

Journey to College MONTHLY REMINDER

NOVEMBER 2016



It's go time!

You're halfway through the semester and what you're doing matters. The grades, the activities, the projects — each one is preparing you for bigger and better things. Keep up the momentum! The next few weeks before holiday break will fly by!

High school students

- ✓ You may not realize it now, but your grades will count for more than a pat on the back at the end of the year. Your GPA is one of the main factors considered on college scholarships and college applications. If your grades aren't as good as they should be, try your best to make improvements before your senior year.
- ✓ Start getting organized for your future now. Create a college binder where you can keep college information. Make a list of colleges you like, and check to see if they meet your needs and interests — look at majors, campus size, location, extra-curricular activities, etc.
- ✓ Use Journey to College publications to help you navigate high school and the college planning process. View or order publications online at <http://dhe.mo.gov/publications.php>.

High school seniors

- ✓ November should be a busy month. You should finish submitting your college applications and continue to seek out scholarships. If you haven't filed your FAFSA yet, you need to make that a priority as well.
- ✓ Find a FAFSA Frenzy event near you between now and January for free 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 financial aid without it!
- ✓ File your FAFSA before the Access Missouri Grant priority deadline of Feb. 1.

College students

- ✓ The 2017–18 FAFSA became available Oct. 1. Have you filed yet? If you plan to be enrolled next fall or spring, you need to file your FAFSA as soon as possible.
- ✓ Changes made to the FAFSA this year mean you can file earlier, and use your 2015 income tax information. You may be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, making filing your FAFSA easier than ever!
- ✓ As you register for next semester, keep in mind how many total credits you need to graduate on time. Do the math, then take at least 15 credit hours to put you on track. Look ahead and determine if you'll need to take an extra summer course or two to cut down your time to graduation.

Parents

- ✓ One of the most important things you can do to help your son or daughter qualify for financial aid is to assist in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). High school seniors or current college students need to complete the 2017–18 FAFSA as soon as possible.
- ✓ When filling out the FAFSA you will need your own FSA ID username and password, and you will need to provide 2015 income tax information. The FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for federal, state and some institutional aid.
- ✓ Scholarships can play a huge part in paying for college. There are scholarships available for students of all ages, which means your son or daughter can get started early! Encourage them to seek out scholarships online and by asking their high school counselor.



Important Dates

OCTOBER

1

2017–18 FAFSA became available

NOVEMBER

3

SAT registration deadline

NOVEMBER

4

ACT registration deadline

NOVEMBER

5

SAT test date

DECEMBER

3

SAT test date

DECEMBER

10

ACT test date

DECEMBER

21

SAT registration

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