

JUNIOR-SENIOR NEWSLETTER

From the school counseling office

December 6, 2011

Volume 10, No. 4

Junior-Senior Interviews
ACT & SAT Test Schedules
Basic Nursing Assistant Classes Available at SCC
Career Explorations in Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Interior Design 2012--
High School Summer Workshop at UNL
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JUNIOR-SENIOR INTERVIEWS

The junior and senior interviews, all 60 of them, have been completed! I am hopeful that the sessions we had were beneficial to you. I know I learned a lot about your plans for the future. A few questions remain to be answered so please be sure to check on anything you asked about. Seniors, get those college campus visits and all admissions applications completed as soon as possible! Juniors, use this next semester to get started on college visits and scholarship searching. If you have any further questions, please come see me to get them answered.

ACT & SAT TEST SCHEDULES

The remaining ACT test dates for 2011-2012 are:

Test Date	Reg Date	Late Reg
12/10	11/4	11/18
2/11	1/13	1/20
4/14	3/9	3/23
6/9	5/4	5/18

You may take the ACT up to a maximum of 12 times. **You should take the ACT if you plan to attend any 4-year college or university in the Midwest.** Juniors should start this process no later than the April date. Informational registration flyers are available in the counseling office; register is completed on line at www.actstudent.org. Keep in mind that the June date usually conflicts with the NE Girls and Boys State Programs. If you hope to be chosen to attend, get your testing done in February and/or April. The website also provides great information and practice tests.

The SAT is used more prevalently at East and West Coast schools so many Nebraska students choose to not take this exam. However, if you are interested in attending schools outside Nebraska you may want/need to take the SAT. Registration materials are available in the counseling office. Their website is www.collegeboard.com. The remaining testing dates are:

Test Date	Reg. Date	Late Reg.
December 4	Nov 5	Nov 19
January 22	Dec 23	Jan 7
March 12	Feb 11	Feb 25
May 7	April 1	May 6
June 4	May 6	May 20

Don't forget that there are free test-prep booklets in the counseling office and websites to help you prepare for ACT/SAT testing. Be sure to check the United States Army's March to Success test prep program at www.march2success.com and Peterson's website www.MyStudentEdge.com. The first time you use this prep site you will need to login as a new user; you can access the code for MPS by looking up our school at the login site. Both of these sites provide a wealth of preparation materials at no cost or obligation. Take advantage of them while you can; your use of the sites will help keep them operating.

BASIC NURSING ASSISTANT CLASSES AVAILABLE AT SCC

This Basic Nursing Assistant Course, approved by the Nebraska Department of Health, provides the basic preparation for a nursing assistant to be employed in a long-term care facility. A nursing assistant gives simple, basic nursing care under the supervision of an RN or LPN. High school

completion or GED is not required to take the course; however, students must be at least 16 years of age. Most classes will meet at SCC-Lincoln on the 8800 "O" Street location. Tuition (\$389.63 includes \$5 liability fee plus \$45 non-refundable background check fee for NE residents) must be paid at the time of registration.

Additional class sessions are offered in Beatrice, Crete, Falls City, and Geneva. For a complete schedule, visit SCC at www.southeast.edu; click on the Continuing Education link then look for health classes. Questions about registration, availability and dropping the course can be answered at 402-437-2700, 402-437-2701, 800-828-0072 or slarsen@southeast.edu. Medication Aide courses are also available at a cost of \$195; students must be 18 years or older to be employed as a Medication Aide in the state of Nebraska.

CAREER EXPLORATIONS IN ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN

The UNL Department of Architecture will be conducting the 2012 summer workshop for high school students interested in exploring careers in architecture and interior design the week of June 10-16, 2012. This is a one-week residential program with opportunities for an intense period of study as well as recreation and entertainment. The central focus of the workshop is a design studio with opportunities for students to experience their creative potential as they explore various design issues in different media. In addition to the studio, students attend lectures, go on field trips, partake in seminar discussions, and view films on design. These activities are planned to broaden students' understanding of the design professions and offer a glimpse into the activities that form the foundation for all design inquiry. The fee for the workshop is \$585 covering the cost of studio supplies, program fees, meals and lodging. Students are supervised overnight while in the residence hall by Department of Architecture staff.

If you are interested in attending, please visit http://architecture.unl.edu/programs/arch/hs_workshop.shtml to download an application form. Two recommendations from persons (other than family) familiar with the applicant's academic and creative ability are required. In addition, each applicant is to submit a 500-word essay describing

why he/she is interested in architecture and/or interior design and why he/she wishes to attend the workshop. All application materials must be received in the Department of Architecture office on or before April 6, 2012.

OPEN HOUSE AND VISIT DAYS

These events will give you the opportunity to discuss your career/education goals beyond high school with representatives from 2 and 4-year colleges and universities and trade schools. I encourage you to attend any of the following events that are of interest to you.

BryanLGH prospective students are encouraged to schedule a one-on-one campus visit through the Admissions Office by calling 800-742-7844 ext. 18697 or 481-8697.

