

JUNIORS...

A GUIDE FOR YOUR JOURNEY TO COLLEGE



EducationQuest.org



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.
- Research colleges that interest you.

- **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.



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 to talk to reps from your top college choices.
- Go on campus visits while college is in session to fully experience campus life.
- Narrow your top college choices.
- Take the ACT college entrance exam.
- 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.

SENIORS...

A GUIDE FOR YOUR JOURNEY TO COLLEGE



FALL

- Take dual-credit courses to earn college credit — if available at your school.
- Visit your top college choices, if you haven't already.
- Attend a College Fair or Educational Planning Program to meet with college representatives.
- Attend a Financial Aid Program to prepare for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- Apply to your top colleges. If your school is conducting 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.

VISIT EducationQuest.org to:

- Sign up for *Countdown2College* monthly email tips.
- Update your *Activities Resume*.
- 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.

WINTER

- Watch for communication from the colleges you applied to via your online student portal, email, or mail.
- 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.

SPRING

- 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.
- Register for new-student orientation at your college.
- Apply for a summer job. Save as much as you can for college.

SUMMER

- Attend new-student orientation at your college.
- Apply for student loans, if needed. Your college will tell you how to apply.
- Set up a budget that will help you manage your money while you're in college.
- Coordinate dorm purchases with your roommate.