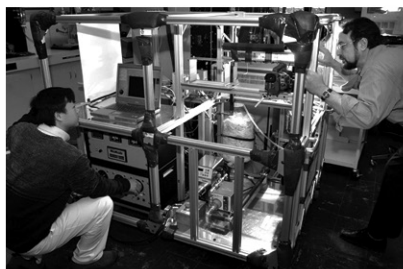


Spring Independent School District

Planning Your Future



Beyond Graduation

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Spring ISD Non-Discrimination Statement

It is the policy of the Spring Independent School District not to discriminate in all educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, associational preference or handicap.

Spring ISD also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to all school district facilities and educational resources

Non Discrimination Information

Discrimination is an unfair treatment of a person or group on the basis of prejudice.

The following are several policies that have been in acted by the government to ensure equality amongst all students:

- 1. No Child Left Behind Act of 2001:** To close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice, so that no child is left behind.
- 2. Americans with Disabilities Act:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities that are like those provided to individuals on the basis of race, sex, national origin, and religion. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in employment, public accommodations, transportation, State and local government services, and telecommunications.
- 3. Section 504** prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education.

Complaints about the Spring ISD discrimination policy and the enforcement of this policy should be directed to the Office of Civil Rights.

Please contact the Dallas Regional Office of OCR.

Introduction

The Spring ISD Counseling Department has compiled helpful resources and information regarding post-high school options. It is important to consider the answers to these questions as you plan your future:

What do you want to do with your life? What will you do after high school? Should you get a job, join the military or continue your education? What do you want to study? If you go to college, which is best for you - a community college or a four-year college? Will the college accept you?

Each option has value; however, you will have a greater chance of achieving personal success by devising a strategy.

As you search for answers, this handbook will provide a starting point to help you make important decisions about the direction of your life. If you are uncertain about what to do after high school, self assessments outlined at the beginning of the handbook will be helpful. They can help match your individual interests to related occupations. There are additional resources available in the College & Career Center located on your high school campus. Be sure to take advantage of College Night and the parent/student information sessions offered by your high school. Also, make use of community resources. Many companies sponsor job fairs, career days, career seminars, and job shadowing opportunities.

Students planning to enter the work force immediately after graduation can refer to information regarding resume preparation, job leads, and interview tips. Some graduates choose to obtain additional training through a trade or technical school. For these students, possible career fields, a listing of public technical colleges, and a checklist are available. Information regarding opportunities for the high school graduate in the military is addressed, including benefits, basic training, and relevant phone numbers.

If you decide that college is your next step, this handbook will provide information you need to understand the process. Some Spring ISD students choose to attend a community college either to obtain a certificate or degree, or to complete course work before transferring to a four year school. These students will find information on local community colleges, possible career fields, and a community college checklist. For the graduate planning to enter a four-year college, a great deal of detailed information exists including: what colleges look for, admission requirements and costs, standardized testing and financial aid at selected four-year universities. College bound students should pay close attention to the College Timelines included in the handbook.

We know that the choices you are facing seem overwhelming at times. However, careful preparation on your part, as well as guidance and support from your family, your school and your community will result in good decisions that will lead to a rewarding future.

"Setting a goal is not the main thing. It is deciding how you will go about achieving it and staying with that plan." - Tom Landry

Brief Overview of the College/Career Center

It is the goal of the College and Career Center to help all students discover their talents and interests, and assist students in obtaining the knowledge, education and/or training they need to use their talents and abilities beyond high school graduation. We serve *all* students, but special effort is made to have ongoing one on one counseling with each senior.

The following is a list of some of the services and materials available in the College and Career Center located on each high school campus.

- Career Research
- College Research
- Certification/licensing opportunities and requirements
- Military information
- Standardized testing registration and study materials
- PSAT
- SAT
- ACT
- THEA/Compass
- ASVAB
- Texas Common Application for Texas colleges and universities
- FAFSA form and information regarding financial aid
- Scholarship opportunities
- Comparison of various Texas College entrance requirements and costs
- Senior information form for letters of recommendation
- Distinguished Service Graduate Information
- College & Institute materials, brochures and catalogs
- Career assessment programs, including programs which show availability, demand and pay scales for various careers
- Letter writing program for requesting specific college information
- Reference books and materials on choosing careers, colleges, scholarships, and financial aid
- Lists of web sites available for career/education/scholarship opportunities
- Computers with internet access
- Fieldtrip opportunities
- Lone Star College North Harris Opportunities

HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Career and Technical Education...

The Possibilities are Endless

Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses offer students the opportunity to explore experience and begin to prepare for rewarding careers while in high school. Students should begin to think about how to match their interests and abilities with career opportunities. CTE programs allow students the flexibility to try new things and begin their journey of self-discovery. Whether students plan to continue with post-secondary education or plan to begin working immediately after graduation, CTE courses provide the tools and information needed to take control of their destinies.

Career and Technical Education programs are a tremendous benefit to students for another reason; many classes offer students the ability to earn college credits while still in high school. The opportunity to leave high school with college credits already in place saves students both time and money since these courses do not have to be repeated, and paid for at the college level. Be sure to consult with your counselor for more information about how to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities that are available to you in the Career and Technical Education Department of Spring Independent School District.

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes offered at **Dekaney, Spring, Wunsche, and Westfield High Schools** are designed to allow students to explore and experience their interests in career areas. Students interested in continuing their CTE studies should refer to the **Career Pathways**. Students are encouraged to work closely with their counselor and take advantage of the advanced opportunities available in SISD.

Dual Credit High School Classes

Students who are at least 16 years old (or with special permission) may earn high school and college credits by successfully completing dual credit classes offered at Lone Star College North Harris and on the high school campus. Students are required to meet early college admissions requirements and are responsible for the costs of the dual credit courses. Need based scholarships are available to those students completing a scholarship application and meeting the criteria outlined in the application. Students must have successfully completed any required prerequisite courses in order to be eligible to enroll in the dual credit course.

Students who enroll in a dual credit college course will have the grade recorded on their transcript and will receive grade points contributing to class rank. For those courses taken on the college campus, transcripts for all grades earned through dual credit must be submitted to the high school registrar after completion of the course. See the College Connections Counselor for more information.

Taking community college courses enables students to:

- Realize they can do college work
- Take courses not offered in their school's honors or AP program
- Experience college and become comfortable with it
- Start their college curriculum while completing high school
- Save valuable time and money

For more information, please visit these web sites:

<http://web.springisd.org/cte/>

<http://academy.spring.org/>

<http://www.lonestar.edu/3645>

Career & Technical Education

Plan ahead... choose a career from a spectrum of opportunities.

Earn college Tech Prep credit for your high school courses.

Save money by not retaking them.

Take this **Spring ISD course** this year *and* get college Tech Prep and Articulated credit for these college courses at Lone Star College System / Art Institute / San Jacinto College

SPRING ISD COURSE

LSCS COURSE

Automotive Technician I & II

Automotive Technology

AUMT 1405 Introduction to Auto Technology
AUMT 1407 Auto Electrical Systems
AUTM 1410 Auto Brake Systems
AUTM 1416 Suspension & Steering
AUTM 1419 Auto Engine Repair

Business/Marketing

Business Education Career Preparation
Business Management/Banking Finance
Accounting I
Business Computer Information System I
(Passage of Tech Prep Assessment)
Business Computer Information System II
Business Image Management Multimedia
Desktop Publishing

✦ POFT 1309 Administrative Office Procedure I
✦ BMGT 1303 Principles of Management
✦ ACNT 1303 Introduction to Accounting I
✦ ITSC 1401 Introduction to Computers

Child Development

Early Childhood Professions I
Early Childhood Professions II

✦ CDEC 1419 Child Guidance
✦ CDEC 1413 Curriculum Resources

Engineering Design Graphic Technology

Engineering and Architectural Drafting
Engineering Computer Aided Drafting I

DFTG 1305 Technical Drafting
✦ DFTG 1309 Basic Computer Aided Drafting

Health Science

Health Science Technology I & II
EMT (Plus Passage of EMT Basic Exam
Or Passage of NHMCCD Challenge Exam)
Medical Terminology Plus
One additional HST Credit

RSNG 1119 Integrated Nursing Skills I
EMSP 1160 Clinical EMT Basic
EMSP 1501 EMT Basic

Hospitality/Hotel Management

Hotel Management I
Hotel Management II

HITT 1305 Medical Terminology

HAMG 1321 Introduction to Hospitality
HAMG 1380 Co-Op Education

Industrial Education

Electronics I (Direct Current)
Electronics II (AC/DC/Computer Systems)

CETT 1403 DC Circuits
CETT 1409 DC – AC Circuits

Technology Applications

Animation I
Animation II
Internetworking Tech I, II (CISCO)

✦ ARTC 1301 Basic Animation
✦ ARTV 1345 Rendering and Modeling
✦ ITCC 1402 CCNA 1: Networking Basics
✦ ITCC 1406 CCNA 2: Router & Routing Basics
✦ ITCC 1442 CCNA 3: Switching Basic & Intern.
✦ ITCC 1446 CCNA 4: WAN Technologies
ITSC 1425 Personal Computer Hardware
ITSC 1405 Introduction to PC Operations Systems
✦ IMED 1301 Introduction to Multimedia
FLMC 1331 Computers in Video Production
ITSE 1445 Introduction to Oracle SQL
CUL 101 Introduction to Culinary Arts
Elective Credit

Hospitality/Hotel Management

Hotel Management I

University of Houston

HMRA 2367 Lodging Management

Hospitality Services / Hotel Management

Hotel Management I (Culinary Rotation)
Hotel Management II

Art Institute of Houston
CUL 101 Introduction to Culinary Arts
Elective Credit

Automotive Technology

Automotive Technician I & II

San Jacinto Community College
AUMT 1405 Introduction to Auto Technology

✦ SWAP Statewide Articulation Programs and Tech Prep Plans – This credit does not necessarily transfer to all colleges and universities.

Advanced Technical Credit Courses for Advanced Measures for DAP and Tech Prep Plans.

For additional information, please contact your high school counselor.



Tech Prep @ Lone Star College System

What is Tech Prep?

- ***An Education Initiative that links high school career and technical courses to college workforce courses on a 2-year Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree through course articulation***

Why get involved?

- ***To save money on college...***
- ***To get a head start on college...***
- ***To finish your education faster...***
- ***To get to work sooner...***
- ***To learn what a job is really like...***
- ***To learn what employers really want...***

Resources from US Chamber Center for Workforce Preparation
[Partnership Development Presentation](#) | [Resource List](#)

Application for course credit: [PLA - High School Articulation](#)

You may be eligible for college credit for courses in these AAS degree programs at Lone Star Colleges - Cy-Fair, Kingwood, Montgomery, North Harris, and Tomball:

Automotive Technology	
Computer Information Technology	Emergency Medical Services Professions
Electronics Technology	Engineering Design Graphics Technology
Geographic Information Systems	Health Information Technology
Heating, Ventilation, AC & Refrigeration Technology	Hospitality Management
Interior Design - Facilities Management	Interpreter Training
Logistics Management	Management
Nursing	Paralegal Studies
Professional Office Technology (Business Administrative Support, Legal & Medical offices)	Veterinary Technology
Visual Communication	Welding and Inspection Technology

For additional information: <http://lonestar.edu/3645>

Steps To Apply for Dual Credit

1. Speak to the College Connections Counselor at your high school to get specific details on dual credit classes offered by Lone Star College North Harris and Spring ISD.
2. Submit an online application to LSC North Harris to take Dual Credit classes.
3. Go to the LSC North Harris website <http://northharris.lonestar.edu>
4. Click on Admissions and Registration
5. Go to the New Student box and click on Apply for Admission.
6. Click on New Applicant that does not have a username and password click here. (Make sure that you have an e-mail address. If you do not go to Yahoo or Hotmail and create one.)
7. Create an account to access all of your LSC North Harris records. (You will need your social security number for this.)
8. Your username and password will be e-mailed to you.
9. Now go to <http://www.lonestar.edu/> and click the **MyRecords** button located at the bottom of the page.
10. Click on the blue students button.
11. Click on the **Update My Account** Information link.
12. Log in using the username and password e-mailed to you.
13. Complete the admissions application, filling in all of the fields! When the screen prompts you to state your degree plan, click credits for transfer. After this you can choose undeclared major. You are not finished until you see the "Congratulations" page. Print the "Congratulations" page and write your name and student ID number on it. Turn this page in to your college connections counselor.
14. If you encounter any problems or have questions, please contact the Lone Star College System IT Office at 832-813-6600 or Admissions Office at (281) 618-5677.
15. Remember your Login and Password. You will use these to access all of your LSC North Harris records including your class schedule and transcripts
16. Make sure you know when the classes on the LSC North Harris campus start.
17. Before the start date go to: My Records, Log in and print off your class schedule. This is how you will know where to go on the LSC North Harris Campus.

Reviewing for the ASSET or COMPASS

When students review grammar, math, reading and writing strategies prior to taking a college readiness assessment their scores improve significantly. The websites and resources below are designed to help you review for the assessments. Both the ASSET and the COMPASS assessments of college-readiness consist of four parts: reading comprehension, grammar, an essay, and math. The COMPASS test is untimed so take your time. Double check your answers, particularly on the math. Remember to also proof and polish your essay. The ASSET is timed, with 25 minutes per reading, writing and math section. You will have plenty of time to answer the questions. On the ASSET, you will have 70 minutes to complete your essay, use the full 70 minutes.

- 1.) **THEA** --- www.thea.nesinc.com
- 2.) **Compass** --- www.act.org/compass
- 3.) **ASSET** --- www.act.org/asset

General Review Resources for Additional Practice:

Grammar:

Grammar --- <http://www.chompchomp.com/terms.htm>

Grammatical errors --- <http://www.chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

Subject/Verb Agreement --- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>

Reading:

http://college.hmco.com/devenglish/resources/reading_ace/students/index.html

Essay:

The writing prompts for the COMPASS and ASSET essays describe two options and you will be asked to write an essay supporting one option over the other. This is a form of persuasive writing similar to what you are required to do for the TAKS. It does not matter which option you choose to support as long as you can support your position with valid reasons. Your essay should include an introduction in which you summarize the options to be debated and clearly state the position you have taken. The introduction should be followed by three to four paragraphs, one for each reason you feel your option is best. End your essay with a concluding paragraph in which you summarize your position.

Your essay should be written in third person –be consistent don't move back and forth between second person (you, your) and third person. Your essay should be between 350 and 600 words.

Step 1: When writing a persuasive essay is to do some prewriting. On the scratch paper, write out 3 or 4 distinct reasons why you support your position. These 3 or 4 reasons become your topic sentences for the paragraphs that form the body of your essay.

Step 2: Using the reasons you sketched out on scratch paper, write 3 or 4 paragraphs in which you state your reason clearly and then expand, comparing and contrasting your position to the alternative one. Elaborate on each reason. Be careful not to have one sentence paragraphs. You are looking for roughly 5 good sentences per paragraph.

Step 3: Write an introductory paragraph in which you clearly state the issue and the position you have decided to support. Place the introductory paragraph above the 3 or 4 paragraphs of the body.

Step 4. Below the 3rd or 4th paragraphs of the body of the essay, write a concluding paragraph in which you summarize your position and your reasons for supporting that position. At this point, your essay should consist of 5 or 6 paragraphs with each paragraph having at least 3 and preferably 5 sentences in it.

Step 5: Reread, proof, and polish your essay. Look for misspellings, punctuation /grammar errors etc.

Practicing for the Essay

Writing a practice essay ahead of time is time well spent

Here is your writing prompt: **Write an essay either for or against a new state law which would raise the legal driving age in Texas from 16 to 18.**

Once you have completed your sample essay reread it to yourself, out loud. This will help you catch grammatical errors, errors in tense, sentence fragments, etc. I understand that you can't do this during the test but on the practice it will help you get the rhythm and flow of the essay. During the test, reread your essay quietly to yourself, making the necessary changes.

Also, have someone else read your practice essay out loud to you, while you make notes about things you think need to be improved. Make notes about common errors you tend to make – you'll want to look for these types of errors when you proof your ASSET or Compass essay.

As you polish your essay you want to be careful to eliminate sentence fragments. Also be sure that you observe the basic rules of punctuation... Sentences begin with a capital; end with a period, question mark, etc. Be sure that the paragraphs are clearly demarcated – with either a skipped line or an indentation.

Finally, have an English teacher or other individual with an English background review and help you revise your essay.

Go to this website: <http://northharris.lonestar.edu/28273/>

Math:

You are allowed to use a 4-function calculator or a non-algebraic calculator like the TI 83 or 85. Please practice on the calculator you intend to use. To access the review sheets for math, go to:

MATH 0306: Pre-algebra --- <http://nhmath.lonestar.edu>

MATH 0308: Introductory Algebra --- <http://nhmath.lonestar.edu>

MATH 0310: Intermediate Algebra --- <http://nhmath.lonestar.edu>

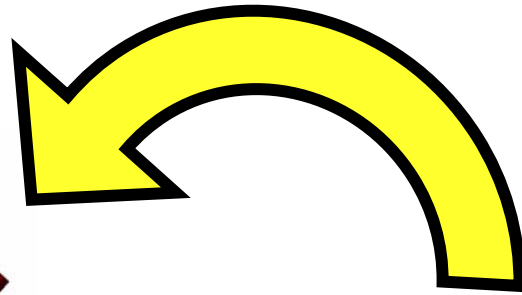
MATH 1314: College Algebra --- <http://nhmath.lonestar.edu>

MATH 1316: Trigonometry --- <http://nhmath.lonestar.edu>

Become a Spring ISD Distinguished Service Graduate!



Candidate



FREE!

**DSG t-shirt
after the
first 15
service hours**

**All high school students
can graduate with:**

- ✓ **30 + hours of community service per year**
- ✓ **An honor cord for graduation ceremony**
- ✓ **Recognition during graduation ceremony**
- ✓ **Commendations for job resumes and college applications**

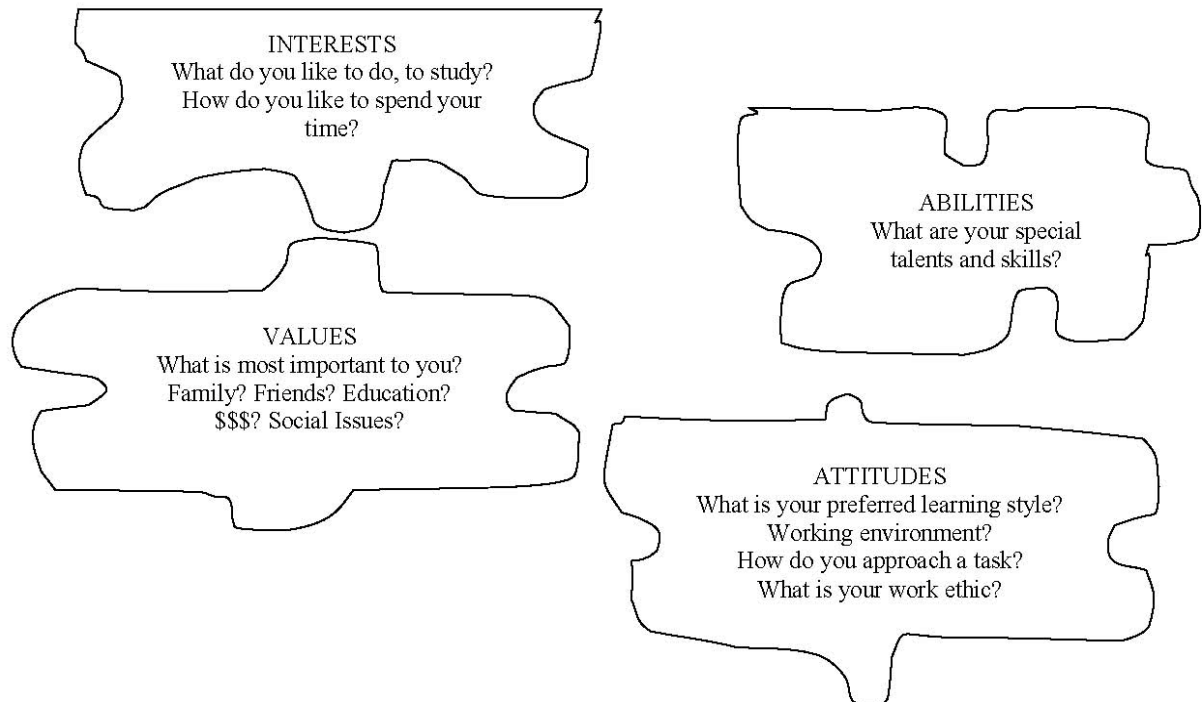


Go to www.springisd.org
Click on Departments for DSG Program.

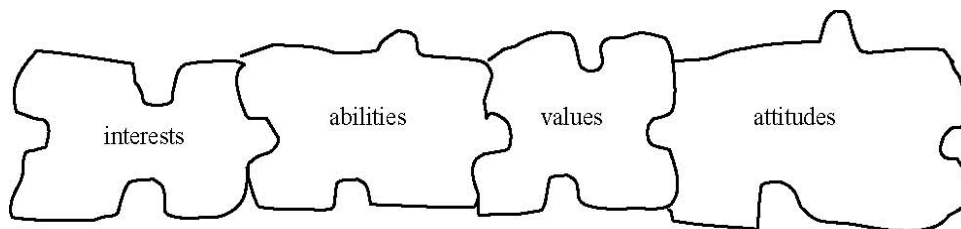
Who Are You?

And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.-- Abraham Lincoln

Understanding is essential for making good decisions about your future. Look at the puzzle pieces below and think about how they apply to you.



Fitting the pieces together is one of the most important steps you can take in planning your future.



One way to better understand yourself is to complete the following Self-Assessment Worksheet and Personal Activity Sheet. Another option is to complete the online Self Assessments using COIN3 and Bridges computer programs. Come to the College & Career Center for more details.

Personal Activity Sheet

Another organizational tool is this activity sheet that will help you prepare a resume for college, scholarship, and job applications.

Athletics		Circle Grade		
Basketball-Boys	9	10	II	12
Basketball-Girls	9	10	11	12
Football	9	10	II	12
Volleyball	9	10	11	12
Cheerleading	9	10	11	12
Drill Team	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	II	12
	9	10	II	12
Band				
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	II	12
Choir				
	9	10	II	12
	9	10	11	12
Honor Societies				
National Honor Society	9	10	II	12
National Technical Honor Society	9	10	II	12
Spanish National Honor Society	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	II	12
	9	10	11	12
JROTC	9	10	11	12
Student Government				
PALS	9	10	II	12
Student Council	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	II	12
	9	10	11	12

Clubs				
Academic Decathlon	9	10	II	12
Art Society	9	10	11	12
Business Professionals of America	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	II	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	II	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	II	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	II	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12
	9	10	11	12

Describe any specific leadership experiences you have had in the activities you listed above. Remember that being an officer is not the only way to be a leader.

**Community
Activities:**

**Work Experience (include summer
employment):**

**Awards/
Honors:**

References: (list at least three individuals, unrelated to you, who can attest to your abilities and character; also, list their job title/position)

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip:
Phone:
E-mail:

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip:
Phone:
E-mail:

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip:
Phone:
E-mail:

Researching a Career

Before researching a college/career, it is helpful to take at least one Career Interest Inventory. Both of the following Career Interest Inventories can be accessed from any on-line computer. SISD recommends taking **BOTH** of the following Career Interest Inventories and printing the results. Next, compare the results and look for a "Career Trend".

Before choosing your career you might need a Reality Check! Please go to <http://www.cdr.state.tx.us/realitycheck/start.htm> to get your dose of reality.

Career Interest Inventory #1:

Go to: www.cxonline.bridges.com

Under "Student Sign In" Click on blue tab "Site ID"

Type in: (Site ID & Passwords are dependant on the high school you attend)

Site ID/Password for WHS: User Name: 0052075 Password: study

Site ID/Password for SHS: User Name: 0052073 Password: focus

Site ID/Password for DHS: User Name: 1213830 Password: V8a8n3Z4

Site ID/Password for CWHS: User Name: 0088517 Password: wunsche

Click orange arrow

Click "Choices Explorer" (1st blue box under "Your Tools")

Click: "Start with Quick Quiz" (under the title "Work" in blue box)

Click: "Start Now"

Once you have taken the Career Interest Inventory, print the results

Career Interest Inventory #2:

Go to: www.coin3.com

Click: Coin Career Library (green button)

Type in: (Site Id & Logins are dependant on the high school you attend)

Site ID for WHS: LTX14675 Login: 685508

Site ID for SHS: LTX14676 Login: 685513

Site ID for DHS: LTX16923 Login: 3229187

Site ID for CWHS: LTX 15851 Login: 1889294

Click: "Submit Login"

Click: "Exploration Center" (top left yellow tab across the top of the page)

Click: "Assessments"

Click: "Self Assessment Survey"

Answer the 41 questions, click: "Search Opportunities", print the results

Once you have selected a career to research:

Go to: www.cxonline.bridges.com

Under "Student Sign In" Click on blue tab "Site ID"

Type in: (User Name & Passwords are dependant on the high school you attend)

Site ID/Password for WHS: User Name: 0052075 Password: study

Site ID/Password for SHS: User Name: 0052073 Password: focus

Site ID/Password for DSH: User Name: 1213830 Password: V8a8n3Z4

Site ID/Password for CWHS: User Name: 0088517 Password: wunsche

Click "Choices Explorer"

You will see the word “Search” in the top right corner. Type in the name of the career in the search field and click “Go”.

You will see a list of specific careers that are closely related to the career you typed in the search field. Click on the specific career you want to research.

You will need to research the following:

1. Under “Explore Careers”
 - *What They Do
 - *Salary & Outlook
 - *Education
 - *Interview
 - *Get Started (At a Glance, Related Majors, Multi-media, Related Websites)
2. Under “Check Out Majors”
 - *Profile
 - *Talking to Students
 - * Related Websites

Once you have fully researched the above website, you may want to find the answer to the following question: “Where can I go to college to receive the necessary training/degree to be a _____?”

To learn this information, you may want to go to the following website:

Go to: www.coin3.com

Click: Coin Career Library “Go” (green button)

Type in: (Site Id & Logins are dependant on the high school you attend)

Site ID for WHS: LTX14675 Login: 685508

Site ID for SHS: LTX14676 Login: 685513

Site ID for DHS: LTX16923 Login: 3229187

Site ID for CWHs: LTX 15851 Login: 1889294

Click: “Exploration Center” (top left yellow tab across the top of the page)

Click: “College Search

Click: “Major” scroll down to the major

Click: “Display Colleges” and print this page

This list will tell you all of the colleges that offer the major.

You will want to read about many/all of these colleges. You may learn about specific colleges, their entrance requirements, application deadlines, costs, and much more by going directly to the college website.

Interesting Information:

By going to www.salary.com and using “Salary Wizard” (middle of home page) you may learn the expected salary in Houston for the career you are researching. You may also compare Houston salaries with the national average.

Career Check List

The following is a list of questions to help you develop an overall picture of your occupational choice. Make photocopies of these questions and apply them toward a number of careers.

1. What education is required for this career?
2. Where would I obtain the training?
3. What competition is there for jobs in this field?
4. What is a realistic starting salary at the entry level?
5. Is there opportunity for travel? It is required? How often?
6. Does this career require my living in a specific geographic location?
7. About how many people are currently engaged in this occupation in Houston?
Texas? U.S?
8. What personality traits are desirable for this profession?
9. Is there excessive pressure associated with this job?
10. Are there writing skills required for this occupation?
11. How much security does this career afford?
12. Does the economy affect this career? How so?
13. What is the impact of this career on family life?
14. Does this career demand flexibility in lifestyle, such as hours, moving, shift work?
15. Is it possible to combine this career with rearing a family?
16. How easy is reentry into this field after several years away from the field?
17. Are the opportunities for women in this field equal to those of men?
18. How rapidly may I expect to advance in the first ten years?
19. What is the need for this occupation in the next twenty years?
20. How would a person in this occupation spend an average working day?

Level of Education Chart

The following chart gives an overview of the levels of education & earnings for jobs within career fields.

Type	Description	Anticipated Length of Study	Transfer of Credit	Average Earnings (Occupational Outlook 00/01)
<i>Training (OJT-on the job training)</i>	Specific training offered by the employer; includes military service	Usually less than 6 months	n/a	Varies
<i>High School Diploma</i>	Allows students to finish with entry-level job skills	4 years	n/a	\$18,571
<i>Vocational Technical Certificate</i>	Allows students to finish with entry-level jobs skills; offered primarily at vocational-technical centers & comprehensive high schools	1-3 years	n/a	Varies
<i>Private Trade School</i>	Specific skill training after high school for a particular occupation	3 months – 2 years	n/a	Varies
<i>Associate Degree</i>	Offered at community/junior colleges, some 4-year colleges & proprietary schools; provides training after high school in specific vocations or for transfer to a senior college	2 years	Institution granting baccalaureate degree will determine applicability of courses from A.D program toward higher degree	\$26,536
<i>Apprenticeship</i>	Formal training program between employee & employer; involves work experience & classroom instruction	2 – 5 years (usually 4 years)	Only credits earned in a college may be transferable	Varies
<i>Bachelor's Degree</i>	Formal 4-year program leading to a degree from a college or university	4 years	Credits may transfer among colleges & universities	\$40,387
<i>Master's Degree</i>	Advanced degree; may be required for entry into certain careers	1 – 2+ years beyond Bachelor's Degree	Credits may transfer among colleges & universities upon approval receiving school	\$48,772
<i>Doctorate or Professional Degree</i>	Research or professional degree in preparation for careers as medicine, dentistry, law, education or science	3 – 5 years beyond Bachelor's Degree	Difficult	\$60,729 (Doctorate) \$71,248 (Professional)

POST-HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

EMPLOYMENT

Finding a Career

Prepare a Resume – Prepare a **professional looking** resume and attach a copy of your resume to each application you complete. You can also mail or e-mail a copy of your resume and a cover letter to prospective employers requesting an interview.

Job Leads – Job Leads can come from a variety of sources.

- **School counselors**
- Education Career Preparation I & II
- Word-of-mouth
- Former/current employers
- Employment agencies
- Personnel office postings
- Newspaper ads
- “Help Wanted” signs
- Professional people you know

Dress for Success

- **Look sharper** than you usually do. You must sell yourself and let the employer know you consider the interview to be very important.
- **Be conservative** in dress: revealing clothes, very short skirts, extremely high-heeled shoes, and baggy slacks are not appropriate.
- **Careful grooming** is a must. Avoid too much of anything, such as colognes, aftershaves, make-up, or jewelry.



