

Journey to College MONTHLY REMINDER

DECEMBER 2016



A final push!

You've made it through your first holiday break — now it's a push to the finish. With just a few weeks left in the semester, do everything you can to bring up or maintain your grades. Know where you stand in all of your classes and prepare now for finals.

High School Students

- ✓ Finish the semester strong by focusing on passing your finals and completing projects before their due date.
- ✓ Make a little cash over the holiday break by babysitting, pet sitting or clearing snow from driveways for friends and neighbors. Many retailers offer seasonal employment which also may be a good option for you.
- ✓ The holiday break also may be a good time to volunteer. Volunteering can help you discover your interests for a possible career, and it looks great on résumés and college admissions and scholarship applications.

High School Seniors

- ✓ If you haven't filed your 2017–18 **FAFSA** yet, it should be at the top of your to-do list. Your FAFSA should be filed by the Access Missouri priority deadline of Feb. 1. Eligible students who apply on or before Feb. 1 are guaranteed a grant award. You must submit your FAFSA by April 1 to meet the Access Missouri final deadline to be considered for eligibility. Eligible students who apply between Feb. 1 and April 1 will be awarded based on funding availability.
- ✓ Work with your high school counselor if you need help completing your 2017–18 FAFSA. Remember to get your **FSA ID** username and password before starting the application so you can sign and submit your FAFSA online. You can't qualify for most student aid without it!

College Students

- ✓ Finals week is coming! Here is a **list of 20 things** you can do to be as prepared as possible.
- ✓ You need to file a FAFSA every year you plan to enroll in college. That means it's time to complete your 2017–18 **FAFSA**, which became available Oct. 1, in order to qualify for student aid for next year.
- ✓ Even if you haven't qualified for federal aid in the past, file anyway! Things change from year-to-year, and you need to have a FAFSA on file to qualify for many scholarships.
- ✓ Are you borrowing wisely? Did you know that most financial advisors recommend that your monthly student loan payments should NOT exceed 8 percent of your total monthly gross income after you have graduated? Do your research to see how much **earning potential** you have, and plan to borrow accordingly.

Parents

- ✓ Your high school senior or current college student needs to complete the 2017–18 **FAFSA** as soon as possible. You will need your own **FSA ID** username and password, and you'll need to provide 2015 income tax information. The FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for federal, state and some institutional aid.
- ✓ If you have high school students, encourage them to take advantage of the **A+ Scholarship** program, if it is available at their school. Students who meet the A+ requirements can receive two years of tuition at a participating public community college or vocational/technical school, or certain private two-year vocational/technical schools.



Important Dates

DECEMBER

10

ACT Test Date

DECEMBER

21

SAT Registration

JANUARY

13

ACT Registration

JANUARY

21

SAT Test Date

FEBRUARY

1

Access Missouri
FAFSA Priority
Deadline

FEBRUARY

10

SAT Registration

Journey  College

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