

FINDING A COLLEGE THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU



TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY. Discuss your interests and goals. Ask family members about their college experiences.

MAKE A WISH LIST. Make a list that includes everything from what you want to learn to extracurricular activities that you might enjoy.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL. Your mailbox and email inbox are going to start filling up quickly with information about various colleges. Make sure to browse through those messages. You may find colleges you haven't considered.

EXPLORE ONLINE. Visiting a college's website can give you an idea of what student life and classes are like. Take a virtual campus tour and contact the admissions office if that college interests you.

UPCLOSE AND PERSONAL. Get a taste of college life by visiting a nearby college. You can explore the campus, talk to some students and get a better sense of what you do and don't want in a college.

HOME OR AWAY? Residence hall life can be an important part of the college decision. Do you want to live at home, alone or have roommates?

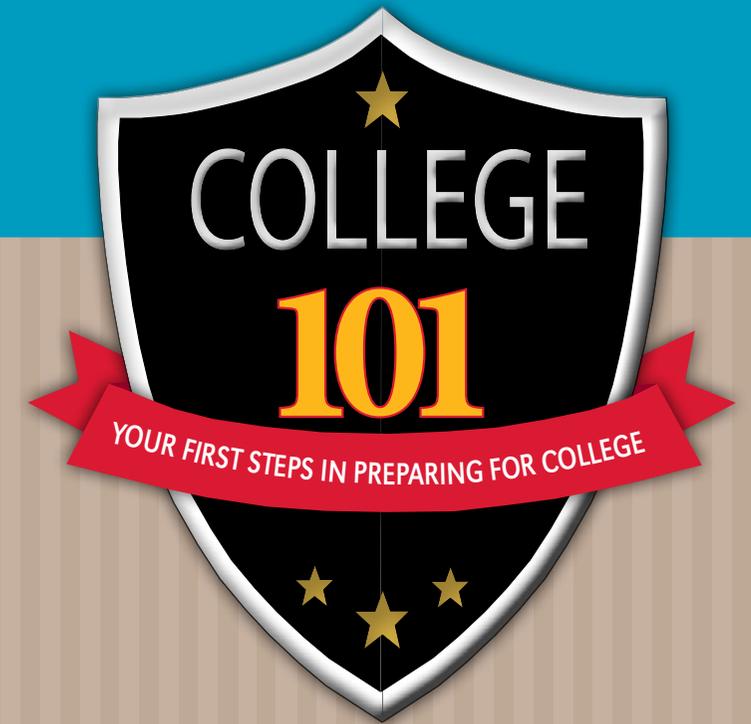
CHAT WITH YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR. Your counselor can provide information about many different colleges and important deadlines.

What is COLLEGE READINESS?

It's about

- learning to think critically
- understanding real-world skills and technology
- developing your study skills
- focusing on time management abilities

so you can excel in college.



Getting ready for college is an exciting time and a big decision. Your local Extension staff and community members are ready to help.

These college prep tips will help you prepare.



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

college prep tips

COLLEGE STARTS IN HIGH SCHOOL



HIT THE BOOKS. Grades matter when getting into college. Learning good study habits now will help you be successful throughout your school career.

THE RIGHT STUFF. Colleges require specific classes for admittance. Make sure you stay on track for college by taking these courses in high school.

GET INVOLVED. Colleges like students who are active outside of school. Join a sports team, the chess club, a band or any group that interests you. You might even discover a hidden talent.

VOLUNTEER. Help out in your community by lending a hand at the hospital, assisting at your church or starting a recycling program in your school.

BE A LEADER. Join 4-H, a Boys & Girls Club, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, FFA or another youth group. Look for chances to serve as an officer or to take charge of an activity.

JOB SHADOW. Find someone who has a job you think you might like and ask if you can follow that person for a day. Ask questions and learn more about the job.

FOLLOW YOUR PASSION TO A CAREER



THINK ABOUT A CAREER, NOT A MAJOR. Don't panic if you don't know what you want to study. College is a great place to explore careers and many jobs that will be available in the future don't even exist now.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE? Research how your hobby could be a career.

TAP INTO A NETWORK. Meeting new people and asking them what they do is a great way to learn about career opportunities.

WHO ARE YOU? Do you like working with people? Do you like working indoors or outdoors? Do you want to work for a small or big company, or be your own boss?

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION. Where do you want to live? What jobs are available in that community?

WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES? Think about what you excel at and what you need to improve on. This may provide insights into your future career.

DO YOUR RESEARCH. Keep an open mind, be honest with yourself and chose a college major that will steer you down a path to success.

ABOUT THE MONEY



MAKE A BUDGET. Even if you only have an allowance or a part-time job, estimate your monthly income and expenses. This will help you to begin thinking about how to save money for college.

FREE MONEY. Scholarships are awarded based on academics, community involvement and leadership activities. These experiences could help fund your college education.

SAVING CAN HAVE BIG RESULTS. Ten dollars a month from mowing lawns adds up. That could help a lot during your first year of college. Avoid impulse buying. Wait a couple of days and see if you still think you need another pair of jeans.

IT COSTS HOW MUCH? While it may sound cool to attend a college far from home, check its website to see how much it would cost. Something closer or in-state may be more reasonable.

ASK QUESTIONS. Talk with people who have jobs that you think are cool. How long were they in school? How much money did they spend on college?

TALK TO YOUR PARENTS. It's never too early to tell your parents what you're thinking about and ask if they can help out financially.

NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE! College may sound expensive, but there are many resources, such as loans and scholarships, that can help you finance your education. **You can make it happen!**