

Journey to College MONTHLY REMINDER

OCTOBER 2016



Happenings and homework

October brings all kinds of fun activities that can quickly distract you from your bigger-picture priorities. Be sure you're keeping up with your homework in the midst of homecoming, Halloween and other fall festivities. It's hard to believe, but midterm exams and parent-teacher conferences are right around the corner.

High school students

- ✓ Did you know that you don't have to be a senior to apply for some scholarships? It's true! There are scholarships available for different age groups, which means you can get a head start on saving for college. Find scholarships on websites like Fastweb.com or by asking your school counselor about local opportunities.
- ✓ As you plan for next semester, consider taking challenging courses and courses that may help you explore possible career choices. If your school offers dual-credit courses, definitely consider enrolling. Taking dual-credit courses during high school can save you time and money when it comes to attending college.
- ✓ Not sure what exactly counts as college? Find out on the new [Journey to College blog](#).

High school seniors

- ✓ It's **FAFSA** time. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid became available on Oct. 1. You need to complete a FAFSA in order to qualify for most financial aid, including many grants, scholarships and student loans.
- ✓ Before you file your FAFSA, be sure to get an **FSA ID** username and password. If you are a dependent student, one of your parents also needs to sign up for an FSA ID username and password. The FSA ID will allow you to sign and submit your FAFSA online.
- ✓ If your school or a school or organization in your area is having a **FAFSA Frenzy event**, take advantage of the free help. Financial aid experts will be on hand at events throughout Missouri to help you complete your FAFSA.
- ✓ The best time to **apply to college** is in the fall. It's important to give yourself some options, so

consider applying to more than one school. It's also a great time to go on some college visits – it may help you narrow your college search.

College students

- ✓ It's time to complete your FAFSA. The FAFSA has a new filing start date, and is available now! You will use 2015 tax information so you won't have to wait for your parents to file their 2016 taxes in order to complete your FAFSA. Learn more about the FAFSA changes on the new [Journey to College blog](#).
- ✓ If you need help filing your FAFSA, take advantage of FAFSA Frenzy events near you. Also, don't hesitate to ask your financial aid office for help if you need it.
- ✓ 2017-2018 FAFSA must-haves
 1. FSA ID username and password
 2. Social Security Number
 3. 2015 tax information

Parents

- ✓ If you have high school seniors or current college students, they need to complete the **FAFSA** as soon as possible. The FAFSA determines their eligibility for most forms of financial aid. In fact, there is no way to receive an Access Missouri Grant or a Pell Grant or participate in Federal Work-Study without a completed the FAFSA.
- ✓ If your child will be filing a FAFSA this year, you need to apply for your own **FSA ID** username and password. You also will need to provide some financial information on the FAFSA.
- ✓ A great way to help pay for your children's college is to start a MOST 529 savings account. Even if you have a current college student, opening an account could be beneficial. Find out more at missourimost.org.



Important Dates

OCTOBER

1

FAFSA filing begins

OCTOBER

22

ACT test date

NOVEMBER

3

SAT registration
deadline

NOVEMBER

4

ACT test date

NOVEMBER

5

SAT test date

DECEMBER

3

SAT test date

DECEMBER

10

ACT test date

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