

Counselor's Currents

February 2024

2023-2024 ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration (\$36 fee required)
Apr. 13, 2024	Mar. 8, 2024	Mar. 22, 2024
June 8, 2024	May 3, 2024	May 17, 2024
July 13, 2024	June 7, 2024	June 21, 2024

If you miss the regular deadline, you may register during the late period but must pay the additional nonrefundable late fee.

NOTE: All materials sent by mail must be RECEIVED by the last date of the late period, regardless of when they are postmarked. If students are wishing to register at school, he/she must have their social security number and a credit card to pay for registration.

TEST FEES

Registration for the ACT without writing is \$68.00.
ACT with writing costs \$93.00.

Juniors and Seniors qualifying for F/R Lunch may see Mrs. Houston for a fee waiver.

February "To Do" List

Seniors:

- ★ If you haven't already, complete the FAFSA.
- ★ Expect financial aid award notifications from the colleges you listed on your FAFSA.
- ★ Keep applying for scholarships.
- ★ Finish your Tiger Passport and bring to Mrs. Houston to sign-off!

Juniors:

- ❖ Register by March 10th for the April 13th ACT.
- ❖ Update your Activities Resume.

All Juniors will be taking the state ACT test on Tuesday, March 26th

Seniors...make sure you complete the FAFSA process

Getting financial aid for college involves more than completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Complete each step of the process so that you don't miss out on money for college.

- **If you haven't already, complete your 2024-25 FAFSA** at studentaid.gov using 2022 income tax data. Before you start, you and a parent must each create a Student Aid account. If you need help with your FAFSA, contact EducationQuest to set up a **free** virtual appointment.
- **Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) via an email link.** The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action before the form can be processed.
- **You might receive a verification notice** from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA requesting documents to verify your FAFSA information. The college will not process your financial aid until you provide required documents.
- **Watch for financial aid award notifications.** Once you're accepted for admission to the colleges you listed on your FAFSA, they will notify you of the types and amounts of financial aid they're offering.

~ ALL ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS ~

Tips For Finding Scholarships

- **Organize scholarships in deadline order** and set aside time each week to work on them.
- **Focus on college-based and local scholarships.** You're more likely to earn them over large national awards.
- **On the application, list your activities, awards, honors classes and volunteer or paid jobs.** Track them using the *Activities Resume* from EducationQuest (efq.org/ActResume).
- **Earn the best possible ACT scores** by taking the exam in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.
- **If an application requires a letter of recommendation,** give the person writing the letter plenty of notice, a specific deadline, and a copy of your *Activities Resume*.
- **After writing an essay,** ask an English teacher to review it.
- **NEVER pay for scholarship services!**
- **Follow all directions,** and make sure the application is complete and submitted by the deadline or it will be disqualified. This video has more tips: <https://youtu.be/4MHQV3HeL0E>

What you need to know about scholarships

Many scholarships are based on academics, but others are based on community service, school involvement, or talent. Some are based on financial need as determined by the results of your FAFSA.

Here's where to look for scholarships:

- **ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org** houses over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. After you create a profile, you'll be matched with scholarships that fit your criteria. You'll also find links to national sites that EducationQuest recommends.
- **Your school counselor's office.** Watch for emails from Mrs. Houston about scholarships.
- **The college you plan to attend.** Contact the school for a list of scholarships they provide and the application procedures.
- **Other resources** could include your coach, clubs and organizations, and your parents' employers and civic organizations.

Trusted national scholarship search sites

Visit **free** sites such as

These sites are all EducationQuest researched and approved!

- College Board
- Fastweb
- International Scholarships
- Kaleidoscope
- Peterson's
- Scholarship America
- SuperCollege

Find Nebraska Scholarships

1. Complete your *ScholarshipQuest* profile.
2. Review the list of scholarships that match your profile.
3. Set text reminders so you don't miss deadlines.

HAPPY
Valentine's
Day

