

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

May 2015

Seniors ... borrow wisely for college!

Review these tips before you decide how much to borrow in student loans:

- Borrow only what you need, even if it's less than the amount offered in your award letter.
- Try to use your student loan money *only* for tuition, room & board, books and fees. Get a part-time job during college to pay personal expenses.
- Compare the estimated starting salary of your potential future careers to your estimated college debt to ensure you can afford future loan payments.
- Apply for financial aid each year you attend college by completing the [FAFSA](#).
- Continue to look for scholarships while you're in college.
- Keep track of your student loan debt throughout college at nslds.ed.gov.

To learn more about student loans, see the "[Paying for College](#)" section at **EducationQuest.org** and [watch this brief video](#). To estimate your future loan payments, use this [Repayment Calculator](#).

How to prepare for your freshman year of college

Visit the [College Students](#) section at **EducationQuest.org** for tips to help you prepare for your freshman year of college. You'll find information on these topics:

- Achieving academic success
- How to manage your money
- How to select a major
- What to expect your freshman year of college

Check out the [EducationQuest Blog](#) for additional articles about college life.

Juniors... your summer to-do list

- **Start narrowing your college choices.** Visit some college campuses this summer and check out college websites. Narrow your choices to three or four colleges by the time school starts.
- **Update your [Activities Resume](#) at EducationQuest.org.** Include extracurricular activities, honors, awards, and part-time jobs.
- **Look for scholarships.** Check out [ScholarshipQuest](#) at **EducationQuest.org** for Nebraska-based scholarships, and pay attention to scholarships current seniors have received.
- **Find a summer job to help pay for college expenses.** Ask prospective employers if they offer education assistance programs.

May “To Do” List

Seniors

- ___ Apply for student loans, if necessary.
- ___ Register for freshmen orientation at your college.
- ___ Start a list of dorm room essentials.
- ___ Get a summer job to help pay college expenses.

Juniors

- ___ [Register](#) by May 8 for the June 6 SAT.
- ___ [Register](#) by May 8 for the June 13 ACT.
- ___ Continue campus visits.
- ___ Get a summer job and save for college.

For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

Kearney

308-234-6310
800-666-3721

Lincoln

402-475-5222
800-303-3745

Omaha

402-391-4033
888-357-6300

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