Grace University is hosting Winter College Preview Days on January 29-20 and February 19-20. Royals Days on March 25-26 is for athletes only and G.R.A.C.E Days (pre-registration will be held on April 15-16, 2012. You can also call the Admissions Office to set up a visit to fit your specific needs. All these events are free; juniors, seniors and parents are welcome to come to try out a college class, check out the campus and get answers to all your questions about college. Call Admissions at 1-800-383-1422 or go to their website at www.graceuniversity.edu for more information.

Nebraska Wesleyan University located at 5000 Saint Paul Avenue in Lincoln can schedule individual visits during the morning or afternoon hours. If you are interested in attending Wesleyan, go to www.nebrwesleyan.edu to set up your personal visit.

Peru State College campus visits can be scheduled Monday through Thursday at 10 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. with Friday visits available at 10 a.m. To set up a visit go to www.peru.edu/admissions or call 1-800-742-4412, option 1.

Southeast Community College visits can be scheduled at any time by visiting their website at www.southeast.edu.

University of Nebraska Kearney will host Loper Preview Days during the 2011-12 academic year. Juniors, seniors and parents are welcome and

encouraged to attend these events. You can register by going to the UNK website at www.unk.edu/loperpreviewday or contact the Admissions office at 308-865-8526 for more information. Remaining open house days are:

College of Fine Arts & College of Natural & Social Sciences Reception Tuesday, Feb 7

College of Education & College of Business & Technology Reception Tuesday, April 4

Individual visits tailored to meet your specific needs can also be scheduled by calling 1-800-KEARNEY.

The **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** is hosting 12 Red Letter Days (Senior Open Houses) this fall and winter. All events are scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and are planned for high school seniors; parents are welcome to attend with their student(s). To register, go to www.unl.edu, click on the Prospective Student, then Schedule a Visit. From there, click on Red Letter Days, then Register Now. Deadline for registration is one week in advance of the event date; however, register early to reserve your preferred date! The remaining dates for the Red Letter Days are:

All Majors:

Friday, January 13 Monday, February 20

Special Visit Events at UNL

Greek Preview Saturday, March 31

Big Red Open House Monday, March 12
Friday, April 6
Friday, April 20

Junior Wednesdays To Be Announced

Individual daily visits are available most weekdays at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Please schedule two weeks in advance so UNL can personalize your visit. Saturday and bilingual visits are also available upon request. Check the website for regular updates!!

The **University of Nebraska-Omaha** Office of Recruitment Services will be holding several open houses during the spring semester. The dates are:

January 23 February 13
February 25-Mammel Hall & Peter Kiewit Institute
February 25-UNO Housing Showcase
March 26th
April 16-Junior Maverick Day

Students and their families can make reservations for any of those dates by calling 1-877-884-MAVS (toll free) or registering on-line at www.BEAMAV.com, then click on "Visit UNO".

The office also offers a campus visitation program with ten tours per week through December 8 for the fall semester and January 23 through April 20 for the spring semester. These are held Monday through Friday at 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. While on campus, you will have the opportunity to speak with a Recruitment Services representative, tour campus, meet academic advisors, visit with athletic coaches and see on-campus housing. You should register (on-line or by phone) seven to ten days in advance.

Wayne State College is hosting Fridays @ WSC on December 9, January 27, February 10 & 24, March 2 & 23 and April 6. The second semester Just Juniors Day will be held Saturday, March 17, 2012. For more information contact Wayne State Admissions at 1-866-WSC-CATS or admission@wac.edu.

Buena Vista in Storm Lake, Iowa is offering an additional \$1000-\$3000 per year in scholarship awards to any student who visits the campus between now and February 15, 2012. You must apply for admission (no fee!), have a 2.75+ GPA, complete an essay (30 minutes) and interview during the visit. For more information, call 800-383-9600.

Please check out the Counselor pages at the Malcolm Public School website.

SENIORS

FAFSA Information Finishing College Applications Scholarship Searching & Current Scholarship List

FAFSA INFORMATION

If you have any further questions about the FAFSA or other topics that were presented at our local Financial Aid Program held on 11/10, please do not hesitate to contact the school counseling office or EducationQuest Foundation office. Their toll-free number is 800-303-3745; their website is www.educationquest.org.

All seniors should go online to obtain the PIN needed for filing a FAFSA. I recommend you do this before the holidays. Any parents, who do not already have PIN, should also complete the request now. Just go to www.pin.ed.gov and follow the directions to request a PIN...it will only take a few minutes and will save time when you are ready to file your FAFSA in February.

FINISHING COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

You should be completing all post-secondary applications as soon as possible. If you need help obtaining information and applications, visit my office. If you haven't done any campus visits, it is not too late to do them. Remember that visits are the best way to help you make decisions about your educational plans. Just stop by if you want assistance in setting up a visit.

Transcripts (a record of your 9-12 classes and the grades you have earned) must be requested 7-10 days prior to when you need them. There is no charge for these documents but we do ask that you pay for the postage needed to send them. **Postage must be paid when you make the request.**

Request forms are available in the outer counseling office or main office. Just turn in your request to Mrs. Gregg.

