

# Journey to College

## Preparing for College: Senior Year Checklist

AUG.

- ❑ Start preparing for college and a career using the College and Degree Search Tool ([collegesearch.mo.gov](http://collegesearch.mo.gov)) and MoSCORES ([scorecard.mo.gov](http://scorecard.mo.gov)).
- ❑ Request admission information from your top college choices. Check out the schools online or in person during campus visits.
- ❑ Register to take the ACT and/or SAT. Retake throughout the year to improve your score.
- ❑ Follow Journey to College on social media for scholarship and other important information.

SEPT.

- ❑ Create your Federal Student Aid username and password at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov).
- ❑ Attend college fairs and financial events in your area.
- ❑ Ask your counselor about local scholarship opportunities, resume writing, and recommendation letters.
- ❑ Set up a Student Workspace and State Financial Aid Portal account at [journeytocollege.mo.gov](http://journeytocollege.mo.gov).

OCT.

- ❑ Begin applying to colleges and make note of application and financial aid deadlines.
- ❑ Complete your FAFSA as soon as possible after it is available.
- ❑ Attend a FAFSA Frenzy for free help filing.
- ❑ Finalize your college admissions essays, portfolios, and writing samples.

NOV.

- ❑ Go on campus visits and meet with admissions and financial aid advisers to help you narrow or finalize your college choices.
- ❑ Once you file your FAFSA, watch for your Student Aid Report. Check it for accuracy and make any necessary corrections.

DEC.

- ❑ Compare college programs and costs.
- ❑ Research and apply for college, local, and private scholarships. Search for scholarships on websites such as [myscholarshipcentral.org](http://myscholarshipcentral.org), [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com), [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org), [collegescholarships.org](http://collegescholarships.org) and [myscholly.com](http://myscholly.com).
- ❑ Consider job shadowing for a closer look at career options.

JAN.

- ❑ Complete the FAFSA by the Feb. 1 Access Missouri Grant priority deadline.
- ❑ Submit IRS tax transcripts and other verification forms to the college financial aid office, if requested.

FEB.

- ❑ Check into taking Advanced Placement (AP) or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.
- ❑ Ask your counselor to send your transcripts to your top college choices.
- ❑ Review college financing offers. Call the financial aid office with questions.

MARCH

- ❑ If you haven't already done so, submit your FAFSA by the April 1 final Access Missouri Grant deadline.
- ❑ Develop a plan to pay for college. Check out [treasurer.mo.gov/financial-literacy/](http://treasurer.mo.gov/financial-literacy/) for resources.
- ❑ Make note of college registration, housing, and other deadlines.

APRIL

- ❑ Review, compare, sign, and return admissions and financial aid forms.
- ❑ Make any deposits required to enroll for the fall semester.
- ❑ Finish AP exams and final projects. Study for tests to finish high school with the highest GPA possible. Let your chosen college know if your GPA has increased since you were accepted.

MAY

- ❑ Try to make your final college choice by May 1, National Decision Day. Then celebrate and share your next steps on social media using #MODecisionDay!
- ❑ Finalize summer job plans. Consider applying for an internship at [MoInternconnect.com](http://MoInternconnect.com).
- ❑ Be sure to notify the colleges where you were accepted but will not be attending.

JUNE

- ❑ Plan for college orientation, housing, and transportation. Check your email often so you don't miss important notifications.
- ❑ Prepare a realistic budget you can follow throughout college.
- ❑ Follow up with the financial aid office at your college to ensure all paperwork is complete.

JULY

- ❑ Finalize housing, move-in dates, and transportation.
- ❑ Enroll in the required number of credit hours to qualify for scholarships and other financial aid.
- ❑ Consider taking 15 or more credit hours per semester to graduate on time.



[journeytocollege.mo.gov/](http://journeytocollege.mo.gov/)

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