

Journey to College MONTHLY REMINDER

FEBRUARY 2017



In the thick of it

You're right in the thick of the school year, and staying on track is key. It's easy to lose motivation as you work through the day-to-day tasks. However, spring break will be here soon, and the end of the year will follow shortly thereafter. Try to remember that each day of hard work is one step closer to your goals.

High School Students

- ✓ It's never too early to start planning for your future. Learn more about the benefits of college and check out a few ways you can get started in [It's Never Too Early](#).
- ✓ Are you gearing up to choose your classes for next fall? Make sure you take the right courses to help you [prepare for college and a career](#).
- ✓ Use the tools at [MissouriConnections.org](#) to discover careers that match your interests. Find information about jobs available in your area and how much education you need to pursue your dream career. If your school participates in Missouri Connections, be sure to log in so you can save your information. If you can't create a log in, choose the guest option and print any assessments you complete for future reference.

High School Seniors

- ✓ If you haven't filed your 2017–18 [FAFSA](#) yet, you have a little time left. You can't qualify for most student aid without it! Your FAFSA should be filed by the Access Missouri final deadline of April 1. [Eligible students](#) who apply between Feb. 1 and April 1 will receive a grant based on funding availability. Don't forget to check with the college you plan to attend to see what its FAFSA deadline is as well.
- ✓ Senioritis: it affects even the most motivated of students. [Here](#) are some ideas to overcome!
- ✓ Keep searching for scholarships. Schedule a time to meet with your high school counselor to find out what local scholarships are still available.
- ✓ If you haven't applied to college yet but think you might be interested, call the school's admissions department and submit your [admissions application](#) ASAP.

College Students

- ✓ You should file a FAFSA every year you plan to enroll in college. File your 2017–18 [FAFSA](#) before your school's FAFSA deadline or the April 1 [Access Missouri](#) final deadline, whichever comes first. If you haven't signed up for an [FSA ID](#) yet, do that before filing your FAFSA. It will allow you to sign and submit your FAFSA online.
- ✓ Time is money — so the more time you spend in college, the more your expenses rack up. Think [15 to Finish](#) as you work toward your degree.
 - Know how many credit hours you need for the degree you're seeking.
 - Take 15 or more credit hours each semester to earn an associate degree in two years and a bachelor's degree in four years.
 - Consider all your options — summer classes or online courses can help you graduate on time.

Parents

- ✓ Your high school senior or college student should complete the 2017–18 [FAFSA](#) as soon as possible. You will need your own [FSA ID](#) username and password and 2015 income tax information to file. The FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for federal, state and some institutional aid, including federal work-study. File prior to the April 1 [Access Missouri Grant](#) final deadline or before the school's FAFSA deadline, whichever comes first.
- ✓ [College visits](#) may be the determining factor when high school seniors are trying to make their final college decisions. Encourage your senior to take online tours and in-person tours if at all possible. Use this [checklist](#) to make the most of college visits.



Important Dates

FEBRUARY

10

SAT Registration

FEBRUARY

11

ACT Test Date

MARCH

3

ACT Registration

MARCH

11

SAT Test Date

APRIL

1

Access Missouri
FAFSA
Final Deadline

APRIL

7

SAT Registration

APRIL

8

ACT Test Date

Journey  College

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dhe.mo.gov/ppc/students/journeytocollegeforstudents.php

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