



## Filing the FAFSA

February is prime time for filing the FAFSA. All high school seniors and returning college students will need to complete the application to qualify for state and federal financial aid. So get to filing!

## Remember Me

ACT Test Date

February **7**

SAT Registration

February **13**

ACT Registration

March **13**

SAT Test Date

March **14**

SAT Registration

April **6**

ACT Test Date

April **18**

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## High School Students

- All juniors in Missouri 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.
- Keep up with your classes so you aren't playing catch-up with your grade point average later on in the semester. Your grades also impact your future.

## Seniors and College Students

- It's time to start filing the 2015-16 [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA). Before you begin filing, be sure to register for a [Federal Student Aid PIN](#), or if you've lost or forgot your PIN, [apply for a duplicate](#).
- Filing 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 college. Even if you don't qualify for grants or scholarships, you still need to file the FAFSA to qualify for federal loans and institutional aid.
- Get help completing the FAFSA. The main FAFSA Frenzy event date is Sunday, Feb. 22, but with [88 FAFSA Frenzy events](#) now through March, there are plenty of dates and locations to fit your schedule. Just for attending, you will be entered into a statewide drawing to win one of sixteen \$500 scholarships to be used at a Missouri institution during the Fall 2015 semester.
- You should file the FAFSA as soon as possible to improve your financial aid package. When you file, be sure to avoid these [7 Common FAFSA Mistakes](#).
- For the 2015-16 school year: to qualify for the [Access Missouri Grant](#), you must file prior to April 1; the [Kids' Chance Program](#) has an April 30 deadline; and the [Marguerite Ross Barnett Memorial Scholarship](#) has an Aug. 30 deadline.
- Some institutions have their own FAFSA deadlines as well, so be sure to check with your school's financial aid office.

### 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 2013. Parents and students will need to update their information after filing their 2014 taxes. Once your 2014 taxes are filed, use the [IRS Data Retrieval Tool](#).

## Parents

- [Help](#) your child complete his or her 2015-16 [FAFSA](#) as soon as possible to improve the chances of being offered the best financial aid package. You do not need to have your 2014 taxes filed in order to fill out the FAFSA, however you will need to go back and update the FAFSA information once your 2014 taxes are complete.
- Even if you don't plan to help pay for college, your child most likely is considered a dependent student. [Find out](#) what classifies a student as [dependent versus independent](#).
- Take time to do these [5 things](#) with your child after completing the FAFSA.