When you need recommendation forms completed or letters written, be sure to ask early (**a month in advance is not too early**) and give the person enough information to write a good letter. Choose those who know you well in the area the application focuses on. For example, if you are applying to Concordia University majoring in science and you want to participate in sports, consider asking Ms. Svoboda or Mr. Gore and the coach in the sport you have worked your hardest.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHING

Time is running out for many scholarship applications so be sure to get them completed on time. If there is no website listed, be sure to request applications from the counseling office early enough to allow time for completion. Remember that the computer in the outer counseling office is for students to use in

scholarship searching, career exploration and gathering information about colleges.

I am hopeful that many of you are using the free scholarship searches available to you. Flyers for FastWeb are available in the outer counseling office. The EducationQuest Foundation at www.educationquest.org is another good source of information. Other sites recommended by EducationQuest Foundation are:

www.scholarshipmonkey.com

www.Scholarships.com

www.Schoolsoup.com

www.collegeboard.com

www.ScholarshipExperts.com

<https://studentaid2.ed.gov/getmoney/scholarship>

CURRENT SCHOLARSHIP LIST

To obtain more information and/or an application for scholarships **without a website listed**, come to the school counseling office. Application request forms are in the outer office.

12/15 NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award
Go to www.NFIB.com/YEF

Any Senior operating a small business

12/31	AnyCollege Scholarship Sweepstakes Go to www.anycollege.com Click on "Win a Scholarship"	Any senior
1/7	2012 John F. Kennedy Profiles of Courage Go to: www.jfklibrary.org	Any Junior or Senior-Essay Contest
1/9	NASSP National Honor Society Scholarship Go to: http://aim.applyists.net/NHS	Member of Malcolm NHS
1/10	Nebraska Elks Association Scholarships Go to: www.elk80.org	Deadlines vary from 1/10-1/15
1/11	Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program Go to: www.gmsp.org	Minimum 3.3 GPA, African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Latin American Majoring in Computer Science, Education, Engineering, Library Science, Math, or Public Health
1/12	BK Scholar's Program Go to: www.haveyourwayfoundation.org/burgerking_scholars_program.html	2.5 GPA minimum, Work part-time 10+ hours
1/15	Board of Trustees Nebraska State College System Go to: www.nscs.edu	Attending Chadron, Peru or Wayne
1/15	Chadron State College Freshman Scholarships Go to: www.csc.edu	Attending Chadron State College
1/15	Nebraska Educational Office Professionals Assn. Go to: http://neopa.unl.edu	Majoring in an office related profession
1/15	2011 SAE Engineering Scholarships (University sponsored) Go to: www.sae.org	Majoring in engineering or related science
1/15	UNL Scholarship Application Go to: www.unl.edu Click on Apply (for all UNL Scholarships listed)	Attending UNL
1/15	Washington Crossing Foundation Go to www.gwcf.org	Planning for a career in government, any level
1/20	The Art Institutes Passion for Fashion Competition Go to: www.artinstitutes.edu/passion4fashion	Attending Art Institute, Major in Fashion Marketing Fashion Merchandising, or Retail Mgmt.
1/20	NE Rural Community Schools Assn. Go to: www.nrcsa.net	Can submit one male-one female applicant; bring completed app to counseling office to be submitted by the school.
1/27	UNK Music Scholarship Audition Date Go to : www.unk.edu/music	Attending UNK
1/28	ACT Poster Contest Go to: www.actstudent.org/postercontest	Any 2 or 4 year college, design poster to encourage students to attend college/take ACT
1/31	Elks Lodge #80 Scholarships Go to: www.elks80.org	Seniors, varies by scholarship offered
2/1	AXA Community Scholarship Go to: www.axa-achievement.com	Seniors, community service involvement
2/1	Davis-Chambers Freshman Scholarship Go to: www.nscs.edu	Attending Chadron, Peru or Wayne; 3.0 GPA
2/1	Multicultural Community Service Scholarship Go to: www.unk.edu/offices/financial_aid	Attending UNK, Upper 50%, ACT 20
2/1	Health Science Scholars Program Go to: http://www.unk.edu/healthsciencescholarships/	Attending UNK, ACT 22, GPA 3.0
2/1	Peter Kiewit Foundation Educators Opportunity Go to: www.unk.edu/offices/financial_aid	Attending UNK, Education Majors, Fluent Spanish
2/1	Davis-Chambers Scholarship Go to: www.nscs.edu or Go to: www.unk.edu/offices/financial_aid	Attending UNK, Chadron, Peru or Wayne State College, Upper 30%, ACT 23, 1 st generation, etc. see websites
2/1	2011-2012 National Peace Essay Contest Go to: www.usip.org/npec	Grades 9-12, US citizen
2/1	Silas H. Rhodes Scholarship Go to: www.sva.edu	Attending School of Visual Arts, 3.0 GPA
2/1	UNK Freshman Scholarships Go to: www.unk.edu	Attending UNK
2/1	UNK Honors Program Go to: www.unk.edu/acad/honors/home.html	Top 25%, ACT 27 minimum
2/1	UNK 1 st Year Theatre Scholarship	Attending UNK

