

FAFSA timeline

August/September

- Sign up for your FSA ID username and password. Be sure to choose answers to your challenge questions you will be able to remember in the coming years. You'll use your FSA ID each year you're in college to file your FAFSA online. Do not use your high school email address when you create your FSA ID because you will be using your FSA ID and information affiliated with that ID each year you are in college or until you pay any student loans in full that you borrow through federal programs. Use an email that you will be able to access during your entire time in college and during your years of repayment.
- Have one of your parents create their separate FSA ID username and password. Parents will need an email address that is separate from yours.
- Estimate your potential student aid using the FAFSA4caster at fafsa4caster.ed.gov to help you start planning financially for college.

October

- File your FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1. Some financial aid is first-come first-served, so it's important to file early.

- Attend a FAFSA Frenzy event for free help completing your FAFSA. Events are held throughout the state in October–January.

January/February

- The priority deadline for the Access Missouri Grant is Feb. 1. File your FAFSA prior to this date to be guaranteed an award if you meet all other eligibility requirements.
- Check your college's priority deadline and be sure to meet it as well.

March/April

- You will begin receiving financial aid award letters, if you have not already. Take time to compare the offers before committing to one school. Use the college cost comparison worksheet to help track how much each school on your list will cost, and ultimately make a decision on which school is the best fit for you.
- If you realize you made a mistake on your FAFSA, log back in and make the appropriate updates as soon as possible.