

# Journey to College MONTHLY REMINDER

MARCH 2017



## Midterms and spring break!

Keep your momentum just a bit longer. Spring break is near! Take time to study for your midterms and do your best. It's easy to get antsy about an upcoming break, but you don't want your grades to suffer because of it. Make a list of all the things you should be working on this month and get going!

### High School Students

- ✓ As you start to look at classes for next year, explore your options. Interesting courses may help you decide what career you want to pursue. Consider taking AP or dual credit classes. Earning college credit during high school can help put you on track to graduate from college on time.
- ✓ Juniors, your ACT test is coming up soon. Use free online tools at [ACT.org](http://ACT.org) to prepare. Your ACT score can impact your college acceptance and scholarship eligibility, so it's important to do your best.
- ✓ Use your spring break wisely. Read, volunteer, job shadow, or apply for scholarships. There are scholarships available for students as young as middle-school age. Use search engines like [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com), [myscholly.com](http://myscholly.com) and [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com) to find scholarships that fit you.

### High School Seniors

- ✓ If you haven't filed your 2017–18 **FAFSA** yet, you're running out of time to meet the Access Missouri Grant final deadline. **Eligible students** who apply by April 1 will be awarded a grant based on funding availability.
- ✓ **Decision Day** is just around the corner. Most colleges and universities ask that you notify them of your plans to enroll for the fall semester by May 1. If your school is hosting a Decision Day event, take advantage of any help provided and participate in the planned activities. Share your college decision on social media using #MODecisionDay, #IDecided and #Classof2017.
- ✓ College visits can help you make your final college decision. Use this [checklist](#) to make the most of your visits. If you can't make the trip, remember, many schools offer virtual tours as well.

- ✓ If you haven't applied to college yet but think you might be interested, **it's not too late!** Talk to your high school counselor and call the school's admissions department to 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. Complete 15 or more credit hours a semester to put you on track to graduate with an associate degree in two years or a bachelor's degree in four years. Think **15 to Finish** to help you graduate on time.

### Parents

- ✓ Your high school senior or college student should complete the 2017–18 **FAFSA** before the final **Access Missouri Grant** deadline of April 1. The FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for many forms of financial aid.
- ✓ As summer draws near, encourage your teenager to get a **part-time job**. A summer job can provide spending money, teach responsibility, and provide real-world experience that can help your son or daughter succeed in college and a career.
- ✓ There are only two ACT/SAT test dates left for high school seniors to increase their scores in order to qualify for scholarships. Encourage your senior to retake the ACT if he or she could benefit from a higher score.



### IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

**11**

SAT Test Date

APRIL

**1**

Access Missouri  
FAFSA  
Final Deadline

APRIL

**7**

SAT Registration

APRIL

**8**

ACT Test Date

MAY

**1**

Decision Day

MAY

**5**

ACT Registration

MAY

**6**

SAT Test Date

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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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