How Employers Think

Traits Employers Consider Important

- **Dependable**
- **Team Player**
- **Responsible**
- **Self-starter**
- **Efficient**

Factors Which Eliminate Candidates

- History of absenteeism
- Poor communication skills
- Lack of specific skills
- Lack of enthusiasm
- Poorly groomed

Job Interview Tips

Preparation

- **Learn** about the organization.
- Have a **specific job** or jobs in mind.
- **Review** your **qualifications** for the job.
- **Prepare** to answer broad questions about yourself.
- **Arrive** before the scheduled time of your interview.

The Interview

- **Answer** each question concisely.
- **Respond** promptly.
- Use good **manners**. Learn the name of the interviewer and shake hands as you meet.
- Use **proper English** and avoid slang.
- Be **cooperative** and **enthusiastic**.
- **Ask** questions about the position and the organization.
- **Thank** the interviewer and follow-up with a letter.

Information to Bring to an Interview

- **Social security** number
- **Driver's license** number
- **Resume** – Although not all employers require applicants to bring a resume, you should be able to furnish the interviewer with information about your education, training and previous employment.
- **References** – Usually an employer requires three references. Get permission from people before using their names. ***Try to avoid using relatives.*** For each reference, provide the following information: name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and occupation.

Ending the Interview – This is an important part of the interviewing process! Leave promptly when the interview is concluded. Be certain to use good manners. Thank the employer for the time taken with you and also thank the receptionist or secretary.

His or her opinion of you may also count in the hiring. Try to make arrangements to call the employer back at a specific time to find out the decision. In that way, the employer will be expecting your call. When you return home, **be certain to send the employer a Thank You note.** This will not only show good manners, but will also remind the employer of you.

SAMPLE THANK YOU NOTE

Month 00, Year

Ms. Mary Smith
Personnel Director
ABC Company
123 E. 45th Street
Bigcity, State 12345

Dear Ms. Smith,

I appreciate the time you took with me last Tuesday about the assistant manager opening in the research department at the ABC Company. It is exactly the kind of position I am seeking.

Your company is doing some exciting research in the health field and I would like to be involved in the process. I feel my past experience in the laboratory at the Medical Center, and my knowledge of computers, will be helpful in the job.

As we agreed, I will call you next Monday afternoon for your decision. I am looking forward to joining your firm.

Sincerely,

John Jones
123 Your Street
Hometown, State 12345

Sample Resume for Employment

Your Name (large & bold)
Your Street Address (bold)
Your City, State & Zip (bold)
Your Telephone Number (bold)
Your Professional E-mail (bold)

Objective: Seeking a position in retail sales

Education: Westfield High School
16713 Ella Blvd.
Houston, TX 77070

Graduation Date: June 2009

Specialized Courses:
Marketing Entrepreneurship
Advertising International Marketing
Desktop Publishing
French IV AP

Skills & Abilities: Computer Literacy (Microsoft Word, PageMaker, Excel, PowerPoint)
Fluent in Spanish

**Activities/
Leadership:** Varsity Tennis Team Captain Grades 10, 11, 13
2007 – 2007

Spanish Club V/P Grades 11, 12
(Coordinated Cinco de Mayo Festival 2007)

Christian Club Grades 10, 11, 12

Work Experience: Toys R Us August 2007 to present

Foley's Dept. Store January 2007-July 2007

References: Available upon request

Sample Resume for College/Scholarship Application

Your Name
Your Street Address
Spring, TX 77373
Your Telephone Number
Your e-mail address

Goal: To attend a four year university and major in Education.

Academic Information

Spring High School
19428 I 45
Spring, Tx 77373

CEEB Code: 446692

Graduation Date: June 2009

GPA/Class Rank: 3.85 Top 20%

Test Scores: SAT- Verbal: 610 Math: 690
ACT Composite: 28

Senior Schedule:

Government	Economics
AP Physics	AP Calculus
English IV	Spanish IV
Marching Band	Concert Band

Academic Awards and Honors

National Honor Society	Grades 11-12
Spanish Honor Society	Grades 11-12
DSG	Grades 11-12

Extra-Curricular Activities

SHS Marching Band	Grades 9-12
Percussion Section Leader	Grades 11-12
Spanish NHS-President	Grade 12
DECA	

Community Service

Habitat for Humanity	Grades 10-12
TAKS Tutor	Grades 11-12

Part Time Employment

Incredible Pizza	05-08 2008
Blue Beauty Supply	05-08 2007

Special Training

Fluent in Spanish

The Road to Success After High School

Post Secondary Options:

- Full-time work after graduation
- Military Opportunities
- Trade & Technical Schools
- Community Colleges
- Universities

Full Time Work After Graduation

Ask yourself the following questions:

Do you have a clear idea of the career you want to follow and know that you can succeed without further training or education?

Remember: It is important to stay up to date with the latest advancements and technology in your career field.

Are you already employed part-time and know that the company wants you to start full time after graduation?

Remember: Ask your company if they will assist with tuition for additional training or schooling.

Will you be better in the long run by getting additional training or schooling now?

Remember: Don't put yourself in the position where you will be overlooked for promotions because of your lack of training or schooling. Typically, you can start higher and rise faster in a company by getting some training now.

Remember: In the next century, 80% of the jobs will require technical training beyond high school. Schooling will become more difficult later on when you have the responsibilities of a home and family.

Are you going to work until you earn enough money to pay for college?

Remember: Local college tuition remains inexpensive enough for nearly everyone who wants to go. You can afford to start college right after graduation by working part-time and continuing to live at home. Be sure to apply for scholarships and complete financial aid forms.

Can you attend training classes in the evening, weekends while you work full time or take online classes?

Remember: Community colleges understand the time restrictions that are put on working adults who want to attend school. Most offer evening and weekend classes, and most have programs offered via the web. Flexible hours in the library, computer service centers, advising, and tutoring staff, assist part-time students in having a successful college experience.

If full-time work is your best choice after graduation, how can you prepare for it now?

- Assessments: You have to know what type of job you want before you can find it. It is important to assess your skills, knowledge, abilities, interests, needs and character. Be sure to complete the Career Interest Inventories included in this handbook.
- Career materials: Available in the College & Career Center, library and online. You will want to read job descriptions of the various occupations, salaries, demand and future outlook.
- Newspaper: Investigate what jobs seem to be in demand and read articles about careers and future trends in employment.
- Resume: Refer to the examples in this handbook or go online for additional information



You should get work experience to make you more desirable to a future employer and to give you some ideas about the work.

Some possibilities are:

- Part-time work after school hours
- Internship, career preparation or apprenticeship program
- Summer job
- Job shadowing (spending time in the workplace with an employee watching and learning about their job)

MILITARY ENLISTMENT

The Military offers qualified high school graduates a good salary and free job training. They also provide discipline and structure, as well as many opportunities for career advancement and travel. Most branches of the military require a high school diploma; however, you should contact recruiters to determine requirements. You can also, through various educational programs, earn your college degree while in the service or have the government pay for a large part of your college expenses after you leave the service.

The various branches of the United States Armed Services provide a variety of opportunities for career training in occupationally specific areas. Many of the career training areas are common for all the military organizations, while some are specific to the respective branches. Students serious about exploring their opportunities in the military should take the **ASVAB** in **October, 2008** or **January, 2009**.

Benefits – When young people enlist, they obligate themselves to active duty from two to six years. Besides basic pay and free education and training, the enlistee also receives free housing and free medical and dental care. The **Montgomery GI Bill** provides enlistees with excellent opportunities to earn money for college while in the military. Contact military recruiters for a more specific list of benefits.

Basic Training - Basic training is usually 6-10 weeks of intense mental and physical preparation in which enlistees receive classroom instruction, exercise, and field training. Enlistees also learn discipline, self-control, physical endurance, and respect for authority.

Military Checklist

_____ Contact local recruiter

_____ Take ASVAB Junior or Senior Year

_____ High School Diploma

MILITARY HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)

(Not available at all campuses)



Army ROTC

A program which provides college-trained officers for the Regular Army or Army Reserve. Four-year scholarships pay tuition, lab fees, on-campus educational fees, and \$250-400 per month subsistence allowance. Many other characteristics are considered. **ACT or SAT** tests should be taken **early second semester of your Junior year**. Minimum requirements include **SAT 850** or **ACT 19**. Begin the application process in the spring semester of your junior year. **Deadline is December 1 of your senior year.**

Helpful Army websites:

Go Army Education: www.GoArmyEd.com

ConAP: www.soc.aascu.org/conap/Default.html

Army PaYS: www.armypays.com

Navy/Marine ROTC

A program which pays **up to four years tuition**, costs of textbooks, fees and a subsistence allowance of \$250-400 per month. The selection process is very competitive. You can receive information from the Navy Recruiting Command. **Take the ACT or SAT during the spring semester of your Junior year. Minimum scores are ACT English 22, Math 22; SAT English 530, Math 520.** To be competitive, it would help to have a **3.8 GPA** with **combined English and Math on ACT of 50+ or a combined SAT of 1150+.** **Begin application spring of Junior year. Deadline date is December 1 of Senior year.**

Air Force ROTC

A program which pays **up to four years tuition**, costs of textbooks, fees and a subsistence allowance of \$100 per month. Selection is based on score on **SAT or ACT, high school academic records, recommendation from a high school official; extra-curricular activities, personal interview, medical exam, and acceptance into a college or university offering Air Force ROTC.** **Take the ACT or SAT during the spring semester of your Junior year.** Minimum requirements are: top 25% of class, competitive GPA, and ACT of 24 or SAT of 1000. **Begin application process the spring semester of Junior year. Deadline is December 1 of Senior year.**

NOTE: Students who enroll in an ROTC class on their own in college are eligible to apply for ROTC scholarships for the following years in college.

Military Educational Funding Programs

All branches of the military have an educational funding program which can be used after or during military service to pay for college or special training. Contact recruiters from each branch to get the latest information.

ARMY	281-257-9282	AIR FORCE	281-446-4780
NAVY	281-251-7313	MARINES	281-376-2166
COAST GUARD	713-641-3559	National Guard	1-800-Go-Guard

MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES

The Academies – Academically gifted students may find excellent educational opportunities at the four military academies. The **Army**, **Navy**, **Air Force**, and **Coast Guard** each have their own academies, **West Point**, the **Naval Academy**, the **Air Force Academy**, and the **Coast Guard Academy** respectively. All academies offer a free four-year college education to the students they accept. Students interested in applying to one of the academies should start the process during the Spring of their junior year.

Due to the competitive nomination process, students are urged to apply to every nominating authority which your eligibility allows, (i.e. students' two senators, their congressman, Presidential nomination, Vice Presidential nomination, Children of Deceased or Disabled Veterans Organization nomination, etc.) Students selected for an academy receive four years of college tuition, room, board, fees, and a monthly salary, part of which must be used for expenses. After graduation from an academy, a student is obligated to be on active military duty for **five** years. You will need to begin the application process by sending for a Pre-Candidate Questionnaire. Each academy has an **extensive website** which **outlines application and nomination procedures and deadlines**. This process should begin during the **spring of your Junior year**.

Submit all correspondence to **Director of Admissions**:

United States Military Academy
Building 606
West Point, New York 10996-1797
Phone: 1-845-938-4041
Website: www.usma.edu

United States Air Force Academy
HQ USA FA/RRS
2304 Cadet Dr., Suite 200
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5025
Phone: 1-800-443-9266
Website: www.usafa.edu

United States Coast Guard Academy
31 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06230-8103
Phone: 1-800-444-8724
Website: www.cga.edu

United States Naval Academy
121 Blake Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21402-5000
Phone: 1-410-293-4361
Website: www.usna.edu/Admissions

United States Merchant Marine Academy
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 10024-1699
Phone 1-866-546-4778
Website: www.usmma.edu

Evaluation Criteria – The following criteria will be considered during the evaluation process.

- **High School Rank**
- **SAT and/or ACT**
- **Transcript**
- **Extracurricular Activities**
- **Athletic Participation**
- **Faculty Appraisals**
- **Physical Aptitude**

Academy Checklist

Spring of Junior Year

- _____ Determine whether you meet the basic requirements
- _____ Apply for a Nomination
- _____ Start a file at the Academy by completing a Preliminary Application
- _____ Take the ACT or SAT

Fall of Senior Year

- _____ Complete Academy Application Forms in early Fall
- _____ Obtain Nomination
- _____ Complete Testing

Spring of Senior Year

- _____ Await Evaluation and Status
- _____ Visit Academy

Summer after Senior Year

- _____ Report as a Freshman

Overview of the ASVAB Career Exploration Program

Did you know...

1. The ASVAB aptitude tests have a well-established capacity to assess not only the ability to learn new skills, but to predict success in a wide variety of occupations.
2. The ASVAB Career Exploration Program is unique in several ways. The program:
 - Meets the career development needs of today's high school and post-secondary students, whether they plan to enter the workforce right away or pursue further education at a university, community college, or vocational institution
 - Provides a world class, comprehensive career exploration and planning experience based on current career development theory and practice
 - Encourages students to explore a wide variety of careers, rather than limiting their exploration by telling them what they can or should do
 - Empowers students; encourages them to determine if and how they could improve their skills to become qualified for an occupation of interest
 - Emphasizes the importance of career planning and decision making
 - Provides a full-spectrum of career opportunities to students, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or ability level
 - Includes ready-to-use structured activities to guide students through the career exploration and planning process
 - Was developed with the assistance of a panel of leading career development professionals

Survey says...

Since the mid 1990s, the ASVAB Career Exploration Program has provided high quality, cost-free career exploration and planning materials and services to high schools across the nation. From surveys of participating students, we learned the following:

- 76% of the students who participated did so because of their interest in making appropriate post- high school career and educational plans.
- 31% of the students who participated did so because of their interest in military service.
- 62% of those who participated reported that the ASVAB Program helped them to connect their skills and interests with appropriate career choices.
- 63% of those who participated say the ASVAB Program helped them to consider careers they had not thought about before.

**Encourage your students to participate in
ASVAB testing at your school.**

TRADE AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Trade and technical schools offer **short-term** training in a wide variety of career fields. They are usually privately owned, and the programs vary greatly from school to school.

Carefully study the credentials of the trade/technical school. Unfortunately, there are many “fast-buck” operators in the field who promise you a wonderful job after your expensive training and then deliver nothing. Do not sign a contract until you have verified that the school and its program are legitimate. You can make sure of this by asking the **Better Business Bureau** (www.bbb.org) or the **Texas Education Agency** (www.tea.state.tx.us). You can also contact the **Accrediting Commission of Career School and Colleges of Technology** at 2101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201, (www.accsct.org) for detailed information regarding trade and technical schools.

Career Fields – Listed below are some of the careers for which you can get training at career and technical schools.

Accountant/Bookkeeper
Air conditioning/refrigeration
Artist
Auto body technician
Barber/hair stylist
Broadcaster
Building trades
Carpenter
Child care
Computer operator/programmer
Computer service technician
Cosmetologist
Court reporter
Data entry
Dental assistant
Dental laboratory technician

Drafting
Electrician
Electronics
Fashion Designer
Fashion Merchandiser
Flower arranger
Heavy equipment operator
Hotel-motel manager
Interior designer
Legal assistant/paralegal
Legal secretary
Licensed practical nurse
Massage therapist
Medical assistant
Medical/dental receptionist
Medical lab technician

Medical secretary
Motorcycle mechanic
Nurse's aid
Paperhanger
Photographer
Plumber
Respiratory Therapist
Secretary
Surveyor
Tool and die maker
Travel and tourism
Truck driver
Upholsterer
Veterinarian assistant
Welder
Word-processing

Trade and Technical Checklist

_____ **High school diploma or GED.**

_____ **THEA** – plan to take the Texas Higher Education Assessment test or an approved alternative test. This is required by state law to help identify students who need additional reading, writing, or math skills to do post-high schoolwork. You must take the test before enrolling in any courses.

_____ **Application.** Contact the Admissions Office.

_____ **FAFSA** – Free Application for Federal Student Aid (you may qualify for grants or low interest loans).
www.fafsa.ed.gov

_____ Send **transcript** to the school of your choice. See the registrar on our high school campus.

_____ Meet with **Trade School** counselor for course advising. Call to set up an appointment.

_____ Contact **Financial Aid** Office for possible **scholarships**.

_____ Apply for Career Colleges and Schools of Texas Scholarship Program (**CCST**) in March
<http://www.careerscholarships.org>
1-866-909-2278

College Costs-Technical Schools

Information is based on average costs for dependent living students who enroll in 15 credit hours in both the fall and spring.

Institution	Tuition and Fees	Books and Supplies	Room and Board	Trans- portation	Personal Expenses	Total
Texas State Technical College -Harlingen						
Resident	3072	932	6635	1328	2138	14105
Nonresident	7020	932	6635	1328	2138	18053
Texas State Technical College-Marshall						
Resident	2788	863	6072	1469	1433	12625
Nonresident	6298	863	6072	1469	1433	16135
Texas State Technical College-Waco						
Resident	2624	866	6128	1479	1440	12537
Nonresident	6134	866	6128	1479	1440	16047
Texas State Technical College-West Texas						
Resident	2740	1017	4651	1824	755	10987
Nonresident	6250	1017	4651	1824	755	14497
Lamar Institute of Technology						
Resident	3654	740	4039	2162	2026	12621
Nonresident	11994	740	4039	2162	2026	20961
Lamar State College-Orange						
Resident	3220	620	3306	1860	1724	10730
Nonresident	11470	620	3306	1860	1724	18980
Lamar State College-Port Arthur						
Resident	3552	989	2356	3616	1793	12306
Nonresident	11892	989	2356	3616	1793	20646

Contact Information for Technical Colleges in Texas

Institution	Main Campus Phone	Financial Aid Office	Admissions Office
Texas State Technical College System 3801 Campus Drive Waco, TX 76705	(254) 867-4891	(254) 867-4891	(254) 867-4891
Texas State Technical College-Harlingen 1902 North Loop 499 Harlingen, TX 78550-3697	(956) 364-4000	(956) 364-4332 Financial Aid	(956) 364-4320 Admissions
Texas State Technical College-Marshall 2400 East End Boulevard South Marshall, TX 75670	(903) 935-1010	(903) 935-1010 Financial Aid	(903) 935-1010 Admissions
Texas State Technical College-Waco 3801 Campus Drive Waco, TX 76705	(254) 799-3611	(254) 867-3620 Financial Aid	(254) 867-2363 Admissions
Texas State Technical College-West Texas 300 Homer K. Taylor Drive Sweetwater, TX 79556-3697	(325) 235-7300	(325) 235-7315 Financial Aid	(800) 592-8784 Admissions
Lamar Institute of Technology P.O. Box 10043 Beaumont, TX 77710	(409) 880-8185	(409) 880-2137 Financial Aid	(409) 880-8321 Admissions
Lamar State College-Orange 410 Front Street Orange, TX 77630	(409) 883-7750	(409) 882-3362 Financial Aid	(409) 882-3364 Admissions
Lamar State College-Port Arthur P.O. Box 310 Port Arthur, TX 77641-0310	(409) 983-4921	(409) 984-6200 Financial Aid	(409) 984-6176 Admissions

College Costs-Health Related Institutions

Institution	Tuition and Fees	Books and Supplies	Room and Board	Transportation	Personal Expenses	Total
Texas A&M University System Health Science Center						
Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonresident	0	0	0	0	0	0
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center						
Resident	5546	1066	6534	2196	3477	18819
Nonresident	13886	1066	6534	2196	3477	27159
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston						
Resident	5652	1850	12519	2340	1998	24359
Nonresident	14292	1850	12519	2340	1998	32999
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio						
Resident	5514	1500	14386	3598	2068	27066
Nonresident	15532	1500	14386	3598	2068	37084
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center						
Resident	3421	733	12519	2340	1998	21011
Nonresident	11761	733	12519	2340	1998	29351
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston						
Resident	7468	1228	9180	3699	6183	27758
Nonresident	15808	1228	9180	3699	6183	36098

Contact Information for Health Related Institutions

Institution	Main Campus Phone	Financial Aid Office	Admissions Office
Texas A&M University System Health Science Center John B. Connolly Building 301 Tarrow, 7th Floor, Mail Stop 13 College Station, TX 77840-7896	(979) 458-6475	(979) 862-3414	(979) 845-7743
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center 3601 4th Street Lubbock, TX 79430	(806) 743-1000	(806) 743-3025	(806) 743-2302
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston P.O. Box 20036 Houston, TX 77225-0036	(713) 500-4472	(713) 500-3860	(713) 500-3361 Admissions
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio 7703 Floyd Curl Drive San Antonio, TX 78229-3900	(210) 567-7000	(210) 567-2640 Financial Aid	(210) 567-2621
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler 11937 U.S. Highway 271 North Tyler, TX 75708-3154	(903) 877-3451	(903) 566-7180	(903) 877-8451
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center 1515 Holcombe Boulevard Houston, TX 77030-4009	(713) 745-1205	(713) 500-3860 Financial Aid	(713) 500-3341 Admissions
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston 301 University Boulevard Galveston, TX 77555-1305	(409) 772-1902	(409) 772-1215 Financial Aid	(409) 772-1215 Admissions
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas 5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, TX 75390-9096	(214) 648-3111	(214) 648-3611 Financial Aid	(214) 648-5617 Admissions
University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard Fort Worth, TX 76107-2690	(817) 735-2000	(817) 735-2522	(817) 735-2204

Community Colleges

I. Admission

- Open Admission
- Texas Higher Education (THEA) required with the exception of approved TAKS or SAT/ACT scores

II. Benefits

- Smaller classes
- Most affordable way to get a higher education
- One on one teacher – student contact
- Many academic supportive programs
- Offers Associate in Science and Art degrees
- Offers several certificate programs that serve on basic job requirements
- Some community colleges have a career center to help students obtain jobs upon graduation
- Scholarship are available
- Campus Student Life / Student Activities & Athletic Department allows students to get involved

III. Transferring to a Four-Year University

- Representatives at the community colleges can share specific details with you
- Some universities have articulation agreements with community colleges (see representative at the college campus)



Examples of Some Associate Degree Programs (2 year programs)

Accounting	Interior Design Technology
Air Conditioning/Refrigeration	Legal Assisting
Automotive Technology	Management
Childcare and Development	Marketing
Cosmetology	Medical Office Management
Criminal Justice	Micro computing Applications
Culinary Arts	Nursing
Data Processing Programmer/Analyst	Office Administration
Data Processing Systems Operations	Photographic Technology
Dental Assisting	Real Estate
Drafting Technology	Records Specialist
Electronics	Respiration Care Specialist
Geological Technology	Travel and Tourism
Human Services	Veterinary Technology
Information & Records Management	Welding
Institutional Food Services	Word Processing

Examples of Some Certificate of Competency Programs

Certificates of Competency are awarded for completion of specific courses of study. The programs are designed to prepare you for immediate occupational employment and vary in length of time to complete.

Air Conditioning/Refrigeration	Legal Assisting
Automotive Servicing	Legal Secretary
Child Care and Development	Microcomputer Applications
Cosmetology	Office Clerical
Dental Assisting	Photographic Technician
Diesel Engine Mechanics	Records Technical
Diesel Technician	Respiratory Care Technician
Drafting	Secretary
Human Services	Vocational Nursing
Human Services: Substance Abuse	Welding

Community College Checklist – If you are planning to attend a community college you should **complete the following checklist**:

_____ High school **diploma** or **GED**.

_____ **THEA** – plan to take the **Texas Higher Education Assessment** test or an Approved Alternative Test. This is **required** by state law to help identify students who need additional reading, writing, or math skills to do college-level work. You must take the test **before enrolling** in any college-credit courses (www.thea.nesinc.com).

_____ **Application**. Contact the College Admissions Office, Career Center, or online.

_____ **FAFSA – Free** Application for Federal Student Aid (You may qualify for grants or low interest loans). Pick up from the **Career Center** in **January**. For more information refer to the **Financial Aid** section in this book (www.fafsa.ed.gov).

_____ **Transcript** – send to the *community college of your choice*. Request transcript in the registrars' office

_____ **Meet with community college counselor** for course advising. **Call** to set up an appointment.

_____ **Contact Financial Aid Office** for possible *scholarships*.

From High School to Lone Star College North Harris

Follow These Easy Steps to Make a Smooth Transition

1. Follow the instructions on the following page to submit your application online to LSC North Harris. (submit High School transcript and any test scores to LSC North Harris)
2. Once you have completed this go to www.lonestar.edu and click North Harris and then click on Admissions and Registration.
3. Go to the financial aid box towards the bottom of the page.
4. Step 1 is to fill out the FAFSA form in January. www.fafsa.ed.gov
5. Start looking at the website now. You can apply for your PIN number and start getting any documentation you need.
6. Next you need to fill out the LSC financial aid form. Bring it to the financial aid office located on the LSC North Harris campus when complete.
7. Now you are ready to begin planning for your degree.
8. Students who plan on transferring from LSC North Harris need to make sure that they are taking classes that will transfer.
9. Look at the transfer guides on the website of the college you plan on attending.
10. Students who plan on obtaining a certificate or an associate's degree from LSC North Harris and do not plan on transferring need to pick a degree plan.
11. You can investigate the programs that LSC North Harris has to offer by clicking on the Programs link at the top of the website.
12. Before you can take any college classes you must take the THEA Test. This test lets colleges in the state of Texas know your skills in reading, writing, and math are at college level.
13. Meet with an LSC North Harris advisor to register for classes and set up a degree plan.
14. Go to the Career Center website to find out any helpful information you may need to prepare for college. www.springisd.org
15. Click on Your High School
16. Click on the Career Center. Here you will find the Senior Power Point Presentation, Scholarship Information, Upcoming College Meetings, SAT/ACT registration information, THEA Exemption Information, FAFSA information.
17. Make sure that you are prepared to make the transition to a higher learning institute. Come and see your College and Career Counselor



Welcome New Students!

Use this checklist as a guide to assist you with the admission and registration process.

<div data-bbox="112 436 168 491" data-label="Image"></div> <p>STEP 1 ACAD-105</p>	<p>Complete An Online Admissions Application At: www.lonestar.edu/2486/</p> <p>(For assistance with the application, call 832-813-6600.)</p> <p>Upon completing the online application, submit your test scores (A/P, ACT, ASSET, CLEP, Compass, SAT, TAKS, or THEA) to the Admissions Office, ACAD-105.</p> <p>Next, meet with an admissions advisor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For evaluation of test scores and to determine if additional testing is necessary. • To obtain a user ID to access My Records for your academic and financial record.
<div data-bbox="112 697 168 751" data-label="Image"></div> <p>STEP 2 ACAD-101</p>	<p>Show Me The Money! Need Help With Paying For College?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to a financial aid office staff member at 281-618-5464 or stop by ACAD-101. • To start the process, go to http://lonestar.edu/19245/ to complete your Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA) AND the LSC-North Harris worksheets.
<div data-bbox="102 1043 159 1098" data-label="Image"></div> <p>STEP 3</p>	<p>Complete Orientation and Testing Requirements</p> <div data-bbox="256 957 1479 1278" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p>ATTEND AN ORIENTATION INFO TO GO SESSION!</p> <p>Attend this session to obtain personal assistance from a professional counselor! You will learn about available free resources, how your credit hours will transfer to another college, how to read a catalog, campus activities, and much more!</p> <p>NEXT AVAILABLE SESSION: _____</p> <p>Or View the Online Enrollment Guide at: http://lonestar.edu/54172/</p> </div> <p>Need Testing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your test scores will determine what courses you can take, so you will want to review before taking your exam. Next, follow the instructions you were given for taking the exam. Do your best!
<div data-bbox="112 1499 168 1554" data-label="Image"></div> <p>STEP 4 ACAD-104</p>	<p>The Counseling Center Is Here To Help!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After testing, obtain your scores and take to an academic advisor in ACAD-104. • An advisor will explain your test results; give you information about your major, assist you with course selections, and much more! • Undecided major? Call 281-618-5481 to make an appointment with a counselor.
<div data-bbox="112 1745 168 1799" data-label="Image"></div> <p>STEP 5 ACAD-105</p>	<p>Register and Pay Online Or In Person!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once you have spoken to an advisor or counselor, you can register online through My Records at http://myrecords.nhmccd.edu/. • Or register in person with assistance in ACAD-105. • You may pay your tuition online by check or credit card through My Records. For assistance with paying for classes, call 281-618-5437. • You may also pay in full and in person at the business office at ACAD-103. • Or contact financial aid to verify the date of your financial award and amount.

