



Supporting Nevada Students
Who Have Experienced Foster Care
to Reach Their College Goals



Campus-Based Resource Guide for NSHE Students Who Have Experienced Foster Care





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PURPOSE OF GUIDE

This guide is designed to assist Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) students who have experienced foster care (and their support people)—with accessing campus-based academic success support resources/services that are open to either all NSHE students or NSHE students who meet certain eligibility criteria.



A NOTE FOR NEVADA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are still enrolled in a *high school diploma* or *high school equivalency certificate* (HiSET, TASC, or GED) program, or are **NOT** currently enrolled in school at all (at the high school or college level), you may want to check out two of our other online resources, **BEFORE** you proceed with reviewing the information in this guide:

1. [College 101 for Nevada Students Who Have Experienced Foster Care](#) – For information to support you with learning about the risks and rewards of dual-enrollment courses for high schoolers; types of postsecondary education institutions and credentials; words of caution and key factors to consider when choosing a school and program of study; an overview of the 7 Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) colleges/universities and the NSHE Fostering Success Initiative that provides wraparound support to students with foster care histories; an introduction to financial aid and key financial aid topics and resources; and post-admission college enrollment and financial aid steps
2. [Career Pathways Guide for Nevada Students Who Have Experienced Foster Care](#) – For information to support you with exploring, planning, and pursuing postsecondary education and career paths that are aligned and fitting for your interests, skills, and needs—as well as maximizing your career preparation, experience, and advancement opportunities while enrolled in a postsecondary education program



NSHE FOSTERING SUCCESS INITIATIVE OVERVIEW: CAMPUS-BASED WRAPAROUND SUPPORT RESOURCES FOR NSHE STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED FOSTER CARE

The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) provides tailored wraparound support to students who have experienced foster care, through its [Fostering Success Initiative](#), and we encourage you to access those resources/services.



Through a holistic approach, the NSHE Fostering Success Initiative centers postsecondary education success and career preparation as it focuses on the **PRESENT** and the **FUTURE** with students who have experienced foster care.

Enthusiastic educators engage in 3 key activities that promote student success and wellbeing:

- 1) Individualized direct coaching that centers the young person as the expert in their own experiences and needs, builds trust, and fosters self-advocacy and independent living skills;
- 2) Tailored resource and/or support service provision, within campus- and community-based settings (including “sense of belonging” opportunities); and
- 3) Timely and appropriate advocacy that assists in removing barriers.

Adapted from: 1) Casey Family Programs. (2006). *It's My Life: Postsecondary Education and Training*. <https://www.casey.org> & 2) Fostering Success Coaching Institute. (2008). *Fostering Success Coaching: The Seven Life Domains*. <https://www.fosteringSUCCESSCOACHING.COM>

Check out the initiative's [Wraparound Support Flyer](#), for a comprehensive list of NSHE staff/faculty and campus-based support programs that are dedicated to serving students who have experienced foster care.

- These contact people/programs can provide you with one-on-one assistance, connect you to resources/services, and help you navigate any barriers that you may encounter throughout your college journey.
- They can also connect you with other college students who have experienced foster care!



CAMPUS-BASED SUPPORT FOR NSHE STUDENTS EXPERIENCING DISABILITIES, LEARNING CHALLENGES, AND/OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS



Every NSHE college/university has a resource center designed to assess and support students navigating various disabilities, learning challenges, and/or medical conditions (both short- and long-term) that impact their daily lives and schooling—including providing tailored academic success accommodations to students who meet the eligibility criteria. Although the campus-based resource centers focused on these difficulties vary slightly, they offer similar types of resources/services. The main support they provide is granting students formal accommodations to address a variety of academic challenges and needs. This could include, for example, providing

alternative testing options (such as extra time on exams), advocacy surrounding accessibility on campus, and one-on-one staff support to help students succeed in higher education.

If you are experiencing difficulties that you feel are minor enough that they may not qualify for formal resources/services, it is still highly recommended that you reach out and get assessed. You may qualify for more than you think; and, even minor accommodations can make a major difference in your self-confidence, academic performance, and wellbeing.