	Go to: www.unk.edu/acad/theatre	
2/1	UNO Freshman Scholarships Go to: www.unomaha.edu	Attending UNL
2/3	The Art Institutes Best Teen Chef Go to: www.artinstitutes.edu/BTC	Attending Art Institute major in Culinary Arts
2/8	KFC Colonel's Scholars Go to: www.kfcscholars.org	GPA 2.5 or higher, attending a 4-yr college
2/10	Hy-Vee Foundation Scholarship Go to www.hy-vee.com	Hy-Vee employee before 9/15
2/10	NE Machinery Company Diesel Tech Sponsorship Go to www.nebraskamachinery.com/hr/	Attending CCC/Hastings majoring in Diesel Tech
2/10	Caterpillar Scholarship Go to www.nebraskamachinery.com/hr/	Attending CCC/Hastings majoring in Diesel Tech
2/10	UNK Music Entrance & Scholarship Auditions	Attending UNK, Go to: www.unk.edu/acad/music
2/11	UNK Music Entrance & Scholarship Auditions	Attending UNK, Go to: www.unk.edu/acad/music
2/15	Cargill Community Scholarship Go to: www.cargill.com keyword: scholarship or www.ffa.org Will need signature from: Cargill at 3001 Cornhusker Hyw, Lincoln	Any Senior; do not have to be in FFA
2/15	Central Community College ACT Advantage Must have applied to CCC and submitted ACT scores to CC-applications will be sent directly to the student's home address the 2 nd week of January	Attending CCC, ACT 21 or above, 2.5+ GPA
2/15	Co-operative Education Scholarship Go to: www.co-op.edu	Attend Member School-see website
2/17	GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program Go to: http://facebook.com/GEReaganScholarships	Leadership, Citizenship
2/17	Wayne State College Music Scholarships Auditions	Attending WSC majoring and/or participating in Music/music ensembles
2/22	SCC Educational Foundation Go to: https://scc.scholarships.ngwebsolutions.com (available December 1-February 22)	Attending SCC
2/24	UNK Music Entrance & Scholarship Auditions	Attending UNK, Go to: www.unk.edu/acad/music
2/25	UNK Music Entrance & Scholarship Auditions	Attending UNK, Go to: www.unk.edu/acad/music
3/1	Central Community College General Scholarship Go to: www.cccneb.edu/financialaid	Attending CCC
3/1	Engbretson Foundation Scholarship Go to: www.engbretsonfoundation.org	Financial Need, ACT 28 or higher, Leadership
3/1	Independent Insurance Agents of NE Post-mark date	Attending any 2 or 4-year college in NE: business or business-related majors preferred
3/1	Nebraska Academy of Sciences Go to: www.neacadsci.org/Info/Scholarship.htm	
3/1	UNL Honors Program Final Notification Go to www.unl.edu (must complete online application, then follow honors program instructions)	Attending UNL
3/1	UNO Music Scholarship Auditions Go to: www.unomaha.edu//music	Attending UNO
3/2	American Legion Auxiliary Go to: www.nebraskalegionaux.net for info; applications available in the counseling office soon	Several available, veteran connection, see website
3/10	UNK Music Scholarship Audition Date Go to : www.unk.edu/music	Attending UNK
3/15	Nebraska Aviation Trades Assn. Scholarship	Any Senior
3/31	AnyCollege Scholarship Sweepstakes Go to www.anycollege.com Click on "Win a Scholarship"	Any senior
3/31	USBank Scholarship Go to: www.usbank.com/studentloans	Random drawing 40-\$1000 awards/4-yr college
3/31	LIBA	
4/13	Wayne State College Music Scholarships Auditions	Attending WSC majoring and/or participating in Music/music ensembles
4/19	2011-12 Holocaust Remembrance Scholarship Go to: http://holocaust.hklaw.com	Any student 9-12
4/20	Central Community College Summer School Go to: www.cccneb.edu after March 9, 2012	Current Junior or senior taking a summer course
4/26	Ayn Rand "The Fountainhead" Essay Contest	Junior or Senior

- Go to: www.aynrandeducation.com
- 6/22 Big Sun Scholarship Athletic involvement
Go to: www.bigsunathletics.com
- 6/30 AnyCollege Scholarship Sweepstakes Any senior
Go to www.anycollege.com Click on "Win a Scholarship"
- The Art Institute-Various Scholarship Competitions Go to: www.aiadvantage.com
 - Cappex Scholarships Go to: www.cappex.com
 - Iowa State University Dept of Music Scholarships Go to: www.music.iastate.edu
 - Graceland University offers a variety of scholarships with varying deadlines. Go to: www.graceland.edu/scholarships
 - Northwest Missouri State has numerous scholarships with varying due dates & eligibility. Go to www.nwmissouri.edu for more information.
 - Southwest Minnesota State University Music Scholarships Go to: www.SMSU.edu/academics_programs
 - University of the Arts—variety of scholarships. Go to: www.uarts.edu.
 - UNK Music Performance Auditions for Scholarship --Go to www.unk.edu/acad/music and click on audition-application.
 - UNL Dept of Theatre Arts and Department of Music auditions - go to www.unl.edu for more information.
 - UNO Music Scholarships --Any Senior Attending UNO, go to <http://music.unomaha.edu/scholarship.html>
 - VFW Scholarship and Incentive Programs Go to: www.vfw.org under "Programs"
 - Wells Fargo College Steps Program Scholarship Sweepstakes accepts information through August 5, 2011 at www.wellsfargo.com/collegesteps During the 2010-2011 school year, Wells Fargo will give away 20 \$1000 tuition prizes through random drawings.

