

# EducationQuest Foundation

# College Planning Bulletin

*A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students*

October 2019

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## It's FAFSA time!

Seniors...beginning October 1, you and your parents can complete the 2020-21 [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 ID (FSA ID)** for you and one for a parent at [fsaid.ed.gov](https://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, 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 help with the FAFSA, 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.

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## Seniors, are you ready to Apply2College?

This fall, over 200 Nebraska high schools are holding *Apply2College* events 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](#).

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## 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 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Southeast Community College

[Omaha Area College Fair](#), Sunday, September 29, 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](https://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.

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## 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.

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## 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 20 for the October 26 ACT.
  - \_\_\_ [Register](#) by October 3 for the November 2 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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*Your Journey to College Begins with Us*