NSHE Campus-Based Resource Centers Serving Students Experiencing Disabilities, Learning Challenges, and/or Medical Conditions

You can find more detailed information about NSHE's campus-based resource centers designed to support students navigating disabilities, learning challenges, and/or medical conditions on their websites:

- [University of Nevada, Las Vegas \(UNLV\) Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#) 
- [University of Nevada, Reno \(UNR\) Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#) 
- [Nevada State University \(NSU\) Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#) 
- [College of Southern Nevada \(CSN\) Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#) 
- [Great Basin College \(GBC\) Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#) 
- [Truckee Meadows Community College \(TMCC\) Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#) 
- [Western Nevada College \(WNC\) Disability Support Services \(DSS\)](#) 

For additional resources tailored to students experiencing disabilities, learning challenges, and/or medical conditions—both on and off campus—check out our [Disability, Learning Challenge, and Medical Condition Resource Guide for NSHE Students Who Have Experienced Foster Care:](#)



CAMPUS-BASED ACADEMIC SUCCESS SUPPORT RESOURCES FOR NSHE STUDENTS

Below are links to campus-based academic success support resources/services that are open to either all NSHE students or NSHE students who meet certain eligibility criteria. Please note that each institution has a different combination of resources, and some institutions have more resources than others.



General Academic Success Support for ALL NSHE Students

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV): [Academic Success Center \(ASC\)](#); [ASC Tutoring](#)
- University of Nevada, Reno (UNR): [Tutoring Center](#); [Writing & Speaking Center](#); [Math Center](#)
- Nevada State University (NSU): [Academic Success Center \(ASC\)](#); [Writing Center](#)
- College of Southern Nevada (CSN): [Centers for Academic Success \(CAS\)](#)
- Great Basin College (GBC): [Academic Success Center \(ASC\)](#)
- Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC): [Tutoring and Learning Center \(TLC\)](#)
- Western Nevada College (WNC): [Library & Academic Coaching](#); [Academic Coaching Overview](#)

In addition to the academic success support offered at each NSHE institution, students can also access tutoring services, FOR FREE, through their local public Nevada libraries—many of which use [brainfuse](#), like some of the NSHE institutions.

Academic Success Resources for NSHE Students who are First-Generation, Low-Income, Have a Disability, and/or are Otherwise Underrepresented in Postsecondary Education

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV): [First-Generation Student Overview](#); [The Intersection](#); [TRIO Student Support Services](#)
- University of Nevada, Reno (UNR): [First-Generation Student Center](#); [First in the Pack](#); [McNair Scholars Program](#); [TRIO Scholars and TRIO STEM Scholars Programs](#)
- Nevada State University (NSU): [TRIO Student Support Services](#); [First and Fierce](#); [Nepantla Program](#)



- College of Southern Nevada (CSN): [TRIO Student Support Services](#)
- Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC): [TRIO Student Support Services](#); [Success First Program](#)
- Great Basin College (GBC) & Western Nevada College (WNC) are both smaller colleges that do NOT have consistent dedicated programming/resources for first-generation college students; BUT, they are both part of the **Nevada First-Gen Network (NFGN)**—which provides micro-grants to institutions, to help them fund resources for first-generation college students. Utilize the other resources outlined in this guide and/or ask the staff/faculty at your school who are designated to support students with foster care histories (listed in the NSHE Fostering Success Initiative's [Wraparound Support Flyer](#)) for support with identifying additional campus- and community-based resources/services.
- National First-Generation College Student Resource: [First in the Family: Your College Years](#)



Academic Success Resources for First-Year NSHE Students

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV): [First-Year Experience](#); [Peer Mentoring Program](#)
- University of Nevada, Reno (UNR): [Office of New Student Initiatives](#)
- Nevada State University (NSU): [Scholars Programs \(for first-year students\)](#)
- College of Southern Nevada (CSN): [First Year Experience \(FYE\)](#)
- Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC): [Success First Program \(must be a first-generation college student\)](#)
- Western Nevada College (WNC): [First Year Experience \(FYE\)](#)
- Great Basin College (GBC) is a smaller college that does NOT have consistent dedicated programming/resources for first-year college students. Utilize the other resources outlined in this guide and/or ask the staff/faculty at your school who are designated to support students with foster care histories (listed in the NSHE Fostering Success Initiative's [Wraparound Support Flyer](#)) for support with identifying additional campus- and community-based resources/services.



CAMPUS-BASED WELLNESS SUPPORT RESOURCES FOR NSHE STUDENTS

Below are links to campus-based wellness support resources/services that are open to all NSHE students. Please note that each institution has a different combination of resources, and some institutions have more resources than others.

