

Counseling Update

Welcome to Doud's Counseling Updates 11-9-20

Counselor Update Message to Parents

In an effort to share information with parents, I will be sending updates out through the school messenger along with this email to help get you into the loop with your student. All this information is available to your student in our daily bulletin, on my website, [Doud's Counseling Corner](#), announcements, Facebook, and newsletters. There is A LOT of information in today's Counselor Update. You might do a quick scan to see what is relevant to you. Moving forward, I will try to have a forum that is brief, with links that will help assist you with your student.

These updates will be geared primarily for junior and seniors, BUT I will also be providing relevant information directly related for freshman and sophomore parents. **Freshman and Sophomore parents are able to get a jump start as their student moves toward the next year.**

If you would **NOT** like to receive the Counselor Update, please email me at rdoud@semmustangs.org and I will remove you from the list. I have invited all 9-12 students to the Counseling Updates also.

I hope you find this information useful. Please don't hesitate to email or call me at 308-752-2925 if you have questions.

Thank you,
Roger F. Doud
SEM School Counselor

Doud's Counseling Corner Webpage

Check out [Doud's Counseling Corner Webpage](#) for up to date information!

- Quick Daily Look Up
- Scholarship Information
- Local, Regional, State and National Scholarships
- College Links
- Much, much more.
- Check it out!

What is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?

In a perfect world, everyone would qualify for full financial aid. However, in reality, those pools of funds are limited, and there must be a way of determining who really needs financial assistance to attend college.

That's where the FAFSA—the Free Application for Federal Student Aid—comes in. Almost like Hogwarts' Sorting Hat, it sorts out which students are eligible for what types of financial aid, and how much.

What is the FAFSA?

At its core, the [FAFSA](#) is just a form you fill out to see if you're eligible for undergraduate or graduate financial aid. The FAFSA is administered by the Department of Education, and the results that it presents are then given to your college or university's financial aid office. It assesses your and your family's financial situation to determine how much you can afford to pay for college.

If you're a [dependent student](#), you'll need to fill this form out with your parents. If you're an independent student, you may not need your parent's input on this form; however, you will need your spouse's information if you're married.

When you've completed the form, it will generate a Student Aid Report (SAR) which details your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to your education. When you first see this number, you might panic because it's so large, but know this: it's *not* how much money your family *has* to pay. Rather, it's a number that your school will use to determine your eligibility for federal, state, and private financial aid (such as scholarships).

To figure out how much financial aid you're eligible to receive, your school will subtract your EFC from the average Cost of Attendance (COA). The bigger the difference, the more financial aid you will receive. For example, if your school's COA is \$40,000 per year and your EFC is \$30,000 per year, you'll be eligible for \$10,000 worth of financial aid.

Should I fill out the FAFSA?

Yes! The only way to know for sure whether you qualify for governmental aid is to complete the FAFSA. While the amount of financial aid you qualify for depends on many, many factors, it's generally always a good idea to check your eligibility. Even if you only qualify for federal subsidized student loans, that can still help you minimize your debt burden in the long run.

How do I fill out the FAFSA?

You can complete the application yourself with the link below or I would personally call or visit with a representative from Education Quest to help you work through the process. It is very quick and they will help you get it right the first time. You will need your 2019 tax returns for the process. The Kearney phone number for Education Quest is 308-234-6310 or 800-666-3721.

[FAFSA LINK](#)

[Financial Aid Information LINK](#)

Tuesday Tune Up

Next Tuesday Tune Up will be November 9, 2020. Please be at the front door by 7:10 if you are planning on attending. We will start promptly at 7:15 in Mrs. Trampe's classroom. Breakfast snacks will be

served. Discussion topics will include: FAFSA, Susan T. Buffett Scholarship, and Education Quest updates.

Pre-ACT and ACT

Juniors took the pre-ACT and seniors took the ACT in September. The results of both tests have been returned and will be mailed out this week to parents. If you have questions about the results, please don't hesitate to call me at 308-752-2925.

The Susan T. Buffett Scholarship

Eligibility and Selection

The Susan T. Buffett Foundation Scholarship

The Susan T. Buffett Foundation Scholarship application for the 2021-2022 academic year opened Sunday, November 1st. Here is the [link](#) to the application.

