

# Journey to College

## Preparing for College: Senior Year Checklist

AUG.

- Start preparing for college and a career at ([missouriconnections.org](http://missouriconnections.org)) and MoSCORES ([scorecard.mo.gov](http://scorecard.mo.gov)).
- Request admission information from your top college choices. Check out the schools online or visit campus.
- Register to take the ACT and/or SAT. Retake to improve your score.
- Follow Journey to College on social media to stay updated.
- Start A+ service hours.

SEPT.

- Create your Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) 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 to access State Aid and prepare for college at [journeytocollege.mo.gov](http://journeytocollege.mo.gov).

OCT.

- Apply to colleges and make note of application and financial aid deadlines.
- File your FAFSA, as soon as 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 FAFSA Submission Summary. Check it for accuracy and make any necessary corrections.

DEC.

- Compare college programs and costs  
<https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/documents/collegecostcomparison.pdf>
- Search and apply for scholarships at [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. Find apprenticeship opportunities at [moapprenticeconnect.com](http://moapprenticeconnect.com).

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

- File your FAFSA by the April 1 final Access Missouri Grant deadline.
- Develop a plan to pay for college (if you haven't already). Check out [treasurer.mo.gov/financial-literacy/](http://treasurer.mo.gov/financial-literacy/) for resources.

APRIL

- Make note of college registration, housing, and other deadlines.
- Review, compare, sign, and return admissions and financial aid forms.
- Make any deposits required to enroll for the fall semester.
- Finish strong with the highest GPA possible. Let your chosen college know if your GPA has increased since you were accepted.
- Reach out to the Residential Housing Office of your college choice to determine your living arrangements.

MAY

- 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) or apprenticeship at [moapprenticeconnect.com](http://moapprenticeconnect.com).
- Notify the colleges where you were accepted but will not attend.

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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