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College Costs-Community and Junior Colleges

Institution	Tuition and Fees	Books and Supplies	Room and Board	Trans- portation	Personal Expenses	Total
Alvin Community College						
Resident	1190	1447	2270	2005	1608	8520
Nonresident	3650	1447	2270	2005	1608	13070
Amarillo College						
Resident	1614	996	5537	1616	1302	11065
Nonresident	3114	996	5537	1616	1302	14659
Angelina College						
Resident	1200	1250	5440	2483	1888	12261
Nonresident	2400	1250	5440	2483	1888	15201
Austin Community College						
Resident	1624	1000	8000	1350	2000	13974
Nonresident	8224	1000	8000	1350	2000	24568
Blinn College						
Resident	1890	1018	6355	515	1354	11132
Nonresident	5040	1018	6355	515	1354	17042
Brazosport College						
Resident	1290	910	3204	2458	2504	10366
Nonresident	3330	910	3204	2458	2504	14326
Dallas County Community College District						
Resident	1170	1200	7010	2328	1664	13372
Nonresident	3450	1200	7010	2328	1664	17812

San Jacinto College District - Central Campus						
Resident	1220	1326	6689	1655	2221	13111
Nonresident	3470	1326	6689	1655	2221	17331
Central Texas College						
Resident	1590	1500	4550	814	2017	10471
Nonresident	4290	1500	4550	814	2017	15061
Cisco Junior College						
Resident	2650	945	3420	1425	2899	11339
Nonresident	3380	945	3420	1425	2899	15049
Clarendon College						
Resident	2070	1000	6240	1456	1248	12014
Nonresident	3030	1000	6240	1456	1248	15554
Coastal Bend College						
Resident	2130	1400	5584	617	1201	10932
Nonresident	4350	1400	5584	617	1201	17052
College of the Mainland						
Resident	1106	833	5665	1340	1132	10076
Nonresident	3086	833	5665	1340	1132	14182
Collin County Community College District						
Resident	1116	638	5808	2196	1414	11172
Nonresident	3002	638	5808	2196	1414	14470
Del Mar College						
Resident	1914	1000	5800	2250	1450	12414
Nonresident	6024	1000	5800	2250	1450	21438

El Paso Community College District						
Resident	1700	885	7024	1966	1596	13171
Nonresident	2442	885	7024	1966	1596	15613
Frank Phillips College						
Resident	2416	824	5993	1401	1236	11870
Nonresident	2940	824	5993	1401	1236	15124
Galveston College						
Resident	1414	814	5328	1588	1884	11028
Nonresident	2314	814	5328	1588	1884	13342
Grayson County College						
Resident	1314	594	6920	1730	1412	11970
Nonresident	3114	594	6920	1730	1412	15414
Hill College						
Resident	1560	2144	6700	3087	1543	15034
Nonresident	2350	2144	6700	3087	1543	17774
Houston Community College System - Houston Community College System						
Resident	645	800	5456	1256	2220	10377
Nonresident	1533	800	5456	1256	2220	12558
Howard College						
Resident	1592	800	5040	1000	3220	11652
Nonresident	2012	800	5040	1000	3220	14084
Jacksonville College						
Resident	6146	910	4385	942	1382	13765
Nonresident	6146	910	4385	942	1382	13765

Kilgore College						
Resident	1290	1450	3615	1600	1900	9855
Nonresident	3660	1450	3615	1600	1900	14925
Laredo Community College						
Resident	1716	1250	4625	2118	2342	12051
Nonresident	3816	1250	4625	2118	2342	16917
Lee College						
Resident	1302	1200	8894	3010	1680	16086
Nonresident	3102	1200	8894	3010	1680	19938
Lon Morris College						
Resident	10950	617	1940	1438	2295	17240
Nonresident	10950	617	1940	1438	2295	17240
Lone Star College System District						
Resident	1120	600	7200	1050	1600	11570
Nonresident	2440	600	7200	1050	1600	12890
McLennan Community College						
Resident	1950	1091	6066	2151	1622	12880
Nonresident	3750	1091	6066	2151	1622	16990
Midland College						
Resident	1638	952	7136	1369	1679	12774
Nonresident	2868	952	7136	1369	1679	16002
Navarro College						
Resident	1360	1268	5664	3718	2193	14203
Nonresident	2960	1268	5664	3718	2193	17913

North Central Texas College						
Resident	1290	1350	5195	1369	1482	10686
Nonresident	3210	1350	5195	1369	1482	14766
Northeast Texas Community College						
Resident	1800	1050	2850	2290	1973	9963
Nonresident	3956	1050	2850	2290	1973	14759
Alamo Community College District - Northwest Vista College						
Resident	1638	1200	7025	1988	2571	14422
Nonresident	5358	1200	7025	1988	2571	20980
Odessa College						
Resident	1590	1260	4752	991	1148	9741
Nonresident	2790	1260	4752	991	1148	12981
Alamo Community College District - Palo Alto College						
Resident	1638	1200	7025	1988	2571	14422
Nonresident	5358	1200	7025	1988	2571	20980
Panola College						
Resident	1560	1500	4042	2850	3076	13028
Nonresident	3030	1500	4042	2850	3076	16868
Paris Junior College						
Resident	1290	2276	6585	1175	2102	13428
Nonresident	3390	2276	6585	1175	2102	17718
Ranger College						
Resident	1682	875	5675	1578	1171	10981
Nonresident	1902	875	5675	1578	1171	13003

Alamo Community College District - San Antonio College						
Resident	1638	1200	7025	1988	2571	14422
Nonresident	5358	1200	7025	1988	2571	20980
South Plains College						
Resident	1892	800	4050	2005	1165	9912
Nonresident	3032	800	4050	2005	1165	13604
South Texas College						
Resident	2022	1000	4507	1025	1200	9754
Nonresident	6312	1000	4507	1025	1200	16579
Southwest Texas Junior College						
Resident	1695	624	5329	1198	1844	10690
Nonresident	2625	624	5329	1198	1844	13957
Alamo Community College District - St. Philip's College						
Resident	1638	1200	7025	1988	2571	14422
Nonresident	5358	1200	7025	1988	2571	20980
Tarrant County College District						
Resident	1500	1310	5704	2094	1693	12301
Nonresident	4500	1310	5704	2094	1693	15301
Temple College						
Resident	1946	1236	6684	2008	1481	13355
Nonresident	4801	1236	6684	2008	1481	19281
Texarkana College						
Resident	1180	1664	5497	2794	1804	12939
Nonresident	2250	1664	5497	2794	1804	15759

Texas Southmost College District						
Resident	4180	601	8389	1570	2425	17165
Nonresident	13005	601	8389	1570	2425	30170
Trinity Valley Community College						
Resident	1376	1450	5525	2475	1475	12301
Nonresident	2506	1450	5525	2475	1475	15007
Tyler Junior College						
Resident	1592	1064	6284	2072	1866	12878
Nonresident	3392	1064	6284	2072	1866	17230
Vernon College						
Resident	1840	1000	5028	1645	1238	10751
Nonresident	3850	1000	5028	1645	1238	15336
Victoria College						
Resident	1490	1400	5920	1077	1365	11252
Nonresident	2165	1400	5920	1077	1365	13897
Weatherford College						
Resident	1755	1000	5161	2413	1475	11804
Nonresident	3825	1000	5161	2413	1475	16379
Western Texas College						
Resident	2180	930	4400	1265	1325	10100
Nonresident	2180	930	4400	1265	1325	12280
Wharton County Junior College						
Resident	1620	850	4950	1950	1550	10920
Nonresident	3960	850	4950	1950	1550	16260

Contact information for Community and Junior Colleges

Institution	Main Campus Phone	Financial Aid Office	Admissions Office
Alamo Community College District - Northeast Lakeview College 7980-7990 Pat Booker Road San Antonio, TX 78233	(210) 945-1500	(210) 945-1500	(210) 733-2150 Admissions
Alamo Community College District - Northwest Vista College 3535 North Ellison Drive San Antonio, TX 78251	(210) 348-2020	(210) 706-2019 Financial Aid	(210) 348-2020
Alamo Community College District - Palo Alto College 1400 West Villaret Boulevard San Antonio, TX 78224	(210) 921-5260	(210) 921-5260 Financial Aid	(210) 921-5260 Admissions
Alamo Community College District - San Antonio College 1300 San Pedro Avenue San Antonio, TX 78212	(210) 733-2000	(210) 733-2979 Financial Aid	(210) 733-2581
Alamo Community College District - St. Philip's College 1801 Martin Luther King Boulevard San Antonio, TX 78203	(210) 531-3591	(210) 531-3272 Financial Aid	(210) 531-4831
Alvin Community College 3110 Mustang Road Alvin, TX 77511	(281) 756-3500	(281) 756-3524 Financial Aid	(281) 756-3531 Admissions
Amarillo College P.O. Box 447 Amarillo, TX 79178	(806) 371-5000	(806) 371-5311 Financial Aid	(806) 371-5030 Admissions
Angelina College PO Box 1768 Lufkin, TX 75902-1768	(936) 639-1301	(936) 633-5291 Financial Aid	(936) 633-5212 Admissions
Austin Community College 5930 Middle Fiskville Road Austin, TX 78752	(512) 223-7000	(512) 223-7547 Financial Aid	(512) 223-7509 Admissions
Blinn College 902 College Avenue Brenham, TX 77833	(979) 830-4000	(979) 830-4146 Financial Aid	(979) 830-4140 Admissions
Brazosport College 500 College Drive Lake Jackson, TX 77566	(979) 230-3000	(979) 230-3441 Financial Aid	(979) 230-3020 Admissions
Central Texas College Box 1800 Killeen, TX 76540-9990	(254) 526-7161	(254) 526-1559 Financial Aid	(254) 526-1696 Admissions
Cisco Junior College 101 College Heights Cisco, TX 76437	(254) 442-5000	(254) 442-5000 Financial Aid	(254) 442-5000 Admissions
Clarendon College P.O. Box 968 Clarendon, TX 79226	(806) 874-3571	(806) 874-3571 Financial Aid	(806) 874-3571 Admissions

Coastal Bend College 3800 Charco Road Beeville, TX 78102	(361) 358-2838	(361) 358-2838 Financial Aid	(361) 358-2838 Admissions
College of the Mainland 1200 Amburn Road Texas City, TX 77591	(409) 938-1211	(409) 938-1211 Financial Aid	(409) 938-1211 Admissions
Collin County Community College District 2800 East Spring Creek Parkway Plano, TX 75074	(972) 548-6790	(972) 881-5760 Financial Aid	(972) 881-5710 Admissions
Dallas County Community College District - Brookhaven College 3939 Valley View Lane Dallas, TX 75244-4906	(972) 860-4700	(972) 860-4111 Financial Aid	(972) 860-4883 Admissions
Dallas County Community College District - Cedar Valley College 3030 North Dallas Avenue Lancaster, TX 75134	(972) 860-8200	(972) 860-8269 Financial Aid	(972) 860-8201 Admissions
Dallas County Community College District - Eastfield College 3737 Motley Drive Mesquite, TX 75150	(972) 860-7001	(972) 860-7032	(972) 860-7100
Dallas County Community College District - El Centro College Main and Lamar Dallas, TX 75202	(972) 860-2010	(214) 860-2097 Financial Aid	(214) 860-2037 Admissions
Dallas County Community College District - Mountain View College 4849 West Illinois Avenue Dallas, TX 75211-6599	(972) 860-8700	(214) 860-8688 Financial Aid	(214) 860-8600 Admissions
Dallas County Community College District - North Lake College 5001 North MacArthur Boulevard Irving, TX 75038-3899	(972) 273-3010	(972) 273-3326 Financial Aid	(972) 273-3000 Admissions
Dallas County Community College District - Richland College 12800 Abrams Road Dallas, TX 75243-2199	(972) 238-6106	(972) 238-6188 Financial Aid	(972) 238-6101 Admissions
Del Mar College 101 Baldwin Boulevard Corpus Christi, TX 78404	(361) 698-1200	(361) 698-1293 Financial Aid	(361) 698-1255 Admissions
El Paso Community College District P.O. Box 20500 El Paso, TX 79998	(915) 831-2000	(915) 831-2561 Financial Aid	(915) 831-2000 Admissions
Frank Phillips College P.O. Box 5118 Borger, TX 79008-5118	(806) 457-4200	(806) 457-4200	(806) 457-4200
Galveston College 4015 Avenue Q Galveston, TX 77550	(409) 944-4242	(409) 944-4242 Financial Aid	(409) 944-4242 Admissions

Grayson County College 6101 Highway 691 Denison, TX 75020	(903) 465-6030	(903) 463-8783 Financial Aid	(903) 465-6030 Admissions
Hill College 112 Lamar Drive Hillsboro, TX 76645	(254) 582-2555	(254) 582-2555 Financial Aid	(254) 582-2555 Admissions
Houston Community College System - Houston Community College System P.O. Box 667517 Houston, TX 77266-7517	(713) 718-2000	(713) 718-2000 Financial Aid	(713) 718-2000 Admissions
Howard College 1001 Birdwell Lane Big Spring, TX 79720	(915) 264-5000	(915) 264-5087 Financial Aid	(915) 264-5072 Admissions
Jacksonville College 105 B.J. Albritton Drive Jacksonville, TX 75766	(903) 586-2518	(903) 589-2908 Financial Aid	(903) 586-2518 Admissions
Kilgore College 1100 Broadway Kilgore, TX 75662	(903) 984-8531	(903) 983-8211 Financial Aid	(903) 983-8209 Admissions
Laredo Community College West End Washington Street Laredo, TX 78040-4395	(956) 722-0521	(956) 721-5357 Financial Aid	(956) 724-5117 Admissions
Lee College 511 South Whiting Street Baytown, TX 77520-4703	(281) 427-5611	(281) 425-6389 Financial Aid	(281) 425-6393 Admissions
Lon Morris College 800 College Avenue Jacksonville, TX 75766	(903) 589-4000	(903) 589-4000 Financial Aid	(903) 589-4000 Admissions
Lone Star College System - Cy-Fair College 9191 Barker Cypress Road Houston, TX 77433	(281) 290-3200	(281) 290-3200	(281) 290-3200
Lone Star College System - Kingwood College 20000 Kingwood Drive Humble, TX 77339	(281) 312-0440	(281) 312-1606 Financial Aid	(281) 312-1614 Admissions
Lone Star College System - Montgomery College 3200 Highway 242 West Conroe, TX 77384	(936) 273-7000	(936) 273-7251 Financial Aid	(936) 273-7236 Admissions
Lone Star College System - North Harris College 2700 West West Thorne Drive Houston, TX 77073	(281) 312-1660	(281) 618-5464 Financial Aid	(281) 618-5410 Admissions
Lone Star College System - Tomball College 30555 Tomball Parkway Tomball, TX 77375-1969	(281) 351-3300	(281) 351-3334 Financial Aid	(281) 351-3310
McLennan Community College 1400 College Drive Waco, TX 76708	(254) 299-8000	(254) 299-8698 Financial Aid	(254) 299-8622 Admissions
Midland College 3600 North Garfield Midland, TX 79705	(432) 685-4500	(432) 685-4507 Financial Aid	(432) 685-5502 Admissions

Navarro College 3200 West 7th Avenue Corsicana, TX 75110	(903) 874-6501	(903) 875-7363 Financial Aid	(903) 874-6501 Admissions
North Central Texas College 1525 West California Gainesville, TX 76240	(940) 668-7731	(940) 668-4242 Financial Aid	(940) 668-4222 Admissions
Northeast Texas Community College P.O. Box 1307 Mount Pleasant, TX 75456-1307	(903) 572-1911	(903) 572-1911 Financial Aid	(903) 572-1911 Admissions
Odessa College 201 West University Odessa, TX 79764	(432) 335-6400	(432) 335-6429 Financial Aid	(432) 335-6432 Admissions
Panola College 1109 West Panola Street Carthage, TX 75633	(903) 693-2000	(903) 693-1121 Financial Aid	(903) 693-2038 Admissions
Paris Junior College 2400 Clarksville Street Paris, TX 75460	(903) 785-7661	(903) 782-0429 Financial Aid	(903) 782-0425 Admissions
Ranger College College Circle Ranger, TX 76470	(254) 647-3234	(254) 647-3234 Financial Aid	(254) 647-3234 Admissions
San Jacinto College District - Central Campus 8060 Spencer Highway Pasadena, TX 77505	(281) 476-1501	(281) 476-1856 Financial Aid	(281) 476-1838 Admissions
San Jacinto College District - North Campus 5800 Uvalde Road Houston, TX 77049	(281) 458-4050	(281) 459-7121 Financial Aid	(281) 459-7129 Admissions
San Jacinto College District - South Campus 13735 Beamer Road Houston, TX 77089	(713) 484-1900	(713) 484-1900 Financial Aid	(281) 476-1836 Admissions
South Plains College 1401 College Avenue Levelland, TX 79336	(806) 894-9611	(806) 894-9611 Financial Aid	(806) 894-9611 Admissions
South Texas College P.O. Box 9701 McAllen, TX 78502-9701	(956) 872-8311	(956) 872-6409 Financial Aid	(956) 872-8323 Admissions
Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf 3200 Avenue C Big Spring, TX 79720	(915) 264-3700	(915) 264-3700	(915) 264-3700
Southwest Texas Junior College Garner Field Road Uvalde, TX 78801	(830) 278-4401	(830) 591-7273 Financial Aid	(830) 591-7255 Admissions
Tarrant County College District - Northeast Campus 828 Harwood Road Hurst, TX 76054	(817) 515-6200	(817) 515-6228 Financial Aid	(817) 515-6613 Admissions
Tarrant County College District - Northwest Campus 4801 Marine Creek Parkway Fort Worth, TX 76179-3599	(817) 515-7750	(817) 515-7711 Financial Aid	(817) 515-7777 Admissions

Tarrant County College District - Southeast Campus 2100 Southeast Parkway Arlington, TX 76018-2907	(817) 515-3100	(817) 515-3040 Financial Aid	(817) 515-3050 Admissions
Temple College 2600 South First Street Temple, TX 76504-7435	(254) 298-8282	(254) 298-8321 Financial Aid	(254) 298-8306 Admissions
Texarkana College 2500 North Robison Road Texarkana, TX 75501	(903) 838-4541	(903) 838-4541 Financial Aid	(903) 838-4541 Admissions
Texas Southmost College District 80 Fort Brown Brownsville, TX 78520	(956) 544-8200	(956) 544-8277 Financial Aid	(956) 544-8295 Admissions
Trinity Valley Community College 100 Cardinal Drive Athens, TX 75751	(903) 677-8822	(903) 675-6279 Financial Aid	(903) 675-6357 Admissions
Tyler Junior College P.O. Box 9020 Tyler, TX 75711	(903) 510-2200	(903) 510-2385 Financial Aid	(903) 510-2523 Admissions
Vernon College 4400 College Drive Vernon, TX 76384	(940) 552-6291	(940) 552-6291 Financial Aid	(940) 552-6291 Admissions
Victoria College 2200 East Red River Victoria, TX 77901	(361) 573-3291	(512) 572-6410 Financial Aid	(361) 572-6408 Admissions
Weatherford College 225 College Park Drive Weatherford, TX 76086	(817) 594-5471	(817) 598-6495 Financial Aid	(817) 598-6241 Admissions
Western Texas College 6200 College Avenue Snyder, TX 79549	(325) 573-8511	(325) 573-8511 Financial Aid	(325) 573-8511 Admissions
Wharton County Junior College 911 Boling Highway Wharton, TX 77488	(979) 532-4560	(979) 532-4560 Financial Aid	(979) 532-6303 Admissions

Four Year Colleges

A bachelor's degree from a university can open doors, provide status, and prepare students for financially and emotionally rewarding careers. Colleges vary greatly in programs offered, costs, and admission requirements.

Texas Common Application

Most colleges and universities have their applications online. The Texas Common Application was created to help make applying to a Texas institution of higher education easier. You are strongly encouraged to apply online at www.applytexas.org. Not all institutions require applicants to send in the same parts of the common application, so read the directions carefully.

Common Application

By completing the Common Application once, students can submit the application to up to 277 colleges across the United States. An additional advantage is that guidance counselors and teachers can complete the School Report, Midyear Report, and Teacher Evaluation forms online, then print and mail the hardcopy to the students' selected colleges. Go to www.commonapp.org for more information.

Examples of Selective Colleges using the Common Application"

Rice University	Loyola College
Cornell University	Morehouse College
University of Dallas	New York University
Dartmouth	Norte Dame de Namur
Duke University	Princeton
Embry-Riddle Emory	Seton Hill
Fordham	Spellman
Harvard	Valparaiso
Johns Hopkins	Vanderbilt
Yale	

Transcript: Slightly lower grades in more rigorous courses may be more important than higher grades in an easier program. Transcripts are usually submitted after the first semester of your senior year in high school.

STEP ONE: Know Yourself and Your Reasons for Attending College

- Recognize your strengths and weaknesses
- Analyze your interests and values
- Achieve a personal goal
- Increase your earning power
- Prepare for a career and expand learning
- Extracurricular activities and social life
- Influence of family and friends

STEP TWO: Consider College Characteristics

As you have worked through this handbook, you have examined who you are and what you value. This insight will enable you to evaluate the characteristics of colleges and to decide which ones are most important to you.

It is also helpful to ask yourself questions such as:

Personal Considerations:

1. How important are existing friendships with peers going to a specific college? Will they influence your decision?
2. Family traditions. Are they tied to a particular college, university or religion? Is that important to you?
3. Is the college's distance from your home important to you? How close or far away would you like it to be?
4. What is the school's reputation? (academic, social, or a good balance)
5. What are the expenses? How much debt would you or your family assume? (Remember: Before you cross a college off your list because of its price tag, find out what financial assistance might be available.)
6. What are the housing and meal options?
7. In what clubs, activities and sports would you like to participate?
8. Do you seek opportunities for international study?
9. What percent of entering freshman graduate from this college?
10. What is the size of this school and would you feel comfortable?
11. Are cultural activities available to suit your interests?
12. Is the size of the city in which the college is located important to you?
13. Would I adapt well to the climate of the area where the school is located?
14. Do you want to attend a college with a religious affiliation?

Academic Considerations:

1. How large is the university? How many freshmen attended last year?
2. How large are classes?
3. What bachelor degree programs are offered?
4. Does it offer graduate studies (studies after a bachelor's degree is completed) with opportunities to earn a master's degree, doctorate, or professional degree (such as a medical doctor)?
5. What is the diversity of students and faculty?
6. Are credits transferable to other schools you might consider?
7. What percent of graduates are admitted to professional schools?
8. Is there a job placement service for graduates?

STEP THREE: List, Compare, and Visit Colleges

Gather information to identify a short list of schools that have these characteristics and that meet your personal goals and needs. So many resources are available to students looking at colleges that it is hard to know where to start. To do a thorough job of researching, you will want to use several of these:

College-Produced Resources

You can call or e-mail most college admissions offices for information on admissions, housing, financial aid, majors, etc. The college's catalog, bulletins and videos are always valuable resources you can check out from the College & Career Center.

Internet Websites, Books

Refer to list of "College Resources for Students and Families"

Visiting with College Admissions Counselors

Remember, college counselors are eager to meet with you and discuss their schools. They provide invaluable information regarding college programs, extracurricular activities, housing, as well as admission, financial aid and scholarships.

Lunch Visits:

College representatives routinely visit high schools to discuss admission requirements, campus life and other information relative to the college. Students are encouraged to meet college representatives. The college visits are in the cafeteria unless otherwise noted. Please check in the College & Career Center and listen to morning announcements for a listing of the colleges visiting your high school.

Information Sessions:

Many out of town colleges also schedule area information sessions, which are typically held in the evenings or on a weekend at an area Houston hotel. Contact the university's admissions office to see when they will visit the Houston area or come to the College & Career Center for a list of dates.

Open House Weekend:

Most colleges have special weekend events and tours; some will send brochures and registration materials to your home or to the College & Career Center.

College Night:

Every year more than one hundred public, private two and four year colleges/universities from in and out of state will have representatives available at the annual Spring ISD College Night. This event is held early in the fall of each school year at one of our SISD high schools. Exact details can be obtained from the College & Career Center.

Parents, Students, Alumni, Counselors and Teachers

Find out what universities your parents, relatives, teachers, counselors, neighbors, and friends have attended. Ask them about their experiences. Begin to narrow your list of school choices. Talk with your parents about your possible choices and the means for financing.

Complete a College Comparison Checklist**Schedule appointments for a campus visit**

Seniors are allowed two college visits (one per semester). During your visit you must obtain a letter from the university. This letter must include your name and the date you visited. Each SISD high school handles college visit documentation differently. Please check with you College & Career Counselor prior to taking your college visit day for exact details.

STEP FOUR: Apply for Admission and Observe Deadlines

As you narrow your college list, select one or two institutions that present an admission challenge. These schools are called "reaches". Make sure your final list also includes one or more "mid-range" colleges, where your qualifications closely match those of the average student. Finally, be sure to apply to at least one "safe" school, where your statistics equal or exceed those of most of the students admitted. Above all, apply only to schools where you believe you would be happy for four or more years.

Now you are ready to apply to the three or four colleges you've chosen. Remember it's always a good idea to start early, so you have plenty of time before deadlines.

STEP FIVE: Housing and Placement Testing

Apply for housing by completing an application and submitting the required fee. (If the fee would be a financial burden, ask your College & Career Counselor about a waiver.) The time to apply for housing varies from college to college. Some require that the student be accepted for admission before an application for housing is mailed to the student. Other colleges will accept housing requests prior to accepting the student. Housing is critical in many schools, and dorms may be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Many colleges will also assist students in locating off campus housing if they are unable to place them. Most colleges require freshmen students to live in college dorms.

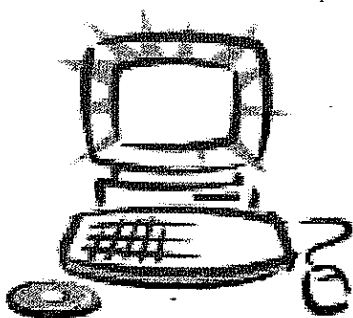
The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Program mandates that you must take one of the following state approved assessment tests before enrolling in any college-level coursework: THEA, ASSET, ACCUPLACER, OR COMPASS. Test results are not used for admission purposes; you must, however, have test results prior to enrolling, unless you are exempt. Please contact the college or university you plan to attend for exemptions or test information.

STEP SIX: Develop a Plan to Finance Your Education

Applying for financial aid is a separate procedure. Direct such requests to the Office of Financial Aid. An application for financial aid does not constitute an application for admission and vice versa.

- Determine college costs (tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, personal expenses, laundry, miscellaneous)
- Investigate all possible resources . / Parents
./ Savings
./ Summer earnings
./ Financial Aid (Scholarships, grants, loans, work study)
- Secure necessary forms and note deadlines
- Apply for financial aid as early in January of your senior year as possible (www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Contacting Colleges



Check out college websites...

- ✓ Obtain general information
- ✓ Investigate sources of financial aid
- ✓ Access online application forms
- ✓ Schedule campus visits

Many colleges encourage telephone and e-mail inquiries and requests. Be sure to establish a permanent, and professional, email address to use during the college search process!



Haven't selected a major? It's okay to be **undecided** about a major – most colleges provide services to help students select a major during the first and/or second year.

Checklist for a Campus Visit

A campus visit is highly recommended. Before you visit the campus, consider some of the options below. It is also important to develop a list of questions and plan specific activities in order to accomplish your goals.

- ☐ Meet with an admission officer.
- ☐ Verify admission requirements (tests and high school preparation).
- ☐ Discuss your chances for success in certain programs.
- ☐ Find out how to apply.
- ☐ Obtain a school calendar and a catalog.
- ☐ Determine college costs.
- ☐ Ask about financial aid opportunities, as well as deadlines, forms required, etc.
- ☐ Meet with faculty in the department of your intended major.
- ☐ Ask questions about academic requirements/offerings.
- ☐ Attend a class to get an idea of typical size, teaching style, academic atmosphere.
- ☐ Ask about the placement record for graduates in the field you might study.
- ☐ Identify career planning services for undergraduates.
- ☐ Tour the campus (be sure to check out the dorms, dining hall, library, etc.).
- ☐ Talk to students about the general academic environment and the amount and kind of study necessary for success.
- ☐ Find out what student activities (clubs, organizations, intramurals, etc.) are available and about campus life in terms of dating and social activities.
- ☐ Investigate transportation options.

Campus visits

There's no substitute for seeing a college yourself!

There are lots of ways to find out about a college, from brochures to videos to college fairs.

But the bottom line is that

nothing beats the test of going to a college and seeing it for yourself.

Here are some ideas to help you make the most of a campus visit.

A campus visit is informative at any time, but it's best to see a college in action, when students are in classes.

Before you go

Call the admissions office in advance

Just as there's no substitute for seeing a college firsthand, there's no substitute for advance planning.

When you call the admissions office, tell them the date you'd like to visit and the time of day you expect to arrive.

If you want to stay overnight in a residence hall, ask if they can make arrangements.

Also, find out about lining up an interview (if they offer them and you'd like one) or attending an information session, visiting classes and talking with faculty.

Colleges encourage visits, but their schedules for tours, interviews and overnight stays might fill up early. Call ahead!

Read up on the college and think about questions

Go back through the information you've collected about the college. Check the resources at your school's guidance office and browse the college's Web site, if possible.

This research will help you

think of questions to ask and aspects of the college to explore while you're there.

The other side of this page has lists of questions to help you get started. As you think of other questions, write them down.

Have some extra time during your visit? Stop by the campus coffee shop or grill, read bulletin boards, try to strike up conversations with students, or go to a play or lecture.

While you're there

Talk to as many students as you can

Once you're on campus, try to take advantage of a variety of ways to learn about the college:

- Meet with an admissions officer or attend an information session
- Take a tour of the campus
- Sit in on a class

- Have a meal in the cafeteria
- Pick up copies of the student newspaper and alumni magazine.

Throughout your visit, talk to as many students as you can and don't be bashful about asking questions!

Prepare for the interview

If you have scheduled an interview, take along your list of questions, so you're sure to cover everything you wanted to find out.

You'll probably be asked about your academic background,

interests, hobbies, goals and why you're interested in the college, so be ready to talk about that.

As with any interview, be on time, or call ahead if you know you'll be delayed.

Nervous about the interview? That's natural. Try to look at it as a conversation in which you ask questions, too. You'll be more likely to relax, be yourself and enjoy it.

Take time to look around on your own

Take some time to explore the campus on your own and absorb the atmosphere. While

organized activities can give you information you can't get on your own, the reverse is true, too.

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Beloit • Carleton • Coe • Colorado • Cornell • Grinnell • Knox • Lake Forest
Lawrence • Macalester • Monmouth • Ripon • St. Olaf • U. of Chicago

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Lots and lots of ????

You've probably already thought of lots of questions to ask during your campus visit.

Here are some suggestions, but be sure to ask the questions that are important to YOU.

When you talk to students, ask . . .

1. How many hours a week do you study? Is that typical here?
2. Are faculty members interested in students and accessible outside of class?
3. Do many students go home on weekends?
4. Are the athletic facilities open to all students or only to athletes?
5. Is it possible to study in your dorm room?
6. Is the food good?
7. Are campus jobs readily available?
8. Is there easy access to computers? Where are they located?
9. What's the library like as a place to study? to do research?
10. What do you like most about this college? least?
11. How easy is it to get the classes you want?
12. If you could change something about this school, what would it be?

If you attend a class, ask yourself . . .

1. Are students prepared for the class? Do they seem interested in the material?
2. Do I feel that the students are learning—either new facts or new ways of thinking about a subject?
3. Is there time for questions and discussion? Do students participate?
4. Am I intellectually challenged by what is taking place in the class?
5. Is there good rapport between professors and students?

As you tour the campus, ask yourself . . .

1. Are the buildings in good repair? the grounds well-kept?
2. Are the residence halls pleasant and quiet enough to study in? Are there laundry and kitchen facilities?
3. What's the cafeteria like?
4. Are computers and lab equipment up-to-date and plentiful?
5. What's the surrounding town or city like?

In an interview or information session, you could ask . . .

1. Does the college have academic programs that fit my interests?
2. Where are computer terminals located? Will I have to pay extra for computer time?
3. Will I have access to special equipment (such as an electron microscope) as a first-year student?
4. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the college's advising system?
5. How many students will there be in courses I'm likely to take in my first year? Are those courses taught by professors or graduate assistants?
6. What kinds of campus jobs are available for first-year students?
7. Will there be any new programs or facilities in the next two years?
8. What are the college's recent graduates doing now?

After the visit

Write down your impressions

1. Were the people you met friendly? Did they answer your questions fully and candidly?
2. What do you think of the quality of instruction and the academic atmosphere?
3. Were the students the kind of people you'd like to get to know?
4. Did you like the social atmosphere?
5. Would you like to spend more time there?

People's views about a college or university can vary widely, so try to talk with as many people as possible.

Write down your questions so you'll remember them and can refer to them during your visit.

As you tour the campus and talk with people, ask yourself whether this is a place where you'd feel comfortable and able to learn and do your best.