Juniors

Scholarships for Juniors Washington University in St Louis 2012 Summer Experiences Event Reminders

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR JUNIORS

As discussed during your junior interviews, I strongly advise all of you to start your personal scholarship search!! You should begin this process in the next few months (NOW is even better) even though there are fewer scholarships available to juniors. Why?!? You will develop your searching skills, establish a good habit and will understand the process early in your senior career. Don't wait and then find that you have missed deadlines because you waited too long to get started on this job. Good job to those of you who have been doing this...the computer in the outer counseling office is there for you to use.

There are numerous free searches available on the Internet. Some of the best are:

- www.educationquest.org
- www.scholarshipmonkey.com
- <https://studentaid2.ed.gov/getmoney/scholarship>
- www.Schoolsoup.com
- www.Scholarships.com

- www.Collegeboard.com

Please remember that many of the groups that award scholarships do not send information to school counseling offices. Keep your ears and eyes tuned for any opportunities. If you learn of a scholarship you have not seen in our newsletter, bring the information to the guidance office so I can get the details out to all.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Summers Scholars Program allows a select number of participants (at least 16 years of age and current high school sophomore or juniors) to choose from almost 60 different courses spanning the arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences and foreign languages. Two five-week sessions are offered from June 10-14 and July 15-August 17, 2012.. Students can earn up to seven college credits transferable to most accredited colleges and universities. Summer Scholars live in the undergraduate residential area with trained Resident Advisors and enjoy a variety of social and cultural

opportunities with other participants from around the world. The program requires application, recommendations and an official transcript. Limited scholarship assistance is available to students with strong academic credentials who also demonstrate financial need. For further information on the program, please refer to www.ucollege.wustl.edu/hssp. If you have further questions, e-mail Program Director Marsha Hussung at mhussung@wustl.edu or call 866-209-0691 (toll free).

They will also host three summer institutes in 2012. These three week programs, focused upon Writing, Pre-Medical and Photojournalism, are available to current sophomores and juniors with a GPA of B or better. You must have personal writing sample to share. For more information and application materials, visit: www.swi.ucollege.wustl.edu or contact swi@artsci.wustl.edu or call 314-935-6720.

EVENT REMINDERS

ACT registration deadline for the February 11th testing is Friday, January 13th. Late registration will be accepted January 14-20th.

The **2012 John F. Kennedy Profiles of Courage Essay Contest** is open to juniors. Applications are due January 7, 2012. Visit www.jfklibrary.org for more information.

The **2011-2012 National Peace Essay Contest** application, found online at www.usip.org/npec, is due February 1, 2012.

ACT registration deadline for the April 14th testing is Friday, March 9th. Late registration will be accepted through March 23rd.

Ayn Rand "The Fountainhead" Essay Contest is for junior or senior students. Applications are due April 26, 2012. For more information, go to www.aynrandeducation.com.

The **VFW Scholarship and Incentive Programs** have a variety of deadlines. For more information, go www.vfw.org under "Programs", "Youth Scholarship" or "Citizenship Education."

The **2012 Holocaust Remembrance Scholarship** competition is for any student in grades 9-12. For more info, go to: <http://holocaust.hklaw.com>. Applications are due April 19, 2012..

ACT registration deadline for the June 9th testing is Friday, May 4th. Late registration will be accepted through May 18.

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

December 2011

Attend a Financial Aid Program to learn how to pay for college

EducationQuest is conducting statewide Financial Aid Programs that explain the types of financial aid, how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), how colleges award financial aid, and the student loan process. The programs are free and open to the public. To find the program nearest you, visit EducationQuest.org/financial-aid-programs.

Free FAFSA Webinar will explain financial aid

If you can't make it to a Financial Aid Program, plan to participate in one of several free webinars on "How to Complete the FAFSA." You will learn the basics of financial aid and how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Webinars are scheduled for:

Wednesday, November 30 - 7:00 pm (CT)

Registration link: <http://goo.gl/8iDqE>

Wednesday, December 14 - 7:00 pm (CT)

Registration link: <http://goo.gl/KFBeO>

Monday, January 9 - 7:00 pm (CT)

Registration link: <http://goo.gl/1lthi>

Wednesday, January 11 - 7:00 pm (CT)

Registration link: <http://goo.gl/97LtJ>

To sign in, click on the link under your desired date. The password is **Presentation**.

[Print this flyer](#) for handy instructions and Webinar dates.

