

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

December 2020

What to expect after you submit your FAFSA

The [FAFSA](#) opened October 1, so many of you have already completed and submitted your form. Here's what happens next:

Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) via an email link. The SAR tells you that your FAFSA was processed and lets you know if you need to take further action.

Watch for verification requests. The college(s) you listed on your FAFSA might request verification of your FAFSA information. If so, send the required documents to the colleges' financial aid office. ***The college will not process your financial aid until they receive the documents.***

Watch for financial aid award notifications. The colleges you listed on your FAFSA – and were accepted to – will send you financial aid award notifications detailing the types and amounts of aid they're offering based on your financial need.

Haven't completed your FAFSA yet?

No problem! You and a parent can complete the form at studentaid.gov. Before you start, create a Student Aid Account (FSA ID) for you and one for a parent. You'll need them to access and sign the FAFSA.

For *free* help with the FAFSA, watch these brief [FAFSA Demo videos](#), use our [FAFSA Tools](#), or call the EducationQuest location nearest to you to make a virtual appointment:

Omaha – 402.391.4033 or 888.357.6300
Lincoln – 402.475.5222 or 800.303.3745
Kearney – 308.234.6310 or 800.666.3721
Scottsbluff – 308.708.7199 or 800.303.3745, ext. 6654

Virtual College Fair site will remain open until Dec. 1

EducationQuest held virtual college fairs Sept. 27-30 and on Nov. 17 so that students could meet with college reps and watch live college-prep presentations. Even though the live fairs are over, you may visit the site at eqf.org/collegefair until **Dec. 1** to visit college booths and watch recorded sessions. ***If you visit at least 3 booths, you'll be automatically entered into a drawing for a \$500 scholarship!***

Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

Don't ever pay for scholarship searches! Use *free* resources such as [ScholarshipQuest](#) at EducationQuest.org with over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. You'll also find a list of free national sites that we recommend such as [Chegg](#), [College Board](#), and [Fastweb](#).

Visit your school counselor often to learn about local scholarships.

Focus on local and college-based scholarships because you're more likely to earn them.

Update your activities, honors, community service, and paid jobs using the [Activities Resume](#) at EducationQuest.org.

Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores by taking the exam(s) in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.

Use quality references such as a teacher, coach, or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them a specific deadline, and a copy of your Activities Resume.

Tailor your essay to the scholarship. Ask an English teacher to read your essay and offer advice on making a big impact. Your essay will need to stand out from other applications.

December “To Do” List

Complete these tasks during December to stay on the right college-planning track.

Seniors:

___ If you haven't already, submit [college applications](#) and the [FAFSA](#).

___ Continue to apply for [scholarships](#).

___ Follow EducationQuest on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for a chance to win a [\\$500 scholarship](#).

Juniors

___ Take an ACT prep course.

___ Set up a [ScholarshipQuest](#) profile and start searching for Nebraska-based scholarships.

___ Follow EducationQuest on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for a chance to win a [\\$500 scholarship](#).

For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

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[EducationQuest.org](#)

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Your Journey to College Begins with Us