

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

May 2018

Seniors ... borrow wisely for college!

Review these tips before you decide how much to borrow in student loans:

- Borrow only what you need, even if it's less than the amount offered in your award letter.
- Try to use your student loan money *only* for tuition, room and board, books and fees. Get a part-time job during college to pay other expenses.
- Apply for financial aid each year you attend college by completing the [FAFSA](#).
- Continue to look for scholarships while you're in college.
- Keep track of your student loan debt throughout college at nslds.ed.gov.

To learn more, read the EducationQuest Blog article: "[Student Loan Refresher](#)" and see the "[Paying for College](#)" section at EducationQuest.org.

How to prepare for your freshman year of college

Visit the [College Students](#) section at EducationQuest.org for tips to help you prepare for your freshman year of college. You'll find information on these topics:

- Achieving academic success
- How to manage your money
- How to select a major
- What to expect your freshman year of college

For an idea of what college might be like, check out this [EducationQuest Blog](#) article.

Juniors... here's your summer to-do list

- **Narrow your college choices** to three or four by the time school starts. If you haven't already, [schedule campus visits](#) to your top contenders.
- **Become familiar with the [FAFSA](#)** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Beginning **October 1, 2018**, you and your parents can complete this form to apply for college financial aid.
- **Update your [Activities Resume](#)** at EducationQuest.org. Include extracurricular activities, honors, awards, and part-time jobs.
- **Look for scholarships.** Check out [ScholarshipQuest](#) at EducationQuest.org for Nebraska-based scholarships, and pay attention to scholarships current seniors have received.
- **Find a summer job to help pay for college expenses.** Ask prospective employers if they offer education assistance programs.

May “To Do” List

Seniors

- ___ Apply for student loans, if necessary.
- ___ Register for new-student orientation at your college.
- ___ Start a list of dorm room essentials.
- ___ Get a summer job to help pay college expenses.

Juniors

- ___ [Register](#) by May 4 for June 1 ACT.
- ___ [Register](#) by May 3 for June 2 SAT.
- ___ Continue campus visits.
- ___ Get a summer job and save for college.

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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