Are you interested in any extra-curricular activities? If so, ask about them and try to see the facilities.

If possible, write down your impressions of the college while they're still fresh in your mind.

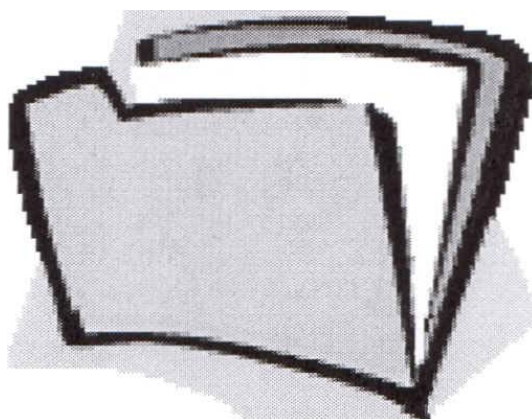
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What do colleges Look For?

- **Academic Record:** The single most important credential in the applicant's folder is the academic record, particularly the junior year and the first half of the senior year. Grades are important. In many cases you can help your college chances by making a strong effort to improve during this time, thereby indicating you are "on the way up". In addition, the level of difficulty of your course curriculum taken through all four years receives close scrutiny by admissions officers. Your rank in class and GPA are major factors in being admitted to some colleges.
- **College Entrance Examination Scores:** The SAT/ACT college entrance examinations are important even though not all colleges require them. The majority of schools pay close attention to the SAT/ACT because, when taken together with grades, they constitute a reliable predictor of academic achievement.
- **Extra-curricular Activities & Community Service:** Extra-curricular activities both at high school and in the community play an important role in the admissions process. Colleges frequently state that they look for students who will make a significant contribution to the college community. Because between 70% and 80% of all students can handle the academics, colleges often look for that extra dimension - musicians, editors, actors, photographers, athletes, leaders, volunteers and others with a developed and usable talent. Students with superior ability in these areas can expect to receive special review by faculty and careful consideration by the admissions office.
- **Recommendations:** For most colleges, recommendations are an essential part of an applicant's file. Recommendations describe not only achievements and skills, but also character, integrity and patterns of growth. Teachers' reports also play an important role in the selection process, particularly when the teachers know the student well and are willing to detail potential in specific areas.



Do's and Don'ts on Writing the College Application Essay

A great application essay will present a vivid, personal, and compelling view of you to the admissions staff. It will accent your application and help you stand out from other applicants. The tone of the essay is the only part of your application over which you have complete control, so take the time to do an excellent job. Check out the following tips before you begin.

Do's

Keep your focus narrow and personal

Your essay must prove a single point or thesis. The reader should be able to find your main idea and follow it from beginning to end. Ask someone to read just your introduction to see what he or she thinks your essay is about.

Essays that attempt to be too comprehensive end up sounding watered down. Remember, it's not about telling the committee members what you've done-they can pick that up from your list of activities-but about showing them who you are.

Prove it

Develop your main idea with vivid, specific facts, events, quotations, examples, and reasons. There's a big difference between simply stating a point of view and letting an idea unfold in the details:

- **Okay:** I like to be surrounded by people with a variety of backgrounds and interests.
- **Better:** During that night, I sang the theme song from *Casablanca* with a baseball coach who thinks he's Bogie, discussed Marxism with a little old lady, and heard more than I ever wanted to know about some woman's gallbladder operation.

Be specific

To avoid clichéd, generic, and predictable writing, use vivid, specific details.

- **Okay:** I want to help people. I have gotten so much out of life through the love and guidance of my family. I feel that many individuals have not been as fortunate; therefore, I would like to expand the lives of others.
- **Better:** My mom and dad stood on plenty of sidelines until their shoes filled with water or their fingers started to freeze or somebody's golden retriever signed its name on their coats in mud. I think that kind of commitment is what I'd like to bring to working with fourth graders.

Do's and Don'ts on Writing the College Application Essay

Don'ts

Don't tell your readers what you think they want to hear

Most admissions officers read plenty of essays about the charms of their university, the evils of terrorism, and the personal commitment involved in being a doctor. Bring something new to the table, not just what you think they want to hear.

Don't write a resume

Don't include information that is found elsewhere in the application. Your essay will end up sounding like an autobiography, travelogue, or laundry list. Yawn.

- **Overloaded:** During my junior year, I played first singles on the tennis team, served on the student council, maintained a B+ average, traveled to France, and worked at a cheese factory.

Don't use 50 words when 5 will do

Eliminate unnecessary words.

- **Okay:** Over the years, it has been pointed out to me by my parents, friends, and teachers and I have even noticed this about myself, as well-that I am not the neatest person in the world.
- **Better:** I'm a slob.

Don't forget to proofread

Typos and spelling or grammatical errors can be interpreted as carelessness or just bad writing. Don't rely on your computer's spell-check. It can miss spelling errors like the ones below.

- After I graduate form high school, I plan to work for a nonprofit organization during the summer.
- From that day on, Daniel was my best fried.

Application Checklist	<i>1st Choice</i>	<i>2nd Choice</i>	<i>3rd Choice</i>
Interviews			
College interview (if needed)			
Send thank you notes to interviewer(s)			
Send & Track Your Application			
Make copies of all application materials			
Apply online			
Include application fee			
Sign application			
Confirm receipt of application materials			
Send supplemental Materials (if needed)			
Financial Aid Forms			
Priority financial aid deadline			
Regular financial aid deadline			
submit FAFSA			
Submit CSS/Financial Aid Profile (if needed)			
Mail Institution aid forms after you send your application			
Receive admission letter			
Receive financial aid award letter			
Send housing deposit			
Send final transcript			

Source: The College Board

College Comparison Worksheet

COLLEGE NAME:			
Location *distance from home			
Size *enrollment *physical size of campus			
Environment *2 year or 4 year *school setting *location & size of city *co-ed, male, female *religious affiliation			
Admission Requirements *deadline *test requirements *average test scores, gpa, rank *notification			
Academics *your major offered *special requirements *accreditation *student/faculty ratio *typical class size			
College Expenses *tuition, room & board *estimated total budget *application fee, deposits			
Financial Aid *deadline *required forms *% receiving aid *scholarships			
Housing *residential hall requirements *food plan			
Facilities *residential *athletic *other			
Activities *clubs, organizations *greek life *sport, intramurals			
Campus Visits *when *special opportunities			

Source: ACT

College resources for students and families

General Web sites

ACT, Inc. The Web site for information on the ACT, including registration, test dates, etc. www.act.org.

Campus Tours: Virtual College Tours. Virtual tours with still pictures and descriptions, webcams, campus maps, and videos of hundreds of colleges throughout the United States. Provides a first look at colleges. www.campustours.com.

The College Board. A complete site, with college and scholarship searches, information about the SAT® and SAT Subject Tests, and other material pertaining to the college search and application process. Easy-to-use college-search feature. www.collegeboard.com.

Collegiate Choice Walking Tours Videos. A site run by a group of independent counselors in New Jersey who offer videos of walking tours of more than 350 colleges, providing "an unedited recording of an actual student-guided campus tour offered at that college." www.collegiatechoice.com.

eCampusTours.com. Virtual tours of colleges. Useful for its 360-degree views of dorm rooms and other buildings. www.ecampustours.com.

MyRoad™. Interactive planning tool that includes a personality assessment, career information, college-search tools, and articles about colleges and careers. www.myroad.com (also accessible through www.collegeboard.com). Schools or individuals can purchase this service.

NCAA Clearinghouse Online. Official NCAA Web site that gives details of student-eligibility requirements to play NCAA sports. Watch this site for changes in eligibility; students can print the *Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete*. www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

Peterson's Education Portal. An all-purpose site including a college search, as well as information about summer programs, summer camps, and jobs. The site asks you to register before using some of the search engines and other resources, but there is no registration fee. There is a charge for some of the services provided. www.petersons.com.

U.S. Department of Education. The federal government's Web site is easy to use and an excellent source of information on financial aid, much of it in Spanish as well as English. Look for two signature publications here: *Funding Your Education* and *The Student Guide: Financial Aid from the U.S. Department of Education*. www.ed.gov.

Financial aid Web sites

The College Board. Has a scholarship search, a loan calculator, and an online application form for the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® form, which is required by some colleges. www.collegeboard.com.

FAFSA on the Web. The Web site for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This form must be submitted in the senior year (after January 1) for families applying for need-based aid. Students may complete it electronically at this site. www.fafsa.ed.gov.

FastWeb. Extensive information on merit- and need-based scholarships and aid. www.fastweb.com.

FinAid! Good site for information about types of financial aid and applying for financial aid. www.finaid.org.

Student Guide: Financial Aid from U.S. Department of Education. The *Student Guide* is a comprehensive resource on student financial aid from the Department of Education. Grants, loans, and work-study programs are the three major forms of aid available through the department's Federal Student Aid office. Updated annually. http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html, go to www.studentaid.ed.gov and type "student guide" into the search engine.

College resources for students and families

(page 2)

Wired Scholar. Pointers on the college search and application process, from preparation to getting loans; also has interactive tools for analyzing the affordability of schools and comparing financial aid award letters. www.wiredscholar.com.

Books

Comprehensive objective directories

Barron's Profiles of American Colleges. New York: Barron's Educational Series, Inc. Updated every two years.

Chronicle Four-Year College Databook. Moravia, NY: Chronicle Guidance Publications. Published annually.

The College Board College Handbook. New York: College Entrance Examination Board. Published annually.

Peterson's Guide to Four-Year Colleges. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's Guides. Published annually.

Peterson's Guide to Two-Year Colleges. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's Guides. Published annually.

Subjective guides

Fiske, Edward, and Robert Logue (contributor). *The Fiske Guide to Colleges.* Illinois: Sourcebooks Trade. Updated annually.

Greene, Howard R., and Matthew W. Greene. *The Hidden Ivies: Thirty Colleges of Excellence.* New York: Cliff Street Books, 2000.

Pope, Loren. *Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools You Should Know About Even If You're Not a Straight-A Student.* New York: Penguin, 2000.

Staff of *Yale Daily News*. *The Insider's Guide to the Colleges.* New York: St. Martin's Press. Updated annually.

Specialized topics

College Board Book of Majors. New York: College Entrance Examination Board, 2004.

Detailed descriptions, written by professors, of more than 180 popular majors, plus lists of 900 majors and the colleges that offer them.

College Board College Cost & Financial Aid Handbook. New York: College Entrance Examination Board. Published annually.

Peterson's Christian Colleges and Universities. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's Guides. Updated every two years.

Princeton Review et al. (eds.). *The Hillel Guide to Jewish Life on Campus.* 14th ed. New York: Random House Information Group, 1999.

Princeton Review et al. (eds.). *K&W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorder.* 7th ed. New York: Random House Information Group, 2003.

Sherrill, Jan-Mitchell, and Craig A. Hardesty. *The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Student Guide.* New York: New York University Press, 1994.

Strichart, Stephen S., and Charles T. Mangrum, II (eds.). *Peterson's Colleges with Programs for Students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorder.* 6th ed. Princeton, NJ: Peterson's Guides, 2000.

Things Every Parent Should Know About the College Application Process

Relax - Your son or daughter will thank you.

The key to reducing senior-year stress is early planning and continued communication.

Make a plan-of-action calendar - and stick to it!

Post the calendar in a handy location, touching base periodically with your child to monitor progress.

Plan out all testing

In this competitive admission environment, standardized tests are becoming increasingly important. Studying and advanced preparation is very important for all tests (PSAT, SAT, ACT, THEA). The PSAT not only helps students practice for the SAT, it allows them to qualify for National Merit scholarships. Preparing for the THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment) can save valuable time and money by avoiding developmental classes in college.

Don't contact college admissions offices for your child.

Colleges track the contacts they have with prospective students and applicants. In their words, they don't want to hear from the "helicopter parent" (hovering over their child).

Keep copies of everything in folders.

Create files for each college your child is applying. Document all phone calls as well, indicating the date, name, and title of the person whom your child has contacted.

File all financial aid forms as soon as possible after January 1st

Financial aid is awarded on a first come-first need basis. This tip can save you thousands of dollars each year. Complete all tax forms promptly so you can complete the required financial aid papers.

Encourage your child to apply, apply, and apply for scholarships.

Don't miss out on scholarships due to a lack of awareness. Many employers, social clubs, and religious organizations offer scholarships. Remember to check the College & Career Center's scholarship website frequently.

Visiting your child's top college options is extremely beneficial.

You will want to try to visit all of the colleges where your child is applying. In addition to the tour, ask if your child may sit in on a lecture, each lunch in the dining hall and brows around campus. This is the perfect time for you to meet with a financial aid officer.

Use technology to make the process easier.

Most colleges now have their application for admission and financial aid paperwork available online. Surf the college's website for weekend open house dates, scholarship opportunities and much more.

Remember that you're not going to college; your child is.

Think about helping your child choose the best college for him or her. Be frank and direct about any absolutes, such as financial limitations.

SURVIVAL SKILLS

The following are helpful hints in completing your college planning:

1. All college acceptances are conditional on YOUR successful completion of the SECOND semester of your SENIOR year. KEEP YOUR GRADES UP.
2. The published “average SAT or ACT scores” are just that – AVERAGES. If you feel your academic record is solid, do NOT let fear or rejection stop you from applying to the school of your choice. Go for it!
3. Thoughtlessly applying to schools just to see if you will be accepted when you have NO intention of attending IS UNFAIR because it eliminates opportunities for SERIOUS candidates.
4. You are strongly encouraged to take BOTH the SAT and ACT tests.
5. If you are NOT satisfied with your SAT or ACT score, discuss options with your counselor.
6. As soon as you know you will NOT be accepting an offer of enrollment, notify the college and thank them for considering you. All such letters are placed in a file – you NEVER know when YOU might be TRANSFERRING.
7. Investigate the possibility of attending community colleges as a preliminary step to your education career. (Keep in mind; grades of ‘D’ do not usually transfer from one college to another).
8. If you intend to seek sorority or fraternity affiliation, know in advance the cost and how much time you will be expected to devote to non-academic requirements.
9. Before going off to college, consider the following:
 - a. Medical insurance – Are you still covered on family policy? If you are a part-time student, are you covered?
 - b. Should you take your car to school? If so, is your insurance in effect?
 - c. Should items of value be stolen from your dorm, are you covered on personal property insurance?
10. Remember, do not expect ANYONE to do YOUR college applications work for YOU! Double-check on transcripts to be sent, extracurricular activities recorded, teacher recommendations filed, or any other work that needs to be submitted.
11. Credits are counted by semester hours. Most English, math and history courses are three-semester-hour courses. Students taking a three-semester-hour course meet in the class for one hour, three times a week for one semester. Many science courses are four-semester-hour courses because one full day a week is spent in a two-hour lab.
12. You are considered a FULL TIME student if you take 12 or more hours. Most freshmen take five courses and physical education (16 hours).
13. Most undergraduate degrees require at least 120 semester hours. Completion of an undergraduate degree usually takes a minimum of four years, if a student carries an average of 18 semester hours per semester.
14. You don’t have to write or call Mom and Dad every night, but an occasional note home is most appreciated – especially when you’re NOT asking for money!!

College Success Factors

Important factors in college success

- Study Habits
- Motivation
- Course selection
- placement
- commitment

Characteristics of a successful college student:

A Personal Goal

To be a success, you need to know where you are going. Successful students have goals. If you are exploring, likely to change your major, or are undecided, meet with your college advisor often. Make sure your schedule works best for you and your degree plan.

Example: What is a college credit hour?

One semester credit hour is generally defined as one hour of class per week for a 16-week semester lecture course. Therefore, a 3 credit hour course will meet approximately 3 hours a week.

Solid Basic Skills

Successful students have a sense that they can succeed. They identify what skills they need and acquire them. What English, math or performance skills must you master to reach your goal? Are you willing to build them solidly?

College Study Habits

Successful college students have strong reading, listening, note taking, library research, testing/performance skills and study habits than those who drop out. Evaluate your study skills.

Personal Involvement

The students who are connected with others on campus are more successful than students who merely attend classes and leave. Consider joining the Associated Students (AS) or one of the many campus clubs that reflect your interests.

Time Management

Successful students get the job done. They learn to manage time for college, work, and play. They accept the responsibility for disciplining themselves. Start the process now. Work at it; revise it. Allow space for yourself.

Example: How many hours per week should you work while in college?

Please consider work and other time demands when planning a course load.

<u>Work Hours</u>	<u>Recommended Course Load</u>
40	3-6 Hours
30	6-9 Hours
20	12 Hours
0-10	15 Hours

Note: Allow at least 2 hours of study time for each hour spent in class.

Students must take at least 12 hours to be a full-time student

Success is a Process

Researchers believe success is determined by the way people approach life and its problems. Successful students cope and persist better than drop-outs. These researchers tell us that small successes breed larger successes, greater self-esteem, and a willingness to take charge of one's life.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

TOP TEN PERCENT RULE

Under House Bill 588 passed by the 75th legislature in 1997, students who are in the **top 10 percent** of their graduating class are **eligible** for **automatic admission** to any public university in Texas.*

To be **eligible** for **automatic admission**, a **student must**:

- Graduate in the top 10% of his/her class at a **public or private high school in Texas**
- Graduate in the top 10% of his/her class from a high school operated by the **U.S. Department of Defense and be a Texas resident or eligible to pay resident tuition.**
- Enroll in college **no more than two years after graduating** from high school; and
- **Submit an application** to a Texas public university for admission before the institution's application deadline. **Since deadlines vary, please check with the specific university to verify the application deadline.** Application deadlines are **FIRM** deadlines. A student missing a deadline is usually **DENIED** admission.
- Students admitted through this route may still be required to provide SAT or ACT scores, **although these scores are not used for admissions purposes.** Students must also take the **THEA** test, **unless exempted** from the test requirement. **Check with the admissions office** regarding **THEA, SAT, and ACT** requirements.

REMEMBER:

- You may not be admitted even if you are eligible if you do not meet the admission deadline
- Automatic admission does not guarantee that you will be admitted to your choice of majors
- Remember to apply early and complete your application thoroughly

ADMISSION REQUIREMENT OVERVIEW

The **best preparation** for attending **ANY** college or university **lies in planning ahead.** **Reviewing admissions standards** can help you select the courses you need to meet your educational goals.

While you're still in high school, take courses that will build a solid foundation in English, math, social studies, and science. Take a foreign language and become familiar with computers.

By learning as much as possible in high school, you'll give yourself the best chance for success in college. Take the college-preparatory curriculum, **called the "Recommended Program" or "Distinguished Achievement Program"** in public schools. Although these courses may be more challenging than other courses, they will put you well on your way to success. The rigor of your high school courses may be a determining factor in your college admittance.

If you are hoping to be admitted to a selective four-year college or university, according to U.S. News and World Report, admissions committees count most heavily **GRADES IN COLLEGE PREP COURSES.**

Admission Requirements for Public Universities

(Contact universities' admissions offices for specific requirements. Community colleges, which are not listed, require a high school diploma or its equivalent.)

Texas Public Four-Year Universities	Min. SAT/ACT Scores by High School Rank [†]				Required High School Credits						Additional Recommended Academic Credits
	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	English	Math	Science	Social Studies	Foreign Language	Additional Required Academic Credits	
Angelo State University	●	●	1030/23	1270/30	4	3	3	3	2 [†]		1 Computer Science
Lamar University	●	●	1000/21	1100/24	4	3	2	2.5	2 [†]	2.5 Academic Electives	
Midwestern State University	870/18	950/20	1030/22	1110/24	4	3	2			6 from Math, U.S. or World History, U.S. Government, World Geography, Economics, Social Sciences, Foreign Language, Fine Arts, Science, Computer Science, Business, Speech, Journalism	
Prairie View A&M University	●	820/17	820/17	820/17	4	3	3 [†]	2	2		Recommended High School Program, 4 Electives
Sam Houston State University	850/17	930/19	1030/22	1140/25	4	3	3	3.5	2	Recommended High School Program	
Stephen F. Austin State University	●	850/18 ◆	1050/23 ◆	1250/28 ◆	4	3	3	3.5	2	Recommended High School Program	
Sul Ross State University	●	●	920/20	920/20	4	3, 4 [†]	2, 4 [†]	2.5, 3.5 [†]	3 [†]		1 Fine Arts, 1 Computer Science, .5 P.E., .5 Health
Tarleton State University	●	◆	◆	◆	4 [†]	3 [†]	2 [†]	1 [†]			Recommended High School Program
Texas A&M International University	●	●	860/18	860/18	4	3	2	3	2 [†]	1 Computer Science	1 Fine Arts
Texas A&M University	◆	◆	◆	◆	4	3.5	3	3 [†]	2 [†]	3 years of Science with at least 2 courses in Biology 1, Chemistry 1, or Physics 1	1 Computer Science
Texas A&M University-Commerce	●	●	920/20	920/20	4	3	2	2.5	2 [†]		1 Fine Arts, 1 Computer Science
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	900/19	1000/21	1100/23	1200/27	4	3	3	3	2		1 Computer Science
Texas A&M University-Kingsville	850/18	900/19	970/21	1050/23	4	3	3	3.5	2	1 Technology Application, 1.5 P.E., 1 Fine Arts, .5 Economics, .5 Health Education, .5 Speech	
Texas Southern University	●	●	●	●	4 [†]	3 [†]	2 [†]	2 [†]			6 from Foreign Language, Computer Science, Speech, Journalism, Fine Arts
Texas State University-San Marcos	920/20 ◆	1010/22 ◆	1180/26 ◆	1270/29	4	3	3	3.5	2, 3 [†]		Recommended High School Program or Distinguished Achievement Program
Texas Tech University	1140/25 ◆	1230/28 ◆	1270/29 ◆	1270/29 ◆	4	3	2	2.5 [†]	2 [†]		Recommended High School Program
Texas Woman's University	●	950/20	◆	◆	4	3	2	2		3 Academic Electives	
University of Houston	●	1000/21	◆	◆	4	3	2	3	2 [†]		Recommended High School Program
University of Houston-Downtown					4 [†]	3 [†]	3 [†]	3.5 [†]	2-3 [†]		Recommended High School Program
University of North Texas	950/20 ◆	1050/23 ◆	1180/26 ◆	◆	4	3, 4 [†]	2, 3 [†]	3	3 [†]		Recommended High School Program
University of Texas at Arlington	●	1050/22	1150/25	◆	4	3	3	3	2		.5 Computing Proficiency, 1 Fine Arts, 1.5 P.E., .5 Health, 1 from Music, Theatre, Art
University of Texas at Austin	◆	◆	◆	◆	4	3, 4 [†]	2, 3 [†]	3	2, 3 [†]	1.5 Academic Electives	.5 Fine Arts
University of Texas at Brownsville	●	●	●	●	4 [†]	3 [†]	2 [†]	3 [†]	2 [†]		Recommended High School Program
University of Texas at Dallas	◆	◆	◆	◆	4	3.5, 4 [†]	3	3, 4 [†]	2, 3 [†]		1 Computer Science, 1 Fine Arts, .5 Health, 1.5 P.E., 1.5 Electives
University of Texas at El Paso	920/20 ◆	920/20 ◆	920/20 ◆	920/20 ◆	4	3	3	4	2	Recommended High School Program	
University of Texas-Pan American	710/15	710/15	710/15	710/15	4 [†]	3 [†]	3 [†]	3.5 [†]	2 [†]	Recommended High School Program	
University of Texas of the Permian Basin	760/16	760/16	760/16	760/16	4	3	2	3	2 [†]	Recommended High School Program or Distinguished Achievement Program	
University of Texas at San Antonio	830/17	870/18	920/19	970/20	4 [†]	3 [†]	3 [†]	3.5 [†]	2 [†]		1 Fine Arts
University of Texas at Tyler	950/20	1000/21	1050/22	1100/23	4	3	3	3	2 [†]	Fine Arts, Computer Science	
West Texas A&M University	●	●	950/20	950/20	4	3	3.5	3.5	1.5	Recommended High School Program	

[†] Students in top 10 percent of high school class admitted automatically. Some universities automatically admit students in top 25 percent. Many universities allow lower scores for students who rank higher in their high school classes.

● No minimum test scores set, but students must submit results.
◆ Applications reviewed to help determine admission.

[†] Recommended High School Credit.

Application Deadlines for Academic Year 2009-2010: Freshman

College or University		Fall 2009	Spring 2010	Summer I, 2009	Summer II, 2009	FAFSA* Code	
Angelo State University	Admission:	August 6	December 10	May 6	June 17	3541	
	Financial Aid:	April 1	April 1	March 1	March 1		
	Scholarship (Check deadline with Financial Aid Office.):		March 1	March 1	March 1		March 1
Lamar University	Admission:	August 1	January 2	May 25	July 1	003581	
	Financial Aid:	April 1	No Deadline				
	Scholarship:	February 1	No Deadline				
Midwestern State University	Admission: Priority deadline	July 1	November 1	May 1	June 1	003592	
	Regular deadline	August 7	December 15	May 15	June 15		
	Financial Aid:	May 1	October 1	March 1	March 1		
	Scholarship:	March 1	No Deadline				
Prairie View A&M University	Admission:	June 1	November 1	April 1	April 1	003630	
	Financial Aid:	March 1	November 1	March 1	No Deadline		
	Scholarship:	March 1	Not Available				
Sam Houston State University	Admission:	August 1	December 1	May 15	June 15	003606	
	Financial Aid:	May 31	September 30	February 28	February 28		
	Scholarship:	February 1	February 1	April 15	April 15		
Stephen F. Austin State University	Admission:	August 24	January 15	May 29	July 6	003624	
	Financial Aid Priority Deadlines:	April 1	November 1	March 1	March 1		
	Scholarship:	February 1	No Deadline				
Sul Ross State University	Admission:	August 15	January 21	June 1	July 6	003625	
	Financial Aid:	No Deadline					
	Scholarship:	March 1	No Deadline				
Sul Ross State University-Rio Grande College		Sul Ross State University-Rio Grande College is an upper-level center and accepts transfer/transient/former students only.				000020	
Tarleton State University	Admission:	August 1	January 1	April 1	May 1	003631	
	Financial Aid:	April 1	October 15	April 1	May 1		
	Scholarship:	February 15	December 1	June 1	June 1		
Texas A&M International University	Admission:	July 1	November 1	April 1	May 1	009651	
	Financial Aid:	July 9	December 1	June 11	June 11		
	Priority deadline for academic year: March 1						
	Scholarship:	February 15	February 15	February 15	February 15		
Texas A&M University	Admission**	January 15	October 15	January 15	January 15	003632	
	Financial Aid:	March 31	September 30	February 15	February 15		
	Scholarship:	December 15	Deadlines Vary				
Texas A&M University-Commerce	Admission:	August 11	January 6	May 31	July 3	003565	
	Financial Aid:	April 1	December 1	No Deadline			
	Scholarship:	June 1	October 1	No Deadline			

* FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

**All materials must be received (not postmarked) by the deadline.

Application Deadlines for Academic Year 2009-2010: Freshman

College or University	Fall 2009	Spring 2010	Summer I, 2009	Summer II, 2009	FAFSA* Code
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Admission:	July 1	November 1	April 1	April 1	011161
Financial Aid:	April 1	November 1	February 15	February 15	
Scholarship Priority Deadline for academic year is December 1. Scholarship:	February 1	February 1	February 1	February 1	
Texas A&M University at Galveston					003632
Admission: Priority deadline is March 1	July 1	November 15	May 15	July 1	
Financial Aid:	May 1	November 1	May 1	May 1	
Scholarship:	Deadline Varies	n/a			003639
Texas A&M University-Kingsville Admission:	August 15	December 15	May 15	June 15	
Financial Aid:	April 1	October 1	June 15	June 15	
Scholarship:	December 15	No Deadline			031703
Texas A&M University-Texarkana	Texas A&M-Texarkana currently accepts applications for transfer/transient/former students only.				
Texas Southern University Admission: Priority Deadline:	June 1	November 1	April 1	April 1	003642
Regular Deadline:	August 1	December 15	May 15	June 15	
Financial Aid:	April 15	April 15	April 15	April 15	
Scholarship:	April 15	April 15	Not Available	Not Available	003615
Texas State University-San Marcos					
Admission: Communication Design:	March 15	October 15	No Entry	No Entry	
McCoy College of Business Administration:	March 15	October 15	March 15	March 15	
All Other Majors:	May 1	December 1	May 1	June 15	
Financial Aid Priority Deadlines:	April 1	April 1	March 1	March 1	003644
Scholarship:	December 1	December 1	December 1	December 1	
Texas Tech University Admission**	May 1	November 13	May 1	May 1	
Financial Aid:	No Deadline				003646
Scholarship:	February 1				
Texas Woman's University Admission:	July 15	November 1	No Deadline	No Deadline	003656
Financial Aid:	April 1	April 1	March 1	No Deadline	
Spring only: September 1					
Scholarship:	March 1	March 1	March 1	No Deadline	003658
The University of Texas at Arlington Admission:	June 1	December 1	April 1	April 1	
Financial Aid:	May 15	November 15	April 1	n/a	
Scholarship:	February 15	November 1	n/a	n/a	030646
The University of Texas at Austin Admission**	January 15	October 1	January 15	January 15	
Financial Aid:	March 31	September 30	February 15	No Deadline	
Scholarship:	December 1	No Deadline	No Deadline	No Deadline	
The University of Texas at Brownsville Admission:	July 1	December 1	May 1	June 1	030646
Financial Aid:	April 1	December 1	May 1	June 1	
Scholarship:	April 1	December 1	May 1	June 1	

* FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

**All materials must be received (not postmarked) by the deadline.

Application Deadlines for Academic Year 2009-2010: Freshman

College or University	Fall 2009	Spring 2010	Summer I, 2009	Summer II, 2009	FAFSA* Code	
The University of Texas at Dallas Admission:	July 1	November 1	April 1	April 15	009741	
Financial Aid:	March 31	September 29	March 9	March 9		
Scholarship:	No Deadline					
The University of Texas at El Paso Admission:	May 1	October 1	March 1	April 1	003661	
Financial Aid:	March 15	No Deadline				
Scholarship: Scholars Excellence Program:	November 1	No Deadline				
All other scholarships	March 1	No Deadline				
The University of Texas-Pan American Admission:	February 1	September 1	February 1	February 1	003599	
Financial Aid:	March 1	September 15	February 15	February 15		
Scholarship - visit www.utpa.edu/excellence :	December 1					
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin Admission:	July 14	November 14	April 14	April 14	009930	
Financial Aid:	May 1	No Deadline				
Scholarship:	April 15	No Deadline				
The University of Texas at San Antonio Admission: Priority	March 1	October 15	March 1	March 1	010115	
Final deadlines subject to change. Check the website at www.utsa.edu/Admissions or call 800-669-0919 for updated information.						
Financial Aid Priority Deadline:	March 31	March 31	March 31	March 31		
Scholarship:	February 15	February 15	February 15	February 15		
The University of Texas at Tyler Admission:	No Deadline				011163	
Financial Aid:	April 1	November 1	April 1	April 1		
Scholarship:	April 1	April 1	No Deadline			
University of Houston-Main Campus Admission:	April 1	December 1	April 1	April 1	003652	
Financial Aid:	April 1	No Deadline				
Scholarship:	April 1	No Deadline				
University of Houston-Clear Lake	The University of Houston-Clear Lake is an upper-level university and accepts transfer/transient/former students only.				011711	
University of Houston-Downtown Admission Priority deadlines:	July 1	December 1	May 1	June 1	003612	
Financial Aid Priority deadlines:	April 1	November 15	June 1	No Deadline		
Scholarship:	May 1	No Deadline				
University of Houston-Victoria	The University of Houston-Victoria is an upper-level university and accepts transfer/transient/former students only.				013231	
University of North Texas Admission:	June 15	December 1	May 14	July 6	003594	
Financial Aid Priority deadlines:	April 15	August 15	February 15	February 15		
Scholarship:	March 1	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available		
West Texas A&M University Admission:	July 20	December 6	May 2	June 6	003665	
Financial Aid:	April 15	November 1	May 1	May 1		
Scholarship:	February 1		No Deadline			

* FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

College Costs-Four Year Universities and Colleges

Institution	Tuition and Fees	Books and Supplies	Room and Board	Transportation	Personal Expenses	Total
Angelo State University						
Resident	4661	1000	5980	1854	1854	15349
Nonresident	12911	1000	5980	1854	1854	23599
Lamar University						
Resident	5560	1382	6932	2162	2028	18064
Nonresident	13900	1382	6932	2162	2028	26404
Midwestern State University						
Resident	5632	1140	5886	1236	1326	15220
Nonresident	13972	1140	5886	1236	1326	23560
Prairie View A&M University						
Resident	6118	1500	7212	1500	1800	18130
Nonresident	14458	1500	7212	1500	1800	26470
Sam Houston State University						
Resident	5566	1016	7432	3228	1686	18928
Nonresident	13906	1016	7432	3228	1686	27268
Stephen F. Austin State University						
Resident	5412	996	7995	2065	1556	18024
Nonresident	13662	996	7995	2065	1556	26274
Sul Ross State University						
Resident	4746	1111	5860	1147	1872	14736
Nonresident	13026	1111	5860	1147	1872	23016
Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College						
Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonresident	0	0	0	0	0	0

Tarleton State University						
Resident	5094	1092	6908	1034	2112	16240
Nonresident	13434	1092	6908	1034	2112	24580
Texas A&M International University						
Resident	5038	1300	5814	1545	2205	15902
Nonresident	13378	1300	5814	1545	2205	24242
Texas A&M University						
Resident	7326	1156	7700	693	2160	19035
Nonresident	15666	1156	7700	693	2160	27375
Texas A&M University at Galveston						
Resident	5645	1156	7700	800	2160	17461
Nonresident	13985	1156	7700	800	2160	25801
Texas A&M University-Commerce						
Resident	5190	1200	6340	1350	1700	15780
Nonresident	13440	1200	6340	1350	1700	24030
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi						
Resident	5640	900	9971	1499	1335	19345
Nonresident	13980	900	9971	1499	1335	27685
Texas A&M University-Kingsville						
Resident	4878	1100	4030	1718	2452	14178
Nonresident	13218	1100	4030	1718	2452	22518
Texas A&M University-Texarkana						
Resident	3721	1160	5004	2136	1612	13633
Nonresident	12061	1160	5004	2136	1612	21973
Texas Southern University						
Resident	5428	1236	6998	1657	2108	17427
Nonresident	13768	1236	6998	1657	2108	25767

Texas State University-San Marcos						
Resident	6518	978	7000	1235	1955	17686
Nonresident	14760	978	7000	1235	1955	25928
Texas Tech University						
Resident	7083	845	7210	1436	1890	18464
Nonresident	15423	845	7210	1436	1890	26804
Texas Woman's University						
Resident	5832	948	5718	1110	2120	15728
Nonresident	14082	948	5718	1110	2120	23978
The University of Texas at Arlington						
Resident	7040	840	5990	2258	1418	17546
Nonresident	15290	840	5990	2258	1418	25796
The University of Texas at Austin						
Resident	8060	800	8896	940	2300	20996
Nonresident	17816	800	8896	940	2300	30752
The University of Texas at Brownsville						
Resident	4665	601	8389	1570	2425	17650
Nonresident	13005	601	8389	1570	2425	25990
The University of Texas at Dallas						
Resident	8554	1200	6671	2189	1885	20499
Nonresident	17854	1200	6671	2189	1885	29799
The University of Texas at El Paso						
Resident	5610	1125	8580	1780	1460	18555
Nonresident	13950	1125	8580	1780	1460	26895
The University of Texas at San Antonio						
Resident	6848	1000	6615	2147	2202	18812
Nonresident	15188	1000	6615	2147	2202	27152

The University of Texas at Tyler						
Resident	5382	900	7506	1778	1148	16714
Nonresident	13632	900	7506	1778	1148	24964
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin						
Resident	4650	891	4565	1589	1905	13600
Nonresident	12720	891	4565	1589	1905	21670
The University of Texas-Pan American						
Resident	4613	1000	6696	2620	1800	16729
Nonresident	5513	1000	6696	2620	1800	17629
University of Houston						
Resident	7706	1100	8964	2448	3024	23242
Nonresident	16046	1100	8964	2448	3024	31582
University of Houston-Clear Lake						
Resident	5194	954	10072	1174	3088	20482
Nonresident	13954	954	10072	1174	3088	29242
University of Houston-Downtown						
Resident	4934	1044	8600	3200	3800	21578
Nonresident	13184	1044	8600	3200	3800	29828
University of Houston-Victoria						
Resident	5085	1000	7234	1780	2028	17127
Nonresident	13425	1000	7234	1780	2028	25467
University of North Texas						
Resident	6680	1210	6160	1860	1780	17690
Nonresident	15020	1210	6160	1860	1780	26030
West Texas A&M University						
Resident	4794	900	5506	1260	1800	14260
Nonresident	12430	900	5506	1260	1800	21896

Abilene Christian University						
Resident	17410	1100	3300	1350	1740	24900
Nonresident	17410	1100	3300	1350	1740	24900
Amberton University						
Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonresident	0	0	0	0	0	0
Austin College						
Resident	24945	1000	3750	250	750	30695
Nonresident	24945	1000	3750	250	750	30695
Baylor University						
Resident	24490	1548	7110	1804	2292	37244
Nonresident	24490	1548	7110	1804	2292	37244
Concordia University						
Resident	18910	1100	4825	720	1170	26725
Nonresident	18910	1100	4825	720	1170	26725
Dallas Baptist University						
Resident	14940	1350	8028	2295	1566	28179
Nonresident	14940	1350	8028	2295	1566	28179
East Texas Baptist University						
Resident	14680	833	4315	788	1373	21989
Nonresident	14680	833	4315	788	1373	21989
Hardin-Simmons University						
Resident	16946	750	5038	1056	1482	25272
Nonresident	16946	750	5038	1056	1482	25272
Houston Baptist University						
Resident	17736	1305	6600	1730	1781	29152
Nonresident	17736	1305	6600	1730	1781	29152

Howard Payne University						
Resident	16030	1000	3746	1040	1600	23416
Nonresident	16030	1000	3746	1040	1600	23416
Huston-Tillotson University						
Resident	9438	600	6724	1260	2140	20162
Nonresident	9438	600	6724	1260	2140	20162
Jarvis Christian College						
Resident	8208	800	4954	750	1000	15712
Nonresident	8208	800	4954	750	1000	15712
LeTourneau University						
Resident	17910	0	6850	1130	1492	27382
Nonresident	17910	0	6850	1130	1492	27382
Lubbock Christian University						
Resident	14290	1032	5750	1794	2008	24874
Nonresident	14290	1032	5750	1794	2008	24874
McMurry University						
Resident	16950	1000	4000	1000	1400	24350
Nonresident	16950	1000	4000	1000	1400	24350
Our Lady of the Lake University of San Antonio						
Resident	19116	1000	2200	1000	1850	25166
Nonresident	19116	1000	2200	1000	1850	25166
Paul Quinn College						
Resident	9170	1000	4700	1100	1000	16970
Nonresident	9170	1000	4700	1100	1000	16970
Rice University						
Resident	28905	800	10250	600	1550	42105
Nonresident	28905	800	10250	600	1550	42105

Schreiner University						
Resident	17080	1000	6810	500	1000	26390
Nonresident	17080	1000	6810	500	1000	26390
Southern Methodist University						
Resident	30880	800	7500	1296	1100	41576
Nonresident	30880	800	7500	1296	1100	41576
Southwestern Adventist University						
Resident	14284	864	4068	1276	1230	21722
Nonresident	14284	864	4068	1276	1230	21722
Southwestern Assemblies of God University						
Resident	10820	1120	11814	3492	2300	29546
Nonresident	10820	1120	11814	3492	2300	29546
Southwestern Christian College						
Resident	6182	630	3308	800	400	11320
Nonresident	6182	630	3308	800	400	11320
Southwestern University						
Resident	25740	1000	4800	420	920	32880
Nonresident	25740	1000	4800	420	920	32880
St. Edward's University						
Resident	21020	1100	6900	870	2110	32000
Nonresident	21020	1100	6900	870	2110	32000
St. Mary's University of San Antonio						
Resident	20900	1200	4000	800	1800	28700
Nonresident	20900	1200	4000	800	1800	28700
Texas Christian University						
Resident	24868	850	8200	340	2870	37128
Nonresident	24868	850	8200	340	2870	37128

Texas College						
Resident	8746	800	5824	650	1740	17760
Nonresident	8746	800	5824	650	1740	17760
Texas Lutheran University						
Resident	20060	800	5200	1000	1100	28160
Nonresident	20060	800	5200	1000	1100	28160
Texas Wesleyan University						
Resident	15776	928	6021	981	1818	25524
Nonresident	15776	928	6021	981	1818	25524
The College of St. Thomas More						
Resident	12150	650	4500	1700	1675	20675
Nonresident	12150	650	4500	1700	1675	20675
Trinity University						
Resident	25023	900	6143	600	900	33566
Nonresident	25023	900	6143	600	900	33566
University of Dallas						
Resident	23322	2000	7332	1200	1200	35054
Nonresident	23322	2000	7332	1200	1200	35054
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor						
Resident	17700	1200	5728	1638	1734	28000
Nonresident	17700	1200	5728	1638	1734	28000
University of St. Thomas						
Resident	19068	1030	8938	2460	1834	33330
Nonresident	19068	1030	8938	2460	1834	33330
University of the Incarnate Word						
Resident	19060	1000	5304	1130	1530	28024
Nonresident	19060	1000	5304	1130	1530	28024

Wayland Baptist University						
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Resident	11350	1200	7488	936	1664	22638
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Nonresident	11350	1200	7488	936	1664	22638
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Wiley College						
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Resident	9400	270	4280	2140	1260	17350
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Nonresident	9400	270	4280	2140	1260	173
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Contact Information for Four Year Colleges and Universities

Institution	Main Campus Phone	Financial Aid Office	Admissions Office
Midwestern State University 3410 Taft Boulevard Wichita Falls, TX 76308-2099	(940) 397-4000	(940) 397-4214 Financial Aid	(800) 842-1922 Admissions
Stephen F. Austin State University P.O. Box 13052 SFA Station Nacogdoches, TX 75962	(936) 468-2011	(936) 468-2403 Financial Aid	(936) 468-2504 Admissions
Prairie View A&M University P.O. Box 188 Prairie View, TX 77446	(936) 857-3311	(936) 857-2422 Financial Aid	(936) 857-2626
Tarleton State University 1333 West Washington Stephenville, TX 76402	(254) 968-9000	(254) 968-9070 Financial Aid	(254) 968-9125 Admissions
Texas A&M International University 5201 University Boulevard Laredo, TX 78041	(956) 326-2001	(956) 326-2225 Financial Aid	(956) 326-2200 Admissions
Texas A&M University 1265 TAMU College Station, TX 77843-1265	(979) 845-3211	(979) 845-3236 Financial Aid	(979) 845-3741 Admissions
Texas A&M University at Galveston P.O. Box 1675 Galveston, TX 77553	(877) 322-4443	(409) 740-4417 Financial Aid	(409) 740-4414 Admissions
Texas A&M University-Commerce P.O. Box 3011 Commerce, TX 75429	(903) 886-5081	(903) 886-5096 Financial Aid	(903) 886-5081 Admissions
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 6300 Ocean Drive Corpus Christi, TX 78412	(361) 825-5700	(361) 825-2338 Financial Aid	(361) 825-2624 Admissions
Texas A&M University-Kingsville 700 University Boulevard Kingsville, TX 78363	(361) 593-3207	(361) 593-2175 Financial Aid	(361) 593-2315 Admissions
Texas A&M University-Texarkana P.O. Box 5518 Texarkana, TX 75505-5518	(903) 223-3000	(903) 223-3066 Financial Aid	(903) 223-3069 Admissions

West Texas A&M University P.O. Box 60997 Canyon, TX 79016	(806) 651-2000	(806) 651-2055 Financial Aid	(806) 651-2020 Admissions
Texas Southern University 3100 Cleburne Avenue Houston, TX 77004	(713) 313-7011	(713) 313-4383 Financial Aid	(713) 313-1952 Admissions
Lamar University P.O. Box 10042 Beaumont, TX 77710	(409) 880-7011	(409) 880-7011 Financial Aid	(409) 880-8888 Admissions
Sam Houston State University Huntsville, TX 77341	(866) 294-1111	(936) 294-1724 Financial Aid	(936) 294-1828 Admissions
Sul Ross State University Alpine, TX 79832	(432) 837-8011	(432) 837-8055 Financial Aid	(432) 837-8050 Admissions
Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College Route 3, Box 1200 Eagle Pass, TX 78852	(830) 278-3339	(830) 758-5021 Financial Aid	(830) 758-5007 Admissions
Texas State University-San Marcos 601 University Drive San Marcos, TX 78666	(512) 245-2111	(512) 245-2315 Financial Aid	(512) 245-2364 Admissions
Angelo State University ASU Station #11014 San Angelo, TX 76909-1014	(325) 942-2073	(325) 942-2246 Financial Aid	(325) 942-2041 Admissions
Texas Tech University P.O. Box 42005 Lubbock, TX 79409	(806) 742-2011	(806) 742-3681 Financial Aid	(806) 742-1480 Admissions
Texas Woman's University P.O. Box 425589 Denton, TX 76204-5589	(940) 898-3201	(940) 898-3051 Financial Aid	(866) 809-6130 Admissions
The University of Texas at Arlington P.O. Box 19125 Arlington, TX 76019	(817) 272-2011	(817) 272-3561 Financial Aid	(817) 272-6287 Admissions
The University of Texas at Austin University Station Austin, TX 78712	(512) 471-3434	(512) 475-6203 Financial Aid	(512) 475-7440 Admissions
The University of Texas at Brownsville 80 Ft. Brown Brownsville, TX 78520	(956) 882-8200	(956) 882-8277 Financial Aid	(956) 882-8295 Admissions

The University of Texas at Dallas P.O. Box 830688 Richardson, TX 75083-0688	(972) 883-2111	(972) 883-2941 Financial Aid	(972) 883-4045 Admissions
The University of Texas at El Paso 500 West University Avenue El Paso, TX 79968	(915) 747-5000	(915) 747-5204 Financial Aid	(915) 747-5890 Admissions
The University of Texas at San Antonio 6900 North Loop 1604 West San Antonio, TX 78249-0601	(210) 458-4011	(210) 458-8000 Financial Aid	(210) 458-4599 Admissions
The University of Texas at Tyler 3900 University Boulevard Tyler, TX 75799	(903) 566-7000	(903) 566-7180 Financial Aid	(903) 566-7202 Admissions
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin 4901 East University Odessa, TX 79762	(432) 552-2020	(432) 552-2620 Financial Aid	(866) 552-UTPB Admissions
The University of Texas-Pan American 1201 West University Drive Edinburg, TX 78541	(956) 381-2011	(956) 381-2501 Financial Aid	(956) 381-2206 Admissions
University of Houston 4800 Calhoun Road Houston, TX 77204	(713) 743-8820	(713) 743-9091 Financial Aid	(713) 743-1010 Admissions
University of Houston-Clear Lake 2700 Bay Area Boulevard Houston, TX 77058-1098	(281) 283-7600	(281) 283-2480 Financial Aid	(281) 283-2500 Admissions
University of Houston-Downtown One Main Street Houston, TX 77002	(713) 221-8000	(713) 221-8163 Financial Aid	(713) 221-8522
University of Houston-Victoria 3007 N. Ben Wilson Victoria, TX 77901-5731	(361) 570-4848	(361) 570-4131 Financial Aid	(361) 570-4110 Admissions
University of North Texas P.O. Box 311277 Denton, TX 76203	(940) 565-2000	(940) 565-2302 Financial Aid	(940) 565-2681 Admissions
Abilene Christian University[^] ACU Box 29100 Abilene, TX 79699	(325) 674-2000	(325) 674-2000 Financial Aid	(325) 674-2000 Admissions
Amberton University[^] 1700 Eastgate Drive Garland, TX 75041	(972) 279-6511	(972) 279-6511 Financial Aid	(972) 279-6511 Admissions

Austin College [^] 900 North Grand Sherman, TX 75090	(903) 813-2000	(903) 813-2000 Financial Aid	(903) 813-2000 Admissions
Baylor University [^] One Bear Place, #97056 Waco, TX 76798-7056	(254) 710-1011	(254) 710-1011 Financial Aid	(254) 710-1011 Admissions
Concordia University [^] 3400 IH 35 North Austin, TX 78705	(512) 452-7661	(512) 452-7661 Financial Aid	(512) 452-7661 Admissions
Dallas Baptist University [^] 3000 Mountain Creek Parkway Dallas, TX 75211	(214) 333-7100	(214) 333-5363 Financial Aid	(214) 333-5360 Admissions
East Texas Baptist University [^] 1209 North Grove Marshall, TX 75670	(903) 935-7963	(903) 935-7963 Financial Aid	(903) 935-7963 Admissions
Hardin-Simmons University [^] P.O. Box 16050 Abilene, TX 79698	(325) 670-1000	(325) 670-1206 Financial Aid	(325) 670-1206 Admissions
Houston Baptist University [^] 7502 Fondren Road Houston, TX 77074	(281) 649-3000	(281) 649-3000 Financial Aid	(281) 649-3000 Admissions
Howard Payne University [^] 1000 Fisk Avenue Brownwood, TX 76801	(915) 649-8020	(325) 649-8015 Financial Aid	(325) 649-8020 Admissions
Huston-Tillotson University [^] 900 Chicon Street Austin, TX 78702	(512) 505-3000	(512) 505-3000 Financial Aid	(512) 505-3000 Admissions
Jarvis Christian College [^] P.O. Box 1470 Hawkins, TX 75765	(903) 769-5700	(903) 769-5700 Financial Aid	(903) 769-5700 Admissions
LeTourneau University [^] P.O. Box 7001 Longview, TX 75607-7001	(903) 233-3000	(903) 233-3000 Financial Aid	(903) 233-3000 Admissions
Lubbock Christian University [^] 5601 West 19th Street Lubbock, TX 79407	(806) 796-8800	(806) 720-7176 Financial Aid	(806) 796-8800 Admissions
McMurry University [^] South 14th & Sayles Boulevard Abilene, TX 79697	(325) 793-3800	(325) 793-4713 Financial Aid	(325) 793-4700 Admissions

Our Lady of the Lake University of San Antonio^ 411 S.W. 24th Street San Antonio, TX 78207	(210) 434-6711	(210) 434-6711 Financial Aid	(210) 434-6711 Admissions
Paul Quinn College^ 3837 Simpson Stuart Road Dallas, TX 75241	(214) 376-1000	(214) 376-1000 Financial Aid	(214) 376-1000 Admissions
Rice University^ P.O. Box 1892 Houston, TX 77251	(713) 348-0000	(713) 348-0000 Financial Aid	(713) 348-0000 Admissions
Schreiner University^ 2100 Memorial Boulevard Kerrville, TX 78028-5697	(830) 896-5411	(830) 792-7217 Financial Aid	(830) 792-7217 Admissions
South Texas College of Law 1303 San Jacinto Street Houston, TX 77002	(713) 659-8040	(713) 646-1820 Financial Aid	(713) 646-1810 Admissions
Southern Methodist University^ P.O. Box 750181 Dallas, TX 75275	(214) 768-2000	(214) 768-3417 Financial Aid	(214) 768-3417 Admissions
Southwestern Adventist University^ P.O. Box 567 Keene, TX 76059-0567	(817) 645-3921	(817) 645-3921 Financial Aid	(817) 645-3921 Admissions
Southwestern Assemblies of God University^ 1200 Sycamore Waxahachie, TX 75165	(972) 937-4010	(972) 937-4010 Financial Aid	(972) 937-4010 Admissions
Southwestern Christian College^ P.O. Box 10 Terrell, TX 75160	(972) 524-3341	(972) 524-3341	(972) 524-3341 Admissions
Southwestern University^ P.O. Box 770 Georgetown, TX 78627-0770	(512) 863-6511	(512) 863-6511 Financial Aid	(512) 863-6511 Admissions
St. Edward's University^ 3001 South Congress Austin, TX 78704	(512) 448-8400	(512) 448-8400 Financial Aid	(512) 448-8400 Admissions
St. Mary's University of San Antonio^ One Camino Santa Maria San Antonio, TX 78228	(210) 436-3011	(210) 436-3141 Financial Aid	(210) 436-3126 Admissions
Texas Christian University^ TCU Box 297013 Fort Worth, TX 76129	(817) 257-7000	817-257-7858 Financial Aid	(817) 257-7000 Admissions

Texas College [^] 2404 North Grand Avenue Tyler, TX 75712	(903) 593-8311	(903) 593-8311	(903) 593-8311
Texas Lutheran University [^] 1000 West Court Street Seguin, TX 78155	(830) 372-8000	(830) 372-8000 Financial Aid	(830) 372-8000 Admissions
Texas Wesleyan University [^] 1201 Wesleyan Street Fort Worth, TX 76105-0010	(817) 531-4444	(817) 531-4420 Financial Aid	(817) 531-4422 Admissions
The College of St. Thomas More [^] 3013 Lubbock Avenue Fort Worth, TX 76109	(817) 923-8459	(817) 923-8459 Financial Aid	(817) 923-8459 Admissions
Trinity University [^] 715 Stadium Drive San Antonio, TX 78212-7200	(210) 999-7011	(210) 999-7011 Financial Aid	(210) 999-7011 Admissions
University of Dallas [^] 1845 East Northgate Irving, TX 75062-4799	(972) 721-5000	(972) 721-5000	(972) 721-5000 Admissions
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor [^] UMHB Station Belton, TX 76513	(254) 295-8642	(254) 295-4517 Financial Aid	(254) 295-4520 Admissions
University of St. Thomas [^] 3800 Montrose Boulevard Houston, TX 77006	(713) 522-7911	(713) 942-3465 Financial Aid	(800) 856-8565 Admissions
University of the Incarnate Word [^] 4301 Broadway San Antonio, TX 78209	(210) 829-6005	(210) 829-6005 Financial Aid	(210) 829-6005 Admissions
Wayland Baptist University [^] 1900 West 7th Street Plainview, TX 79072	(806) 291-1000	(806) 291-1000 Financial Aid	(806) 291-1000 Admissions
Wiley College [^] 711 Wiley Avenue Marshall, TX 75670	(903) 927-3300	(903) 927-3300 Financial Aid	(903) 927-3300 Admissions

Testing

Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) Requirements for High School Students

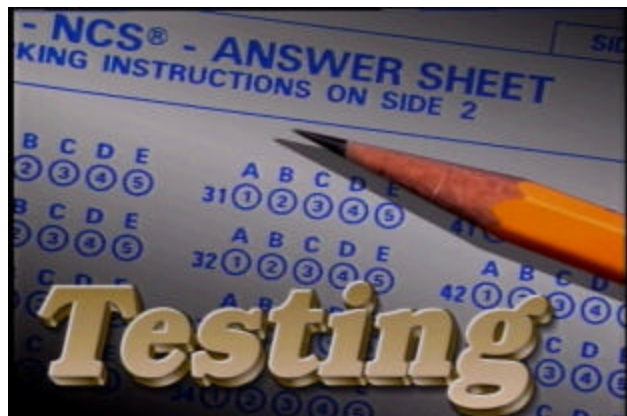
Excellent Study Site: www.march2success.com

In addition to earning the required credits for graduation, students will be required to pass the exit level TAKS test, which will be given in the 11th grade year. The 11th grade exit level test will cover material in the following academic subjects:

- English language arts, including at least English III and writing
- Mathematics, including at least Algebra and Geometry
- Social Studies, including early American History and United States History
- Science, including at least Biology and either Integrated Physics and Chemistry, or Chemistry and Physics

The test is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, or TAKS, which is the curriculum that your teachers use everyday in the classroom.

Students who do not pass the exit level test in 11th grade may take it in the summer and in the following years until all sections have been passed. Students will not be able to graduate or participate in graduation ceremonies until they have passed all four sections of TAKS.



PSAT/NMSQT

What is the PSAT/NMSQT?

The **PSAT/NMSQT** (Preliminary **S**cholastic **A**ptitude **T**est/**N**ational **M**erit **S**cholarship **Q**ualifying **T**est) is a standardized test that measures critical reading, math problem solving, and writing skills developed over many years, both in and out of school. The test consists of:

- **Critical Reading Section:** sentence completion and passage-based reading.
- **Mathematics Section:** number and operation, algebra and functions, geometry and measurement, data analysis, statistics, and probability.
- **Writing Skills Section:** improving sentences, identifying sentence errors, improving paragraphs.

You won't have to recall facts from literature, history, or science, as this test measures your reasoning and critical thinking skills. The PSAT will be given on **October 15, 2008**.

Students can score anywhere from 20 to 80 on the verbal and math sections, for a combined score of 40 to 160. Multiplying this score by 10 gives a comparable equivalent to an SAT score. The writing skills portion of the test is also scored on a scale of 20 to 80. Multiplying this score by 10 gives a comparable equivalent to an SAT writing score.

Reasons for Taking the PSAT/NMSQT

The **PSAT/NMSQT** gives students **practice** for taking **SAT I** because both tests have the same kinds of questions and similar scores. Taking the **PSAT/NMSQT** helps students plan for college, gives students an idea of how they will do on a college admission test, and helps them identify colleges that seek students like themselves.

The **PSAT/NMSQT** lets students compare their **ability to do college work** with the ability of other college-bound students. **After** the test students will receive their **PSAT/NMSQT Score Reports** and their test booklets so that they can **review** their **scores**.

Taking the **PSAT/NMSAT** is the first step in entering the scholarship programs conducted by **National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)**.

Scholarship Program

The **PSAT/NMSQT** is co-sponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Program. **NMSC** conducts **three** annual **competitions**:

1. **The National Merit Scholarship Program**
2. **The National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding African-American Students**
3. **The National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Hispanic Students**

Selection for all of these competitions is initially based upon the student's score on the **PSAT** given during the **Junior year** of high school. In addition, the student must make a comparable score on the **SAT**, which **MUST** be taken before **December** of their **Senior year** in high school.

Steps in the Merit Scholarship Competition

Program Entry: **OCTOBER TEST OF JUNIOR YEAR**

Scores Arrive: ***Late December or Early January of Junior Year.***

High Scores: ***In April of Junior year, about 50,000 high scoring participants will be invited to name two colleges or universities to which they would like NMSC to refer them. These students will continue on in the National Merit Competition.***

Semifinalists: ***Mid-September of Senior year, about 16,000 eligible participants, the highest score in each of the 50 states, will be announced publicly as Semifinalists. NMSC will provide scholarship applications and materials explaining what the Semifinalist (and their schools) must do to advance in the competition for Merit Scholarships.***

Commended Students: ***Late September (senior year) about 34,000 of those high scores will receive Letters of Commendation, but these students will not continue in the competition for Merit Scholarships.***

Finalists: ***In February (senior year), NMSC will notify Semifinalists who meet all academic and other requirements that they are Finalists and will be considered for Merit Scholarships. From approximately 15,000 Finalists, 8,200 will be chosen to receive a Merit Scholarship, based on information submitted about their abilities, accomplishments, and goals. Teacher recommendations and course grades are also important in this selection.***

National Scholarship Winners ***Every Finalist will be considered for one of the "National" awards. These recipients will be notified beginning in late March.***

Corporate Sponsored Merit Scholarship Winners ***Finalists who meet preferential criteria of sponsor organizations will be considered for these scholarships. About 1,500 winners will be notified beginning in mid-March.***

College-Sponsored Merit Scholarship Winners ***Finalists planning to attend a sponsor institution will be considered for these scholarships. Approximately 4,600 scholarship winners will be notified beginning in mid-April. A list of these institutions can be found in the PSAT bulletin.***

WHICH TEST IS BEST FOR ME?

Texas Public Institutions will accept either the ACT or the SAT
 Review the catalog of the college you will attend for their ACT/SAT requirements
 It is recommended students take the ACT/SAT at the end of their junior year
 Testing Dates and Deadlines are Listed on the next Page

SAT

ACT

Cost	\$45.00 (includes writing)	\$31.00 for ACT only. \$46.00 for ACT plus Writing
Preferred by?	Private schools, and schools on the east and west coasts	Public schools and schools in the middle of the country. ACT is preferred by more U.S. colleges than the SAT
Accepted by?	Nearly all U.S. colleges and universities	Nearly all U.S. colleges and universities
When is it administered?	Seven times per year	Six times per year
Test structure	Eight 20-25 minute sections: 70 min. Verbal, 70 minutes Math and 50 minutes Writing.	Five 35 to 60 minute sections: 45 min. English, 60 min. Math, 35 min. Reading, 35 min. Science and optional 35 minute Writing.
Test content	VERBAL: critical reading, reading comprehension, sentence completions, paragraph length Critical reading. MATH: basic arithmetic, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Multiple choice, student produced responses (grid-ins) WRITING grammar, usage, word choice, multiple choice questions, essay.	ENGLISH: punctuation, grammar and usage, sentence structure, strategy, organization, style. MATH: Pre-Algebra, elementary Algebra, intermediate Algebra, coordinate geometry, plane geometry, trigonometry. READING: Derive meaning from several tests by (1) referring to what is explicitly stated, and (2) reasoning to determine implicit meanings SCIENCE: Measures interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, problem solving. Presents seven sets of scientific information, each followed by a multiple choice test question. WRITING (Optional) Write in response to a question about your position on the issue described in the writing prompt
Is there a penalty for wrong answers?	Yes	No
How the test is scored/ highest possible score	200-800 for each subject, added together for a combined score. 2400 is the highest possible score.	1-36 for each subject, averaged together for a composite score. A 36 is the highest possible composite score.