Health and Fitness Resources for NSHE Students

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV): [Student Wellness Center \(physical & mental health resources\)](#); [Student Health Center](#); [Basic Needs \(food, housing, & basic needs insecurity support\)](#); [Student Recreation and Wellness Center](#)
- University of Nevada, Reno (UNR): [Student Health Center](#); [Student Health Center Virtual Health & Well-Being Resources \(physical & mental health\)](#); [Pack Provisions \(food pantry\)](#); [Fitness and Recreational Sports](#)
- Nevada State University (NSU): [Student Wellness Services](#); [Food Pantry](#); [Student Life \(including recreation activities\)](#)
- College of Southern Nevada (CSN): [Wellness \(physical & mental health resources\)](#); [Coyote Cupboard \(food pantry\)](#); [Student Life - Recreation](#)
- Great Basin College (GBC): [Elko Campus Fitness Center and Gym](#)
- Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC): [Health and Wellness](#); [Wizard's Warehouse \(food pantry\)](#); [Sports and Fitness Center](#)
- Western Nevada College (WNC): [Wildcat Wellness \(physical & mental health resources\)](#); [Wildcat Reserve \(food and hygiene supplies\)](#); [Student Life \(including Fitness Center\)](#)



Mental Health Resources for NSHE Students



- University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV): [Student Wellness Center \(physical & mental health resources\)](#); [Student Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#); [Wellness Zone](#); [Support Team](#); [Crisis/Emergency Services](#); [The Care Center](#)
- University of Nevada, Reno (UNR): [Counseling Services](#); [Self-Help Center](#); [Virtual Relaxation Room](#); [Student Health Center Psychiatry Services](#); [Student Health Center Virtual Health & Well-Being Resources \(physical & mental health\)](#); [Crisis Services](#); [LiveWell \(physical & mental health resources\)](#)
- Nevada State University (NSU): [Student Wellness Services](#); [Counseling Services](#)
- College of Southern Nevada (CSN): [Wellness \(physical & mental health resources\)](#); [Counseling & Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- Great Basin College (GBC): [Mental Wellness Resources \(including BetterMynd teletherapy services\)](#)
- Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC): [Counseling Center](#)
- Western Nevada College (WNC): [Wildcat Wellness \(physical & mental health resources, including BetterMynd teletherapy services\)](#)

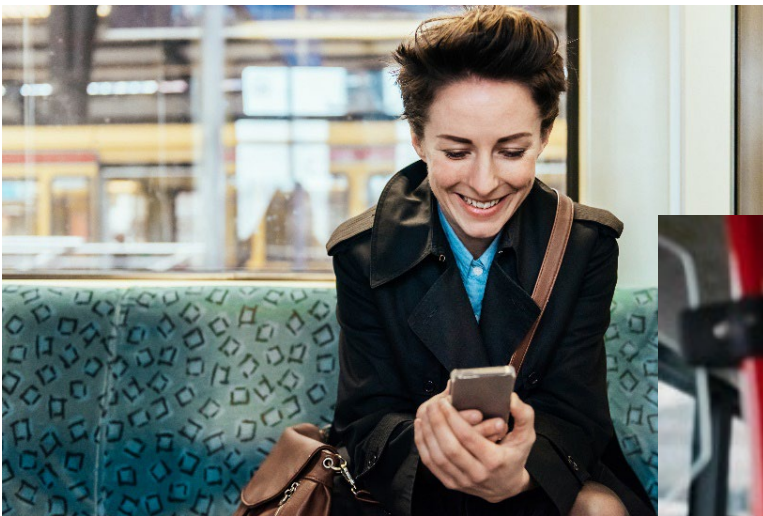
For additional mental health support resources—both on and off campus—check out our [Mental Health Resource Guide for NSHE Students Who Have Experienced Foster Care](#):



CAMPUS- AND COMMUNITY-BASED TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT RESOURCES FOR NSHE STUDENTS

Below are links to campus- and community-based transportation support resources/services that are open to all NSHE students. Please note that each institution has a different combination of resources, and some institutions have more resources than others.

