PLANNING & ACADEMICS
☐ Take the right classes. Make sure they meet college admissions standards. Ask your school counselor.
☐ Consider AP or dual enrollment classes. Some may earn you college credit.
☐ Your GPA matters. Finish the year strong.
☐ Take the ACT. Take it at least once your junior year. If you take it again during your senior year, UNK only looks at your highest score. Your ACT/SAT score is not needed for admissions, but some scholarship applications may require it. Visit ACT.org for dates and prep tips.

CAMPUS
☐ Visit UNK campus. UNK offers many visiting options.
☐ Get a student’s perspective. Ask friends who attend UNK about college life.
☐ Follow UNK social media. Get a sense of campus.
☐ Get a taste of college life. Attend a camp or 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.
☐ Meet with financial aid and academic reps. While on campus, see those who can answer your questions.

MAJOR & CAREER PATH
☐ Uncertain about your career path? Identify interests, talk with others in various fields, job shadow, and attend major fairs. It’s okay to not declare a major before you start college; college students often change majors.
☐ 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.
☐ Reach out. Find people in industries you are considering. People love to give advice to students.
☐ Keep your online profile spotless. Use caution with your social media posts. Delete content that may be viewed unfavorably by employers, colleges, and scholarship committees.

COSTS & FINANCES
☐ Discuss college finances with your family. Will parents help pay? Will loans be necessary? Will you work while attending college?
☐ Save money. Continue to save money and watch your account grow. Take on extra summer jobs if needed.
☐ Understand the FAFSA. Learn all you can about FAFSA and various aid such as loans, grants, work study, and scholarship.
☐ Research scholarships. Learn all you can about scholarships from UNK, local groups, and businesses. What do they require? Search online to find a larger pool of regional and national scholarships.
☐ Build scholarship material. Scholarships may require a resume, essay, and recommendation letters. Start your resume now and fine-tune it later. Think of teachers and counselors who you can ask to write recommendation letters. Maintain those connections.
☐ Get involved. Extracurriculars, jobs, and volunteering are important elements for scholarships, especially those that develop leadership skills. Stand out!
☐ Attend financial aid sessions offered by your high school. You and your parents will be more informed and prepared your senior year.
☐ 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.