It's tax season, which means it's FAFSA filing time!

All current and newly admitted Purdue University students planning on attending Purdue in the fall of 2013 must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1 to receive priority consideration for federal, state and university-based financial aid.

"Students may still file after March 1, but the amount of some types of financial aid is often limited," said David Reseigh, assistant director of outreach services at Purdue’s Division of Financial Aid. "Students could miss out by waiting to file their FAFSA."

Students and their families also can get free FAFSA filing help from financial aid experts at College Goal Sunday on Feb 24, starting at 2 p.m. Families in the Lafayette area can attend at Ivy Tech Community College, Ivy Hall, 3101 S. Creasy Lane. A complete list of the 30 participating sites around Indiana can be found at www.collegegoalsunday.org. A national list of College Goal Sunday events can be found at www.collegegoalsundayusa.org.

"Dependent students age 23 and under should attend with their parent(s) or guardian(s) and bring the parents' 2012 income, asset and benefits information," Reseigh said. "Students who worked in 2012 should bring their own earnings information as well."

Students 24 and older may attend alone and bring their own 2012 income, asset and benefits information.

Families can print a helpful worksheet and learn more about filing the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov.

Purdue's Division of Financial Aid provides financial aid information to students and families through community outreach, via email and online at www.purdue.edu/dfa. Families can view Purdue-specific financial aid filing information at www.purdue.edu/dfa/howtoapply/checklist.php or by calling the Division of Financial Aid at 765-494-5050 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday through Friday.
Reminders About First-Year Scholarship Requirements

**Students who are Purdue Promise***
- Must maintain at least satisfactory academic progress (SAP) based on number of credit hours earned. Visit [www.purdue.edu/dfa/policies/SAPPolicy.pdf](http://www.purdue.edu/dfa/policies/SAPPolicy.pdf) for more information. We strongly recommend students strive to exceed this requirement. In their sophomore year, students will need to have a 2.25 cumulative GPA.
- Required to attend at least 1 Purdue Promise social per semester.
- Submit the FAFSA on time.
- Be a part of a Learning Community during their first semester.

**Students who are Emerging Urban Leaders***
- Must Maintain a 2.75 GPA or better.
- Required to attend at least 1 Purdue Promise Social per Semester.
- Submit the FAFSA on time.
- Be a part of a Learning Community during their first semester.

*Scholarship requirements change each year*

In the coming months, students will sign a renewal agreement to receive their scholarship for the 2013-2014 semester.

Is Your Student Thinking About...

As students start making plans for the future, they may find that they have a number of unanswered questions. If your student is thinking about the following, please encourage them to come talk to a Purdue Promise Staff member:

- **Study Abroad**—Certain programs impact what type of financial aid they will be able to use and some programs won’t allow them to utilize their Purdue Promise, Emerging Urban Leader, or 21st Century Scholar award(s).
- **Living Off Campus**—Talking to a staff member before they sign a lease is important so they know how to plan and budget properly for their new living arrangement.
- **Summer Classes**—Aid works differently for the summer and students must fill out a separate application for summer financial aid. Students don’t receive Purdue Promise, 21st Century Scholars, or Emerging Urban Leader funding, so it’s important for students to talk to us to go through their funding options. More information can be found on the [DFA website](http://www.purdue.edu/dfa).
- **Co-Op and Professional Programs**—This is another area where financial aid works differently. Encourage your student to talk to us before they start.

Breakfast in the PM Social Event

The Breakfast in the PM was held on Tuesday, February 12th at the Materials and Electrical Engineering Building, where many breakfast foods were served to more than 80 students who attended. This event offered our students a much needed break during a stressful time in the semester. Students spent time eating, socializing, and catching up with old friends. In addition to breakfast, students enjoyed a special showing of “Picture Perfect.”
Help Your College Student Ask for Help

There are a lot of skills that college students need to learn and practice. Perhaps one of the most essential of those skills is self-advocacy, knowing how to ask for and get the things that you need to be successful. The more that your student is able to recognize and ask for what she needs, the better her chances of success. Students who may have relied on others to advocate for them in the past now have to learn to communicate their needs to others. They need to learn to speak up for themselves and to be assertive. Taking responsibility and control is not always an easy thing to accomplish. As a college parent, you may need to help your student learn this important skill. Although it may seem easier to do things yourself, and you may feel that you are better able to get the results that you feel are necessary, helping your student to learn how to advocate for himself may be one of the best things that you can do for your college student.