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV): [RTC's discounted bus passes for CSN, NSU, & UNLV students](#); [Parking & Transportation Services](#); [Motorist Assistance Program](#); [Transportation Alternatives](#); [RTC's Club Ride Commuter Services](#); [U-Pass](#)
- University of Nevada, Reno (UNR): [RTC's FREE bus rides for UNR, TMCC, & WNC students](#); [Pack Rides](#); [Parking Services \(administration\)](#); [Parking and Transportation \(ADA access, visitor parking, & event parking\)](#); [PACKTransit Campus Shuttle](#); [Motorist Assistance Program](#); [Alternative and Eco-Friendly Transportation Options](#)
- Nevada State University (NSU): [RTC's discounted bus passes for CSN, NSU, & UNLV students](#); [Transportation \(including Scorpion Shuttle & RTC bus pass info\)](#); [Campus Commuter \(shuttle service between NSU & CSN - Henderson campuses\)](#)
- College of Southern Nevada (CSN): [RTC's discounted bus passes for CSN, NSU, & UNLV students](#); [Coyote Rideshare](#); [Campus Commuter \(shuttle service between NSU & CSN - Henderson campuses\)](#)
- Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC): [RTC's FREE bus rides for UNR, TMCC, & WNC students](#); [Parking Information](#)
- Western Nevada College (WNC): [RTC's FREE bus rides for UNR, TMCC, & WNC students](#); [Jump Around Carson \(JAC\) \(Carson City public transportation system—which offers fixed routes and JAC Assist, a program that offers curb-to-curb transportation for eligible individuals with disabilities\)](#)



ADDITIONAL NSHE FOSTERING SUCCESS INITIATIVE RESOURCES: ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR NEVADA STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED FOSTER CARE

Wraparound Support for Current and Future NSHE Students with Foster Care Histories



[**Mental Health Resource Guide for NSHE Students Who Have Experienced Foster Care**](#) – For information about on-campus, off-campus, and app-based mental health support resources for NSHE students with foster care histories—including both foster care-specific and more general resources



[**Disability, Learning Challenge, and Medical Condition Resource Guide for NSHE Students Who Have Experienced Foster Care**](#) – For information about on-campus, off-campus, and app-based academic success, career, and wellness support resources for NSHE students who have disabilities, learning challenges, and/or medical conditions—particularly those who have experienced foster care



College and Career Planning Support for Nevada High Schoolers and College Students with Foster Care Histories



[**College 101 for Nevada Students Who Have Experienced Foster Care**](#) – For information to support you with learning about the risks and rewards of dual-enrollment courses for high schoolers; types of postsecondary education institutions and credentials; words of caution and key factors to consider when choosing a school and program of study; an overview of the 7 Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) colleges/universities and the NSHE Fostering Success Initiative that provides wraparound support to students with foster care histories; an introduction to financial aid and key financial aid topics and resources; and post-admission college enrollment and financial aid steps



[**Career Pathways Guide for Nevada Students Who Have Experienced Foster Care**](#) – For information to support you with exploring, planning, and pursuing postsecondary education and career paths that are aligned and fitting for your interests, skills, and needs—as well as maximizing your career preparation, experience, and advancement opportunities while enrolled in a postsecondary education program



Comprehensive Financial Aid Information/Resources for Nevada Students with Foster Care Histories



These 3 resources provide comprehensive information about key financial aid topics and the resources that you may qualify for, including crucial information about application timelines and processes. Start with the 2-page fact sheet, which provides a brief overview of the most important information. You can then obtain more in-depth information about a variety of financial aid topics and resources from the medium-sized financial aid guide. And, if you still need more financial aid information and resources after reviewing the guide, the larger financial aid toolkit has a wider range of financial aid information and resources.

They can help you identify a variety of “gift aid” resources (i.e. financial aid that does NOT need to be repaid!)—such as the [NSHE Foster Youth Fee Waiver](#) (which requires submitting both the FAFSA, annually, and the [electronic fee waiver form](#), once per NSHE school), the [Education\(al\) and Training Voucher \(ETV\)](#) (which is administered by the federal child welfare system and requires submitting both the FAFSA and an additional application), **Grants** ([federal](#), [state](#), college/university-specific, and/or private or nonprofit organization-specific—many of which students are automatically considered for after FAFSA submission, and some of which require an extra application), and [Scholarships](#) (from many different types of sources, most of which require students to submit an additional application).

