

College Guide

2022 SCHOOL CHOICE OPPORTUNITIES



How to help students improve their focus on their studies

Teachers strive to create supportive and challenging classroom environments for their students. Such settings can bring out the best in students and help them overcome obstacles, including an inability to focus.

The struggles students can have with focusing on their studies was apparent during the pandemic. A 2020 survey of more than 400 college students found that 64 percent were concerned about their ability to maintain their focus and discipline in remote instructional environments. Though educators, students and parents are hopeful that remote learning will soon be a thing of the past, no one is certain about what lies ahead in regard to the 2021-22 school year. Ideally, students will be back in school time full-time five days per week by the start of the new academic year. However, there's no guarantee that will be the case, and students may need help focusing on their studies.

- **Emphasize one activity at a time.** Various studies have shown that multitasking adversely affects performance and makes it hard to concentrate. A recent study from researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that performing two or three activities simultaneously puts significantly more demand on the brain than simply doing those tasks one after another. All students, and especially those who are struggling with focus, should be encouraged to take on one task at a time.

- **Take breaks.** The Cleveland Clinic notes that various studies have found that periodic breaks improve mood, boost performance and increase a person's ability to concentrate and pay attention. Many students are well acquainted with lengthy cramming sessions on the eve of a big exam, which can feel like a rite of passage for high schoolers and college students. Parents and educators can emphasize the importance of taking breaks during such sessions and how periodic rest can help improve performance.

- **Take a piecemeal approach to big tasks.** The Child Mind Institute notes that breaking big tasks down into smaller, more manageable



pieces can help kids effectively tackle more challenging tasks. The piecemeal approach can make big tasks seem less daunting, and the success kids have at each smaller task can provide some needed momentum as they draw closer to solving the problem.

Many students struggle to focus on their studies. Some simple strategies can help students overcome such challenges and fulfill their academic potential.

Explore these college savings strategies

Enrolling in a trade school or college is widely considered the next step after a student graduates from high school. College is especially popular, as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that 62.7 percent of high school graduates went on to colleges and universities in 2020.

Finding ways to pay for higher education has long been a goal for students and their families. PrepScholar, a college testing preparation resource, calculates that, by 2033, students can expect to pay around \$237,000 at in-state public universities and \$464,000 at private

colleges or universities for four-year degrees. That high cost is why so many families take proactive steps to set aside funds for college soon after their children are born. No matter the situation, taking the steps to plan and save helps to make schooling more affordable.

529 college savings plan

A 529 is a specialized savings account for college and university costs. Most plans can be opened by a U.S. citizen or resident alien age 18 and older. The individual opening the account can be a parent, grandparent, cousin, or even a

friend. The student is the beneficiary of the account. Four-year schools, community colleges and vocational/trade schools accept 529 accounts as payment sources. The only requirement is that the school must participate in the U.S. Department of Education student financial aid programs.

Education savings account, or Education IRA

The financial experts at Ramsey Solutions say an ESA works like a Roth IRA but it is designed specifically for education expenses. Individuals can invest up to \$2,000 (after tax) per year, per child. The account grows tax-free. The rate of growth varies based on investments in the account. Ramsey estimates that at an average return rate of 12 percent on a \$36,000 investment (\$2,000 per year for 18 years) would grow to around \$126,000 by the time the child starts college. An ESA also can be used to pay for K-12 private school tuition, school supplies, tutoring, or textbooks. It also can be transferred to a sibling if the money is not needed for a particular student.

UTMA/UGMA plan

This plan is different from ESAs and 529s because it is not specifically designed for college savings. The Uniform Transfer/Gift to Minors Act is in the child's name but is controlled by a guardian until the child reaches age 18 or 21. This mutual fund account can be used to save for college with reduced taxes, or funds can be used for other expenses, such as a car or housing.

Advanced placement classes

AP classes allow high school students to take college-level courses that can be converted into college credits. Each AP class reduces the need to pay for a class in college. This can add up to some significant savings. In addition, performing well in AP classes may make students more attractive to colleges and universities, helping students to earn academic scholarships.

Saving for college can start early and there are various vehicles for families to explore.



