

# EducationQuest Foundation

# College Planning Bulletin

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

April 2019

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## **Seniors...It's decision time!**

Here's how to make your final college decision.

Compare your college acceptance letters, financial aid award notifications, and campus visit notes. List the pros and cons of each school using the following criteria:

**Location** – Is the college too close? If you come home every weekend, you won't experience true campus life. Is the college too far away? If so, you may not make it home as often as you'd like.

**Cost** – Can your family afford the school? What can you expect for financial aid beyond your freshman year? Did you receive renewable scholarships? How much in [student and parent loans](#) will you need to borrow to cover expenses?

**Academic program** – Which college offers the degree program that best fits your career interests? What happens if you change majors? Does the college offer other degree programs that interest you?

**Student life** – Does the school offer activities you will enjoy? If you plan to live on campus, do you like the housing arrangements provided by the school? Will you have an opportunity to work on or near campus?

Make your final decision by **May 1** and then notify the colleges you're rejecting so they can offer your spot, and financial aid, to another student.

## **Juniors... these questions will help you narrow your college choices**

By picking your top colleges now, you'll be better prepared to apply for financial aid and college admission early next fall. Start by answering these questions:

### **What do you want to study?**

Explore your career interests and then research colleges that offer programs in areas you may want to pursue. Use college selection tools like [College Profiles](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).

### **What kind of school do you want to attend?**

Do you prefer a large university or a small college? Are you interested in a community college? What kind of student/teacher ratio do you want?

### **Where do you want to go to college?**

Do you want to live close to home or far away? Do you want to be in a major city or a small town? How big of a factor is out-of-state or private school tuition?

### **What can you afford?**

Consider overall costs: tuition, room and board, books, transportation, and personal expenses. (See "[About Nebraska Colleges](#)" for costs.) Determine what you and your parents can afford to pay out-of-pocket and plan to apply for financial aid to help make up the difference. Calculate [the loan debt](#) you and your parents may need to incur to pay for your college education.

For more details, see [Selecting a College](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).

## **April "To Do" List**

### **Seniors**

- Continue applying for [scholarships](#).
- Make your final college decision.
- Start purchasing dorm essentials.
- Start looking for a summer job.

### **Juniors**

- Schedule [campus visits](#) while colleges are still in session.
- [Register](#) by May 3 for the June 8 ACT.
- Continue to update your Activity Resume'.

**For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:**

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