



DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

2020-2021 Access Missouri Estimated Awards and FAMOUS Availability

With several key events behind us, including the April 1 final Access Missouri deadline and the General Assembly's passage of the FY 2021 budget on Friday, May 8, 2020, the Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development has re-evaluated the 2020-2021 Access Missouri estimated awards. Based on the re-evaluation, the Access Missouri estimated awards will remain unchanged but the application deadline will be moved from the February 1 priority deadline to the April 1 maximum deadline, increasing the number of eligible students. **FAMOUS will be unavailable beginning at 7:00 p.m. today, Friday, June 12, 2020** while student eligibility is updated. Availability will be restored as early as possible on Monday, June 15, 2020. Institutions should not attempt to access FAMOUS until notified it is once again available.

As in the past, the Access Missouri award re-evaluation was twofold as a result of the February 1 priority deadline, and looked at 1) whether students who applied after the February 1 deadline could be funded, and 2) whether the estimated award amounts could be increased.

As a result of MDHEWD's re-evaluation of the available funding and number of eligible applicants, **the Access Missouri FAFSA filing deadline will be moved to April 1, 2020.** Eligible Access Missouri students with a FAFSA received on or before April 1 now will be guaranteed an award for the 2020-2021 academic year. **The estimated award amounts remain at 70% of the statutory maximum:**

	Public 2-Year		Public 4-Year, Private, Virtual, and State Technical College of Missouri	
	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>
Annual	\$910	\$300	\$2,000	\$1,500
Fall	\$455	\$150	\$1,000	\$750
Spring	\$455	\$150	\$1,000	750

This table represents the maximums and minimums only. In accordance with the Access Missouri statute (173.1105), award amounts for eligible students with an EFC above \$7,000 must be reduced by 10% of the maximum EFC in the range. As a result, awards in the ranges beginning with \$7,001 and ending with \$8,500 may fall between the 2020-2021 maximum and minimum awards above. The Award Table Report in FAMOUS provides the award amount specific to each EFC range.

At this time the budget is still somewhat fluid as the Governor has not announced any spending restrictions or signed the FY 21 appropriation bills. It will likely be at least July 1 before the budget is finalized. However, we believed it was important to provide students and institutions with updated information about Access Missouri awards as early as possible. The decision to move the deadline but to leave the estimated award amounts unchanged was made based on the best information available to date, including a significant decrease in FAFSA filings for the 2020-2021 academic year. The decision also took into account, to the extent possible, the uncertainty of the appropriation and the probable increase in eligible students resulting from the COVID-19 accommodations. While we are committed to maintaining the April 1 deadline and are reasonably confident that the current estimated award amounts can be sustained, the final award amounts announced in August may be lower than the current estimate if there are substantial changes in the available funding and/or the number of eligible students. As a result, we encourage institutions to exercise caution when providing 2020-2021 award amounts to students.

As a reminder, the Access Missouri priority deadline was established in response to the U.S. Department of Education's implementation of the October 1 FAFSA. Eligible Access Missouri students who file on or before the February 1 priority deadline are guaranteed an award. The filing deadline for eligible students may be extended beyond February 1, but no later than April 1, depending on funding availability.

MDHEWD is still evaluating the Bright Flight estimated awards and will provide updated information on that program as soon as possible.

If you have any questions please contact:

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