Are all scores sent to schools?	Yes. If a student requests a score report to be sent to specific colleges, the report will include the scores the student received on every SAT taken.	No. There is a "score choice" option. Students can choose which schools will receive their scores AND which scores the schools will see.
Other uses for the exams	Scholarship purposes	Scholarship purposes. Certain statewide testing programs.
Test Taking Strategies	(1) Know the test directions for all six question types. (2) Get familiar with the answer sheet. (3) Answer easy questions first. (4) Guess "smart" (rule out choices you know are absolutely wrong). (5) Omit questions that you really have no idea how to answer. (6) Don't panic if you cannot answer every question. (7) Use your test book for scratch work. (8) Keep track of time.	(1) Pace yourself. (2) Read the directions for each test carefully. (3) Read each question carefully. (4) Answer the easy questions first. (5) Use logic in more difficult questions. (6) Answer every question. (7) Review your work. (8) Be precise in marking your answer document. (9) Erase completely. <u>Writing strategies:</u> (1) Pace yourself, (2) Read the directions carefully. (3) Read the writing prompt carefully. (4) Write (or print) legibly in the answer folder.
Best Ways to Practice	Take the PSAT/NMSQT Use the SISD online test prep (free) Go over sample questions, test taking tips and directions in the practice booklet	Familiarize yourself with the content of the ACT tests Refresh your knowledge and skills in the content areas Identify the content areas you have not studied. Take a practice ACT test (page 14) in the practice booklet Visit the ACTive Prep Website @ www.act.org/activeprep Go over sample questions, test taking tips, and directions in the practice booklet.
When to register	At least six weeks before the test date.	At least four weeks before the test date
For more information	The College Board 866-756-7346 www.collegeboard.com	ACT, Inc. 319-337-1270 www.act.org

TEST	SHS	WHS	ACT TEST DATES	Reg. Deadline		TEST	SHS	WHS	SAT TEST DATES	Reg. Deadline
ACT or ACT+ writing	*	*	Sept. 13, 2008	Aug. 12, 2008		SAT	*	*	Oct. 4, 2008	Sept. 16, 2008
	*	*	Oct. 25, 2008	Sept. 19, 2008			*	*	Nov. 1, 2008	Oct. 10, 2008
ACT Fee \$31	*	*	Dec. 13, 2008	Nov. 7, 2008		SAT fee=\$45.00	*	*	Dec. 6, 2008	Nov. 18, 2008
	*	*	Feb. 7, 2009	Jan. 6, 2009			*	*	Jan. 24, 2009	Jan. 6, 2009
ACT + writing fee is \$46.00	*	*	Apr. 4, 2009	Feb. 27, 2009		Late fee:+ \$23.50	*	*	Mar. 14, 2009	Feb. 24, 2009
			June 13, 2009	May 8, 2009			*	*	May 2, 2009	April. 9, 2009
Late fee:+ \$20									June 6, 2009	May 15, 2009

* Indicates Test Location

SAT Registration

To register:

On line registration: www.collegeboard.com

Online registration is encouraged with credit card

Go to www.collegeboard.com

1. Click on Register for the SAT
2. Click on Register Now to choose a User Name and Password
3. Choose which test, - SAT Reasoning Test, what date and which Test Center you want
4. Select colleges to receive scores

Credit cards are required (VISA, Master Card, American Express, or Discover)

Paper registration: forms may be obtained from the Career Center

Telephone registration: is used to re-register only:

(866) 756.7346

(Additional \$12.50 fee)

COST:	SAT Reasoning Test \$45.00	DHS CODE: 443599	SHS CODE: 446692
	Late Registration Fee \$23.00	WHS CODE: 443458	CWHS CODE: 446689

Note: Cost includes up to 4 free score reports to be sent to the college of your choice.

Online study for the SAT is available. SISD pays for this service.

How to Register for *The Official SAT Online Course*:

Individualized SAT Prep Program for SISD students

Come to the Career Center to get your unique access code from the College Connections Counselor.

Go to: www.collegeboard.com/satonlinecourseschool

Sign In:

*** If you already have an SAT User Name & Password:**

Enter it here in the "Already a Member" box

If you have never gone to SAT's website & signed-up for a User Name/Password

click on the box on the right side entitled "Not a Member Yet?" and answer all required questions**

****Important:** One required question is "E-mail Address."

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS,

PUT THE FOLLOWING IN THE "E-MAIL ADDRESS" BOX:

SATONLINECOURSEREGISTRATION@COLLEGEBOARD.COM

If you have any problems trying to use this SAT Prep Website, please visit the College & Career Center.

Additional Study Resource:

www.march2success.com

- ❖ Click on the registration button and answer a few questions
- ❖ Registration is valid for 45 days
(Funded by the Army; but there is no commitment or obligation to join the Army)

ACT

Registration

To register:

On line registration: www.actstudent.org

Online registration is encouraged with credit card

Go to www.actstudent.org

1. You may register for any national test date via the web and pay by VISA, Master Card, or Fee Waiver
2. After you create your record, you can have up to 72 hours to complete and send to ACT
3. You will receive your admission ticket about a week earlier than if you register by paper.
4. You will have access to the most up-to-date list of locations so you can get the best choice of test centers

***Important:** If you need to request test accommodations or extended-time testing, state voucher, or check, you **must** register by paper folder, **not** on line.

Paper registration: forms may be obtained from the Career Center

Telephone registration: is used to re-register only:

(319) 337-1270

(Additional \$12.00 fee)

<u>COST:</u>	ACT Assessment Fee: \$31.00	DHS CODE: 443599
	ACT Plus Writing: \$46.00	SHS CODE: 446692
	ACT Plus Writing: \$46.00	WHS CODE: 443458
	Late Registration Fee: \$20.00	CWHS CODE: 446689
<u>Note:</u>	Cost includes up to 4 free score reports to be sent to the college of your choice.	

ACT Test Preparation

The best preparation is a solid high school curriculum!

- Become familiar with the test content and format:
The ACT includes four curriculum-based tests—English, Math, Reading, Science—and an optional Writing Test
- Review your **PLAN** results (if taken in the 10th grade) to identify academic weaknesses
- Learn appropriate test-taking strategies
- Use ACT Online Prep—ACT's online test preparation program
- Review *The ACT Real Prep Guide*—the official test prep book
- Visit the ACT website at www.actstudent.org
 - Click on test
 - Click on test prep

Additional Study Resource: www.march2success.com

- ❖ Click on the registration button and answer a few questions
- ❖ Registration is valid for 45 days
- ❖ Funded by the Army; but there is no commitment or obligation to join the Army

SAT and ACT Score Comparison

This chart shows comparative scores for the ACT, the Current SAT, and the New SAT.

Last Current SAT: January 22, 2005
First ACT with Writing Test: February 12, 2005
First New SAT: March 12, 2005

ACT	Current SAT	New SAT
If you scored a...	or a...	It's about the same as a...
36	1600	2400
35	1560-1590	2340
34	1510-1550	2260
33	1460-1500	2190
32	1410-1450	2130
31	1360-1400	2040
30	1320-1350	1980
29	1280-1310	1920
28	1240-1270	1860
27	1210-1230	1820
26	1170-1200	1760
25	1130-1160	1700
24	1090-1120	1650
23	1060-1080	1590
22	1020-1050	1530
21	980-1010	1500
20	940-970	1410
19	900-930	1350
18	860-890	1290
17	810-850	1210
16	760-800	1140
15	710-750	1060
14	660-700	1000
13	590-650	900
12	520-580	780
11	500-510	750



IN ADDITION TO
FREE/REDUCED LUNCH...

If your student qualifies for Free/Reduced lunch, he/she may be eligible for other benefits as well. These additional benefits could save you hundreds of dollars!

Additional Benefits:

- *SAT/ACT Fee Waivers
- *Fee Waivers used to apply to college(s) & universities
- *Scholarship(s) for Concurrent Credit/Dual Credit Courses
- *Fee Waiver for Advanced Placement (AP) testing

Please Note: There are restrictions and limited numbers of these fee waivers. It is important that your student be in contact with the College Connection Counselor to learn about these benefits.

For more information about The College & Career Center at your school, you may access the website at www.springisd.org, click on "high school", click on "name of high school", and then click on "College & Career Center".

THEA

The **Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA)** is required if you are enrolling as a full-time or part-time student in a Texas public community or technical college or university. The law requires all entering college students to be assessed for college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing. Enrollment in developmental classes is required for those who do not meet the minimum standard. Some colleges and universities have developed their own instrument in lieu of the **THEA**. You must take the **THEA** or the alternate instrument **BEFORE** you enroll, unless you are exempt. Students may be exempt from taking the **THEA** as a result of their **ACT, SAT, or TAKS** scores. You must score at or above the following to be exempt.

ACT – composite score of **23** with a minimum of **19** on both the English and Math tests;

SAT – combined critical reading and math score of **1070** with a minimum of 500 on both the critical reading and math tests; **OR**

TAKS – **2200+** English/Language Arts with writing sub score of **3** and **2200+** Math.

Contact your prospective Public University, Community College, State College, or Technical College if you think you qualify for exemptions.

THEA Registration Schedule for 2008-2009

TEST DATE Report to your test site on Saturday morning no later than 8:00 AM*	POSTMARK DEADLINE FOR REGULAR REGISTRATION Or 5:00 PM Central Time for internet.	LATE REGISTRATION Deadline By phone (512) 927-5398 or internet up to 5:00 PM Central Time [requires an additional \$20 fee]	EMERGENCY REGISTRATION Deadline Internet up to 5:00 PM Central Time [requires an additional \$30 fee]
10/18/08 02/28/09 04/25/09 06/27/09 07/25/09	09/19/08 01/30/09 03/27/09 05/29/09 06/26/09	10/08/08 02/18/09 04/15/09 06/17/09 07/15/09	10/15/08 02/25/09 04/22/09 06/24/09 07/22/09

*If all test centers in your regional area are full, you may be assigned to a 3:00 PM test session. See your admission ticket for your reporting time.

- The fee for regular registration for any or all sections of the **THEA** test is **\$29.00**. The fee includes a score report sent to you and up to three institutions that you indicate on the registration form.
- Internet registration is available at www.thea.nesinc.com
- Each scheduled test date and site has a limited number of seats. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Your registration form must be postmarked no later than the postmark deadline for regular registration.
- Order study guide on line at www.thea.nesinc.com or call 866 565.4879

Lone Star College - North Harris is our closest testing site.

Advanced Placement Tests (AP®)

Advanced placement (AP) tests usually have no direct impact on college admission. The results of AP Exams are not available until after you have been admitted to college unless you have taken AP Exams during your sophomore or junior year. Then they could be an impressive and important credential when applying to college, provided the scores are good. Colleges and Universities have varying policies about awarding credit for advanced placement. Scores of 3, 4 or 5 on the 1-5 AP grading scale may be considered. While some students not enrolled in an AP course may take the AP exam and do well, this generally requires work beyond the normal classroom requirements.

More than 3,000 U.S. colleges award placement or credit or both for a qualifying grade on an AP Exam.

What's the difference between credit and placement?

Some colleges award credit for qualifying AP Exam test score. This means that you actually earn course credit toward your college degree. Others award advanced placement. This means that when you're in college, you can skip introductory courses, enter higher-level classes, and/or fulfill general education requirements.

Can I earn college credit or placement just by taking the AP course?

Colleges and universities give credit or placement only for qualifying AP test scores, not AP courses grades. Without a corresponding AP Exam test score, they can't verify that the AP courses you take are true college-level courses.

What can I do with college credit or placement?

College credit or placement can allow you to move into upper-level courses sooner, pursue a double major or a combined bachelor's/master's degree program, gain time to study and travel abroad, and complete your undergraduate degree in fewer than four years.

You can receive credit for equivalent courses worth thousands of dollars at colleges and universities-you could save as much as \$3,000 per course.

Why should I take the AP Exam if I'm not looking to earn credit or placement?

- The AP Exams provide colleges and universities with additional information about your ability to succeed in college-level study.
- Some scholarship awards consider AP Exam test scores
- Many colleges use AP Exam test scores to place students into honors classes
- The AP Exams gives you a clear understanding of what you need to succeed on a college exam.

Students taking **AP** courses during their **Junior** and **Senior** years are encouraged to take the appropriate exam. Students may receive, based on their examination score, college placement and credit. **Students should check with the college or university they are planning to attend to determine the amount of credit awarded.** Cost is \$84 per exam.

2009 Exams Schedule
Week 1

	<u>Morning Session</u> <u>8 a.m.</u>	<u>Afternoon Session</u> <u>12 p.m.</u>
Monday, May 4	Government and Politics: United States	Government and Politics: Comparative** French Language**
Tuesday, May 5	Computer Science A** Computer Science AB** Spanish Language**	Statistics
Wednesday, May 6	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Chinese Language and Culture
Thursday, May 7	English Literature** German Language**	Japanese Language and Culture** French Literature**
Friday, May 8	United States History	European History Studio Art (portfolios due)

Week 2

	<u>Morning Session</u> <u>8 a.m.</u>	<u>Afternoon Session</u> <u>12 p.m.</u>	<u>Afternoon Session</u> <u>2 p.m.</u>
Monday, May 11	Biology** Music Theory**	Physics B** Physics C: Mechanics**	Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism***
Tuesday, May 12	Environmental Science** Chemistry**	Psychology	
Wednesday, May 13	Italian Language and Culture** English Language**	Art History	
Thursday, May 14	Macroeconomics** World History**	Microeconomics	
Friday, May 15	Human Geography** Spanish Literature**	Latin Literature** Latin: Vergil**	

** Coordinators should order late-testing exams for students who would like to take exams that are scheduled for the same slot.

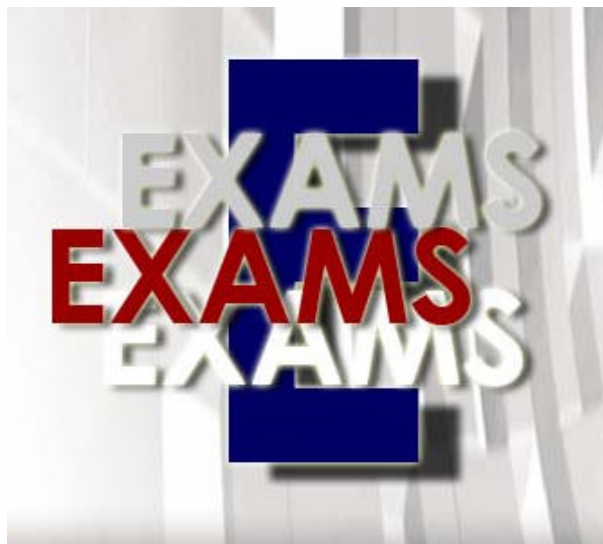
*** This exam must begin between 2 and 3 p.m. In Alaska, the exam must begin between 1 and 2 p.m.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

CLEP is a widely accepted college credit-by-examination program. About 2,900 colleges and universities award credit for qualifying scores on CLEP exams. All exams are computer-based. CLEP offers 34 exams in business, composition and literature, foreign languages, history and social sciences, science and mathematics. Registration to take CLEP tests is made directly to a university test center, which administers the tests several times during the year. Students who are interested in CLEP can find information at www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html

Reporting Admissions Test Results

Colleges want an official score report sent directly to them from the testing agency. It is your responsibility as an applicant to report your SAT or ACT scores by indicating colleges as score recipients on the registration form or by completing and mailing an Additional Report Request form which you receive with your admission ticket (and are also available online). BE sure and watch college deadlines because your official scores are needed to have a completed application. Scores are usually mailed three weeks after testing.





NCAA FRESHMAN-ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS QUICK REFERENCE SHEET

KNOW THE RULES:

Credit card required to pay the \$50.00 fee to NCAA.

(If the fee would be a financial burden, ask your College Connection Counselor about a waiver.)

Core Courses

- **Starting August 1, 2008, 16 core courses** will be required for **NCAA Division I only**. This rule applies to any student first entering any Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2008. See the chart below for the breakdown of this 16 core-course requirement.
- **14 core courses** are required in **NCAA Division II**. See the breakdown of core-course requirements below.

Test Scores

- **Division I** has a sliding scale for test score and grade-point average. The sliding scale for those requirements is shown on page two of this sheet.
- **Division II** has a minimum SAT score requirement of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.
- The SAT score used for NCAA purposes includes only the critical reading and math sections. The writing section of the SAT is not used.
- The ACT score used for NCAA purposes is a sum of the four sections on the ACT: English, math, reading and science.
- **All SAT and ACT scores must be reported directly to the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse by the testing agency.** Test scores that appear on transcripts will no longer be used. When registering for the SAT or ACT, use the clearinghouse code of 9999 to make sure the score is reported to the clearinghouse.

Grade-Point Average

- Only core courses are used in the calculation of the grade-point average.
- **Be sure** to look at your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses on the clearinghouse Web site to make certain that the courses being taken have been approved as core courses. The Web site is www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.
- **Division I** grade-point-average requirements are listed on page two of this sheet.
- The **Division II** grade-point-average requirement is a minimum 2.000.

DIVISION I 16 Core-Course Rule

16 Core Courses:

- 4 years of English.
- 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher).
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
- 1 year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science.
- 2 years of social science.
- 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or non doctrinal religion/philosophy).

DIVISION II 14 Core-Course Rule

14 Core Courses:

- 3 years of English.
- 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher).
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
- 2 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science.
- 2 years of social science.
- 3 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or non doctrinal religion/philosophy).

PLEASE NOTE: For students first entering any NCAA college or university on or after August 1, 2005, **computer science** courses may only be used for initial-eligibility purposes if the course receives graduation credit in mathematics or natural/physical science and is listed as such on the high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Division II has no sliding scale. The minimum core grade-point average is 2.000. The minimum SAT score is 820 (verbal and math sections only) and the minimum ACT sum score is 68.
- 14 Core courses are required for Division II.
- 16 Core courses are required for Division I.
- The SAT combined score is based on the verbal and math sections only. The writing section will not be used.
- SAT and ACT scores must be reported directly to the clearinghouse from the testing agency. Scores on transcripts will not be used.

For more information regarding the rules, please go to www.ncaa.org. Click on "Academics and Athletes" then "Eligibility and Recruiting." Or visit the clearinghouse Web site at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

Please call the NCAA Eligibility Center if you have questions:

Toll-free number: 877/622-2321

NCAA DIVISION I SLIDING SCALE CORE GRADE-POINT AVERAGE/ TEST-SCORE New Core GPA / Test Score Index

Core GPA	SAT <small>Verbal and Math ONLY</small>	ACT
3.550 & above	400	37
3.525	410	38
3.500	420	39
3.475	430	40
3.450	440	41
3.425	450	41
3.400	460	42
3.375	470	42
3.350	480	43
3.325	490	44
3.300	500	44
3.275	510	45
3.250	520	46
3.225	530	46
3.200	540	47
3.175	550	47
3.150	560	48
3.125	570	49
3.100	580	49
3.075	590	50
3.050	600	50
3.025	610	51
3.000	620	52
2.975	630	52
2.950	640	53
2.925	650	53
2.900	660	54
2.875	670	55
2.850	680	56
2.825	690	56
2.800	700	57
2.775	710	58
2.750	720	59
2.725	730	59
2.700	730	60
2.675	740-750	61
2.650	760	62
2.625	770	63
2.600	780	64
2.575	790	65
2.550	800	66
2.525	810	67
2.500	820	68
2.475	830	69
2.450	840-850	70
2.425	860	70
2.400	860	71
2.375	870	72
2.350	880	73
2.325	890	74
2.300	900	75
2.275	910	76
2.250	920	77
2.225	930	78
2.200	940	79
2.175	950	80
2.150	960	80
2.125	960	81
2.100	970	82
2.075	980	83
2.050	990	84
2.025	1000	85
2.000	1010	86

Financial Aid

There are many types of financial aid. Find the one that's right for you.

There are many different types of financial aid available to students and their families. Some are need-based, some are based on academic performance, others are tied to a student's or family's ability to borrow. Not all colleges and universities participate in all programs, but the more you know about financial aid, the better prepared you will be.

Listed below are examples of different types of financial aid. Additional information on each program can be found at www.collegefortexans.com

Exemptions

Exemptions are a type of financial assistance allowing some Texas residents to attend a public college or university in Texas without paying tuition or, in some cases, tuition and fees.

State and Federal Grants and Scholarships

State and Federal Grants and Scholarships provide financial aid that does not have to be repaid. Some grants and scholarships require the student to maintain a certain grade point average (GPA) or take certain courses. Most grants are awarded on the basis of financial need.

Private/Corporate Grants and Scholarships

Private/Corporate Grants and Scholarships provide financial aid that does not have to be repaid. Some grants and scholarships require the student to maintain a certain grade point average (GPA) or take certain courses. Most grants are awarded on the basis of financial need.

Institutional Grants and Scholarships

Institutional Grants and Scholarships provide financial aid that does not have to be repaid. Some grants and scholarships require the student to maintain a certain grade point average (GPA) or take certain courses. Most grants are awarded on the basis of financial need.

Loans

Loans refer to financial aid that must be repaid.

Loan Forgiveness Programs

Financial aid for students who have agreed to perform certain work or services after completing college, and if the individual completes the services as agreed, no repayment is required.

Tax Credits and Other Programs

Federal income tax credits, deductions and other programs for college students.

Waivers

Waivers for tuition and/or fees are available for certain students who aren't Texas residents.

Work-Study Programs

Jobs (usually on campus) are offered by the college to help students pay for tuition or other college costs. Work-study jobs are awarded based on financial need.

Applying for Financial Aid

Applying starts with one form.

Applying for financial aid requires some work on your part. You won't get any money unless you ask for it, and asking for the money means completing some forms.

To obtain financial aid, there are three very important things to understand:

1. You only have to complete one financial aid application (F AFSA) to start the financial aid process.
2. The financial aid office at the college you plan to attend will be in charge of awarding you financial aid.
3. Deadlines matter. The earlier you submit your forms, the more likely you are to get a good financial aid package.

What Is FAFSA?

FAFSA stands for *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*. As the name indicates, the application is free and there is no charge for the processing of your application. No matter how many schools you are applying to, you only need to fill out one FAFSA application. Once your application is processed by the federal processor, you and the schools you have selected will be notified of the results and the school can then start the process of determining the funding for which you are eligible.

Where Can You Find the FAFSA?

The F AFSA is typically completed electronically at www.fafsa.ed.gov, or you can obtain a copy from any college financial aid office.

Note: Completing the FAFSA online is the fastest way to apply. The processing time for forms submitted online is about two weeks. The processing time for paper applications is about six to eight weeks.

When Should You Complete the FAFSA?

The FAFSA should be completed/ processed as soon as possible **after January 1st** for students expecting to enroll in college in the following fall.

Most college priority deadlines are **April 15th**.

Remember, the financial aid for which you are applying has limits, so the sooner you complete your forms, the better your chances of getting a good financial aid package. Although there is over \$60 billion in financial aid distributed each year, this is not enough to meet the financial need of all college students in the United States.

How Should You Complete the FAFSA?

- Apply for both student and parent pin number in fall semester of your senior year at www.pin.ed.gov

To complete the form, you and your parents will need to share information on your financial condition (income, assets, savings, etc.). This is the same information you would be required to share with a bank or other lender when requesting a loan for a new car or home, or that you are required to put on your tax return each year

What's Next?

Contact the financial aid office to determine if there is any other information you need to provide. Some colleges will require that you complete additional forms. Many of the more costly schools will require you to submit what they refer to as a "profile." You can register to receive the application form over the Internet at www.collegeboard.com or the college can provide you with the application. Remember, you must have been admitted to the college before you will be considered for financial aid awards, so be certain to send in your application for admission and, remember, financial aid offices are extremely busy places. The sooner you can complete the information required for financial aid, the better chance you will have of receiving aid.

FAFSA: Step by Step

What is it? FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The federal government uses this form to determine your eligibility for financial aid, which includes: grants, work-study, scholarships and loans.

Why fill it out? The FAFSA is used to determine how much aid you're eligible for. Think of it this way:

FAFSA → EFC → Financial Need → Financial Aid

EFC stands for **Expected Family Contribution**. Your family must contribute this amount in the coming year to your college costs, according to the government's calculation.

How does it work? Your prospective college will try to meet your financial need through aid made up of funds from federal, state, school and private sources. This may include loans, grants, scholarships and student employment.

FAFSA Process: 1-2-3!

The three steps to apply for federal aid:

Step 1: Assemble forms needed to complete FAFSA

You'll need the following to fill out the form:

- Social security number
- Current bank statements
- Driver's license (if any)
- Current mortgage and investment records (if any)
- Alien registration card (if not a U.S. citizen)
- 2006 federal tax return (estimates are OK on tax questions)
- 2006 untaxed income records (if any)
- 2006 W2 forms and other record of money earned
- Parents' 2006 income tax return (if considered dependent)

Step 2: Complete the FAFSA

- Complete a FAFSA on the Web at: www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- In order to maximize your amount of aid, fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1.
- Once finished, print the FAFSA summary as well as the "Submission Confirmation" page (or write down your confirmation number and date). If completing the paper version, make a copy for your records.

Step 3: Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)

The SAR is proof that your FAFSA was received. You should receive your electronic SAR in 1 -3 days if you signed with your PIN (paper: 2-3 weeks).

What if I find errors on my SAR?

- Report errors immediately to your financial aid office. You can also make corrections online at: www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- If you don't receive your SAR in 3-4 weeks, call 1-800-433-3243 (1-800-4-FED-AID).

Additional FAFSA Tips

- Remember that the FAFSA is FREE! If you need help, ask your financial aid office or call the FAFSA Help Desk at: 1-800-4-FED-AID.
- Fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, and each successive year once you're in college: Early submission maximizes chances of receiving aid.
- Fill out a "FAFSA on the Web" worksheet: Click "Before Beginning a FAFSA," then "Print a Pre-Application Worksheet." Use the print-out as a guide before committing answers online.
- DO NOT enter online answers directly from the paper FAFSA! Online FAFSA questions are in a different order than the paper version!
- Sign the application: If you are filing as a dependent, make sure your parents sign too. You can use your PIN if signing electronically.
- Save your FAFSA online if you can't finish it in one session: Click the "Save" button at the bottom of each step to save info for 45 days.
- Don't leave a field blank. If a question doesn't apply, enter "0."
- Make or print a copy of your FAFSA for your records.

PIN: Your Key to Online Identification

The Personal Identification Number (PIN) is the code that the U.S. Department of Education uses to identify you online. A PIN allows you to do the following on a FAFSA:

- Check the status
- Make corrections
- Fill out an online renewal form next year
- Electronically sign to speed up the process

To obtain a PIN, eligible students AND parents can visit www.pin.ed.gov (students and parents can each receive their own PINs). Click on "Apply for PIN" near the top of the page. Allow 4 hours for PIN instructions to be sent via e-mail.

Do not reveal your PIN to anyone. The PIN allows anyone to electronically sign federal student aid documents and access your confidential information.

Need money for college?

Search 1.5 million awards worth over \$3.4 billion!

www.fastweb.com

The Financial Aid Award Cycle

To download the TASFAA workbook: <http://www.tgslc.org/pdf/hsworkbook06.pdf>



The Institution

1. Calculates student need
2. Compares student attributes to the requirements of individual aid programs
3. Identifies viable programs and determines amounts to be offered to the student
4. Sends student an Award Letter



The Student

5. Reviews Award Letter
6. Accepts or rejects the aid that is offered
7. Notifies the college of his/her acceptance or rejection of the offer



The Institution

8. Holds funds for the student
9. Acquires loan guarantee (if applicable)



The Student

10. Receives the aid

Twenty Questions to Ask About Financing College

Phase 1. Questions to ask during the application process

1. What are the average costs for tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation, and other personal expenses for the first year? What are the ranges of room costs (single, double), board costs (21 meals?), and special tuition rates (flat rate for 15-18 credits, etc.)? By how much will total costs increase each year? (A three-to five-year printed history of tuition and fee increases, as well as room and board increases, should be available.)
2. Does financial need have an impact on admissions decisions?
3. Does the decision to apply for Early Decision affect financial aid?
4. Does the institution offer financial aid programs as well as merit or other scholarships that do not include consideration of financial need? How and when should applications for need- and merit-based aid be completed?
5. What non-institutional sources of aid and information are available? (Check with the financial aid office regarding fee-based sources.)
6. What application forms are required for completing the financial aid process? What is the priority for applying for financial aid? When will I be notified about financial aid decisions?

Phase 2. Questions to ask as you decide which college to attend

7. How much financial aid will I receive? Will I be billed for my share of the costs? Are there any other costs not accounted for in the aid offer that the student should plan for, such as expenses for books, room and board, transportation, or personal needs?
8. If I and/or my family cannot meet the financial responsibilities with our current income or assets, what financing options are available to help us pay our share?
9. Will the financial aid office provide me with an explanation of how my expected family contribution, financial need, and award package were determined?
10. If the financial award package is insufficient, then under what conditions, if any, will the aid office reconsider its offer?
11. What are the terms and conditions of the aid programs included in my award package (e.g., treatment of outside scholarships, loan repayment policies, renewal criteria)? Regarding renewal, what are the academic requirements or other conditions for the renewal of financial aid, including scholarships?
12. How will my aid package change from year to year? Will loan amounts increase? What impact will cost increases have on the aid package? What will happen if my financial situation changes? What will happen if my or another family member's enrollment status changes?
13. What amount of student loan debt does your typical student borrower have once he or she finishes college?

Phase 3. Making sure you understand the financial obligations of college

14. When can I/my family expect to receive bills from the college? How many times a year will bills be sent? If the bill is not paid by the deadline, will there be penalties? Does the college accept payment by credit card? Is there an option to pay monthly?
15. Is all financial aid credited to my account, or will I receive checks for some or all of the financial aid awarded? What about student employment earnings? If aid exceeds billed charges, how do I receive the funds?
16. How much money will I need during the first week of school for necessities such as books and a parking permit? Can I use financial aid to pay for books and supplies? Can books and supplies be charged to my account? What typical out-of-pocket expenses do most students have during the year?
17. Is information provided to students regarding budgeting resources, money management, and credit card usage?
18. Are there banking services with no-fee ATMs and/or check-cashing facilities on or near campus? Does the campus have a debit card?
19. Will the college be responsive to midyear changes in family financial situations?
20. Regarding student employment, including the Federal Work-Study Program: How are jobs assigned? How many hours per week will a student be expected or allowed to work? How often and in what manner will I receive earnings payments? Will earnings be automatically credited to my account?

