

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

October 2016

Attend a College Fair!

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

[Norfolk Area College Fair](#), Sunday, September 18, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Northeast Community College
[Grand Island Area College Fair](#), Sunday, September 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Heartland Events Center
[Tri-State Area College Fair](#), Sunday, October 2, 12:30-3:00 p.m. – Marina Center, South Sioux City
[Lincoln Area College Fair](#), Sunday, October 9, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Southeast Community College
[Omaha Area College Fair](#), **NOTE NEW DATE!** Sunday, October 23, 1:00-4:00 p.m. – University of Nebraska at Omaha

For more details and a list of colleges at each fair, 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 are smaller college fairs held statewide. 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.

It's FAFSA time!

Beginning October 1, you and your parents can complete the [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student 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 will be held 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.

It's time 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 some tips and resources to help you prepare for the application process](#).

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](#).
- ___ [Sign up for Countdown2College](#) to receive monthly college planning tips.

Seniors:

- ___ [Create an FSA ID](#) for you and one for a parent. You'll need them for the FAFSA.
 - ___ Be aware that you can complete the [FAFSA](#) beginning October 1.
 - ___ Narrow your college choices and be aware of application deadlines and criteria.
 - ___ [Register](#) by September 16 for the October 22 ACT.
 - ___ [Register](#) by October 7 for the November 5 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, ext. 6654
888-357-6300	800-303-3745	800-666-3721	

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