If you have questions, call EducationQuest at 800.666.3721 or email info@educationquest.org.

How to estimate your FAFSA results

If you're a college-bound senior, you will complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after the first of the year. Colleges will use your FAFSA results to determine how much they will award you in financial aid.

To estimate your FAFSA results now, use the [College Funding Estimator](#) at EducationQuest.org. The program will ask for 2011 income tax information. You may estimate your tax information to complete the Estimator but should use your completed 2011 tax returns when you submit the actual FAFSA. To meet your college's financial aid priority date, complete your taxes early.

Seniors...have you submitted your college applications?

If you haven't submitted your admission applications yet, it's time to get serious! Contact your top college choices to determine application deadlines and procedures. Ask if the admission application is also the application for college-based scholarships. If not, ask about the scholarship application process.

Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

Don't pay for scholarship searches. Free scholarship search sites are available including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at EducationQuest.org which has over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. Free national sites include [Fastaid](#), [Scholarship Monkey](#), [ScholarshipExperts.com](#), [Student Aid on the Web](#), [School Soup](#), and [Scholarships.com](#).

Visit your guidance counselor often for information about local scholarships.

Get organized. Place scholarship applications in deadline order and prioritize each award. Local awards and college-specific applications deserve top priority because you're more likely to earn them.

Continually 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 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 advance notice and a specific deadline.

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.

Pay close attention to grammar, spelling and neatness. Ask at least two people to proofread your entire application.

December "To Do" List

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

Seniors:

- Submit college applications.
- Estimate FAFSA results using the College Funding Estimator at EducationQuest.org.
- Attend the Financial Aid Program in your area.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.

Juniors

- Attend the Financial Aid Program in your area.
 - Research college choices.
 - Search for scholarships.
 - Register by December 30 for the January 28 SAT.
 - Register by January 13 for the February 11 ACT.
-

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

EducationQuest.org

KnowHow2GONebraska.org

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EducationQuest Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization with a mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska.

News You Can Use



December 2011

ACT provides this monthly newsletter to inform students and their parents about college and career planning. ACT is a not-for-profit organization that serves millions of people in schools, colleges, professional associations, businesses and government agencies with programs and services that help people achieve their education and career goals. Visit www.actstudent.org for more information and services.



College Planning ACT

Key Dates

December 2011

- The ACT student poster contest starts December 5. The winning entries will be rewarded with thousands of dollars in scholarship money. To learn more, go to actstudent.org/postercontest.

January 2012

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) becomes available online January 1. File the FAFSA as soon as possible at fafsa.ed.gov.
- The registration deadline for the February ACT® test date is January 13. After that you may register, with a late fee, until January 20. (No test centers are scheduled in New York for the February test date.)

February 2012

- The ACT will be administered on February 11.

Gear up for financial aid

January is fast approaching and that means it's time for seniors to seriously consider college financial aid for the upcoming school year.

In addition to private scholarships, federal financial aid is available for students attending two-year or four-year, public or private, career or trade colleges and schools. The aid is intended to cover expenses such as tuition, room and board, books, other supplies and transportation. Most students receive the aid based on financial need.

Students can receive federal financial aid in the form of grants, loans or work-study. Grants are financial awards that do not have to be repaid. Examples include Pell Grants and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants. Loans are money you borrow and must repay. The best loans are those that are subsidized by the federal or your state government. These generally carry lower interest rates. Work-study provides jobs, usually on campus, so students can help pay for education expenses.

To find out about federal financial aid programs and your rights and responsibilities under these programs, read "Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid" from the U.S. Department of Education at studentaid.ed.gov/guide. You also can request a free paper copy by contacting the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800-4-FED-AID. The guide is available in both English and Spanish.

Also, be sure to check out the ACT website at actstudent.org/finaid. You'll find a good financial aid overview in easy-to-understand language, plus a list of resources to contact for more information on loans, scholarships and government programs.

How to apply for financial aid

If you're planning to attend college next fall, January is the time to file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. Information from the FAFSA is used to determine your eligibility for the federal student aid programs mentioned above—grants, loans and work-study.

You can get the FAFSA:

- online at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- from your school counselor
- from a college financial aid office
- from a local public library
- from the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)

Make sure you check financial aid deadlines! The FAFSA will list deadlines for federal and state aid. Also check the requirements at the colleges you're interested in applying to. Some require additional financial aid forms.

Beware of college financial aid myths

College application season is in full swing. As you apply to colleges and see how much they cost, don't let fears overshadow an otherwise exciting time in your life. The key is to avoid the financial myths surrounding the price of a higher education.

Myth #1: Everyone pays the "sticker price" for college.

Many students add the tuition price, textbook fees and the cost of living and say there is no way they can afford college. The truth is most college students require some form of financial aid. Don't ignore college because of its "sticker price." Colleges award financial aid on their own and you may receive a combination of grants, scholarships or work-study jobs to help reduce your out-of-pocket costs.

Myth #2: You have to be very poor, very smart or very talented to qualify for financial aid.