- Due to the pandemic, we have made a change to an eligibility requirement for the Buffett Scholarship along with a few changes to the scholarship application. Please see below for these changes and other important information:
- GPA eligibility requirement
 - Students must have at least a 2.0 unweighted cumulative GPA
 - More of your students will be eligible to apply
- Application changes
 - One professional recommendation is required (not two)
 - Fewer essay questions and smaller word count (the questions are on our website <https://buffettscholarships.org/application-requirements>)
 - ACT superscoring – if students take the ACT more than once, they can report their highest subtest scores in the application
- FAFSA
 - Students need to complete the FAFSA early, preferably before the new year
 - Early FAFSA completion is especially vital if a student's financial situation changed significantly this year compared to what is reflected on their federal income tax return. Student in this scenario need to:

1) Complete the FAFSA

2) Contact the financial aid office of the college they plan to attend to discuss their change in financial circumstances. The student will need to file a special circumstances appeal, and the college's financial aid office will decide if the student's financial aid can be adjusted.

3) Email us scholarships_app@stbfoundation.org to let us know

To be eligible for the **Susan T. Buffett scholarship**, you must:

- Live in Nebraska and meet in state residency requirements of the college you plan to attend
 - DACA, undocumented, or DACA eligible students are still eligible to apply
 - For questions about your residency status, here is a [list of contact numbers](#)

- Graduate from a Nebraska high school or earn a Nebraska GED
- Achieve at least a 2.0 cumulative unweighted GPA in high school
 - 2.0 on a 4 point scale
- Be a first-time freshman when entering college
 - Students obtaining dual enrollment credits in high school are still eligible to apply
- Plan to attend a Nebraska public college:
 - **NE Community Colleges** - CCC, LPTC, MCC, MPCC, NECC, NICC, SCC, or WNCC;
 - **NE State College System** - Chadron State, Peru State, Wayne State; or
 - **University of NE System** - NCTA, UNK, UNL, UNMC, or UNO
- Be in need of financial assistance in order to attend college
 - **Note:** You do not need to be Pell Grant eligible to qualify
 - You must have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) below \$10,000

All eligible applications are reviewed and scored. Selection is based on:

- Financial need
- Academic merit
- Personal essay
- Recommendation

[Home Page Link](#)

Scholarship opened November 1, 2020

Scholarship Deadline February 1, 2021 5:00 PM CST

Scholarship Awarded May 1, 2021

The Susan T. Buffett Scholarship Application Checklist

- Social Security number*** (if you have one)
- Username and password** (write these down)
- Online application forms**
- One recommendation**
For the recommender you will need:
 - Full name, title, email, and phone number
- Student Aid Report (SAR)**
 - You and parent/guardian will need FSA IDs
 - The PDF download of the SAR must be 5 pages
 - EFC must contain a number between 0 & 9,999
- High school transcript in PDF format**
It must include the following:
 - Full name, date of birth, and high school name
 - Cumulative unweighted GPA
 - High school coursework with grades
 - Current work in progress
- Essay (500 to 1000 words)**
Address all of these questions/topics:
 1. Tell us about you, your life, your family and/or your communities. (In your response, discuss people, communities/organizations, and experiences that have shaped your life and your values).
 2. Tell us about a time you worked hard to achieve something in school and why it was meaningful/what you learned. Additionally, tell us about a time you worked hard to achieve something outside of school and why it was meaningful/what you learned.
 3. Tell us why you want to go to college. How will this scholarship help you reach your goals?
- Consent form**
When you are ready to submit the application:
 - Read the online consent form
 - Complete your electronic signature
 - Obtain parent/guardian electronic signature (if you are under 19 years of age)

*If you were granted Deferred Action status as a result of the 2012 U.S. Department of Homeland Security initiative or cannot file the FAFSA because of your citizenship status, please contact the Buffett Foundation at scholarships@stbfoundation.org to inform them of your status. Complete the College Funding Estimator (CFE) instead of the FAFSA. The CFE can be found here: <https://apps.educationquest.org/estimator/20202021/estimator.htm>

