

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

October 2018

It's FAFSA time!

Seniors...beginning October 1, you and your parents can complete the 2019-20 [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 to learn how the FAFSA and financial aid can help you pay for college. When you attend, you can register for a \$500 [Financial Aid Program Scholarship!](#) To find dates and locations, [click here](#).

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

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

For free one-on-one 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.

[Omaha Area College Fair](#), Sunday, September 23, 1:00-4:00 p.m. – University of Nebraska at Omaha [Educational Planning Programs](#) (EPPs) – these smaller college fairs are being held statewide. Click the link 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 – or download it to your phone - and take it to the event so 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](#) to learn how to pay for college.

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 28 for the October 27 ACT.
 - ___ [Register](#) by October 5 for the November 3 SAT.
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For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

Omaha	Lincoln	Kearney	Scottsbluff
402-391-4033	402-475-5222	308-234-6310	800-303-3745,
888-357-6300	800-303-3745	800-666-3721	ext. 6654

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