How students can transition to life on a college campus



Much has been made of the challenges that have faced students and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The shift to remote learning and shortened school days was difficult for many families, forcing students to adapt to virtual school on the fly as their parents adjusted to working from home full-time while doing their best to keep kids engaged in their studies and occupied when school let out each day. Given those challenges, it's no wonder so many families are looking forward to what figures to be a more normal school year in 2021-22. But that return will pose its own unique challenges as well.

Some students may be a little anxious as they prepare to return to campus this fall. That transition could be especially difficult for incoming college freshmen, who must overcome any pandemic-related concerns about returning to campus while also making the transition to life on a college campus. The following are some ways to make that transition go smoothly.

- Engage in the community. The Health, Counseling and Disability Access Services at the University of Missouri-St. Louis urges students to take advantage of opportunities to engage in their new communities as early as possible. The HCDAS notes that first-year experiences are designed to help students connect with their new life on campus and make new friends. All incoming freshmen are facing the same set of unique circumstances as the 2021-22 school year begins. That includes the adjustment from remote learning with limited social contact with peers to a return to more traditional academic and social settings. Navigating that transition alongside other incoming freshmen can make it a little easier to handle.

- Plan ahead. Parents and their college-bound children can prepare for the coming school year by learning about on-campus policies over the summer. Will masks be mandated? Will classrooms remain socially distanced? Are vaccinations required to attend class in person? The sooner families learn these policies, the sooner they can begin planning for life on campus. Parents also can look into on-campus resources designed to help students readjust to being back among their peers. Knowing where to go for help should students need it can ensure any issues that arise are addressed promptly.

- Encourage students to share their concerns. Opening up about any concerns they may have can help students as they emerge from the pandemic. Many parents were concerned about returning to the office in person, and they can share those concerns and the ultimate outcomes of their returns with students concerned about moving onto a college campus. Parents are urged to periodically check in with college students about any anxieties they may have about being on campus.

Returning to full-time, in-person learning after the pandemic may be especially challenging for incoming college freshmen. Such students can work with their parents over the summer to conquer their fears and prepare for the coming school year.

Interested in a career in healthcare?

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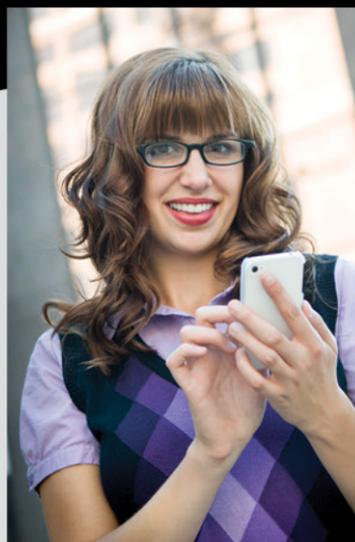


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Did You Know?



While high school seniors on the cusp of graduating and moving on to college give ample thought to their college majors, many are likely to change majors at least once after enrolling in a college or university. According to the University of La Verne, between 50 and 70 percent of college students change majors at least once, and many of them will change their majors three times before they graduate. The University also reports that 50 percent of college graduates pursue careers that are not related to their majors. Career and personality assessments can help students determine which subjects they may want to study upon enrolling in a college or university. Such assessments can help students discover their interests, and then students can work with advisors and career counselors at their colleges or universities to find majors that align with those interests. High school seniors on their way to college in the coming months can rest easy that, even if they don't know what to study when they arrive on college campuses this fall, many of their fellow freshmen are equally uncertain.



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10

Northeast has been recognized in the **top 10%** of America's community colleges by the prestigious Aspen Institute over the past five evaluation periods.

99.5

99.5% of 2020-2021 Northeast Community College graduates are employed or continuing their education.

17/1

17 students for every **1** faculty member ensures you'll receive all the support you need to achieve your goals.

100+

Over **100** events are hosted by Student Activities Council each year - more than any college in the area!

NORTHEAST.EDU



FINDING YOUR PERSONAL PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

From a young age, Jesse Gerdes has always been passionate about trucks, especially agriculture-related diesel vehicles. Now as a young man, an appetite for the industry has led him to seek not one but two degrees from Northeast Community College to pursue a path that would allow him to achieve his goal – become the lead service tech at his current employer. He also hopes to take over the family farm one day.

Northeast Community College offers students the opportunity to gain skills on the fast-track to a career or the first steps towards a bachelor's degree. With over 130 degrees, programs, certificates, diplomas and non-credit, continuing education programs, Northeast works with students to find the best pathway to achieve their goals. Faculty and staff are committed to the success of students.

