

COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

FALL (AUG – OCT)

- Plan your senior year.** Buy a calendar to write in dates: ACT dates, college visits, FAFSA, scholarship deadlines, applying to UNK, etc. Use folders to organize material.
- Your GPA matters.** Start strong and finish strong.
- Get involved.** Continue with extracurriculars, jobs, and volunteering, especially those that develop leadership skills. Stand out for scholarship applications.
- Keep your online profile spotless.** Don't post bad things. Scholarship committees, colleges, and employers may be viewing it.
- Take the right classes.** Assess your class schedule for college admissions with your counselor. Take AP classes, especially if they earn college credit.
- Take ACT prep courses.** Ask your school counselor about classes and study guides.
- Take the ACT.** See test dates at [ACT.org](https://act.org) and take it multiple times to improve your score. It's offered three times in the fall. UNK only looks at your highest score.
- Visit campus.** If you haven't visited yet, seniors should visit in the fall. If it's not possible, see our virtual tour.
- Meet with financial aid and academic reps.** During a campus visit see those who can answer your questions.
- Talk with a UNK rep.** Request information and when a rep visits your school, ask many questions.
- Follow UNK social media.** You'll see many reminders.
- Apply to UNK.** Go to unk.edu/apply. Fall applications are encouraged for early scholarship deadlines, and you'll get housing details sooner. The process will require your ACT or SAT score (ACT code 2468; SAT code 6467).
- Create a MyBlue account.** Save your NUID# and password; you will use it your entire UNK career.
- Complete the FAFSA.** Go to [FAFSA.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov); For priority consideration, apply early. It opens Oct. 1. UNK's school code is 002551. Never assume you won't qualify for aid.
- Attend financial aid sessions offered by your high school.** Find out the date they host it and add it to your calendar.
- Compare cost.** If you consider other schools, compare annual cost using 15 credit hours per semester for tuition/fees, room, meals, and indirect cost (books, transportation, etc.). Is that pricier school resulting in a larger student loan debt a good idea? Most jobs don't require a degree from a certain school.

WINTER (NOV – JAN)

- Research scholarships.** Your UNK application serves as your UNK scholarship application; some have a Nov. 15 deadline. Ask your counselor about local scholarships. Search online to find regional and national scholarships. Add scholarship deadlines to your calendar.
- Expect financial aid award letters.** UNK will begin to mail these in December, based on when you filed the FAFSA. If you need a loan, UNK will give you details.
- Apply for housing.** Go to unk.edu/housing. Apply early for priority. It's open Nov. 15 through June 30 or contact housing after this date. You must be admitted to apply.

SPRING (FEB – APR)

- Apply for scholarships.** Most UNK freshmen scholarship deadlines are March 1. Being admitted serves as your application. Some will require a separate application. Visit unk.edu/scholarships for details and deadlines.
- Build scholarship material.** Fine-tune your resume and essays for scholarships that require it. Get strong recommendation letters from teachers or counselors.
- Finalize financial plans.** Have a firm idea of parental assistance and other ways to pay for college: grants, scholarships, loans, work study, part-time job, ROTC, National Guard, etc.
- Register for New Student Enrollment (NSE).** Registration opens in the spring. Attend to finalize your classes. Once admitted, you'll be prompted to register – unk.edu/nse.

SUMMER (MAY – AUG)

- Choose a major.** It's okay to be undecided and college students often change majors. UNK's Academic and Career Services department can assist you and help you focus on careers that suit you. Visit unk.edu/Focus2.
- Upload your immunization records.** Upload via MyBlue. This is required before you can register for classes.
- It's not too late to apply.** But apply as soon as possible. Contact Admissions at 800-532-7639 with question.
- Save money.** Get a summer job; save as much as you can.
- Prepare for campus life.** Plan ways to enhance your college experience once you arrive on campus, e.g., Greek life, organizations, intramurals, etc. Reach out to your roommate(s) and coordinate dorm purchases. Be ready to move on campus in August.