

COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

FALL (AUG – OCT)

- Your GPA matters.** Start strong and finish strong.
- Get involved.** Continue with extracurriculars, jobs, and volunteering (especially those that develop leadership skills) so you stand out for scholarship applications.
- Keep your online profile spotless.** Use caution and 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 or Dual enrollment classes to earn college credit.
- Take the ACT.** See test dates at [ACT.org](https://www.act.org). It's offered three times in the fall. If you take multiple times, UNK only looks at your highest score. Your ACT/SAT score is not needed for admissions, but some scholarship applications may require it.
- Visit campus.** If you haven't visited UNK, seniors should visit in the fall. If it's not possible, our virtual tour is also a great way to experience campus.
- 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 college rep visits your school, ask many questions.
- Follow UNK social media.** Get a taste of UNK.
- Apply to UNK.** Go to unk.edu/apply. Fall applications are encouraged; you'll receive "next steps," housing details, and financial aid offers much sooner.
- Create a MyBLUE account.** Save your NUID# and password; you will use it your entire UNK career.
- Complete the FAFSA.** Go to [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.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 large student loan debt a good idea? Most jobs don't require a degree from a certain school.

WINTER (NOV – JAN)

- Research scholarships.** Apply for UNK scholarships that have early deadlines (you must be admitted). Go to unk.edu/scholarships. Apply for all local scholarships. Search online to find regional and national scholarships.
- Expect financial aid offer letters.** UNK will begin to mail letters in December based on when you filed the FAFSA. If you need a loan, UNK will provide details.
- Apply for housing.** Go to unk.edu/housing. Apply early for priority as soon as the housing application open. Admitted students will be notified when it opens.

SPRING (FEB – APR)

- Apply for scholarships.** Most UNK freshmen scholarship deadlines are March 1. Being admitted serves as your application for some. Others will require a separate application. Visit unk.edu/scholarships for details.
- 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.
- Upload your immunization records.** Upload via MyBlue. This is required before you can register for classes.
- Register for New Student Enrollment (NSE).** Registration opens in the spring; admitted students will be notified. You must attend to register for classes. See unk.edu/nse.

SUMMER (MAY – AUG)

- It's not too late to apply** but apply as soon as possible. Contact Admissions at 308-865-8526 with question.
- Request your final transcripts be sent to UNK** (for both high school and any college credit). These are required before you can register for classes.
- 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., fraternity or sorority life, organizations, intramurals, etc. Reach out to your roommate(s) and coordinate dorm purchases. Be ready to move on campus in August.