

Opening Doors to Education



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THE
Scholarship
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OF ST. LOUIS

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loans & grants

YOU Matter...

- Missouri School Counselor Standard
 - Standard #1—Student Development: *The professional school counselor utilizes his/her skills and knowledge of student development and behavior to promote the mental health and well-being of all students by facilitating their academic, career, and personal/social development.*
- Timing
- Proximity
- You care (Why did you become a counselor?!)

January

Where do you hope, or expect, students to be when they return from winter break in January?

Back to Basics

- Submitted admissions applications to a range of schools;
- Met priority deadlines;
- Researched scholarship processes and relevant deadlines;
- Have a back-up plan in place (or at least in process...).

January

- Create FSA ID for student and parent, if dependent;
- Submit the FAFSA, with estimates, in advance of priority deadlines;
- List ALL colleges on the FAFSA to which the student has applied to for admission;
- Create access to, and routinely check, school portals and email accounts for financial aid instructions.

February

- File taxes early and electronically;
- Submit, as necessary, additional documentation and paperwork to verify dependency status;
- Proceed with dependency override process at colleges listed on the FAFSA;
- Continue to research and apply for scholarships.

March

- Return to FAFSA and make corrections, after taxes are filed;
- Use IRS Data Retrieval to transfer 2015 taxes from IRS to FAFSA;
- Complete, as requested, verification paperwork;
- Apply for additional institutional and private scholarship opportunities;
- If not already in place or process, create a back-up plan.

April-August

- Make, as necessary, any final corrections to the FAFSA, including updated tax information via IRS Data Retrieval if not already completed;
- Review and compare any financial aid packages received;
- Follow instructions on award letter for next steps, including accepting financial aid;
- Prepare appeals for a professional judgment review, if student/family have special circumstances;
- Calculate unmet need before **and** after loans; determine annual and anticipated aggregate borrowing.

Comparing Options

- What is the total cost of attendance?
- Are all grants and scholarships renewable?
- Requirements to keep scholarships?
- What is the school's aid displacement policy?
- Is there any unmet need?

April-August

- Make a decision: Is the plan viable?
 - Academically
 - Financially
- Pay necessary deposits; communicate with the school about options if deposits present a financial hardship;
- Finalize a back-up plan...things could still change.

Summer: June-August

What do you need or want your students to know to avoid summer melt and be sure they enroll in the fall?

Summer: June-August

- Be prepared for billing statements and have a resource in place to contact with questions;
- Complete entrance counseling and sign promissory notes for federal student loans, if borrowing;
- Visit St. Louis Graduates High School to College Center for additional help and support!

Long Term Planning

- Meet with an academic advisor first semester.
- Learn about Satisfactory Academic Progress and understand how it is measured.
- Make a financial plan.
- Create a parallel plan.

Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID)

- PINs have been replaced with FSA IDs.
- <https://fsaid.ed.gov>
- Student and parent **must** use separate email addresses; email addresses are **not required, but strongly encouraged**.
- Parents with PINs can connect PIN to FSA ID.
- Lengthier application.
- Five challenge questions:
 - #1 & #2 are chosen from drop down menu.
 - #3 & #4 are created by FSA ID applicant.
 - #5 is a date of significance that is NOT birthdate. (*Consider using HS graduation date!*)
- Highly encouraged that email addresses be verified!

FSA ID Challenges

- Email addresses
- Challenge questions
- Password changes
 - Retrieval of forgotten password
 - Expires every 18 months

FSA ID Challenges: Impact

- Length of application process—longer time to completion;
- Longer advising time for FSA IDs and, as a result, FAFSA completion;
- Increased stress for students and families;
- Students more likely to forget username and password.

Prior-Prior-Year (PPY)

PPY: Prior-Prior-Year

Beginning with the **2017-2018 FAFSA**, applicants for financial aid will complete the form beginning **October 1st**. In 2016, applicants will file two FAFSAs, **both using 2015 tax information**. There are three primary benefits of PPY:

- 1. Immediate access to IRS Data Retrieval:** With taxes filed in April, financial aid applicants should be able to utilize IRS Data Retrieval immediately in October. As a result, tax information can be imported the **FIRST** time, reducing the number of necessary corrections.
- 2. Reduced Verification:** More financial aid applicants can successfully utilize IRS Data Retrieval. As a result, it is anticipated that fewer students will be caught up in the verification process. This will reduce paperwork and hopefully speed along the financial aid process.
- 3. Early Decision-Making:** Especially for first-time college students, PPY will allow them to receive financial aid offers earlier in the process and, as a result, enable them to make informed decisions earlier.

Confession

Due Diligence...

- Analyze and question information; be a critical consumer.
- Use your resources:
 - Colleagues
 - Institutions of Higher Ed
 - Missouri Department of Higher Ed
 - Federal Student Aid

Questions?

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