[Foster Care-Specific Financial Aid Fact Sheet, for Nevada Students](#)
(2 pages)



[Foster Care-Specific Financial Aid Guide](#)
(comprehensive guide, broken into subsections)



[Comprehensive Nevada Fostering Success Financial Aid Toolkit](#)
(subdomain of initiative webpage)



NSHE Foster Youth Fee Waiver Information/Resources for Current and Future NSHE Students with Foster Care Histories

The course registration (enrollment) fee waiver is administered by the **Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)**, which oversees **Nevada’s 7 public, nonprofit colleges/universities**. Fee waiver funding is **ONLY** available at those 7 institutions, which include the following:

- [University of Nevada, Las Vegas \(UNLV\)](#) – 4-year research university
- [University of Nevada, Reno \(UNR\)](#) – 4-year research university
- [Nevada State University \(NSU\)](#) – 4-year teaching university
- [College of Southern Nevada \(CSN\)](#) – 2-year community college
- [Great Basin College \(GBC\)](#) – 2-year community college
- [Truckee Meadows Community College \(TMCC\)](#) – 2-year community college
- [Western Nevada College \(WNC\)](#) – 2-year community college



Here is a summary of the [NSHE Foster Youth Fee Waiver](#) financial aid resource:

Who It's For: Undergraduate students who are/were dependents of the Nevada foster care system, at and/or after age 13 (eligibility ends on 26th birthday), and are enrolled at one or more NSHE schools (UNLV, UNR, NSU, CSN, GBC, TMCC, and/or WNC)

What it Covers: Directly WAIVES *most* major course registration (enrollment) fees (i.e. the main/highest course fees) at any of the 7 degree-granting NSHE schools (exact amount waived = base course registration fees + any applicable lower-division lab fees for all eligible courses)

If you think that you are eligible for the fee waiver, you will need to complete/submit the brief [NSHE Foster Youth Fee Waiver form](#) to whichever NSHE school you plan to attend, along with your foster care documentation. It's important to note the following:

- The form only needs to be submitted ONCE, to each NSHE school you plan attend (if you need/want to attend multiple NSHE schools, you do need to submit the brief form to each individual school; this is because each school internally covers the course fees for its own students, and the form asks you to identify which school you are seeking the waiver from).
- Your foster care documentation only needs to be submitted ONCE, to the first NSHE school you attend (if you transfer to a different NSHE school or enroll in more than one NSHE school at a time, your foster care documentation can be internally transferred between schools).
- You will need to complete your FAFSA for each academic year in which you plan to enroll in postsecondary education courses, in order to receive fee waiver funding and all other forms of student financial aid for which you may qualify.

You can find more detailed information about the course registration (enrollment) fee waiver eligibility requirements and benefits in these 3 fee waiver fact sheets:

- [Who, What, When, Where, & Why Fact Sheet](#)
- [Steps to Obtain Fact Sheet](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions Fact Sheet](#)
 - **CLARIFYING NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY:** In some states, *base course registration (enrollment) fees* (i.e. the main/largest course fees) may be referred to as *tuition* (the 2 terms are sometimes used interchangeably); but, in Nevada, Nevada RESIDENT (in-state) students are only charged *base course registration fees* at our public, nonprofit colleges/universities—while NON-resident (out-of-state) students are charged the *base course registration fees*, PLUS an additional *tuition* charge (however, *private Nevada institutions* and *out-of-state institutions*—whether nonprofit or for-profit—often DO label their *base course registration [enrollment] fees* as *tuition*). **This is why the [NSHE Foster Youth Fee Waiver](#) is considered a *course registration (enrollment) fee waiver*, NOT a *tuition waiver*, which is explained in more detail in the fee waiver's [Frequently Asked Questions Fact Sheet](#).**



FAFSA Information/Resources for Nevada Students with Foster Care Histories

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is the official application form completed by current and prospective postsecondary education students who are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or eligible non-citizens—to determine their eligibility for federal financial aid, which is administered by Federal Student Aid (an office of the U.S. Department of Education [ED]). The FAFSA form also helps to determine students' eligibility for multiple other forms of financial aid (including many financial aid resources that are not directly tied to FAFSA submission). The FAFSA is for both undergraduate- and graduate-level students, including those pursuing professional degrees.

Check Out Our Foster Care-Specific FAFSA Materials:

[**Foster Care-Specific FAFSA Flyer,
for Nevada Students**](#)
(1 page)



[**Foster Care-Specific FAFSA Fact Sheet,
for Nevada Students**](#)
(1 page)



[**Foster Care-Specific FAFSA Guide**](#)
(step-by-step completion instructions,
broken into subsections)