Source: *The College Board*

New for Juniors!

Students no longer have to wait until their senior year to find out if they are eligible for financial aid. If you want to begin exploring your financial aid options and get an early start on the financial aid process, **FAFSA4caster** is for you! By using FAFSA4caster, you and your family will receive an early estimate of eligibility for federal student aid. This web site provides you with an opportunity to increase your knowledge of the financial aid process; become familiar with the various types of federal student aid that are available; and investigate other sources of aid, such as grants and scholarships.

<http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/>

Twelve Common Myths about Paying for College

It might come as a surprise to a harried mom or dad frantically filling out college financial aid forms, but there are literally billions of dollars in financial aid available to those who need help paying for college.

Often it can take some serious due diligence to weed through the confusing and sometimes misleading information out there. Here are some common myths counselors can dispel for those navigating the financial aid process.

1. **College Is Just Too Expensive for Our Family:** Despite the media hype about rising college costs, a college education is more affordable than most people think, especially when you consider college graduates earn an average of \$1 million more over their careers than high-school graduates. The average yearly cost of tuition and fees at a four-year public school in 2004-2005 is just \$5,132. There are some very expensive schools, but you don't need to spend a fortune to get a first-rate education.
2. **There's Less Aid Available than There Used to Be:** In 2003-04 student financial aid hit a record level of more than \$122 billion; most students do receive some form of aid. It's true that less aid comes in the form of grants these days; most is awarded through low-interest loans or institutional and other grants. Parents and students should take the time to look through the financial aid packages each college offers to determine which makes the most financial sense. (A helpful "[compare your aid awards](#)" tool is provided at www.collegeboard.com to help.)
3. **My Parents' Income Is Too High to Qualify for Aid:** Aid is intended to make a college education available for students of families in many financial situations. College financial aid administrators will consider not only income but also family size, other children enrolled in college, unusual expenses, and other factors in awarding aid packages. Students shouldn't assume they won't qualify.
4. **My Parents Saved for College, So We Won't Qualify for Aid:** Saving for college is always a wise investment. Since most assistance comes in the form of loans, students will likely have to repay at least some of the aid they do receive. Having some savings means they'll have fewer loans to repay, and won't render them ineligible for aid (since a family's share of college costs is calculated based mostly on income, not assets like savings).
5. **If I'm not a Straight "A" Student, I Won't Qualify:** While there are many academic-based scholarships, the vast majority of federal aid comes from the federal government and is based on financial need alone. It's still a good idea to look into alternate sources of awards, such as professional organizations, local service clubs, religious or ethnic affiliations, in case any of these might apply. (A [free scholarship search](#) is available at www.collegeboard.com)

6. **If I apply for a Loan, I Have to Take It:** Families are under no obligation to accept a low-interest loan if it is offered-and with the record low interest rates for student loans, there's no reason not to apply. Students can compare loan awards with other aid options to see what will best fit their needs.
7. **Working While I'm in School Will Hurt My Academic Performance:** Juggling full-time work with full-time studies can be a real challenge, but research shows that students who work a moderate amount often do better academically. Securing an on-campus job in a field that relates to a student's interests is a good way to help cover expenses, gain work experience, and form additional ties with the university.
8. **I Should Live at Home to Cut Costs:** It's worth studying every angle to reduce college costs, but living at home may not be the best way. A student should consider commuting and parking costs, as well as opportunities for work and other extra-curricular benefits that might be gained by living on campus.
9. **Private Schools Are Way Out of My Reach:** Experts recommend that a student identify schools that suit his/her needs and interests first, then look at cost considerations as the list is narrowed. Most important is finding a school that will fit a student's academic, career, and personal goals. In some cases, a student might have a better chance of receiving aid from a private school, since they usually try to attract students from every income level. Higher college expenses also mean a better chance of demonstrating financial need.
10. **My Folks Will Have to Sell Their House to Pay for College:** Home value is not considered in calculations for federal financial aid. Colleges may take home equity into account when determining how much your family is expected to contribute to college costs, but income is a far greater factor in this determination. No college will expect a parent to sell their house to pay for a student's education.
11. **Millions of Dollars in Scholarships go Unused Every Year:** Professional scholarship search services often tout this statistic. In fact, most unclaimed money is slated for a few eligible candidates, such as employees of a specific corporation or members of a certain organization. Most financial aid comes from the federal government, although it is a good idea to search nonfederal sources of aid.
12. **We can Negotiate a Better Deal:** Many colleges will be sensitive to a family's specific financial situation, especially if certain nondiscretionary costs, such as unusually high medical bills, have been overlooked. But most colleges adhere to specific financial aid award guidelines and will not adjust an award for a family that feels it got a better deal at another school.

Senior-year Calendar for Students

Applying for Financial Aid

September

When you write or e-mail colleges that interest you, ask for financial aid info, including what forms to file and their due dates. Put this data on your calendar and to-do list Note:

- All colleges ask you to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) not just for grants/scholarships, but also for college loans. See November
- Some colleges require the CSSI Financial Aid PROFILE. Get a PROFILE Registration Guide from the "Pay for College" link at collegeboard.com and fill out the application online. You can register as early as October 1.
- Ask if your colleges require their own aid forms, too.

If you plan to apply for Early Decision, ask whether your college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility and which forms to file.

October

Research aid opportunities using your library, financial aid guidebooks and Websites, including "Scholarship Search" on collegeboard.com. Your college & career counselor will have other resources, too. Look for the following:

- Federal financial aid sources
- Private Scholarships
- State and local programs
- Scholarships, including merit and departmental scholarships, offered by colleges to which you'll apply. Reference materials include books and search engines; both report on national sources of aid. For local and state aid sources (often overlooked!) see your college & career counselor and the public library

Begin work on aid applications,

Ask your college connection counselor if there will be a family financial aid night at your school or elsewhere in the area this fall. Attend SISD's College Night and attend the financial aid presentation. This event may be your single best source of information

Use financial aid calculators like those at collegeboard.com to estimate your family's college costs.

November

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available in school and at www.fafsa.ed.gov. It can't be submitted before January 1. You can download a worksheet to organize your information.

Visit www.pin.ed.gov and get a personal identification number (PIN). You will need a PIN to use as an electronic signature if you complete the FAFSA online, at www.fafsa.ed.gov (NOT at www.fafsa.com, which is a Web site that charges at least \$79.95 for its services).

December

You and your family may want to save final pay stubs for the year. On aid forms that you'll file early in the new year, use the stubs to estimate income.

January

Submit your FAFSA as soon as you can after (but not before) January 1. Men 18 or older must register for the Selective Service to receive federal financial aid. To register, complete a check-off box on your FAFSA, or register at any post office.

February

Parents and students are encouraged to complete and file income tax returns as soon as possible. Colleges may request copies of your tax returns to finalize aid offers.

March

As you receive letters of acceptance, check with aid offices to see if additional documentation must be submitted. Some colleges may request copies of your family's income tax returns, W-2 forms, and other materials.

April

Use the online "Compare Your Aid Awards" tool at collegeboard.com to help you understand and compare financial aid award offers from two or more colleges. Talk with financial aid officers if you have questions. If you do not get enough aid, ask whether other financing plans are available.

Most college financial aid deadlines are April 15th

May

If you've been offered aid from your chosen college, be sure to accept the offer as instructed in your award letter. (Note: You'll need to reapply for financial aid every year.)

If you have received aid from other schools, let them know that you won't be attending.

Financial Aid Checklist for Students & Parents/Guardians

Use this sheet as a personal record and as a reminder of the steps to take to obtain financial aid. Check off each step as you complete it.

For you and your parents or guardian

- If you are in doubt as to whether or not to apply for aid, apply!
- Do not wait for college acceptance letters before filing for aid. File in January or February – the earlier the better. You do not have to have completed your tax returns prior to filling out the FAFSA or the PROFILE. An estimate of income is adequate. You cannot file the FAFSA until after January 1, but complete it before February 1 if at all possible.
- **Complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You will need a PIN, or electronic password, before completing the form-available at www.pin.ed.gov.** Get your PIN well in advance of your deadline, because it must be assigned and e-mailed back to you before you can begin. Filing online is much faster than by mail and the Web site has prompts that help you avoid making mistakes.
- If you are applying to colleges that require PROFILE, try to file that form in late November or early December-as soon as you know the colleges to which you plan to apply. If you are applying under an Early Decision plan, complete your PROFILE in October or early November.
- Income Tax forms should be filed as soon as possible (preferably in January), in order to provide accurate data on financial aid forms. Some colleges have early February deadlines.
- Inform each college about your interest in applying for aid. Make a list of the financial aid priority dates and deadlines at the colleges to which you are applying. Ask each college if it requires supplemental forms, and complete them as needed.
- If mailing in the FAFSA, do not enclose any supplementary letters or information in the envelope with the form. These materials will be discarded. If you have information about special financial need in your family, write a letter and send it directly to the financial aid office of each college to which you are applying for aid.
- Apply for federal and state funds by completing the appropriate questions of the FAFSA.
- Check for scholarships for which you might be eligible:
 - Each college/postsecondary institution (your best source)
 - Those posted in the counseling office
 - Local and state scholarships
- Begin your Stafford student loan application by checking appropriate boxes on the FAFSA.

Details to remember

- In all written communications to financial aid offices, put your name and social security number on every page.
- Keep your financial aid worksheets. Always make photocopies for your records.
- If you have questions about an item, do not guess. See your counselor or an accountant, or speak with the college financial aid officer directly.
- Do not leave blank spaces on the forms. Use zeros instead.
- Proofread! And again, make copies of everything!

After you've filed the forms

- If you properly complete the financial aid forms, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) in approximately four to six weeks (online applications are processed in two weeks). It will give you your eligibility index for federal and state aid.
- If there are errors or incorrect information on the SAR, you can make corrections online (if you filed online). Or check with the financial aid office of the college you plan to attend; it may be able to submit all necessary corrections for you.
- Financial aid offers are sent by colleges either with, or shortly after you receive, a letter of acceptance. Once you sign and return the financial aid award letter, money will be sent to your college or post secondary institution.
- Ask your counselor for assistance if you have general questions. **Specific questions should be directed to the college financial aid officers.**

Sources: *Glenbrook High School, Illinois, and Amherst Regional School, Massachusetts.*

Financial Aid Resources for Students and Families

Web sites

AmeriCorps. Here you will find national service programs that engage volunteers to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. AmeriCorps members are eligible to receive an education award after successfully completing a term of service: www.americorps.org

College Board. You will find a scholarship search and a loan calculator, and be able to apply online for CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE, which is required by some colleges: www.collegeboard.com

FAFSA on the Web. The Web site for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This form must be submitted in the senior year (after January 1) for families applying for need-based aid. Students may complete it electronically: www.fafsa.ed.gov

FastWeb. This site provides extensive information on merit-and need-based scholarships and aid: www.fastweb.com

Funding Your Education. This site provides general information about the Department of Education's financial aid programs and how to apply for them. You can download this publication for free: Click on "Find & Pay for College" in the Student section of www.ed.gov

Internal Revenue Service. Get information on Hope and Lifetime Learning tax credits: www.irs.gov

Mapping Your Future. Here you'll find general information about scholarships, financial aid, planning a career, selecting a college, and paying for it: www.mapping-your-future.org

Sallie Mae. This site provides information about planning for college, applying for loans, managing your loans, finding a job, and using financial aid services: www.salliemae.com

Student Aid on the Web. Get general information from the Department of Education: www.studentaid.ed.gov

The Student Guide. This is a comprehensive resource on financial aid from the Department of Education. Grants, loans, and work-study are the three major forms of aid available through the department's Federal Student Aid office (Updated annually). Go to www.studentaid.ed.gov and type "Student Guide" into the search engine.

Wired Scholar. Get pointers on the college search and application process from preparation to getting loans; this site also has interactive tools that enable you to analyze the affordability of schools and compare financial aid award letters: www.wiredscholar.com

Scholarships Apply ... Apply ... Apply

Should You Apply for Scholarships?

Of course, college bound students should apply for scholarships. Beyond the obvious fact that every extra dollar can help you and your family, the scholarship process is also a way to develop the winning skills that will serve you well in whatever you do in your life. The ability to organize, prioritize, write well, match message to audience and most of all, know yourself, are gifts you should give yourself as soon as possible.

Thousands of scholarships are available nationally to qualified students. Scholarships are often awarded for merit in academics, athletics, or a particular field of study, but may also be awarded based on, for example ethnic background, religious affiliation, and special interests. Apply for as many scholarships as possible. Do not neglect smaller, local scholarships - they are often less competitive. A few hundred dollars here and there quickly adds up. Each scholarship is a gift that does not need to be repaid!

Types of Scholarships Available

College-Specific Awards- Colleges often have scholarship money available that is used to develop the financial package offered to an applicant who has been granted admission. These scholarships are available under a variety of terms that may include maintaining a certain OPA, pursuing a specific major, etc.

Athletic Scholarships- Many, athletes dream of going to college on an athletic scholarship. It's possible to achieve that dream, but these scholarships are highly competitive. About \$1 billion in athletic scholarships are awarded each year. Over 126,000 student-athletes receive a partial or full athletic scholarship to Division I and Division II schools. Division III schools offer only academic scholarships. If you are interested in athletic scholarship information, you will want to visit the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) website at www.ncaa.org. Additional information is available at www.collegesportsscholarships.com.

Academic Scholarships- These merit-based scholarships are awarded by your college for academic achievement. Inquire about these awards at your school's financial aid office.

Departmental Scholarships- Specific departments may have scholarships available to attract students in the department's field of study. If you know what your major will be, contact that department to inquire about scholarships.

Corporation Scholarships- Check for corporation scholarships by checking with your parents' employers for possible programs, researching businesses in your region and searching your newspaper's archives for award announcements. These are often the scholarships that go unawarded for lack of applicants.

Religious Organizations- If you and your family are affiliated with a specific religious group, check with your local group about the availability of scholarships.

Unions- the AFL-CIO website offers a scholarship search service related to union sponsored scholarships that include four million dollars in available funds.

Chamber of Commerce- Chambers often have scholarship programs and they can be great sources of information about which businesses in your community offer scholarships.

Private Organizations- There is thousands of scholarships available, given by organizations who wish to further their mission by supporting the education of students. Students should investigate private organizations. Use a web search engine to identify opportunities.

Researching Scholarship Opportunities

High School- Your College Connections Counselor maintains a scholarship website to help you learn about scholarship opportunities. The scholarship website is updated often, so be sure to check it once a week. The website will include the name of the scholarship, information on how to obtain the application, the criteria and deadline dates. Be sure to read the information closely. If you have questions, contact your College Connections Counselor.

Accessing the College & Career Center's Scholarship Website:

- Go to your high school's homepage
- Click on the "College & Career Center" icon
- Click on "Scholarships"

Internet- The best source of scholarship information is contained on the internet, through a variety of scholarship directory sites. Refer to your Junior / Senior Handbook for a list of popular internet sites.

Books- There is many excellent compendiums of scholarship information available in bookstores and libraries. This is a great addition to your internet search.

Local Newspapers- Search you local newspapers for scholarship announcements

Scholarships



Preparing a Scholarship Application

- Filling out the scholarship applications is a fact of life when seeking scholarships. Unfortunately, there is no generic form. Each scholarship fund has its own methods and information needs. You should plan to spend 10-15 hours per scholarship application. This estimate includes gathering materials, filling out the application and writing the short essay.
- Scholarship applications usually include such components as essays and short-answer questions, extracurricular activity lists, community service/volunteer work in progress or completed transcripts, letters of recommendation, awards and honors, and occasional personal interviews.
 1. The scholarship application introduces you to the scholarship committee. You need to complete your application as business-like as possible. Make copies of the application so that you can create a working draft. Use that draft to complete the final application form. Type the application form if at all possible. Legibility and neatness are extremely important.
 2. Answer every question. If you don't believe that a question applies to you, do not leave it blank or write n/a (not applicable). The evaluators can disqualify you for failing to complete the form. If the question is truly not applicable, write a sentence that describes your situation.
 3. Place the requested documents in the package in the order that they are requested.
Do not staple documents together unless directed to do so. Do not place the application in a special folder unless directed to do so. Follow the directions you are given.
- Remember, the scholarship application is a paper model of you. Make sure your application is professional and compelling.
- Check, check and re-check for typos. It is very hard to proof read your own material. A fresh reader will catch the words you missed and find the spelling errors.



4.

- **Timesaving Strategies:**
 1. Obtain or create a number of copies of materials that will be requested over and over again. Frequently requested documents might include official transcripts, financial aid forms or copies of tax returns, resumes, letters of recommendation or photographs. Keeping these items in a file or binder is helpful.
 2. In most cases, applying for a scholarship means writing an essay. Look for opportunities to use those scholarship essays multiple times. Many scholarships have students write on the same topics.
 3. Keep mailing envelopes and postage stamps with your scholarship supplies. Use an envelope that will hold your application without folding it.
 4. Make a complete copy of the application before you send it. It is always important to have a complete record of everything, in exactly the order it was placed in the envelope.
- **Frequently asked questions about scholarship money:**
 1. **Q:** Where are scholarships used?
A: Scholarships can be used at any accredited two or four year institutions in the United States, however, some scholarships are limited to local schools. Scholarships sponsored by a particular institution are usually valid only at that school.
 2. **Q:** Are there entry fees when applying for scholarships?
A: The vast majority of scholarships do not cost anything to apply. If you come across a scholarship program that requires an entry fee, then proceed with caution. Spring ISD Scholarship websites do not include scholarships which require fees.
 3. **Q:** Is scholarship money taxable?
A: Scholarship money spent on tuition, books, school fees, and other course-related expenses is usually not taxable. As long as you do not spend the money on room and board, clothing, or transportation, you should not owe tax.
 4. **Q:** How are the actual scholarship payments made?
A: Most scholarship checks are paid directly to the school's Business Office. Some scholarships are paid in a lump sum; others are paid at regular intervals over a specified term.

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Date _____

Name: _____ ID#: _____

Last

First

Middle

College(s) applying: _____ Majors: _____

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

(You may use additional paper or attach printout)

1. Which of your accomplishments or talents do you consider exceptional?
2. What's your passion? What intrigues you?
3. In what areas are you a leader inside or outside of the classroom?
4. What are you looking forward to at college? How will the college or university meet your needs? (This could be an academic program, extra-curricular outlet or any other reason that you select the college.)
5. What specific evidence of creative ability have you shown? Have you been personally responsible for any innovations or constructive ideas adopted by your school, church or work?
6. Name three adjectives that describe you and explain each.
7. What has been your most rewarding experience? Are there extenuating circumstances in your life which have affected your grades (illness, death in the family, divorce, move, family problems, etc.)?
8. Discuss financial need (if you are a candidate for financial aid).

WORK EXPERIENCE

Employment	Dates	Hours

****Parent/guardians: (this section is for parents to fill out)**

Parents' Names: _____

1. What motivates your child? How would someone notice this?
2. Explain how your child reacted to any unusual circumstances or situations in the family.
3. What makes you proudest of your child? Anecdote essential!!!!!!
4. Choose 5 or 6 adjectives that best describe your child and explain why you have chosen these adjectives.
5. Describe some of your child's outstanding personality traits.
6. Please add any additional comments about your child that you feel would be pertinent information in a letter of recommendation.

Signature of Parent Completing this form

Scholarship Search Web Sites

[*www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[*www.TuitionFundingSources.com](http://www.TuitionFundingSources.com)

[*www.SchoolSoup.com](http://www.SchoolSoup.com)

[*www.collegefortexans.com](http://www.collegefortexans.com)

[*www.federalfundingsources.com](http://www.federalfundingsources.com)

[*www.studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/2003_2004/english/index.htm](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/2003_2004/english/index.htm)

[*www.truman.gov](http://www.truman.gov)

[*www.jackierobinson.org](http://www.jackierobinson.org)

[*www.marine-scholars.org](http://www.marine-scholars.org)

[*www.target.com](http://www.target.com) (search: scholarships)

[*www.ahcpr.gov/fund/minortrg.htm](http://www.ahcpr.gov/fund/minortrg.htm)

[*www.salliemae.com/planning/scholarships.html](http://www.salliemae.com/planning/scholarships.html)

[*www.aahcpa.org/scholar.htm](http://www.aahcpa.org/scholar.htm)



Tips on Avoiding Scholarship Scams

We've all heard the stories of the "untold millions" of scholarship dollars that supposedly go unclaimed each year.

The truth is such claims are greatly exaggerated.

It's no wonder, in their frantic search for help with rising tuition costs, that students and parents can be an easy mark for scholarship scams. Every year unscrupulous con artists bilk students and families out of hard-earned college savings to the tune of about \$5 million. Too many parents send in phony "application fees" to an out-of-state P.O. Box, only to wait for months and hear nothing. (They will often assume their student just didn't qualify-and rarely suspect they've been had.)

Rule of thumb: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Use your common sense in evaluating any organization or offer.

First, families should be clear on the difference between a "search company"-one that offers to help students identify scholarships for which they may be eligible - and an actual foundation that has money to offer directly to students. Legitimate foundations rarely charge applicants, and if they do it's a minimal fee.

Here are some examples of scholarship scams:

Exclusive scholarship info! If a service claims to have "exclusive" information-not available anywhere else-it's almost certainly a fiction. In fact, the vast majority of financial aid comes from the federal government and from universities themselves. Those private foundations and organizations that do offer scholarships are most eager to spread the word, and thereby attract the best candidates-so they have no interest in keeping secrets.

No work-free money for college! Another red flag is any offer or service that claims it will do "all the work" for applicants. Any legitimate scholarship offer wants to hear from the student him- or herself, and that means filling out paperwork, writing a letter or essay, etc. There is simply no way around it. (And it's only fair for students to work a little bit for their money!)

Scholarship Guaranteed! If a service claims that it can guarantee students a scholarship, this is simply not true. Money-back guarantees are a common feature of scholarship scams; only the fine print reveals a list of virtually impossible stipulations in the event you want to reclaim your money. Every true scholarship has some parameters: grade point average, professional interest, volunteer service, club affiliation, etc. So if a service claims it can obtain funds for anyone, they're not being honest.

You've been selected! Unsolicited offers are always suspect and any notification that comes over the phone is almost sure to be a scam. If a student receives information he or she has not requested, they should absolutely investigate by:

- asking how the organization received their name,
- making some follow-up phone calls,
- conducting an online search,
- and/or contacting their school's guidance or financial aid office-before handing over any personal information or "processing" fees.

Application fees. As a general rule, you shouldn't have to pay more than postage to apply for a scholarship. Families should bear in mind that legitimate scholarship information is freely available to those who take the time and effort to conduct their own search. When in doubt, they should not hesitate to ask questions. If the organization is aboveboard, then at the least some information like a physical address or telephone listing for the company should be available and verifiable. Families should particularly beware of P.O. boxes, especially in Florida and California where a disproportionate number of these fraudulent organizations are located.

"Advance-Fee" Loans. Check carefully if a student receives an offer for an unusually low-interest educational loan, charging him or her an up-front fee before the loan will be approved or disbursed. Real loans will deduct their processing fees from the student's check when they send it. Families should be suspicious especially if they don't recognize the lender's name. Before filling out any paperwork, it's worth showing the offer to their local bank officer for a professional opinion.

"Free Seminar" or candidate interview. This is often a glorified sales pitch for a financial aid or scholarship consulting service, or a pricey student loan.

The best advice for applicants is to trust their instincts. They should by all means request offers, and cancellation and refund policies in writing before sending any money or personal information; read all the fine print; and, most importantly, keep good records. The following organizations can help you decide if an offer is legitimate. They will tell you whether they have received any complaints about the company, or whether the company is currently under investigation. Look for these organizations online or call for more information:

- Better Business Bureau (BBB) in the city where the scholarship service is located
- Federal Trade Commission, 1-877-FTC-HELP or www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams
- State bureau of consumer protection
- State attorney general's office
- National Fraud Information Center (NFIC), www.fraud.org
- For more information about scholarship scams, visit www.finaid.org.

Spanish Version Web Sites for Students and Families

These websites will help Spanish Speaking students and their parents plan for the student's future beyond graduation.

Web sites

ACT: Here you will find information on college admissions, college testing, and college planning: <http://www.act.org/path/spanish/>

COLLEGE BOARD: You will find financial aid information, college information, and college testing information:

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/counseling/newsletters/spanish>

ADVENTURES IN EDUCATION: Here you find information about financial aid, college planning, scholarships: <http://www.aie.org/Spanish/HighSchool/index.cfm>

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid:

http://studentaid.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/fundingedubeyondhighschoolSp_0809.pdf

College for Texans: College Planning website for any Texan wanting to attend post-secondary education: <http://www.collegefortexans.com/index.cfm?objectid=643CABA6-E7FF-13DA-5704A46>

Resources for Students with Disabilities

These are resources that students with a disability can access to gain valuable college, testing, and future planning information.

Websites

COLLEGE BOARD: Information on PSAT, SAT, and AP Tests:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/disable/counsel/html/indx.html>

CLE: College for Students with disabilities: <http://www.experiencecle.com/>

COLLEGE FOR TEXANS: College planning website for any Texan with a disability wanting to attend post-secondary education:

<http://www.collegefortexans.com/getting/Disability.cfm>

Yearly Planner for College Bound Students

8TH GRADE CHECKLIST

1. Student maintains good grades
2. Student works closely with guidance counselor on four year plan for high school courses
3. Student takes Career Survey
4. Student becomes/continues involvement in school organizations/clubs/sports.
5. Family and/or student volunteers in their neighborhood/school/church/community (keep track of volunteer hours/dates)
6. Student creates a filing system for "Beyond Graduation" with folders labeled: Colleges, Careers, Scholarship Opportunities, Community Service/Volunteer Documents, Organizations/Club/Sports, letters of Recommendation, Awards/Honors.

9TH GRADE CHECKLIST

1. Student maintains good grades
2. Student works closely with guidance counselor on four year plan for high school courses
3. Student becomes involved/continues involvement in school organizations/clubs/sports.
4. Family and/or student volunteers in their neighborhood/school/church/community (keep track of volunteer hours/dates)
5. Student maintains filing system for "Beyond Graduation" (See 8th grade checklist, last item)

10TH GRADE CHECKLIST

1. Student maintains good grades
2. Student works closely with guidance counselor on taking courses to prepare for college.
3. Student becomes/continues involvement in school organizations/clubs/sports.
4. Family and/or student volunteers in their neighborhood/school/church/community (keep track of volunteer hours/dates)
5. Student registers for the PSAT and PLAN in September.
6. Student takes the PSAT and PLAN in October.
7. Student discusses results from the PSAT and PLAN with counselor.
8. Student & parent attend College Night in the fall.
9. Student continues to update file folders for "Beyond Graduation" (See 8th grade checklist, last item)
10. Student & parent attend Career Fairs in the Houston Area (check the local newspapers).

11TH GRADE CHECKLIST

1. Student maintains good/excellent grades during junior year.
2. Student works closely with guidance counselor regarding optimal course selection for senior year.
3. Student selects challenging courses that will help prepare student for college level math and English.
4. Student & parent attend College Night in the fall. Student sends reply cards to universities and colleges.
5. Student registers/takes PSAT in the fall for the second time, discuss results with counselor.
6. Student researches colleges/universities through: internet, checking out materials from the College/Career Center, calling/writing colleges to request an admissions packet.
7. Student and parent begin checking into admission requirements, tuition, housing, and scholarship opportunities for each college/university the student possibly wants to attend.
8. Student visits the College & Career Center monthly to: take career interest surveys, research colleges and careers, check out materials, and research scholarship opportunities for juniors by going to the WHS College & Career website at www.springisd.org/westfield and click on Scholarships icon.
9. Student begins listing ideas for possible "majors" in college.
10. Students obtain list of scholarship websites at the College & Career Center website or from other sources. Student becomes familiar with these sites to see if juniors may apply and/or to file in their "Scholarship Opportunities" folder for when they are seniors.
11. Student continues to update file folders for "Beyond Graduation" (See 8th grade checklist, last item)
12. Student takes an SAT prep course in the fall.
13. Student registers for and takes the SAT and/or ACT in the spring.
14. Student continues involvement in school organizations/clubs/sports. Student should try to become an officer in at least one club.

15. Family and/or student continue volunteering in their neighborhood/school/church/community (keep track of volunteer hours/dates)
16. Student should think of "innovative" ways that THEY can make a difference in their community/world and consider acting on their idea(s).
17. Student & parent attend Career Fairs in the Houston Area (check the local newspapers).
18. Student attends the WHS Career Fair fieldtrip in the spring.
19. Parent attends the "Helping Your Junior Prepare for College" parent information night in the spring.
20. Parents are cautious of scholarship scams by phone and mail!!

SUMMER BETWEEN 11TH AND 12TH GRADE CHECKLIST

1. Student and parent tour college/university campuses.
2. Student practices completing college admission, based on last year's application & essay topics.
3. Student begins listing people they want to write their letters of recommendation and completes the "Information for Letter of Recommendation" form.
4. Student continues to research college & scholarship opportunities via the internet.
5. Student verifies that courses selected for senior year will meet college admission requirements and help prepare for college level math and English.
6. Parents are cautious of scholarship scams by phone and mail!!

12th Grade Checklist

1. Student maintains good/excellent grades during senior year.
2. Student works closely with their guidance counselor.
3. Student requests an unofficial copy of their transcript in the fall to understand their GPA, class rank and class quartile.
4. Student requests letters of recommendation to be written by teachers, counselor and/or other non-family members. Student must allow 2-3 weeks for letters of recommendation to be completed.
5. Student compares their GPA and SAT and/or ACT scores to the college admission requirements for the school they hope to attend.
6. Students wanting to improve their SAT and/or ACT score: Register to retake the test in the fall and have the scores sent directly to the colleges.
7. Student and parent attend College Night. Try to concentrate on a few colleges/universities that offer your major.
8. Visit the College & Career Center weekly. Make sure you are on track and taking ALL the necessary steps.
9. Read the senior newsletter "Beyond Graduation" and check the Senior Calendar and Scholarship Opportunities online at the College & Career Center website www.springisd.org/westfield.
10. Apply, apply, and apply for scholarship opportunities. Obtain updated information on the website at least weekly!
11. Student decides the colleges/universities to which they will apply. Student sends all the necessary paperwork: applications, fees, SAT and/or ACT scores, official transcript, essay(s) and letters of recommendation. Colleges favor those who send the applications in early!
12. Students have their essay proofread by their English teachers or others BEFORE mailing the essay with their application.
13. Student goes to the website(s) for the colleges/universities to which they are applying: look for Open House dates, designated scholarship opportunities, special events for incoming freshmen, and much more!
14. Student keeps a calendar listing important deadline dates: application deadlines, financial aid deadlines, and scholarship deadlines.
15. Parent and student complete and submit the FAFSA and other financial aid papers by mid-February. Financial aid is offered on a "first come / first need" basis.
16. Parent attends the Financial Aid Workshop in January at WHS.
17. Student makes sure that the Financial Aid office at each college has received all necessary information.
18. Student receives acceptance letters in spring. Student decides which college/university to attend, and mails non-refundable freshman tuition deposits.
19. Student checks with counselor to see if they are THEA exempt. If student is not exempt, student registers and takes the THEA test in the spring.
20. Parents are cautious of scholarship scams by phone and mail!!

