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

The clock is ticking on the priority Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) deadlines for most Montana schools, so students hoping to receive federal aid for fall classes should get online today to complete and submit their FAFSAs.

“It’s easy to lose track of time and let this deadline get away from you,” said Rhonda Safford, statewide coordinator of College Goal Montana. “Fortunately, Student Assistance Foundation has developed a series of instructional videos that students and families can watch day or night at **SmartAboutCollege.org** to get step-by-step help completing this process.”

The priority FAFSA deadline 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.

According to Safford, numerous factors determine a student’s financial aid award, but those students who submit their FAFSA by the priority deadline 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 deadline,” 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.”

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 eight outreach offices across the state. Call (877) COLG4ME to connect with the outreach manager in your area.

Finally, Safford suggests that students who have submitted the FAFSA check out SAF’s FAFSA instructional video, “Step 6: What’s next?” on SmartAboutCollege.org to find out what comes after the student presses the submit button on the FAFSA website.

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