PLANNING & ACADEMICS

☐ Get organized. Buy a calendar – write in college visits, major fairs, etc. Use folders to organize material for financial aid, majors, scholarships, camps, honors, etc.

☐ Take the right classes. Fine-tune your class schedule to meet college admissions standards. Ask your counselor.

☐ Consider AP classes. Ask teachers and parents if it’s right for you; classes may apply toward college credit.

☐ Your GPA matters. Work for good grades. Read, write, and build your vocabulary. Set goals and stay motivated.

☐ Talk to upperclassmen. Learn what you can from older high school students about ACT prep courses.

☐ Take a practice ACT. Go to ACT.org/PreACT and take the PreACT to give you a sense of the ACT.

COSTS & FINANCES

☐ Discuss college finances with your family. Will parents help pay? Will loans be necessary? Will you work during college? How much can you save?

☐ Save money. Start now, create a plan, and put money in an interest-bearing account. Find summer jobs.

☐ Research financial aid. Learn all you can about FAFSA, loans, grants, work study, and scholarships.

☐ Research scholarships. Learn all you can about scholarships from local groups and businesses. What do they require? Search online to find a larger pool of regional and national scholarships.

☐ Get involved. Extracurriculars, jobs, and volunteering are important elements for scholarships, especially those that develop leadership skills. Stand out.

☐ Record Your Achievements. Begin an on-going list of your honors, awards, activities, volunteer work, leadership experience, etc. This will help build a resume later for scholarships.

☐ Build & Network. Build good relationships with teachers and counselors who you can ask later to write scholarship recommendation letters.

☐ Attend financial aid sessions offered by your high school. Be informed about the types of aid, including scholarships and how to qualify for them.

☐ Consider military options. ROTC and National Guard will help pay for college. Talk to your counselor.

☐ Compare the cost. If you consider other colleges, compare annual cost equally using 15 credit hours per semester for tuition/fees, room, meals, and indirect cost (books, clothing, transportation, etc.). UNK offers the lowest cost among all Nebraska universities.

☐ Weigh the cost. Some jobs require a certain degree but don’t require a degree from a certain school. If you’re thinking of a pricier school, don’t justify taking on huge debt for the “experience.” The 30-year-old you, will thank you.

CAMPUS

☐ Visit UNK campus. It’s never too early to visit.

☐ Follow social media. See what’s happening at UNK.

☐ Get a taste of college life. Attend a conference at UNK; have lunch with a friend on campus and visit their room.

☐ Talk with a UNK rep. Request information and when a rep visits your school, ask many questions.

☐ Gather Information. While visiting campus, ask for financial aid information and details about your major.

MAJOR & CAREER PATH

☐ Explore career paths. Identify interests, talk with others in various fields, job shadow, and research.

☐ Summer employment. Find jobs in fields you’re interested in to give you a better insight to a career path.

☐ Research. What are high-demand jobs? What interests you and what degree or training is required? UNK has tools to help you. Visit unk.edu/ Focus2.

☐ Review your online profile. Examine your Facebook and other social networks. Delete content that may be viewed unfavorably by employers, colleges, and scholarship committees. Use caution posting.