

Freshmen...

# Do you **KnowHow2GO** to college?

The **KnowHow2GO** campaign provides **four steps** you should follow to make college a reality. Let's get started!

## STEP 1. Be a pain – in a good way.

- Ask adults in your life to help guide you to college – and keep asking until you find someone who will.
- If you can't find an adult to help you, see the "Find Help Near You" section at [KnowHow2GONEbraska.org](http://KnowHow2GONEbraska.org).
- Sign up for *Countdown2College* at [KnowHow2GONEbraska.org](http://KnowHow2GONEbraska.org) to receive monthly college planning advice.

## STEP 2. Push yourself.

- Work with your guidance counselor to set up a four-year coursework plan that will ensure admission into college.
- Get involved! Extracurricular activities can lead to scholarship opportunities and will look good on college applications.
  - Track your activities using the *Activities Resume* at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org).
- Grades start counting for college so it's important to learn good study skills.
  - Use a daily planner to keep track of assignments and tests.
  - Do your most difficult homework first while you're fresh and alert.
  - Take notes while you read, or use a highlighter to mark important information.



## STEP 3. Find the right fit.

- Explore career options.
  - Ask your counselor about career assessment tools at your school.
  - Get involved in activities that match potential career interests.
  - Check into job shadowing opportunities.
- Research colleges that match your interests.
  - See *College Profiles* at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org) for information about colleges nationwide.

## STEP 4. Put your hands on some cash.

- Visit [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org) to learn about financial aid and to view the "Guide to College Funding" video.
- Research scholarships with *ScholarshipQuest* at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org).
- Start saving for college.
  - Ask your parents to consider the College Savings Plan of Nebraska. Details are available at [planforcollegenow.com](http://planforcollegenow.com).

For more college planning information, see the *KnowHow2GO Guided Tour* at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org) and the [KnowHow2GONEbraska.org](http://KnowHow2GONEbraska.org) Web site.



[EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org)

[KnowHow2GONEbraska.org](http://KnowHow2GONEbraska.org)

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## STEP 2. Push yourself.

- Sign up for extracurricular activities and aim for leadership positions.
  - Update your *Activities Resume* at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org) to build a list of your awards, jobs and activities throughout high school for college admission and scholarship applications.
- In the fall, ask your guidance counselor about taking the PLAN and/or PSAT preliminary entrance exams.
- Register to take challenging courses for your junior year to better prepare for college.



## STEP 3. Find the right fit.

- Think about potential careers and college majors.
  - Take a skills and interest inventory through your school counselor's office.
  - Check into job shadowing opportunities in a field that interests you.
  - Find part-time employment to learn basic job skills and start building your resume.
- Start researching colleges that fit your interests.
  - Check out *College Profiles* at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org).
  - Attend events at colleges in your area to experience a campus environment.
  - Enroll in sports and/or academic camps at an area college.

## STEP 4. Put your hands on some cash.

- Visit [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org) to learn about financial aid and to use online tools.
  - Watch the "Guide to College Funding" video for an overview of the financial aid process.
  - Complete the *College Funding Estimator* to estimate your eligibility for financial aid.
  - Create a profile on *ScholarshipQuest* to find scholarships that match your criteria. It contains over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships.
- Continue saving for college.
  - Get a part-time job and save at least half of your earnings for college. It's helpful to create a budget that includes all your expenses.
  - Ask your parents to consider the College Savings Plan of Nebraska. Details are available at [planforcollegenow.com](http://planforcollegenow.com).

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