

# EducationQuest Foundation

# College Planning Bulletin

*A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students*

December 2019

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## 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).** You'll receive it via an email link if you provided an email address on your FAFSA. The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action to process your FAFSA.

**Make sure you applied for admission to colleges you listed on your FAFSA.** Colleges that receive your FAFSA results typically won't send you a financial aid package until you've applied and have been accepted to the school.

**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.

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

This [EducationQuest Blog article](#) has more details about what happens after you submit your FAFSA.

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## Haven't completed your FAFSA yet?

No problem! You and a parent can complete the form at [FAFSA.gov](#). Before you start, create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at [fsaid.ed.gov](#). You'll need them to access and sign the form.

For *free* help with the FAFSA, watch these [FAFSA Demo videos](#), use our free [FAFSA Tools](#), or call EducationQuest to make an appointment:

Omaha – 888.357.6300  
Lincoln – 800.303.3745  
Kearney – 800.666.3721  
Scottsbluff – 800.303.3745, ext. 6654

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## 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, or free national sites like [Cappex](#), [GoodCall](#), and [Chegg](#).

**Visit your school counselor** often for information about local scholarships.

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

**Update your activities, honors, community service or 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.

**Want more tips?** [Click here!](#)

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## 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](#).
- Use this [College Timeline](#) to stay on track to college.
- 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.
  - Use this [College Timeline](#) to stay on track to college.
  - Follow EducationQuest on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for a chance to win a [\\$500 scholarship](#).
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**For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:**

Omaha	Lincoln	Kearney	Scottsbluff
402-391-4033	402-475-5222	308-234-6310	800-303-3745 ext. 6654
888-357-6300	800-303-3745	800-666-3721	

**[EducationQuest.org](#)**

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