EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

November 2020

Seniors...a reminder of what to do this fall

There's A LOT going on right now with the financial aid and college admission processes, but don't get overwhelmed! Here's a recap of tasks you should complete this fall to stay on track to college.

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- First, create a Federal Student Aid account (FSA ID) for you and one for a parent at <u>studentaid.gov</u>. You'll need the user names and passwords to access and sign the FAFSA. Click here for instructions.
- Review our <u>FAFSA Checklist</u> for items to gather before you start the form.
- Complete the FAFSA at studentaid.gov.
- If you need guidance on how to complete the form, register to attend a FAFSA Tutorial Webinar on Monday, October 19 or Tuesday, October 20. The webinars will also be held in Spanish on October 19 and October 20.
- For free help with the FAFSA, see <u>FAFSA Tools</u> at EducationQuest.org or call the <u>EducationQuest location nearest to you</u> to make a virtual appointment.

Apply to your top college choices. If your high school is holding an *Apply2College* event this fall, you'll get help with your applications. If not, <u>here are steps</u> you should take to apply.

Check out the EducationQuest Virtual College Fair. The live fair is over, but you can still register and log in to visit college booths and watch recorded college-prep sessions.

Retake the <u>ACT</u> and/or <u>SAT</u>. Some colleges will use your best scores for college admission and scholarships.

Get serious about applying for scholarships. See <u>ScholarshipQuest</u> at EducationQuest.org for Nebraska-based scholarships and a list of national search sites.

Juniors...start researching colleges

If you narrow your college choices by the end of your junior year, your senior year will be less stressful. Here's how to get started:

Review <u>College Profiles</u> at EducationQuest.org to learn about colleges in Nebraska and across the country. If you're interested in an out-of-state school, check out the <u>Midwest Student Exchange</u> Program to learn about tuition discounts.

Check out the EducationQuest Virtual College Fair. The live fair is over, but you can still register and log in to visit college booths and watch recorded college-prep sessions.

Once you narrow your choices, schedule campus visits. Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while colleges are in session. Click here to find links to virtual campus visits.

For more tips, see the Finding the Right Fit section at EducationQuest.org.

November "To Do" List

Seniors complete these tasks in November to stay on the path to college:	
Complete the <u>FAFSA</u> .	
Apply to your top college choices.	
Register by November 5 for the December 5 SAT.	
Register by November 6 for the December 12 ACT.	
Juniorscomplete these tasks:	
Research colleges that interest you.	

For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

Omaha	Lincoln	Kearney	Scottsbluff
402-391-4033	402-475-5222	308-234-6310	308-708-7199
888-357-6300	800-303-3745	800-666-3721	800-303-3745, ext. 6654

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