Gerdes is pursuing a degree in Diesel Technology with a focus in Agriculture, and a second degree in Diesel Technology with a focus in Truck. Gerdes credits his Diesel Technology instructors - one in particular - for his success at Northeast. He describes Travis Kaup as patient and takes time to go over any area a student may not understand on a one-on-one basis.

"He enjoys teaching and enjoys his job that's for sure," Gerdes said.

"Jesse is a model student in the program," Kaup said. "I got to work with him for a full year and Jesse has been easy to teach because he is a very responsive student and isn't afraid to speak up if there is something he needs to understand more thoroughly."

Gerdes is also appreciative to Commercial Driver's License (CDL) instructor Ryan Cook for his efforts to push him to strive for better in both driving and in the classroom. Cook's helpful feedback helped mentor his student to earn his Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

Outside the classroom Gerdes identified Northeast's Residence Life experience as an important component of his collegiate experience. Living on the Norfolk campus allowed everything to be readily available to him in one location rather than being so spread out like other schools he looked at. He also is involved in TRIO, a federally funded program that assists income-eligible individuals, first-generation college students and those with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline. It also focuses on career exploration, cultural and social enrichment, and self-awareness.

Gerdes uses TRIO's various services including cultural and social activities

such as zip lining at Mahoney State Park and attending the Broadway musical, Hamilton, at the Orpheum Theatre in Omaha.

"These events helped me become more social as the transition out of COVID allowed for more things to do," he said. "The first year COVID made it tough to get out and do as much, but as things got better, TRIO had a lot of fun things to offer."

Gerdes commends the TRIO staff, saying "They do a great job; they touch base with the students, and they make things happen. For a student you don't always know who to talk to and the TRIO staff point the direction and offer us support."

He credits his TRIO advisor, Matt Sazama, for helping layout a pathway to allow him to obtain both degrees.

"I am very thankful for having the academic support along with someone like Matt who feels like a friend while in college."

"Jesse is a fixer and enjoys a challenging problem. He said he loves learning, which is why he loves a challenge, because you learn from it," Sazama said. "This will assist him in his career path in diesel technology and later in life managing his family farm."

NATIONALLY RANKED.

Northeast was named among the nation's top community colleges in 2021 by the Aspen Institute and recently recognized as a national "School on the Rise" by the NC3 network, for demonstrated innovative career and technical education initiatives and programs to support their students and their service area.

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What are advanced placement classes?

In recent years, many school districts have diversified their course offerings for high school students. In addition to core education classes in key subjects required of most high schoolers, students now have electives that may rival college course offerings as well as classes that set interested students on career paths after high school. Indeed, it's not uncommon for high schoolers to enroll in classes in business administration, teacher/education or STEM.

In addition to these newer class options, many high school students have access to more advanced classes. Despite the prevalence of the Advanced Placement program, some students and their parents may be largely unfamiliar with what the program entails.

The College Board, which oversees the Advanced Placement Program as well as the SAT, defines AP courses as "rigorous, college-level classes in a variety of subjects that give students the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school." Students who enroll in AP classes are not guaranteed those credits, however. Rather, after taking the courses, they must then pass an AP exam in each subject for which they have taken an AP class and score at least a three out of five on that exam. That passing grade may entitle them to earn college credits, although some schools have limits on which AP exams they will accept.

The AP program began in the 1950s as a way to teach introductory level courses in high school. By taking such courses, students can experience the rigor of potential college classes and challenge themselves beyond standard and honor courses. AP classes were not initially widespread, and there were only 11 subjects in the pilot program. However, today there are nearly 40 AP courses available, though not every high school offers every course.



Students eager to land coveted spots at top colleges and universities often take AP classes to provide that extra edge against the competition. Most academic advisors now recommend that students take these types of courses, not only as a way to later save money by eliminating the need to pay for certain college classes, but also to set themselves apart from other students during the application process. Many colleges consider AP classes in their decisions to award scholarships as well.

The College Board reports that, as of 2019, about 2.8 million students take AP exams every year. It's quite common for high schoolers to take multiple AP classes during their time in high school.

It is possible to take an AP exam without having taken the coordinating class prior, but it is strongly recommended that students take the corresponding class to prepare for the test.

