

Realize your potential.

Three steps can put you on a path toward earning a college degree.

STEP 1

Apply

The best time to apply to college is the fall of your senior year. Think about the kind of degree you want to earn and the type of school you need to attend.

Apply Missouri

Many high schools host Apply Missouri events in September and October to provide time during the school day to submit applications to colleges you are interested in attending.

Things to bring:

- A completed Student Admissions Application Worksheet.
- A USB drive with essays or personal statements you have written.
- Credit card information to pay college application fees (or request a fee waiver from your school counselor).

For more information, including the Application Worksheet, visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/students/applymissouriforstudents.php.

STEP 2

Fund

College costs can vary depending on the school you attend and the type of degree you are seeking.

Many students receive financial aid to help fund their education.

Be sure to fill out the FAFSA — the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA is required for most federal, state and college financial aid, including grants, scholarships, work study and student loans.



Seeking out other scholarships and part-time job opportunities also can help with college costs.

FAFSA Frenzy

You can receive free help filling out the FAFSA at a FAFSA Frenzy event near you. Events are held at high schools, colleges and other locations in Missouri October through January.

Things to bring:

- Social Security Number or alien registration number or permanent resident card.
- Student and parent federal income tax forms and W-2 forms from the prior year (2015 information for the 2017–18 FAFSA). Students classified as independent do not need parent information (see *StudentAid.gov/dependency*).
- Current bank statements and investment records.
- FSAID — students and parents should get their FSAID at *FSAID.ed.gov* before attending a FAFSA Frenzy event.

For more information about filling out the FAFSA, visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/fafsafrenzyforstudents.php.

STEP 3

Decide

Choosing a college that is the best fit for you will help you succeed in earning a degree. Once you have been admitted, you are ready to enroll in classes, finalize funding, and arrange for housing and transportation.

Be sure to meet all deadlines set by your college so you are ready to go when the semester begins.

Decision Day

High schools throughout Missouri host Decision Day events on or near May 1 to celebrate seniors' plans for higher education or military service.

If you have not applied to college by the end of your senior year, it is not too late. Talk with your high school counselor about opportunities that are still available.

For more information about finalizing your college decisions, visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/students/decisiondayforstudents.php.



*Building Missouri's future...
by degrees.*

LEARN MORE

Find more information about planning and paying for college at dhe.mo.gov/ppc/studentsparents.php.

Follow #Journey2college on Twitter and Facebook (JourneytoCollege) for college planning and student financial aid information. dhe.mo.gov • info@dhe.mo.gov