Financial aid comes in many forms—grants and scholarships, which you don't have to repay, and loans, which you do have to repay. There is need-based aid for students of lower income families, and merit-based aid for students who excel in academics, athletics, music, community service

and many other areas. Financial aid sources vary—the federal government, the college or university itself, even a parent's employer—may all offer some form of financial assistance. Explore all the possibilities; you might be pleasantly surprised.

Myth #3: You can get more scholarships by paying someone to search for you.

Scholarship scams are everywhere. Beware of any group or individual who guarantees a scholarship if you pay a fee. There are many good and FREE scholarship sources on the Internet. We suggest you check out fastweb.com or finaid.org for more information.

Myth #4: If you pay for college, your parents' salaries don't matter.

For a majority of students, need-based financial aid is based on both the student's and parents' income and assets—whether or not the parents plan to help financially. Most schools require students to fill out complete family financial information on the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, in order to qualify for need-based aid. The form, available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov, asks for information similar to what's filed for income taxes. After submitting the FAFSA, you receive a report that shows the expected family contribution to pay toward your education.

Myth #5: You can wait until you get accepted to a college before worrying about financial aid.

While most colleges have their own sources of financial aid, there are several independent programs that award scholarship funds on a first-come first-served basis. It's not a lot of fun filling out the applications, but it's safe to say you'll be glad you did if you earn some free financial assistance.

Financial aid terms

The following are some key financial aid terms:

Aid package A combination of aid (possibly including a scholarship, grant, loan or work) determined by a college financial aid office.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) an amount you and your family are expected to contribute toward your education. It is used in determining eligibility for federal student aid.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) the application required for students to be considered for federal student financial aid. Obtain a FAFSA form or electronic filing information from a high school or college for the appropriate school year. The FAFSA is processed free of charge and used by most state agencies and colleges.

Grants awards, usually based on financial need, which do not require repayment. Grants are available through the federal government, state agencies and educational institutions.

Scholarships Awards to students based on merit or merit plus need that do not have to be repaid.

Student Aid Report (SAR) Your Student Aid Report (SAR) summarizes all the information you provided on your FAFSA. Your SAR will usually contain your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), the number used in determining your eligibility for federal student aid. You will receive your SAR by e-mail within 3–5 days after your FAFSA has been processed, if you provided an e-mail address when you applied. This e-mail will contain a secure link so you can access your SAR online.

You will receive a paper SAR by mail within 7–10 days after your FAFSA has been processed, if you do not provide an e-mail address when you apply. Whether you apply online or by paper, we will automatically send your data electronically to the schools you listed on your FAFSA.

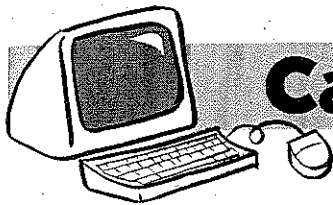
Want to learn more? Join in on an upcoming FAFSA webinar

Looking for a quick, convenient way to learn about the FAFSA? The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) is hosting a free webinar on the topic. This is an excellent way to pick up valuable information about federal student aid – all from the comfort of your home, office or school computer. Gather your students, colleagues or family members and join in to receive free instruction. You can learn more and register for the event by clicking [here](#).

Date: Wednesday, December 7

Duration: 60 minutes

Time: 2:00 p.m. Eastern/1:00 p.m. Central/12:00 p.m. Mountain/11:00 a.m. Pacific



Careers

ACT

The newest way to stand out to employers

ACT is providing a new way for those looking for a job to differentiate themselves from their competition. Since a lot of people often apply for the same opening it's important to be able to demonstrate the skills and personal strengths that set you apart. When you do, you expand your career opportunities.

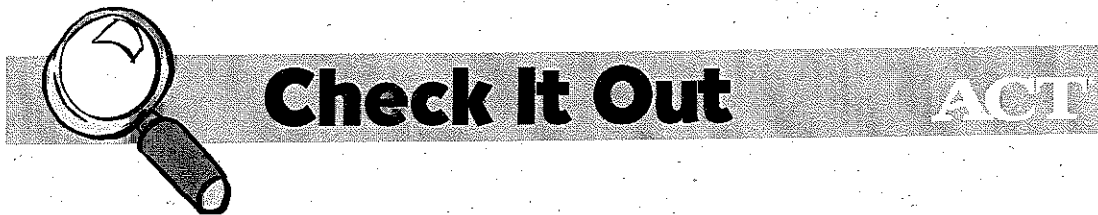
You may want to start with WorkKeys, a work skills test that serves as the basis for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). The certificate is a workforce credential that many employers understand and value. By qualifying for one of four certification levels—platinum, gold, silver or bronze—you demonstrate your initiative and confirm your skill readiness for possible college internships and potential employers.

Find out more about the National Career Readiness Certificate by visiting act.org/certificate

As employers consider applicants for open positions they also look at a number of factors. Among them are people's soft skills. Soft skills are essentially your personal characteristics like communication skills, work ethic, attitude and desire to be trained. These skills are often tough for job seekers to showcase and for employers to evaluate in a resume or interview. It's the reason ACT has created the NCRC Plus.

