

# Journey to College MONTHLY REMINDER

JANUARY 2017



## New year, new you!

You've got a chance this month for a fresh start as you head into a new year and a new semester. Start things off right by getting organized and staying focused on your goals. Reflect on 2016 and make some resolutions to challenge yourself in the new year.

### High School Students

- ✓ Schedule a time to meet with your school counselor to talk about your classes and potential college choices. Map out your remaining semesters to meet graduation requirements and challenge yourself to prepare for college.
- ✓ Use the tools at [www.MissouriConnections.org](http://www.MissouriConnections.org) to narrow down your interests and see which careers match. If your school participates in Missouri Connections, be sure to log in so your information can be saved. If you can't create a log in, choose the guest option and be sure to print any assessments you complete for future reference.

### High School Seniors

- ✓ If you haven't filed your 2017-18 **FAFSA** yet, make it your first priority in the new year. You can't qualify for most student aid without it! Your FAFSA should be filed by the Access Missouri priority deadline of Feb. 1. **Eligible students** who complete their FAFSA on or before Feb. 1 are guaranteed an award. You must submit your FAFSA by April 1 to meet the final deadline to be considered for eligibility. Eligible students who apply between Feb. 1 and April 1 will be awarded based on funding availability.
- ✓ Don't forget to check with the college you plan to attend to see what its FAFSA deadline is.
- ✓ Even if you don't think you will qualify for financial aid, file anyway! The FAFSA isn't just for grants; it also determines your eligibility for some scholarships, student loans and federal work-study.
- ✓ Remember to get your **FSA ID** username and password before starting the FAFSA so you can sign and submit your application online.
- ✓ If you haven't applied to college yet, but think you might be interested, call the school's admissions office and submit your **admissions application** as soon as possible.

### College Students

- ✓ You should 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.
- ✓ Did you receive the Access Missouri Grant? In order to renew your eligibility for next school year, you must complete your FAFSA. The priority deadline is Feb. 1. Be sure to check with your college to see what its priority deadline is as well, and then file your FAFSA to meet whichever deadline is earlier.
- ✓ It may seem early, but it is time to start thinking about landing a job or internship for the summer. **Use these tools** to help get your resume and cover letter started as you seek out the perfect opportunity for you.

### Parents

- ✓ Your high school senior or current college student should complete the 2017-18 **FAFSA** as soon as possible. You 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, including federal work-study. File prior to the Feb. 1 Access Missouri Grant priority deadline.
- ✓ Encourage your high schoolers to do some major research when it comes to potential careers. Job shadowing, volunteering and internships can help students decide what their interests are before they get to college. Once a potential field of study has been chosen, check out how much education is required, and research which colleges or training programs are best.

### Important Dates

JANUARY

**13**

ACT Registration

JANUARY

**21**

SAT Test Date

FEBRUARY

**1**

ACCESS Missouri  
FAFSA Priority  
Deadline

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

Journey  College

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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