

# COLLEGE CHECKLIST

## FOR ADULT LEARNERS



If you're interested in pursuing a degree - or finishing a degree you previously started - these steps will help you through the process.

### 1) LEARN ABOUT CAREER OPTIONS.

- Take a career assessment at:
  - The college you're interested in attending
  - An EducationQuest location
  - [CareerOneStop.org](http://CareerOneStop.org) or [MyNextMove.org](http://MyNextMove.org)
- Learn about career opportunities in Nebraska at [NEWorks.Nebraska.gov](http://NEWorks.Nebraska.gov) and [H3.ne.gov](http://H3.ne.gov).

### 2) COMPLETE THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS.

- Talk to an admissions representative at your college. Ask about:
  - Academic programs that match your career interests
  - Alternative class schedules to fit your needs
  - Admission requirements and deadlines
  - The cost of tuition, fees, books, and supplies
  - When to apply for financial aid
  - Scholarships for adult learners
  - Availability of services such as:
    - tutoring
    - career counseling
    - child care
    - computer labs
    - Student Support Services (for those who qualify)
- Apply for admission.** If you have college credit from another institution, discuss transferring your credits with an admissions representative.
- Set up your student portal on the college's website.
- Take placement tests, if required by the college.
- Meet with an academic advisor to select and register for classes.



**FIND ADDITIONAL  
RESOURCES AT  
[EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org).**



### 3) COMPLETE THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS.

- Apply for scholarships.** Ask about scholarships offered by your college, and see *ScholarshipQuest* at [EducationQuest.org](https://www.educationquest.org) for a list of free search sites.
- Create an account at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).** Your user name and password is required for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- Complete the FAFSA at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).** This is your application for federal, state, and college-based financial aid. Complete the form at least 4 to 6 weeks before school starts.
  - Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) acknowledging that your FAFSA was processed. You'll receive an email with a link to access your SAR.
  - Renew the FAFSA every year you're in college.
- Be prepared for verification.** Watch your student portal and email closely as the college might request verification of your FAFSA information. The college will not process your financial aid package until you provide required documents.
- Expect a financial aid award notification** from your college listing the types and amounts of financial aid they're offering. This could be a combination of grants, work-study, student loans, and scholarships. Accept or reject the financial aid package by the deadline.
  - If you don't receive the notification within three weeks after submitting your FAFSA, contact the college financial aid office.
- Apply for a student loan, if necessary.** You'll apply at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov), but your college will provide instructions.
- Ask your employer** if tuition reimbursement is available.



FOR **FREE HELP** WITH COLLEGE PLANNING,  
CONTACT THE LOCATION NEAREST YOU.

**OMAHA**

Rockbrook Village  
11031 Elm St.  
402.391.4033  
888.357.6300

**LINCOLN**

1300 O St.  
402.475.5222  
800.303.3745

**KEARNEY**

2706 Second Ave.  
308.234.6310  
800.666.3721

**SCOTTSBLUFF**

1601 E 27th St.  
402.479.6654  
800.303.3745  
ext. 6654