SEM Passport Program for Juniors and Seniors

The **SEM Passport** is an incentive for our students to complete needed tasks for the year and better prepare themselves for college or a career choice. It was designed for students to complete needed activities using a passport theme and to “stamp” completed activities just like a passport when traveling abroad. This is the first year juniors are participating in the activity. Juniors and seniors that complete the necessary activities will be put into a drawing for a scholarship that will be announced at our Honors Night in the spring. Seniors that complete the activities will also receive a **"College Survival Package."**

Senior Passport Instructions

1. You must complete the eight required stamps:

1. Meet with an Education Quest Representative
2. Participate in SEM's Apply2College Day
3. Complete/Update you Resume
4. Obtain 3 letters of Recommendation
5. Apply for one scholarship
6. Write a personal statement
7. Attend ONE Tuesday Tune Up
8. Complete 10 hours of community service with signature of leader/sponsor and share what you did for your service

2. You must complete five additional tasks of your choice that are provided in your passport.

1. All A's and B's First Semester
2. Campus Visit
3. Job Shadow
4. Take the ACT your senior year
5. Accepted to college
6. Write a Personal Statement
7. Participate in two (2) extracurricular activities

3. For every task you will need a signature from Mr. Doud or the designated adult. The community service must have the leader or sponsor's signature in your passport and write down what you did.

4. You need to have your passport completed by Friday, April 23rd and be present at honors night to be placed into a drawing for a senior survival kit, gift cards and much, much more! All seniors that complete the SEM Passport will receive a SEM Passport T-shirt.

**GOOD LUCK ON THIS AWESOME
ADVENTURE!!!!**

Junior Passport Instructions

1. You must complete the six (6) required stamps:

1. Complete/Update you Resume
2. Obtain 1 letter of Recommendation
3. Attend ONE Tuesday Tune Up
4. Go on a college campus visit
5. Complete 10 hours of community service with signature of leader/sponsor and share what you did for your service

2. You must complete three (3) additional tasks of your choice that are provided in your passport.

1. Job Shadow
2. Take the ACT your junior year
3. Complete a Personal Statement
4. All A's and B's First Semester
5. Belong to two extracurricular activities

3. For every task you will need a signature from Mr. Doud or the designated adult. The community service must have the leader or sponsor's signature in your passport and write down what you did.

4. You need to have your passport completed by Friday, April 23rd and be present at honors night to be placed into a drawing for a junior survival kit, gift cards and much, much more! All juniors that complete the SEM Passport will receive a SEM Passport T-shirt.

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On To College with John Baylor

The On to College program with John Baylor is used at SEM to help our students learn test taking strategies for the ACT. **OTC is used during the Career Readiness class but as an online program, any**

student is able to participate in the program if you would like to take it! See Mr. Doud for more details about the program.

After two decades of growth, tens of thousands of students have taken our proven, innovative, and fun ACT® online and in-person courses. John's entertainment background ensures that students are engaged, a critical component of effective test prep.

Used by more than 450 high schools in 24 states, OnToCollege online classes routinely increase an entire high school's ACT average score 1-3 points.

November "To Do" List

Seniors...complete these tasks in November to stay on the path to college:

- Complete the [FAFSA](#).
- Apply to your top college choices.

Juniors...complete these tasks:

- [Research colleges](#) that interest you.

Career Readiness Class

I am currently teaching a Career Readiness Class to sophomores, juniors and seniors during 3rd and 7th periods. Below is my curriculum for the remainder of the first semester.

We will be doing zoom interviews for our final exam. If you are interested in helping out as an interviewer, please let me know and I can get you on our list to help.

Monday is our **Motivational Monday** where we watch and review a video that challenges students.

Call or email me if you have questions about the class.

Motivational Monday Schedule

November 9 Admiral McRaven Leaves the Audience Speechless

November 16 The Most Motivating Moment of Your Life!

