JUNIORS... A GUIDE FOR YOUR JOURNEY TO COLLEGE

FALL
- Ask your counselor what courses you still need to take to meet college admission requirements.
- Take dual-credit courses to earn college credit — if available at your school.
- 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.
- Learn about careers that match your skills and interests.
- Research colleges that offer programs in your areas of interest.

WINTER
- Prepare for the ACT. Ask your counselor about test-prep options including actstudent.org.
- Focus on your career interests by taking a career assessment at your school.

SPRING
- Attend a College Fair if there’s one in your area.
- Go on campus visits while college is in session to fully experience campus life.
- Narrow your top college choices.
- Take the ACT test.
- Apply for a summer job, and create a budget to help you save for college.

SUMMER
- Retake the ACT and try to improve your score.
- Update your Activities Resume. Include awards, honors, volunteer work, and other activities.
- Job shadow to explore potential careers.
- Use ScholarshipQuest to research scholarships you can apply for your senior year.

VISIT EducationQuest.org to:
- Sign up for Countdown2College monthly email tips.
- Create or update your Activities Resume.
- Find dates and locations of Financial Aid Programs, College Fairs, and Educational Planning Programs.
- Set up a ScholarshipQuest profile to find Nebraska-based scholarships.
- Use Reality Check to match your future career with your desired lifestyle.
- Research colleges using College Profiles.
Take dual-credit courses to earn college credit — if available at your school.

Visit your top college choices.

Use ScholarshipQuest to look for scholarships.

Attend a College Fair or Educational Planning Program to meet with college representatives.

Attend a Financial Aid Program to learn how to pay college.

Apply to your top colleges. If your school has an Apply2College event, you’ll get help during the school day.

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 on or after October 1 to apply for financial aid.

Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) indicating your FAFSA was processed.

Retake the ACT and/or SAT. Colleges use your best score for admission and scholarship consideration.

Watch for acceptance letters from the colleges you applied to.

Be prepared for verification. The college(s) may request documents to verify your FAFSA information.

Expect financial aid award notifications from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA.

Compare financial aid award notifications to see which college offers the best award package.

Continue to apply for scholarships. Many have spring deadlines.

Make your final college decision and notify the other schools.

Submit your housing deposit before the deadline.

Attend new-student orientation at your college.

Apply for student loans, if needed. Your college will tell you how to apply.

Coordinate dorm purchases with your roommate.

Sign up for Countdown2College monthly email tips.

Update your Activities Resume.

Research colleges using College Profiles.

Find free FAFSA tools.

Learn about Financial Aid Programs, College Fairs, and Educational Planning Programs.

Find Nebraska-based scholarships via ScholarshipQuest.

Use Reality Check to match your future career with your desired lifestyle.