

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 to meet with college representatives.
- Learn about careers that match your skills and interests.
- Research colleges that offer programs in your areas of interest.

VISIT [EducationQuest.org](https://www.educationquest.org) to:

- Sign up for Countdown to College monthly email tips.
- Create or update your *Activities Resume*.
- Find dates of Financial Aid 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*.

WINTER

- Prepare for the ACT. Ask your counselor about test-prep options, including [actstudent.org](https://www.actstudent.org).
- Focus on your career interests by taking a career assessment at your school.

SPRING

- Go on college visits.
- Narrow your top college choices.
- Take the ACT.
- Apply for a summer job, and plan to save part of your earnings 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 senior year.



[EducationQuest.org](https://www.educationquest.org)

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.
- Use *ScholarshipQuest* to look for scholarships.
- Attend a College Fair to meet with college representatives.
- Attend a Financial Aid Program to learn how to pay for college.
- Apply to your top colleges. If your school has an *Apply2College* event, you will get help during the school day.
- Create FSA IDs at **StudentAid.gov** (you and one parent). Allow 3-5 days for verification before completing the FAFSA.
- Complete the FAFSA at **studentaid.gov** to apply for financial aid.
- Expect a FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) indicating your application was processed or if further action is needed.
- Retake the ACT and/or SAT.

VISIT **EducationQuest.org** to:

- Sign up for Countdown to College email tips.
- Update your *Activities Resume*.
- Research colleges using *College Profiles*.
- Find free FAFSA tools.
- Find dates of Financial Aid Programs.
- Find Nebraska-based scholarships via *ScholarshipQuest*.
- Use *Reality Check* to match your future career with your desired lifestyle.

WINTER

- Watch for college acceptance letters.
- Be prepared for financial aid verification. The college(s) may request documents to verify your FAFSA information.
- Expect financial aid offers from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA.

SPRING

- Compare financial aid offers 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.

SUMMER

- 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.



EducationQuest.org