

JUNIORS... a guide for your journey to college



FALL/WINTER

- Ask your school counselor if you're on track to meet academic requirements for college admission.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities to increase your chances for scholarships and college admission.
- Attend a Financial Aid Program to learn how to pay for college.
- Attend a College Fair or Educational Planning Program to meet with college representatives.
- Take a prep course for the ACT college entrance exam.
- Take the PSAT to prepare for the SAT college entrance exam and to see if you qualify for a National Merit Scholarship.
- Visit **EducationQuest.org** to:
 - sign up for *Countdown2College* monthly email tips
 - create or update your *Activities Resume*
 - create a *ScholarshipQuest* profile to find Nebraska-based scholarships
 - find dates and locations of Financial Aid Programs, Educational Planning Programs and College Fairs



SPRING

- Start narrowing your college choices.
 - Visit schools that interest you.
 - Attend a College Fair if offered in your area.
- Take the ACT (required for all Nebraska high school juniors).
 - You may also want to take the SAT.
- Become familiar with the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
 - You can complete it beginning October 1 of your senior year to apply for financial aid.
 - Complete the *College Funding Estimator* at **EducationQuest.org** to estimate your FAFSA results.



SUMMER

- Get a job and save as much as you can for college expenses.
- Find job-shadowing opportunities in career areas that interest you.
- Narrow your college choices to 3 or 4.
- Update your *Activities Resume*.



EducationQuest.org

SENIORS... a guide for your journey to college

FALL

- Meet with your school counselor to make sure you're on track to graduate and meet college admission requirements.
- Attend a Financial Aid Program to prepare for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- Attend a College Fair or Educational Planning Program to gather final details about your top college choices.
- Apply to 3-4 colleges.
 - If your school has an *Apply2College* event, participate to get help with applications.
- Create an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov (one for you and one for a parent). You'll need them for the FAFSA.
- Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov after October 1 to apply for financial aid.
- Retake the ACT and/or SAT.
 - Colleges use your best score for admission and scholarships.
- Request letters of recommendation for scholarship and college applications.
- Visit EducationQuest.org to find:
 - free tools to help you complete the FAFSA
 - dates and locations of Financial Aid Programs, Educational Planning Programs and College Fairs

WINTER

- Apply for scholarships.
 - Use *ScholarshipQuest* at EducationQuest.org to find Nebraska-based awards and a list of national scholarship sites.
- Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) acknowledging that your FAFSA was processed.
- If requested by the college, submit documents that verify your FAFSA information.
- Expect financial aid award notifications from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA.
- Watch for acceptance letters from the colleges you applied to.

SPRING

- Compare financial aid award notifications to determine which college offers the best award package.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Make your final college selection.
 - Notify the other schools of your decision.

SUMMER

- Apply for student and parent loans, if needed.
 - Complete Student Loan Entrance Counseling at studentloans.gov.
- Register for, and attend, new-student orientation at your college.
- Save as much as you can from your summer job to help pay college expenses.