Students and their families can learn about the Advanced Placement program by visiting <https://ap.collegeboard.org/> or speaking with a high school guidance counselor.

College application facts and figures



Interested parties can go above and beyond taking the Open House tour by auditing a class or even spending a night in a dorm.

- Due in large part to COVID-19 disrupting SAT and ACT testing schedules and potentially setting an uneven playing field for those who tested and those who could not, many colleges are now test-optional schools. Despite that, guidance counselors may urge students to test and submit strong scores to test-optional schools because those scores can help unlock merit-based aid.

- The College Board indicates the average financial aid award per student is \$15,000. And the National Association for College Admission Counseling says 43 percent of all institutional aid funds are merit-based.

- The Common App is one tool used to apply to colleges in today's digital age. The same application can be used to apply to more than 400 schools. However, some schools may still supplement the application with essays or questions as part of their individual admissions processes.

- The Huffington Post reports that students who have a first-choice college should apply to it early decision, as early decision has been shown to increase an applicant's chance of admission by up to 25 percent over regular decision admission rates.

- Applicants should seek recommendations from people who know them best and can provide detailed reasons as to why they are the right fit for a school.

- The Princeton Review says the top admissions factor at schools is a student's GPA, underscoring the importance of getting good grades.

- College applicants feeling the stress of the waiting game can rest assured. According to the Cooperative Institutional Research Program at the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA, more than three-quarters of college applicants get into their first-choice schools.

The college application process involves several steps, many of which begin well before an applicant is ready to sign on the dotted line. These facts and figures can help applicants and their families gain a better understanding of what goes into the college admissions process.

- College admissions teams view a potential applicant as more seriously interested in the school if they know he or she has visited.



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A 99% job placement rate* ensures that nearly all students who graduate get a job within six months of graduation. A large percentage of those students find work in their field of study, with good wages and the ability to pay down student debt. A two-year education also means additional years of earning power while not accumulating further financial burden.

If you or someone you know is looking for an outstanding education at a school where caring is the culture, and without the burden of excessive student loans facing you after graduation, check out your options at Mitchell Technical College!

*Placement data is gathered through 2021 graduate surveys, faculty-collected data, and phone surveys started six months after graduation. 464 of the 476 graduates are represented in the data. The employment rate is figured by graduates employed/ graduates seeking employment.

Guide to preparing for college admissions

Junior year is a pivotal time in the lives of high school students. Junior year marks a transition to upper classmen, and students begin to ponder their post-high school academic careers around this time as well.

The college preparatory process can seem daunting, particularly if a student does not have a sibling who recently went through the steps and can offer advice. Well-meaning parents may want to share their own experiences, but much has changed since parents were looking ahead to their own college experiences. That doesn't mean parents can't offer important assistance, particularly when they learn the ropes of today's college preparatory process.

Speak with a guidance counselor to plan courses

Parents and students can meet collectively with a guidance counselor to talk about goals and coursework. Many high schools offer Advanced Placement classes or dual enrollment courses that enable students to earn college credit.

Discuss extracurricular activities

Colleges and universities do not just look at grade and test scores; they consider the entire applicant. Therefore, high schoolers should dabble in various clubs, organizations and sports to make them more appealing to admissions departments.

Enroll in a test preparation course

Though a growing number of American colleges and universities have abandoned ACT and SAT scores as part of their admissions process, many schools still require those scores. Students can benefit from taking test prep classes either in school or through outside tutoring businesses. Learning strategies for the tests as well as seeing sample questions can remove some of the anxiety associated with the tests.

Visit schools and attend college fairs

Parents and students should make appointments to visit several college campuses that offer courses students are interested in. Getting one's name in admissions departments' databases also opens up students to emails about upcoming events and application deadlines.

Learn about The Common Application

The Princeton Review says most schools will use The Common Application as part of the admissions process. This enables students to enter all of their information and apply to multiple schools using the same account. However, schools will typically have different supplemental essay topics or test score requirements. Essays typically are required to be around 650 words.

Get financial paperwork in order

Applying to college and applying for financial aid (which every student should do regardless of income) are two separate processes. In the United States, students will start with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA will help determine eligibility for grants, scholarships, federal work-study, and student loans. The FAFSA requires information taken from federal income tax statements.