November 23 I Need A Word

November 30 I Hope You Dance

December 7 Michael Jordan's 10 Rules For Success

December 14 I Almost Quit

Financial Literacy Lessons

November 10 Budgeting Basics part 1

November 11 Budgeting Basics part 2

November 12 Checking and Savings part 1

November 13 Checking and Savings part 2

November 17 Credit Basics

Employability Soft Skills Lessons

November 18 Verbal Communication

November 19 Written Communication

Time Management Lessons

November 23 What is time management

November 24 Self-Management & Independence

Personal Essay Lesson

December 1 Writing your personal essay

Landing the Job Lessons

December 2, 3, 4 Resume Prep

December 8 Cover Letter

December 9 Letters of Recommendation

December 10, 11 Job applications 101

December 15 Dressing Professional 101

December 16, 17 Honing your Interview Skills

December 18 - Start interviews with the morning class (9:26-10:06)

December 21 - Semester exams

9:25 to 10:40 - 3rd period class

1:00-2:15 - 7th period class

About Education Quest

EducationQuest Foundation is a nonprofit organization with a mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska.

EducationQuest provides **free** college planning services, need-based scholarship programs, college access grants for high schools (**SEM is currently participating in one!**), college access resources for middle schools, and outreach services for community agencies.

There are locations in Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, and Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

Get signed up for scholarship quest and their reality check.

EducationQuest [Home Link](#)

2020 Hagan Scholarship Application

[Hagan Scholarship Application](#)

Applicants must create a UN and PW to access the Application

Application Deadline December 1, 2020. [About the Hagan Scholarship](#) (1 page). An overview of eligibility, responsibilities, and benefits.

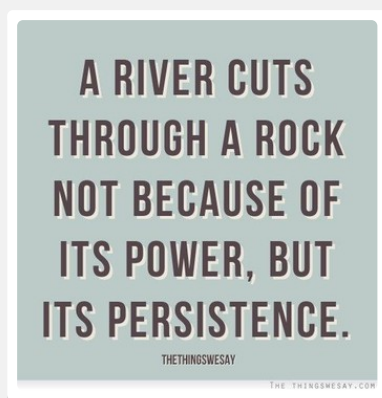
Eligibility Requirements

1. ACT and SAT scores **are not** required.
2. Must be a U.S. Citizen.
3. Must attend an Eligible Public High School.
4. Must have achieved a 3.75 Cumulative Grade Point Average.
5. Must enroll at an Eligible Four-Year College or University the first semester following high school graduation.
6. Must work 240 hours before August 2021.
7. FAFSA EFC must not exceed \$6,500.

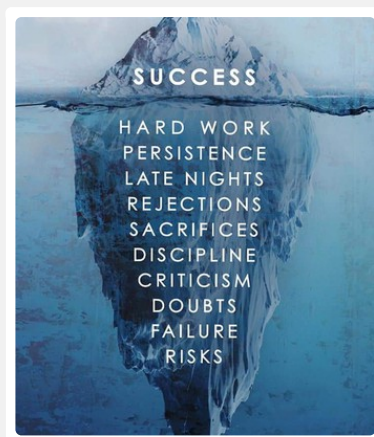
- 8. Must apply for Federal and State grants if eligible.
- 9. Must not have a felony conviction.

Upcoming Events

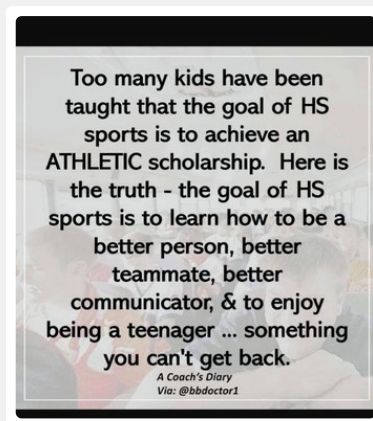
- November 10: Tuesday Tune Up
- November 16: 10:00 Late Start
- November 25, 26, 27: No School - Thanksgiving Break
- December 8: Tuesday Tune Up
- December 12: ACT
- December 14: 10:00 Late Start
- December 21, 22: Semester Exams
- December 23-January 6: Christmas Break
- January 7: First day of 2nd semester
- January 8: Deadline for February 6 ACT
- January 15: No School-Teacher Inservice
- January 19: Tuesday Tune Up
- January 25: 10:00 Late Start



Persistence



Success




Goal for High School Sports




About SEM

 Facebook

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 rdoud@semmustangs.org

 (308) 752-2925

 doudscounselingcorner.weebly...