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 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.

Our Students are Successful

- 171 students received academic honors (Dean's list/high semester GPA)
- 193 are a part of our 300 club (3.0 cumulative GPA or higher)
- 168 are in good academic standing
- 9 students have a 4.0 cumulative GPA
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**—Financial 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.
- **Co-Op and Professional Programs**—This is another area where financial aid works differently. Encourage your student to talk to us before they start.

Scholarship Renewal & GPA Requirements

Each year, students must meet a certain cumulative GPA requirement to remain eligible for their Purdue Promise scholarship funding. Grade point average requirements are based on the scholarship award they received in their financial aid package. The chart shows the GPA requirements each year for the different scholarship awards.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>21st Century Scholar</th>
<th>Purdue Opportunity Award</th>
<th>Emerging Urban Leader</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.70</td>
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<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>2.00</td>
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Helping Your Student Think About Career Readiness

One of the primary goals for most students attending college is to find a job after graduation and to build a career. Students today are graduating at one of the most difficult times in recent history for finding a job. Some students will find themselves better prepared than others for the road to their ideal career. We’d like to suggest eight factors that can help your student take charge of his career readiness. As your student nears graduation, or perhaps well before that, you might share some of these ideas with him. Help him evaluate whether he is using his college time to get ready for his first job.

**Goals (and action plans)**

It may seem obvious, but your student needs to have clear goals. What does she really want? Will a certain decision in the short term move her toward her ultimate longer term goal? This is a good time to ask your student the “W” questions. Who would she like to be working for or with? What would she like to be doing? When does she see herself accomplishing her goals (timetable)? Where does she see herself working and living? Why does she want to do this? And then, add the “H”: How will she reach her goals (action plans)?

Adapted from [http://www.collegeparents.org](http://www.collegeparents.org)
Immersion
Your student should be prepared to immerse himself in his chosen subject or field. He will need to be as knowledgeable as possible in all things related to his career. He will need to keep up with the people, companies, trends and latest developments in the field. He may take additional training or participate in other educational opportunities. He will need to read publications, attend conferences, attend lectures. Your student will be competing for some jobs with seasoned professionals, and he will need to demonstrate that he has outstanding knowledge.

Passion
Employers look for employees who demonstrate a passion for what they are doing. If your student can tap into the heart of what she loves about her work or her field, it will help her to stand out from others. She will need to be able not only to identify that passion, but to articulate and demonstrate it to others.

Challenge
The more that your student is willing to challenge himself and drive himself, the more likely he will be to set himself apart. If your student takes challenging and difficult courses in college, continually works to learn new things even after graduation, is constantly working to stretch and grow and push his comfort zone, he will demonstrate important personality traits as well as rise to new levels within his field.

Internships
Internships are becoming increasingly important and expected. Students who have participated in an internship, or multiple internships, will definitely have an advantage. Not only does an internship give a student important experience in his chosen field, it provides opportunities for networking, learning about the field, mentoring opportunities, and a chance to “audition” for a job. Many employers will look first to former interns when they have a job opening.

Strategy
It is important that your student have a plan. Her plan may need to be flexible, but having a strategy and seeing the path ahead is important. The goals mentioned earlier will only frustrate your student if she does not know how she will attain those goals. She will feel more in control of a sometimes difficult stage.

Networking
One survey has suggested that as many as 80% of employees say that networking helped them find their current job. Human Resource departments often receive hundreds of resumes for each opening, and having someone know your student’s name may make a difference. Encourage your student to make use of every opportunity possible to meet with others and to talk with passion and knowledge about his career and field of interest. He will need to keep track of his contacts, be sure to write thank you notes, follow up on conversations, do his homework and maintain personal contacts.

Persistence
Perhaps more important than all other factors is the need for persistence as your student searches for her first job and works to build her career. She will need to stay focused on her long term goals and know that it may take time to reach them. Being resilient and maintaining a positive attitude will be essential when the inevitable discouraging days or weeks occur. The task of finding and building a career is a difficult one. It requires that your student see the bigger picture and recognize that it may take time to reach the ultimate goal. He will need to be flexible and determined. His first job may seem far from where he would like to be ultimately, but might be a step on the way. Coupling passion and vision with hard work and flexibility, your student will move toward his chosen career.

For more information on career preparation, visit Purdue’s Center for Career Opportunities website.
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.

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.