According to the Colorado State University Access Project, there are three important stages or elements to successful self-advocacy:

1. **Know Yourself**
   Helping your student learn to advocate for himself begins with helping your student know himself. This may actually be one of the most difficult elements of the process. He may want to avoid certain issues, or to assume that he understands. You may need to help guide your student through a process of examining his strengths, his challenges, and what is going on in his life right now. As you help your student think about himself, both as a learner and as a person, you may need to call upon your best questioning and listening skills. Help him consider what he has accomplished and how he has gotten where he is. As you help your student think about himself, both as a learner and as a person, you may need to call upon your best questioning and listening skills. Help him consider what he has accomplished and how he has gotten where he is. Help him think about his successes and his failures. Who has he relied on, and what does he need help with? Some of these needs may be obvious, and some may be more subtle.

2. **Know What You Need and Want**
   Once your student has made progress getting to know herself better, she will need to think about what that tells her about her needs and her wants. This may involve prioritizing and examining values. Unless your student is clear about what she needs and what is important to her, she will not be able to successfully advocate for those things. Your student will need to know her rights and her responsibilities. Your student will need to know what resources are available on campus and how to attain access to those resources. She may need to take a long term vision to know where she wants to go. Students who are not clear about what they need to be successful will not be able to work to get it. It sounds obvious, but it may not be an easy process for your student to turn self-knowledge into the practical knowledge of knowing what is necessary to accomplish important goals.

3. **Know How to Get What You Need and Want**
   Once your student has determined what he needs and wants, the next step is understanding how to get those things. Knowing yourself and knowing what you need can only lead to frustration if you do not know how to attain what you need. Your student may need to get organized and make some important decisions. He will need to communicate his needs clearly to the right people on campus. He may need to help do some problem solving to accomplish his clearly articulated goals. He may need to develop a support network by working with faculty members, his advisor, and/or other professionals on campus. He will definitely need to use good communication skills to express his needs and assert himself. He will need to be articulate, assertive, and persistent – all sometimes difficult skills for college students to practice.

The skills of self-advocacy are multilayered and are anything but simple. Helping your student accomplish the tasks of knowing himself, knowing what he needs, and knowing how to get what he needs, will give him an independence and success both in and after college. He will be learning important skills and life-long strategies that will help him both now and in his career and personal life. Although it may be difficult, as a parent, to step back and let your student take over advocating for whatever he needs, his accomplishment of these lessons may be some of the most important things he will learn during his college years. He will graduate not only with a college degree, but as a more self-aware, competent, and confident person.
What is your favorite Purdue Memory?
In my first year, I took a class at the Latino Cultural Center called Humanigration. In that class we talked about immigration all semester and near the end, we went to the border between the United States and Mexico. We talked with people around the area and considered different viewpoints from both sides of the spectrum. That was what helped me to decide what I wanted to do for my career.

Name someone who has had an impact on your life.
My parents have had an impact on my life because after we came to the United States, we have gone through so many struggles. Despite not knowing what I’m doing at school, they are always supporting me in what I am doing.

What would you do if you were given a chance to make a difference in the community?
I would help to change the perception around immigration because it is a controversial issue. I want to be able to help steer public opinion towards considering more viewpoints before coming to a conclusion on immigration.

Any tips for first-year students?
Encourage them to really get involved. Everyone says to get involved, but find some things you can get interested in and find something that you really care about.

What is one thing you wished you had known coming into college?
I wish I knew how to study better because there is only so much time in a day and it really helps with time management.