Parents can help guide their students further by following up on school transcripts, teacher recommendations and providing application cost fees, which vary from \$50 to \$100 per school. The road to college may seem confusing, but a few simple strategies can make it easier to navigate.



Parents can educate themselves on the process needed for students to apply to college and guide their children accordingly.

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The Threat Of Anxiety And depression among college students

The moment young people arrive on college campuses and begin their lives as college students marks a significant milestone. College provides many young people with their first taste of independence, and that newfound freedom can sometimes feel overwhelming, especially when it's coupled with academic challenges that are much more rigorous than they were in high school.

According to data from the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 80 percent of college students feel overwhelmed by their responsibilities as a student. NAMI data also indicates that 50 percent of college students rate their mental health as below average or poor. Anxiety and depression are two mental health issues that affect many college students as they try to juggle the various demands associated with being students. Anyone who suspects they or a student they know is experiencing either of these issues should reach out to a mental health professional immediately.

Depression

Depression among college students may have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. A 2020 survey conducted by the Healthy Minds Network in collaboration with the American College



Health Association found that the rate of depression among college students has increased since the onset of the pandemic. Though students typically have readily available access to mental health professionals on campus, that access has been compromised during the pandemic as students, counselors and educators learn and work remotely. College mental health counselors were available via video conferencing during the pandemic, but students may not be aware of that, while others might be uncomfortable discussing their mental health in dorm rooms or apartments they share with fellow students. Symptoms of depression include feelings of sadness or hopelessness, loss of motivation, sleeplessness, trouble concentrating, changes in appetite and body weight, and loss of interest in social activities.

Anxiety

A 2017 report from Penn State University's Center for Collegiate Mental Health found that anxiety is one of the two most common reasons college students seek mental health services (the other is depression). In fact, the Anxiety and Depression Association of America reports that 13 percent of college students have been diagnosed with a mental health condition linked to anxiety. Anxiety among college students can be triggered by social and/or academic pressures. Being in constant fear, experiencing frequent headaches, exhibiting shortness of breath, difficulty concentrating, constant feelings of stress or irritability, irregular heartbeat, and muscle pain or tension are some symptoms associated with anxiety.

Help is available to students dealing with depression or anxiety. Mental health professionals on campus can be invaluable resources as students try to overcome issues that can affect their quality of life while on campus.

Wondering How you'll pay for college?



If you and your parents haven't saved for college, these options may help take the sting out of tuition payments.

Open a college savings account

It's never too late to start saving! Ask your parents to consider making monthly deposits into a 529 College Savings Plan – even small amounts will add up. Pitch in part of your earnings from a part-time job along with money you receive for your birthday or holidays. For details, visit [nest529.com](https://www.nest529.com).

Apply for financial aid

Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on or after October 1 of your senior year to apply for grants, work-study, student loans, and some need-based scholarships. To minimize loan debt, borrow only what you need to help cover tuition, housing, books, and fees.

Apply for scholarships

Apply for as many as you can! ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org has over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. You'll also find links to free national scholarship search sites.

Explore career paths that require less education

Nebraska is experiencing a shortage of skilled workers in trades such as manufacturing, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and robotics. Many of these occupations require only one to two years of education beyond high school.

Start at a community college

If you're striving for a four-year degree, consider starting at a less expensive community college and then transfer to a four-year college.

Plan to live at home

Living at home during college can save as much as \$10,000 per year!

Work while you're in college

Get a part-time job to cover personal expenses such as eating out, gas, and shopping.

Consider the military

All branches of the military offer education assistance ranging from the Montgomery G.I. Bill, to tuition reimbursement, to student loan repayment. Talk to a recruiter for details.

Did You Know?

A study from the Gap Year Association found that 77 percent of students who take a gap year do so between high school and college. Parents may not know how to react when their soon-to-be or newly minted high school graduates bring up the idea of taking a gap year, but additional findings from the GYA's "National Alumni Survey" might inspire parents to look at gap years more positively. For example, the survey, the findings of which were based on the responses of hundreds of American and Canadian citizens who had taken gap years in the past, found that 98 percent of respondents indicated their gap years helped them develop as a person, while 96 percent felt their gap years improved their self-confidence. In addition, 84 percent of respondents felt that they acquired skills to be successful in their careers during their gap years. Perhaps of most interest to parents of high school students contemplating gap years is that 73 percent of survey respondents felt their gap years increased their readiness for college and 57 percent said their gap years helped them determine what they wanted to study in college.

