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Montana Priority FAFSA Filing Dates Approaching: Feb. 15 at UM, March 1 at Most Montana Schools

The priority Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) filing dates for most Montana schools are swiftly approaching, so students hoping to receive federal aid for fall classes should get online today to complete and submit their FAFSAs.

“This date has a way of sneaking up on Montana families,” said Rhonda Safford, statewide coordinator of College Goal Montana. “Fortunately, Student Assistance Foundation is here to help.”

The priority FAFSA filing date at most Montana postsecondary schools is March 1, but those students who want to attend the University of Montana should submit their FAFSAs by Feb. 15 in order to optimize their aid opportunities.

According to Safford, numerous factors determine a student’s financial aid award, but those students who submit their FAFSA by the priority filing date are eligible for the best and widest range of aid available.

“If you haven’t filed your taxes yet, you should still complete the FAFSA and submit it by the priority date,” Safford said. “You can estimate the amounts based on your last year’s tax return. Then, after you file your taxes, you’ll need to log back in to the FAFSA to update any estimated information.”

Families and students who run into difficulties completing the form should visit SAF’s College Goal Montana page on our SmartAboutCollege.org website. There they can access a how-to presentation, a calendar of community FAFSA completion events, and many more helpful resources.

In addition, FAFSA completion assistance is available from high school counselors, financial aid office staff at postsecondary schools, and from outreach managers at SAF’s seven outreach offices across the state. Call (877) COLG4ME to connect with the outreach manager in your area.

Finally, students who haven’t visited SmartAboutCollege.org and pledged to complete the FAFSA by March 1 should do so today to be entered to win one of four, \$500 scholarships, or our grand prize \$1,000 scholarship. The pledge deadline is Feb. 22. Winners will be announced on Snapchat, so be sure to add SAF at “saf406.”

Student Assistance Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Montana corporation that provides students with the knowledge and tools to pursue and fund their postsecondary education. Funds generated by SAF are returned to Montanans in the form of education grants and public benefit programs - to date more than \$30 million. For more information, visit www.safmt.org or www.SmartAboutCollege.org.