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Mission Possible: Ball State's Student Veteran Newsletter

Ball State University

Upcoming Events

- **March 19th:** Course withdrawal deadline for Spring
- **March 19th @ 3 PM:** SVO Meeting regarding elections
- **April 4th:** Annual Hire-A-Hoosier Vet Career Prep Workshop. Click Here to Register
- **April 18th:** Hire-A-Hoosier Vet Career Fair at South Field in Indianapolis

5 Questions With...

Adam James

Military Affiliation? Army National Guard

Major? Exercise Science

Favorite Hobby? Riding my bike

Favorite Military Memory? Graduating BCT

Advice to other student veterans? Take advantage of the services the campus VA office offers. They are a good resource to help you with just about anything

Completing your FAFSA Application by March 10th

This time of year, many students have begun to apply for financial aid for next school semester by filling out the FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Aid. It's important to note that if you want to be considered for the maximum amount of state aid, you must submit your complete FAFSA by March 10th, 2012. If you submit your FAFSA *after* March 10th, you may *not* be eligible for the maximum amount of state aid, but still may be eligible for federal aid. You may also notice that you are filling out your FAFSA around the same time you file your taxes. It is recommended that you and your parents have your taxes filed before completing your FAFSA, as it asks for a lot of that information.

What should you have while completing the FAFSA? You will need the following items in order to complete your FAFSA.

- A copy of your completed taxes or your W-2 statements
- Driver's license
- Social security card
- Any 1099 forms (1099 forms are tax statements for certain investments)
- If you're married, you will need all of the same documents from your spouse.

If you are a dependent, you will also need some very important documents from your parents:

- Your parents' tax return statements or W-2 statements from employers
- 1099 forms
- Bank statements
- Information about any stocks, bonds, mutual funds or other investments they may have
- Records from any businesses or farms your family may own.

It's recommended that you keep a copy of all this information in a file in case you are one day asked to verify all the information submitted on your FAFSA. About a third of all FAFSAs are checked for verification.

You may complete the FAFSA on a paper version or an online version. It is recommended that you complete the FAFSA online because it is faster, easier, and prompts you by asking specific questions. Before completing the FAFSA online, it is suggested you get your FAFSA Personal Identification Number, or PIN. You can get a PIN by going to www.pin.ed.gov. It is also suggested that you download a copy of the FAFSA on the web worksheet at www.fafsa.ed.gov. It is helpful to complete this worksheet first before beginning your online FAFSA.

For specific questions, please call Ball State's Scholarships and Financial Aid Office at 765-285-5600.

The "Basics": Dropping Classes

Of course, everyone wants to follow through with their plans, but sometimes life changes our plans. If you find you need to drop a class, go about it through the proper channels so you don't get penalized in the future. March 19th is the course withdrawal deadline for this semester. If you need to withdraw from a class, pick up a Withdrawal form from Freshman Advising, your college's Advising Center, or the Registrar's Office. Fill it out, sign it, and turn it in to the Registrar's Office. The professor does not need to sign it. You will automatically be given a "W" for withdrawing from the class.

If circumstances demand that you must withdraw from all your classes, contact Katie Slabaugh, Ombudsperson, Administration Building 238, 285-1545, for an appointment. She will assist you so your permanent record is not damaged in order for you return to school in the future.

In both cases, it is also wise to check with Beck Hannaford, Lucina Hall 204, Veterans Affairs, 285-5936, to see how the changes will affect your benefits.