WHY HASTINGS?

Go Somewhere

Your transition from college to a career begins your first semester. Every class, internship, research study and extracurricular activity adds to your experience — and an intentional study abroad course will push you out of your comfort zone. You'll **become your best self**, ready to go somewhere.

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UNK Emerges as a First-Generation Destination in Nebraska

KEARNEY – Starting something new can be scary and intimidating. At the University of Nebraska at Kearney, several first-generation students continue to face their fears and overcome challenges to create positive change. From being the first in their families to attend college, to being the first class of a new student organization, these students have set a strong foundation for themselves and others.

It started with a question, “How can we bring first-generation students together more effectively?” For recent UNK graduate DJ Hardwick, it was a lightbulb moment back in 2020. Hardwick is soft-spoken, yet his words carry the kind of weight that causes people to pause and listen intently. He was actively involved in a variety of activities and groups on campus. He’s also a first-gen student, so it seemed fitting that he would be the one to suggest creating a new student organization for first-generation students. People got on board with his idea quickly.

That first year, there were five active members who met regularly, connected with one another, shared their personal experiences, and reached out to other first-gen students on campus. By Year 2, the number of active participants grew to more than 25 students.

The current student organization president, Sierra McKenny, is majoring in business administration with an accounting emphasis and pre-law track. She’s also taking classes fully online. She took the initiative to be more connected through her online experience. Now, she’s inviting other online students to do the same.

Back on campus, the group hosts “First-Gen Friday Lunches,” where other students are invited to lunch with faculty and staff on the first Friday of each month. The group discusses challenges and resources available to help. It’s all part of an effort to connect people and make them feel part of something bigger than themselves.

The more layers of support you can create for first-gen students, the better. UNK is known for having outstanding support of its students and strengthening relationships. Therefore, students feel more confident and comfortable knowing they have people to turn to in times of need.

With over 40% of the student population classified as first-generation, UNK has become a first-generation destination in Nebraska. Stronger connections. Deeper, more meaningful experiences. Successful outcomes. Those are the goals of UNK’s first-generation efforts. It takes a special group of organized students to make it all happen. These students are proud of their first-gen status. They wear it as a badge of honor. They understand the positive impact they can have on others who are facing the same challenges of navigating the college process. Their stories are inspiring. Their efforts are admirable.

UNK can be proud of its bold students who continue to rise to the challenge and set a great example for future generations. These students are the first ... but they definitely won’t be the last. Learn more at unk.edu/firstgen.

Tips For choosing a major



The cost of college tuition is a concern for many college-bound students and their families. The cost of a college education continues to rise, but it's not just tuition and room and board that students and their families must account for. College students may underestimate cost-of-living expenses when planning their school-year budgets. But such expenses can be substantial, catching even the most well-prepared students off guard. Fortunately, there are several ways for college students to save money on living expenses and still make the most of their time on campus.

Venture off campus.

Towns that rely heavily on colleges or universities to support their economies typically offer great deals to students willing to venture off campus. Local businesses, including bars, restaurants and entertainment venues like mini golf facilities or bowling alleys, may offer student discounts to entice kids to leave campus. Students can take advantage

of these offerings to save on food and entertainment, which tend to be among the more pricey cost-of-living expenses college students contend with.

Buy secondhand furnishings.

College students living in their own apartments or dorm rooms may not have the financial resources to purchase new furniture. Rather than purchasing brand new items they are likely to discard after moving out or graduating, college students can purchase secondhand items from local thrift stores or used furniture retailers that offer sturdy furnishings at low prices.

Become a resident advisor.

Resident advisors, often referred to as "R.A.'s," typically receive free or reduced room and board in exchange for living in the dorms and monitoring the floors they live on. Competition to be an R.A. can be competitive, but students who become R.A.'s can save thousands of dollars on room and board costs over the course of their time at school.

Make your own meals.

Meal plans may be ideal for college students during their freshmen years, when students may still be adjusting to campus life. But older college students can skip the meal plan in favor of preparing their own meals. Doing so can save students substantial amounts of money, and some students may even prefer the variety available at the local grocery store over the more limited offerings available at dining halls or other campus eateries.

Move off campus.