The NCRC Plus is earned after taking a test that measures your soft skills. A number of areas are evaluated, including work discipline, ability to work on a team, customer service orientation and managerial potential. Based on the answers you provide, you will receive a score from one to four stars. The more stars you receive the more likely you are to succeed in that given category. This kind of measuring system gives employers assurance of the type of employee you would make.

You can earn the NCRC Plus by taking the WorkKeys Talent assessment at an ACT testing center. To find the one closest to you, [click here](#).



ACT is on your iPhone and iPod touch

Maybe the iPhone or iPod touch is on your holiday wish list or perhaps you're fortunate enough to already have one. ACT provides two different free apps for the iPhone and iPod touch to help high school students in a couple of very important ways. The first is called the College Search application where you can view a college profile, visit the college Web page, and save "favorites" of nearly every two- and four-year postsecondary educational institution in the United States. Once you've narrowed your focus, make sure to check out the financial aid options available at your favorite schools.

The second app is geared toward helping students prepare for the ACT test. The ACT Student application provides sample questions that are on the exam. Depending on whether you answer the question right or wrong, you receive a detailed explanation why. Students can also use the app to access their own test registration and score information and find straightforward answers to the most typical questions about the ACT exam process.

Question of the day

Maybe you don't have an iPhone but want to get in some practice and check out what types of questions you can expect on the ACT. Did you know you can test yourself on real exam questions everyday for free on the Internet? Start practicing today by clicking [here](#).

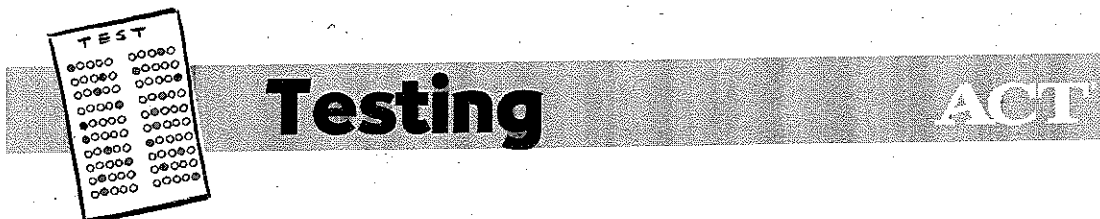
ACT high school poster contest kicks off

ACT kicks off its annual high school student poster design contest starting Monday, December 5. Winning entries will win thousands of dollars in scholarship money.

Students may design and submit posters using visual designs, artwork and taglines that promote the value of college and the ACT test. Participants must be U.S. high school students who plan to apply for 2012 or 2013 admission to a U.S. two-year or four-year institution. Make sure you read the rules carefully to better your chances of winning.

The student with the winning design will receive a \$5,000 scholarship to the college of his or her choice. In addition, the winning design will be used on the poster printed to display ACT test dates during the 2012–2013 school year and distributed to high schools nationwide. Second- and third-place winners will receive \$2,500 and \$1,000 scholarships, respectively.

Winners will be selected based on creativity, visual appeal and overall impact. The official entry form and poster must be postmarked between December 5, 2011, and January 28, 2012. Winners will be announced in March 2012. Contest details are available at actstudent.org/postercontest.



Cheating hurts everyone – if you see it, report it

Students who don't do their own work put honest students at a disadvantage. Whether it's using a cheat sheet, copying someone else's work, or sending another person to take the test, we all feel cheated when someone tries to game the system.

You deserve a level playing field to show what you've learned, and ACT has designed its testing procedures to give you and other honest students an equal opportunity to demonstrate your own academic achievement.

If you suspect that someone is trying to game the system or encounter anything else out of the ordinary, please report it to ACT. You can make an anonymous report about test security concerns by calling the ACT hotline number (1-877-777-7296) or through our security website (<http://act.alertline.com/>).

Keep the ACT fair. Report cheating.

Test date reminder

The next national ACT test date is Feb. 11, 2012. The regular registration deadline is January 13 and the late registration deadline is January 20. The ACT test will also be offered on April 14 and June 9. Online registration and test date information is available at actstudent.org. If you choose to register online, register early to avoid heavy Web traffic and delays.

ACT offers an optional Writing Test in addition to the multiple-choice achievement test. Go to actstudent.org/writing to find out about the Writing Test, including a list of the colleges that require or recommend it.

While you're at the website, don't forget to take advantage of test prep aids, including free sample test questions at [ACT Test Prep: Sample Tests](#).

ACT Online Prep™, the only test prep program developed exclusively by ACT test development professionals, is also available for \$19.95 for a year's use at actstudent.org/onlineprep. The program provides test day tips, a list of items to bring to the test, and details on what type of calculator you can use on the Math Test.

Preparing for the ACT, a booklet with a complete practice test, scoring key, writing prompt and sample essays, is available to download on the Test Prep section at actstudent.org. Your ACT registration packet, available from the counseling office, also includes the booklet. Try taking the sample test and timing yourself to prepare for test day.

For all your questions about the ACT test, visit actstudent.org.