

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

February 2006

It's FAFSA Time!

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the application for state, federal and college-specific financial aid. February is typically the time to apply as many colleges have a March 1 priority deadline. (Contact the colleges you applied to and ask about their priority deadlines.)

Follow these steps to complete the FAFSA:

Step 1: Request a PIN

Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for you and for a parent at www.pin.ed.gov. The PIN is your signature for the electronic FAFSA and is used to track your financial aid application.

Step 2: File your taxes early

The FAFSA requires current tax information so complete your taxes early.

Step 3: Gather required items

You'll need these items to complete the FAFSA:

- Student and parent PIN numbers
- Student and parent 2005 federal tax returns and W-2s
- Value of checking/savings accounts and non-retirement investments
- Amount of untaxed income
- Student's driver's license number
- Student's Social Security number
- Date parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed
- Parent's date of birth
- Alien Registration Number for eligible non-citizens

Step 4: Complete and file the FAFSA

Complete and file the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The colleges you list on the application will receive the results.

For free assistance with the FAFSA, make an appointment with EducationQuest. Call the Kearney office at 800-666-3721, Lincoln at 800-303-3745 or Omaha at 888-357-6300. Call **now** as appointments are quickly filling up.

February "To Do" List

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

Seniors:

- ___ Apply for a Department of Education PIN
- ___ Complete student and parent 2005 tax returns
- ___ Complete the FAFSA

___ Continue to apply for scholarships

Juniors:

___ Register by February 24 for the April 1 SAT

___ Register by March 3 for the April 8 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

www.educationquest.org