzy event near you starting in November.</p> <p>¹Take advantage of financial aid opportunities. See pages 4–7 to learn more.</p> <p>²Banking in college does not have to be hard. Learn more on page 12.</p> <p>³Halloween money saving tip: make your own costume instead of buying one.</p>				<p>1</p> <p>File your 2017–2018 FAFSA as soon as possible.¹</p>	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	<p>10</p> <p>Columbus Day</p>	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Are you keeping track of your debit card and student account transactions? ²
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	<p>31</p> <p>Halloween³</p>						

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes	
<p>October 2016</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30 31</p>	<p>December 2016</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	1	2	3	4	5	<p>Check with your school to verify their priority deadline for filing the FAFSA.</p>	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. ¹		Election Day			Veterans Day ²			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
 <p>FAFSA Frenzy main event day</p>								
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
				Thanksgiving Day				
27	28	29	30	<p><i>Did you know?</i> Tobacco use can take a toll on your budget. If you smoke a \$6 pack of cigarettes a day, from age 18 to age 65, you will send \$102,930 up in smoke!</p> <p>¹Time to fall back. Set your clock back one hour.</p> <p>²Veterans and their families may be eligible for valuable higher education benefits. To learn more, visit va.gov.</p>				

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes
<p>November 2016</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30</p>	<p>January 2017</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p><i>Did you know?</i> If you graduate in December 2016, your six month grace period or loan repayment will start the day after you graduate.</p> <p>¹Creating a budget you can stick to is easy. See pages 10–11 for help.</p> <p>²Get a realistic idea about salaries and job opportunities on pages 20–23.</p>	1	2	3	<p>Do you have a budget in place for the new year?¹</p>	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Any idea how much money you could make after you graduate? ²							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Christmas Day							

January 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1 New Year's Day	2	3 Remember to file your 2017–2018 FAFSA by February 1 to meet the priority deadline to be eligible for the Access Missouri Grant. ¹	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17	18	19	20	21 Check your credit report through TransUnion. ²	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31	¹ You can receive free help completing the 2017–2018 FAFSA at FAFSA Frenzy events throughout Missouri. For more information, visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/fafsafrenzyforstudents.php .	² Staying on top of your credit can help fend off identity thieves. See pages 16–19 to learn more.	December 2016 <i>S M T W Th F S</i> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February 2017 <i>S M T W Th F S</i> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes
<p>January 2017</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p>March 2017</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>		<p>1</p> <p>Did you file your 2017–2018 FAFSA?¹</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Check your campus calendar for free activities or entertainment.²</p>	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	<p><i>Did you know?</i> Eating out can cost more than you think. If you eat at a restaurant three times per week instead of using your prepaid dining hall visits, you will spend more than \$1,400 per year on meals you already paid for!</p> <p>¹Your 2017–2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid must be filed by February 1, 2017 to meet the priority deadline for the Access Missouri Grant.</p> <p>²Live like a college student with money saving tips on pages 8–9.</p> <p>³Send your sweetheart a homemade card or gift instead of purchasing something expensive.</p>				

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes
<p>February 2017</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28</p>	<p>April 2017</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>¹Time to spring forward. Set your clocks ahead one hour.</p> <p>²For ideas on making your savings grow, see page 13.</p>	1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. ¹					St. Patrick's Day		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
						Start searching for summer employment or internship opportunities. ²	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes																																																																																			
<p>March 2017</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		<p>May 2017</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<p><i>Did you know?</i> April is Financial Literacy Month. Check it out online at financialliteracymonth.com. If you invest \$100 per month — starting when you are 18 — and earn 5 percent on the money, compounded monthly, you will have \$228,415 when you are 65.</p> <p><small>*Your 2017–2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid must be filed by the final deadline of April 1, 2017 to be eligible for the Access Missouri Grant.</small></p>	<p>1</p> <p>Did you file your 2017–2018 FAFSA?¹</p>	
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																				
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Easter	Tax filing deadline																																																																																									
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30																																																																																										

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes																																																																																											
<p><i>Did you know?</i> If you graduate in May 2017, your six-month grace period or loan repayment will start the day after you graduate. Information regarding student loan repayment plans can be found on page 7.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																												
7	8 Truman Day	9	10	11	12	13 Check your credit report through Experian ¹																																																																																												
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																												
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																												
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31 ¹ Speak to a professional credit counselor if you need help getting back on track. See page 25 to learn more.	<p>April 2017</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							<p>June 2017</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td> </tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S							1 2 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
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June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes
<p>May 2017</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>	<p>July 2017</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30 31</p>	<p><i>Did you know?</i> Loan repayment begins this month for December 2016 graduates.</p> <p>*The FAFSA must be filed by June 30 to receive any federal aid for which you were eligible the previous school year.</p>		1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
			Flag Day				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Father's Day							
25	26	27	28	29	30		
					2016-2017 FAFSA Deadline!		

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes
<p>June 2017</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>August 2017</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>	<p><i>Did you know?</i> If you save \$1 a day from your 18th birthday until your 65th birthday, and the money earns 5 percent interest, you will have \$69,232.</p> <p>¹Independence Day money saving tip: attend a free, local fireworks display instead of purchasing your own.</p> <p>²Make saving happen. See page 13 to learn more.</p>				1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
		Independence Day ¹					The year is half over. How much have you put into savings? ²
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						



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TREES	WATER	ENERGY	SOLID WASTE	GREENHOUSE GASES
xxxxx fully grown	xxxxx gallons	xxxxx million BTU	xxxxx pounds	xxxxx pounds of CO ₂

Calculations based on research by Environmental Defense and other members of the Paper Task Force

