

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

October 2017

It's FAFSA time!

Beginning October 1, you and your parents can complete the 2018-19 [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA is the application for state, federal, and college-based financial aid.

Follow these tips to prepare:

Create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID for you and one for a parent at fsaid.ed.gov. You and a parent will each need an FSA ID to access and sign the FAFSA.

Attend an EducationQuest Financial Aid Program (FAP) to learn about the FAFSA and the financial aid process. If you attend, *you'll be eligible to register for a [\\$500 scholarship!](#)* FAPs are happening at high schools across the state. [Click here](#) for dates and locations.

Review the [FAFSA Checklist](#) at EducationQuest.org to determine items you'll need to complete the FAFSA.

[See FAFSA Tools](#) at EducationQuest.org for helpful resources.

For free personal help, call EducationQuest to make an appointment: Omaha – 888.357.6300, Lincoln – 800.303.3745, Kearney – 800.666.3721, and Scottsbluff – 800.303.3745, ext. 6654.

Are you ready to Apply2College?

This fall, over 200 Nebraska high schools are holding *Apply2College* events during the school day to help seniors complete college applications. Whether or not your school is participating, [here are tips and resources to help you prepare for the application process.](#)

Meet with college reps at upcoming events

Talk to representatives from colleges across the state, region and nation during upcoming events.

[Lincoln Area College Fair](#), Sunday, September 24, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Southeast Community College
[Omaha Area College Fair](#), Sunday, October 1, 1:00-4:00 p.m. – University of Nebraska at Omaha

For more details and a list of participating colleges, see the [College Fair article](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).

If you can't make it to a College Fair, attend an **Educational Planning Program (EPP)**, which is a smaller college fair. See "[Upcoming Events](#)" at EducationQuest.org for dates and locations.

Register for a barcode

Before attending a college fair or EPP, visit NebraskaCollegeFairs.org to register for a barcode. Print the barcode and take it to the fair so that college reps can scan it. This will save time spent completing college information cards.

Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

Don't pay for scholarship services! Free resources include ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org, your school counselor's office, and EducationQuest offices in Omaha, Lincoln, and Kearney.

Focus on college-based and local scholarships. You're more likely to earn them over large national awards.

Continually update your activities, honors, and volunteer or paid jobs using the Activities Resume at EducationQuest.org.

Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores by taking the exams in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.

Use quality references such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Give them advance notice, a specific deadline, and a copy of your Activities Resume.

Ask at least two people to proofread your application.

October "To Do" List

Juniors and Seniors:

- ___ Attend a [College Fair](#) or [Educational Planning Program](#) in your area.
- ___ Attend a [Financial Aid Program](#).

Seniors:

- ___ [Create an FSA ID](#) for you and one for a parent. You'll need them for the FAFSA.
 - ___ Complete the [FAFSA](#) on or after October 1.
 - ___ Complete college applications. If your school is hosting an *Apply2College* event, participate!
 - ___ [Register](#) by September 22 for the October 28 ACT.
 - ___ [Register](#) by October 5 for the November 4 SAT.
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For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

Omaha
402-391-4033
888-357-6300

Lincoln
402-475-5222
800-303-3745

Kearney
308-234-6310
800-666-3721

Scottsbluff
800-303-3745, ext. 6654

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