Some schools do not permit freshmen and sophomores to live off-campus, but older students may find that private housing is more affordable than on-campus apartments or dormitories. Students eligible to live in off-campus housing can contact local real estate agents to get a feel for the off-campus housing market before making a final decision. Cost-of-living expenses at colleges and universities can be considerable, but savvy students can find various ways to save money.

How College Students can cut living expenses

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WSC Class of 2026

Wildcat Freshmen, Fall 2022

Wayne State Keeps Costs Low While Improving Learning Environment

Wayne State College works hard each year ensure students have access to a high-quality, affordable education. During the past year, these efforts included freezing tuition and increasing financial aid benefits, renovating and expanding campus buildings, and securing partnerships and academic opportunities to provide excellent pathways to degrees.

Tuition Frozen, Tuition Guarantee Extended to Non-residents

For the second straight year, the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State College System froze tuition at Chadron, Peru, and Wayne State College for the 2022-23 academic year. The tuition freeze applies to undergraduate and graduate; resident and non-resident students; and online rates.

Wayne State also expanded its Tuition Guarantee Program to include new freshmen and transfer students from outside Nebraska. The program recognizes the need for a quality, affordable education pathway for out-of-state students.

WSC Athletics Announces \$26.5M Expansion and Renovation Project

Wayne State College athletics plans to build a \$26.5-million athletic and recreation facility renovation project, which includes the addition of an air-supported indoor structure and major renovations to the Recreation Center, Rice Auditorium, and the Kirk Gardner Indoor Athletic Complex.

This will be a three-phase project beginning with the new indoor facility. Construction on the project is set to begin in spring of 2023 with a tentative completion date set of fall 2025. The project is intended to raise the recruiting and competitive profile of WSC's NCAA Division II athletic programs.

WSC Completely Renovating Music and Theater Facility

Wayne State College began the renovation of the Peterson Fine Arts Building last fall. The project, which will be complete by spring 2023, includes new rehearsal spaces for the bands and choirs; improved acoustics in all practice rooms and teaching studios; upgrades to Ramsey Theatre to support larger acts and productions; better accessibility for performers and spectators with limited mobility; and ample student space for collaboration and conversation

Cooperative Education Expands into Grand Island, Ground Broken for Co-op Housing in Norfolk

This fall, the Career Scholars cooperative education model is expanding into Grand Island, as a pilot cohort of freshman students will begin their journey toward living and working in Grand Island in fall 2026. Like Norfolk, students will spend their first three years of study on campus, and their senior year in the community working with a co-op employer partner.

Students in the program receive up to \$24,000 in scholarships for housing and tuition, as they engage in campus, community and employer led activities. Grand Island leadership, employers, and Nebraska state legislators have been overwhelmingly supportive of the new initiative. Recently, the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act was passed into legislation, providing initial career scholarship funding to pilot a co-op program in Grand Island.

The College broke ground this past spring for the Norfolk Student Housing development for the Growing Together Career Scholars program in Norfolk. The housing units will support WSC's career scholars, who will live in downtown Norfolk their senior year as they perform two semesters of cooperative education with a partner employer. The first Norfolk cohort will begin working in their cooperative education positions in fall 2023.

Learn more about Career Scholars at <https://www.wsc.edu/career-scholars>

WSC Strengthens Community College Partnerships

Wayne State signed new agreements with Northeast Community College (NECC) and Central Community College (CCC) that provide expanded educational opportunities for students and strengthen the region's industrial technology workforce.

The new degree partnership allows graduates who complete their associate of applied science degrees at NECC and CCC to transfer all of their completed academic credits to Wayne State to earn a bachelor's degree in technology. The agreement allows WSC to accept up to 80 credit hours for the 120-credit hour program.

Nursing Pathways Expanded

Wayne State and University of Nebraska Medical Center signed an affiliation agreement for an early admission pathway for WSC students who wish to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at the UNMC College of Nursing Northern Division in Norfolk. The Early Admission Pathway agreement will make the path to a BSN seamless for students enrolled in the pre-nursing undergraduate program at WSC and provide guaranteed early admission for qualified students.

Students complete the first two years of the BSN at WSC and then finish their nursing degree at UNMC's Northern Division. The new BSN program includes joint advising, rigorous coursework, and co-curricular activities with UNMC faculty while at WSC.

Learn more about all of WSC's nursing pathways at www.wsc.edu/nursing-programs.



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