Month-to-Month Planner for High School Juniors

College is Closer than You Think.

September

- Be sure you are enrolled in classes required by the [RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM](#) or the [DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM](#) to help make sure you're ready for college-level courses and to improve your chances for a [TEXAS Grant](#).
- Get a Social Security Number (SSN) if you don't already have one. You will need it to apply for college and financial aid. Apply for an SSN by visiting or calling your local Social Security Administration Office.
- Consider taking an SAT course to prepare for the upcoming SATs
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

October

Start looking through college catalogs and guidebooks, and/or visit college web sites. A good source of information is our [List of Higher Education Institutions in Texas](#). If you're interested in colleges or universities in other states, visit our [Online Library](#) for links to specific college and college-related web sites.

- Put together a list of 10 colleges you would like to attend.
- Plan to apply to three or more colleges or universities.
- Discuss with your parents and counselor where you want to go to college.
- Attend college night **Monday the 6th** at Spring High School
- Take the [PSAT/NMSQT](#) test **Wednesday the 15th**
- Take ASVAB exam
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

November

- Look at college guide catalogs in your College & Career Center, the library, or on web sites.
- Request catalogs, admissions requirements, and financial aid information from colleges.
- Start planning to take the [SAT I and/or SAT II](#) exams, if necessary. You may also need to take the [ACT](#) test. Ask your high school counselor about registration deadlines or visit a web site.
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

December/January

- Talk to college students who attend the college or university in which you're interested.
- Plan to take the SAT this spring. These scores are needed for early admission and fall application deadlines.
- Take the ASVAB if not taken in October
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

February/March

- Take the exit-level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills
- Register and study for SAT/ACT exams
- Plan a college visit during Spring Break
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

April

- Ask your College Connection Counselor about the Early Admission (Early Decision) plan offered by some colleges
- If you are enrolled in Advanced Placement courses, take [Advanced Placement \(AP\)](#) tests.
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

May

- Ask your English teacher for a summer reading list, and read those books
- Take summer courses if your counselor or the college has suggested doing so
- Take AP exams
- Take SAT/ACT exams
- Student verifies that course selection for senior year will meet graduation requirements, college admissions and help prepare for college level math and English
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

June-August

- Schedule visits to each of the schools on your final list, if possible. Contact the admissions office to schedule a campus tour.
- Research a community college, a Texas state technical college or a private (independent) college or university website to determine the application process. You can find applications for many Texas independent (private) colleges and

universities online at www.texasmentor.org(Your Guide to Texas Private Colleges)

- Review the applications to learn what information you need to gather before your busy senior year begins.
- Some institutions require essays as part of your admission application. Start working on yours now.
- Take the SAT/ACT if you have not already done so
- Obtain a summer job that might be related to your career interest
- Save money if possible to help cover college cost
- Look for volunteer opportunities (DSG)
- Begin working on **RESUME**
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities
- You're a **SENIOR!!!**

Graduating Class of



Taking care of Business...

Month-to-Month Planner for High School Seniors

One Year to Go — Make It Count.

September

- Ask your College Connections Counselor for information on college entrance exams, SAT/ACT, and register to take the appropriate test(s).
- Request unofficial copy of transcript to understand GPA, class rank, and quartile.
- The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) will be given several times during the year. Take the exit-level TAKS Test if you have not already taken it, or retake any sections that you have not passed.
- Use the Texas Common Application for Admission if you are applying to one of the 35 public universities in Texas, apply online at www.ApplyTexas.org : complete the application once and send it directly to as many of these public universities as you choose.
- If you plan to apply to a public community or technical college, apply online at college website directly for an application. You can also find applications for many out of state independent (private) colleges and universities online at www.commonapplication.com
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

October

- Keep track of the [application deadlines](#). Start thinking about admission essays if required at the institutions to which you are applying. Write a rough draft.
- Have essay proof read by your English teacher or others
- Request letters of recommendation to be written by teachers, counselors, and/or non family members (allow 2 to 3 weeks for letter to be completed). Be sure to thank the individuals for their help.
- Attend College Night **Monday the 6th** at Spring High School- Concentrate on the colleges that offer your major
- Take the ASVAB
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

November

- If the college you are applying to has a December deadline (deadlines vary), complete your admission application. Give the teachers who are writing letters of recommendation stamped, addressed envelopes for mailing your reference letters.
- Visit www.pin.edu.gov and request personal identification number (PIN) for student and parent-needed to complete your FAFSA form in January
- Take fall college visit day

- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

December

- Check all deadlines for early application and scholarships
- Make sure all of your school records and test scores are sent on time
- Call to verify that the college or university received your materials.
- If the college(s) to which you are applying have later deadlines, go ahead and finish preparing application materials.
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

January

- Make sure your application files are complete
- Check with the admissions office to find out if more information is needed
- Apply for financial aid; complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.FAFSA.ed.gov. You may also call 1-800-4FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). You can't apply before January 1, but plan to submit the FAFSA as soon **after January 1**. The sooner you submit your FAFSA, the better your chance for a good financial aid package. If you and your parents need help with these forms, contact the college or university financial aid office. **Important note for your parents:** Prepare your IRS tax return early. Attend financial aid workshop at Spring, Westfield and Wunsche
- Take the ASVAB
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

February

- Students must take a basic skills test before enrolling in a Texas public college or university. This test is **not** used to decide admission, but shows which students need to improve their reading, writing or math skills. Students who need help are directed to developmental education courses or other activities to make sure they are prepared for college-level courses
- Take spring college visit day
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

March

- Continue sending requested information for your college
- If your college requires you to have a physical exam or immunizations before you can register for classes, make an appointment for an exam with a doctor and take the appropriate forms from the college.

- Attend the district financial aid hands-on workshop
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

April

- By the end of the month, the college(s) to which you are applying should have received your applications, letters, test results, and other information. Check to confirm that they have received all of the materials. The application process is over, and the waiting begins. You should receive word on acceptance by the end of the month
- Students start receiving acceptance letters and scholarship offers (make sure you bring copies of these letters to the college & career center)
- Register to take appropriate AP exams
- Make final college decision. Many colleges subscribe to a May 1st candidate reply date
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities

May/June

- Acceptance letters are arriving. Some colleges will ask you to accept or decline an offer of admission. Inform the college you have chosen and say you plan to attend. Also, write to other colleges that accepted you and tell them you will not attend so they can offer admission to another student.
- Take AP exam
- The college you have chosen will send you more information on orientation dates, housing deposits, course schedules, and information on enrolling. For more tips on calendars and deadlines, check out the [College Board's Planning Calendars](#).
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check the College & Career Center website weekly for additional scholarship opportunities
- ***Graduation!!! 2009***

July/August

- Work and save money to help with college expenses
- Attend Freshman orientation
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify.
- Prepare to embark upon your College Career



GRADUATING CLASS OF 2009



TIME TO SHINE....

College Glossary

A

Accelerated program. A college program of study completed in less time than is usually required, most often by attending classes in the summer or by taking extra courses during the regular academic terms. Completion of a bachelor's degree program in three years is an example of acceleration.

Accreditation. A process that ascertains that a college meets acceptable standards in its programs, facilities, and services. Colleges are not required to seek accreditation but most do, and some are accredited by both regional and specialized accrediting bodies. Programs within a college, such as engineering or business, may be accredited as well. Accreditation alone is not a guarantee of high standards, but the lack of accreditation may be a warning that credits from that institution would not transfer to other institutions.

Act assessment. Test battery of ACT, Inc., given at test centers in the United States and other countries on specified dates throughout the year. It includes test in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. As of February 2005, there will be an optional writing component.

Admit-deny. A policy whereby a college admits students through a need-blind process but denies financial aid to some students even though they qualify.

Advanced placement. Admission or assignment of a first-year college student to an advanced course in a certain subject on the basis of evidence that he or she has already completed the equivalent of the college's course in that subject.

Advanced Placement Program® (AP®). A program of the College Board that provides high schools with course descriptions of college subjects and end-of-course examinations in those subjects. The AP Program offers 34 exams in 19 subject areas. High schools offer the courses and administer the examinations to interested students, who are then eligible for advanced placement, college credit, or both on the basis of satisfactory test scores. Most colleges and universities in the United States accept qualifying AP Exam scores for credit, advanced placement, or both.

Articulation agreement. A formal agreement between two higher education institutions, stating specific policies relating to transfer and recognition of academic achievement, to facilitate the successful transfer of students without duplication of course work.

Associate degree. A degree granted by a college or university after the satisfactory completion of a two-year, full-time program of study or its part-time equivalent. In general, the associate of arts (A.A.) or associate of science (A.S.) degree is granted after students complete a program of study similar to the first two years of a four-year college curriculum. The associate in applied science (A.A.S.) is awarded by many colleges on completion of technological or vocational programs of study.

Award letter. A means of notifying aid recipients of the financial assistance being offered by the college/university. The award letter provides information on the types and amount of aid offered, as well as specific program information, students' responsibilities, and the conditions that govern the awards. Generally, the award letter gives students the opportunity to accept or decline the aid offered. The letter includes a deadline by which to respond.

B

Bachelor's degree. A degree received after the satisfactory completion of a four- or five-year, full-time program of study (or its part-time equivalent) at a college or university. The bachelor of arts (B.A.) and the bachelor of science (B.S.) are the most common bachelor's degrees. In general, a program of study that results in a B.A. requires more liberal arts courses than one resulting in a B.S. College catalogs describe the types of degrees awarded in each major.

Budget. The estimated cost of attendance at a college or university. The cost usually includes tuition and fees (including loan fees), books and supplies, room and board, personal expenses, and transportation. Other living expenses may be included.

C

Campus-based programs. The Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant Program, the Federal Perkins Loan Program, and the Federal Work-Study Program. These three programs are called "campus based" because the funds are administered directly by the college's financial aid office, which awards these funds to students using federal guidelines.

Candidates Reply Date Agreement (CRDA).

A college Board-sponsored arrangement under which the subscribing institutions will not require any applicants offered admission as first-year undergraduates to notify the college of their decision to attend for to accept an offer of financial aid before May 1 of the year the applicants apply. The purpose of this agreement is to give applicants time to hear from all the colleges to which they have applied before having to make a commitment to any of them.

CB code. A four-digit College Board number that student use to designate colleges or scholarship programs to receive their SAT® score reports.

Certificate. An award for completing a particular program of course of study, sometimes given by two-year colleges or vocational or technical schools.

Church-related college. A private college that is financially supported and whose policies are influenced to a degree by a church.

Class rank. The relative numeric position of a student in his or her graduating class, as determined by the secondary school. Rank is calculated according to grade point average and/or other measures of scholastic achievement.

College Board/CollegeCredit® Education

Loans. An array of government and private loans sponsored by the College Board. The Federal Stafford Loan, the Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students, and privately sponsored Signature Student Education and Private Parent loans are available.

College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP®).

A series of examinations in undergraduate courses that provides students of any age an opportunity to demonstrate college-level achievement, thereby reducing costs and time to degree completion. The examinations,

which are sponsored by the College Board, are administered at colleges year-round. All CLEP exams are delivered on computer, providing test-takers instant score results.

College Scholarship Service® (CSS®). *See* CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®.

Combined bachelor's/graduate degree. A program in which students complete a bachelor's degree and a master's degree or first-professional degree in less than the usual amount of time. In most programs, students apply to undergraduate study, and begin the graduate program in their fourth year of college. Successful completion results in awarding of both bachelor's and graduate degrees. At some colleges this option is called a joint-degree program.

Common application. A standard application form distributed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to colleges that are subscribers to the Common Application Group.

Community/junior college. A college offering a two-year program rather than a four-year program. A junior college usually offers vocational programs as well as the first two years of a four-year program. A student in the vocational program usually goes directly into a vocation after graduation, while a student in the academic program transfers to a four-year institution.

Consortium. The joining of several colleges and universities within close geographical proximity. The advantages of attending a college that is a member of a consortium are that students have the resources of many libraries, they have the chance to take courses not available at their own college, and they can take advantage of many combined cultural and educational opportunities.

Cooperative education. A program that provides for alternative class attendance and

employment in business, industry, or government. Students are typically paid for their work. Under a cooperative plan, five years are normally required for completion of a bachelor's degree, but graduates have the advantage of about a year's practical work experience in addition to their studies.

Core Curriculum. A group of courses, in varied areas of the arts and sciences, designated by a college as one of the requirements for a degree. Some colleges have both core curriculum requirements and general education requirements.

Cost of attendance (also known as cost of education or budget). A number of expenses, including tuition and fees, books and supplies, and student's living expenses while attending school. The cost of attendance is estimated by the school, within guidelines established by federal regulation. The cost of attendance is compared with the student's expected family contribution to determine the student's need for financial aid.

Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA). A federal income tax provision formerly referred to as the Education ERA that enables taxpayers to establish a college savings plan. A maximum of \$2,000 may be contributed annually to the account on a tax-free basis. The annual eligible amount is determined according to income and taxpayer status.

Credit by examination. Academic credit granted by a college to entering students who have demonstrated proficiency in college-level studies through examinations such as those sponsored by the College Board's Advanced Placement program and College-Level Examination Program®. It is a means of cutting college costs by reducing the number of courses needed to earn a degree.

Cross-registration. The practice, through agreements between colleges, of permitting

students enrolled at one college or university to enroll in courses at another institution without formally applying for admission to the second institution.

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®. A Web-based application service offered by the College Board and used by some colleges, universities, and private scholarship programs to award their private financial aid funds. Students register for and complete the PROFILE at the College Board Web site: www.collegeboard.com. CSS® provides a customized application for each registrant, based on the student's registration information and the requirements of the colleges and programs to which she or he is seeking aid. Students complete the online application and supplements, if required. CSS processes and reports the application data to institutions. CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE is not a federal form and may not be used to apply for federal student aid. Students pay a fee to register for PROFILE, and for the reports sent to institutions and programs that use it.

D

Deferred admission. The practice of permitting students to postpone enrollment, usually for one year, after acceptance to college.

Dependent student. For financial aid purposes, the status that includes students who are under the age of 24, attend an undergraduate program, are not married or have children of their own, or are not orphans, wards of the court, or veterans of the armed services. The term is used to define eligibility for certain financial aid programs, regardless of whether or not the student lives with a parent, or is claimed on a parent's tax return. If a student is defined as dependent according to the definition, parental financial information must be supplied on the Free Application of Federal Student aid and institutional aid applications.

Direct loan program. See William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program.

Distance Learning. An option for earning course credit off-campus via cable television, internet, satellite classes, videotapes, correspondence courses, or other means.

Double major. Any program in which a student completes the requirements of two majors concurrently.

Dual enrollment. The practice in which a student earns college credit while still in high school.

E

Early Action (EA). A program in which the student receives a decision earlier than the standard response date but is not required to accept the admissions offer or to make a deposit before May 1.

Early admission. The policy of some colleges of admitting certain students who have not completed high school—usually students of exceptional ability who have completed their junior year. These students are enrolled fulltime in college.

Early Decision (ED). A program that commits participating students to enroll at the college if admitted and offered a satisfactory financial aid package. Application deadlines are usually in November or December, with a mid-to-late December notification date. Some colleges have two rounds of Early Decision.

Early Decision Plan Agreement (EDPA). A College Board-sponsored program in which the participating institutions agree to follow a schedule for Early Decision applicants. A student applying under EDPA must withdraw application from all other colleges as soon as he or she is notified of acceptance by the first-

choice college. Applications (including financial aid application) must be received by a specified date no later than November 15, and the college agrees to notify the applicant by a specified date no later than December 15.

Elective. A course, not required for one's chosen major, that is selected to fulfill credit hours required for graduation.

Expected family contribution (EFC). The total amount students and their families are expected to pay toward college costs from their income and assets for one academic year. The amount is derived from a need analysis of the family's overall financial circumstances. The Federal Methodology is used to determine a student's eligibility for federal and state student aid. Colleges and private aid programs may use a different methodology to determine eligibility for nonfederal financial aid.

F

FAFSA. *See* Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

FAFSA on the Web. An electronic option for completing the Free Application for Federal Student aid (www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students".

Federal code number. A six-digit number (formerly known as Title IV number) that identifies a specific college to which students want their Free Application for Federal Student Aid form submitted.

Federal family Education Loan Program (FFELP). The subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan, Federal parent Loan for Undergraduate Students, and Federal Loan Consolidation programs. Funds for these programs are provided by lenders, and the loans are guaranteed by the federal government.

Federal methodology (FM). The process of analyzing the student's household and financial information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to calculate an expected family contribution and eligibility for federal and state aid.

Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS). A program that permits parents of undergraduate students to borrow up to the full cost of education, less any other financial aid the student may have received. The interest rate is variable and is reset each July.

Federal Pell Grant Program. A federally funded program based on need, administered by colleges, that provides low-interest rates loans of up to \$4,000 per year during undergraduate study and up to \$20,000 for the total undergraduate program. The combined cumulative total of loan funds available to an individual for undergraduate and graduate education in \$40,000. Repayment need not begin until completion of the student's education or after limited periods of service in the military, Peace Corps, or approved comparable organizations.

Federal Stafford Loan. A program, based on need, that allows students to borrow money for educational expenses directly from banks and other lending institutions (sometimes from the

colleges themselves). The amounts that may be borrowed depend on the student's year in school. Interest rates are variable. Loan limits are the same for borrowers of an unsubsidized federal Stafford Loan, and for borrowers of a combination subsidized/unsubsidized loan.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program (FSEOG). A federal program, administered by colleges, that provides grants from \$100 to \$4,000 a year for undergraduate students on the basis of exceptional financial need. The institution determines the amount to which the student is entitled.

Federal Work-Study Program. A form of financial assistance that allows students to work in on- or off-campus employment sites while attending school. The wages earned are used to help pay the student's educational costs for the academic year. Job opportunities vary from campus to campus.

Financial aid award letter. A notice from a college or other financial aid sponsor that tells the applicant how much aid is being offered. The award letter also usually explains how the financial need was determined, describes the contents of the financial aid package, and outlines any conditions attached to the award.

Financial need. The amount by which the family contribution falls short of covering a student's expense budget. Assessments of need may differ, depending on the need-analysis methodology used. The Federal Methodology is used to determine the student's eligibility for federal and state financial aid. Many private schools use the Institutional Methodology to determine the need for their private sources of funds. (*See also* Expected family contribution.)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). A form completed by all applicants for federal student aid. The FAFSA is available on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. In many states, completion of the FAFSA is also

sufficient to establish eligibility for state-sponsored aid programs. There is no charge to students for completing the FAFSA. Forms are widely available in high schools and colleges, and may be filed any time after January 1 of the year for which one is seeking aid.

G

Gapping. A practice by which a college does not meet the full financial need of an admitted student, leaving a gap that must be filled by the student's own financial resources.

GEAR UP. The acronym for the federal early awareness initiative for middle school students entitled Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs.

General Educational Development (GED). A series of five tests that individuals who did not complete high school may take through their state education system to qualify for a high school equivalency certificate. The tests cover correctness and effectiveness of expression, interpretation of reading materials in the natural sciences and the social sciences, interpretation of literary materials, and general mathematics ability. Many colleges accept satisfactory GED test results in lieu of high school graduation. Some colleges require home-schooled students to take the GED.

General Education requirements. Courses that give undergraduates a background in all major academic disciplines: natural sciences, social sciences, mathematics, literature and language, and fine arts. Most colleges have general education requirements-students usually take these courses in their first and second years, getting the chance to sample a wide range of courses before selecting a major. Students generally choose from a variety of appropriate courses and take (for example) biology or chemistry or astronomy. At some colleges, general education courses are referred to as the core curriculum; at others, a few

courses within the general education requirements are core courses that all students must take.

Gift aid. Scholarships and grants, which do not have to be repaid.

Grade point average (GPA). A system used by many schools for evaluating the overall scholastic performance of students. Grade points are determined by first multiplying the number of credit hours given for a course by the numerical value of the grade and then dividing the sum of all grade points by the total number of hours carried. The most common system of numerical values for grades is A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, and E or F = 0. Also called a quality point average ratio.

Grant. *See* scholarship.

H

HOPE education tax credit. A federal income tax credit of as much as \$1,500 per dependent student annually. It is available to eligible taxpayers based on out-of-pocket tuition and fee expenditures, according to income eligibility guidelines.

I

Independent student. For financial aid purposes, the status that generally includes students who are either at least 24 years old, married, a veteran, an orphan, or have legal dependents (not including spouse). Independent students do not need to provide parental information to be considered for federal financial aid programs. However, private institutions may require independent students to provide parental information on their institutional forms in order to be considered for nonfederal sources of funding.

Institutional Methodology (IM). A need-analysis formula that takes into account family assets, such as home equity, to determine a family's expected contribution.

Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR). A federal output record, sent to the school, that contains the expected family contribution and all the information provided by the student on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

International Baccalaureate (IB). A comprehensive and rigorous two-year curriculum (usually taken in the final two years of high school) that is similar to the final year of secondary school in Europe. Some colleges award credit or advanced placement to students who have completed an IB program.

Internship. Any short-term, supervised work, usually related to a student's major, for which academic credit is earned. The work can be full- or part-time, on or off campus, paid or unpaid. Some majors require the student to complete an internship.

L

Lifetime Learning tax credit. A federal income tax credit of as much as \$1,000 per household annually. It is available to eligible taxpayers based on out-of-pocket tuition and fee expenditures, according to income eligibility guidelines.

M

Matriculation. The process whereby a student is accepted, pays fees, and enrolls in classes, officially becoming a student at the college. This term is applied only to first-year student and to a transfer student's first enrollment.

Military Academies. *See* U.S. Service academies.

MyRoad™. The College Board's premier Internet guidance solution, part of collegeboard.com. MyRoad™ is a personalized and comprehensive guidance solution that helps students explore and research college majors, colleges, and careers, incorporating a validated assessment called the ORA Personality Profiler into the guidance experience. MyRoad also provides complete guidance solutions for schools, including a secure environment for counselors called Counselor's Corner in which professionals can follow a student's progress and interests.

N

National Hispanic recognition Program. A College Board program that identifies outstanding Hispanic high school students and shares information about these academically well-prepared students with subscribing colleges and universities. In order to be considered, students must be at least one-quarter Hispanic and take the PSAT/NMSQT® in their junior year.

NCAA Clearinghouse. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) requires all prospective student athletes to register with its central clearinghouse. The clearinghouse determines an incoming freshman's eligibility to participate in Division I and Division II college sports. Requirements for eligibility and registration can be found at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

Need analysis. The process of analyzing the student's household and financial information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to calculate the expected family contribution and student's eligibility for financial aid.

Need-analysis form. The starting point in applying for financial aid. All students must file the federally sponsored Free Application for Federal Student Aid to apply for federal financial aid programs. For many colleges, this may be the only need-analysis form students file. For other schools, particularly private colleges, additional forms, such as the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE, may be required. For students applying for state financial aid programs, the FAFSA may be adequate, but students should check with their state agency to find out if other application forms are required.

Need-based financial aid. Financial aid (scholarships, grants, loans, or work-study opportunities) given to students who have demonstrated financial need, calculated by subtracting the student's expected family contribution from a college's total costs. The EFC is derived from a need analysis of the family's overall financial circumstances, using either the Federal Methodology to determine a student's eligibility for federal student aid, or the Institutional Methodology to determine eligibility for non federal financial aid.

Need blind. A college policy of determining admission without regard to a student's financial need or financial aid status.

Need conscious. A college policy that considers student need or financial aid status for at least some portion of its applicant pool in making admissions decisions.

O

Open admissions. A college admissions policy of admitting high school graduates, and other adults generally, without regard to conventional academic qualifications, such as attainment of high school subjects, good high school grades, and acceptable admission test scores. Under open admissions, virtually all applicants with

high school diplomas or their equivalent are accepted.

P

Parents' contribution. The amount a student's parents are expected to pay toward college costs from their income and assets. It is derived from need analysis of the parents' overall financial situation. The parents' contribution and the student's contribution together constitute the total family contribution, which, when subtracted from the college expense budget, equals the student's financial aid equal to their financial need.

Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students. *See* Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students.

Personal Identification Number (PIN). This number, sometimes determined by an institution, sometimes self-selected, is used to protect the student's personal and financial security when performing electronic transactions and completing electronic forms. The PIN acts as an electronic signature and therefore should not be shared with anyone. Both FAFSA and NCAA Clearinghouse require students to have PINs before registering through their Web sites.

Placement test. A battery of tests designed to assess a student's aptitude and level of achievement in various academic areas so that he/she can select the most appropriate courses.

PLAN. A pre-ACT test, generally administered in the fall of the sophomore year, that consists of four curriculum-based achievement tests (English, reading, science, and math) and a four-part survey section.

Preferential packaging. A policy that awards financial aid based on a student's desirability. A more desirable student may receive a higher

percentage of grants and scholarships the financial aid package than another student who demonstrates the same financial need.

Prerequisite. A requirement that must be met before a certain course can be taken.

Private college/university. An institution of higher education not supported by taxes. The school or other public funds may be independent or church related.

PROFILE Online. An electronic application option available for students required to complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. By connecting to collegeboard.com, students can choose to register for a paper PROFILE application or complete the entire application online.

Proprietary college. A private institution operated by its owners as a profit-making enterprise.

PSAT/NMSQT® (Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test). A shorter version of the SAT, with a diagnostic component providing skills feedback. Administered by high schools to sophomores and juniors each year in October, the PSAT/NMSQT aids high schools in the early guidance of students planning for college and serves as the qualifying test for scholarships awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Public college/university. An institution of higher education supported by taxes or other public funds.

Q

quarter. An academic calendar period of about 12 weeks. Four quarters make up an academic year, but at colleges using the quarter system, students make normal academic progress by attending three quarters each year. In some colleges, students can accelerate their progress by attending all four quarters in one or more years.

R

Remedial course. A noncredit course taken to help students with weak backgrounds in a particular area. The course prepares the student for a credit course in that area.

Renewal FAFSA. A simplified reapplication form for continuing students. The Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid allows the student to update the financial information and other items that have changed from the previous year's FAFSA, rather than completing the entire FAFSA for each award year.

Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). Programs conducted by certain colleges in cooperation with the U.S. Air Force, Army, and Navy. Naval ROTC includes the Marine Corps (the Coast Guard and Merchant Marine do not sponsor ROTC programs). Local recruiting offices of the services themselves can supply detailed information about these programs, as can participating colleges.

Residency requirements. Requirements, at most colleges and universities, that a student spend a minimum number of terms taking courses on campus (as opposed to independent study, transfer credits from other colleges, or credit-by-examination) to be eligible for graduation. Residency requirements can also refer to the minimum amount of time a student is required to have lived in a state to be eligible

for in-state tuition at a public (state controlled) college or university.

Rolling admissions. An admissions procedure by which the college considers each student's application as soon as all the required credentials, such as such school record and test scores, have been received. The college usually notifies an applicant of its decision without delay. At many colleges, rolling admissions allow for early notification and works much like nonbinding Early Action programs.

S

SAT. The College Board's test of developed language skills and mathematical reasoning abilities, given on specified dates throughout the year at test centers in the United States and other countries. The SAT is required by many colleges and sponsors of financial aid programs.

SAT Question-and-Answer Service. A service of the College Board that provides students with a copy of their SAT test, their answers and the correct answers, scoring instructions, and information about the questions. The service is available only for certain test dates and a fee is charged for this service.

SAT Subject Tests. College Board tests in specific subjects, given at test center in the United States and other countries on specified dates throughout the year. The tests are used by colleges not only to help with decisions about admissions but also to assist in course placement and exemption of enrolled first-year students.

Scholarship or grant. A type of financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid. Grants are often based on financial need. Scholarships may be based on need, on need combined with other

criteria, or solely on other criteria, such as academic achievement, artistic ability, and talent in the performing arts.

Section 529 plans. State-sponsored college savings programs that are commonly referred to as “529 Plans” after the section of the Internal Revenue Code that provides the plan’s tax breaks.

Self-help. Student financial aid, such as loans and jobs, that requires repayment or employment.

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). A College Board service that assists disabled students by providing services and reasonable accommodations appropriate to the student’s disability and the purpose of the exam the student is taking. SSD provides Advanced Placement Program Exam, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT testing accommodations for students who have documented disabilities.

Simplified needs-test. A needs-test that excludes assets from the expected family contribution calculation for low-to-moderate income families who file simplified tax returns (Form 1040A, 1040EZ).

Student Aid Report (SAR)

Acknowledgment. A Federal output document, similar to the SAR, that the Department of Education’s central processor sends to a student who does not provide a valid e-mail address when he or she files the FAFSA through FAFSA on the Web, files through EDExpress at a postsecondary school, or makes changes through Corrections on the Web.

Student expense budget. A calculation of the annual cost of attending college that is used in determining student’s need. Student expense budget usually include tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, personal expenses, and transportation. Sometimes additional expenses are included for students with special education needs, students who

have a disability, or students who are married and/or have children.

Student’s contribution. The amount the student is expected to pay toward college costs from the student’s income, assets, and benefits. The amount is derived from need analysis of resources. The student’s contribution and the parents’ contribution which, when subtracted from the student budget, equals financial need. Generally, students are eligible for financial aid equal to their financial need.

Study abroad. Any arrangement by which a student completes part of the college program—(typically the third year, but sometimes only a semester or a summer) studying in another country. A college may operate a campus abroad, or it may have a cooperative agreement with another U.S. college or an institution of the host country.

Subsidized loan. A loan awarded to student on the basis of financial need. The federal government pays the borrower’s accrued interest during some significant periods, such as during the time the student is in school, thereby subsidizing the loan.

T

Taxable income. Income earned from wages, salaries, tips, as interest income, dividends, alimony, estate or trust income, business or farm profits, and rental or property income.

Title IV number. *See* federal code number.

TOEFL. The Test of English as a Foreign Language, which helps students demonstrate their English-language proficiency at the advanced level required for study in colleges in the United States. Many colleges require that their applicants from non-English-speaking countries take the test as part of the admissions process.

Transcript. A copy of a student's official academic record, listing all courses taken and grades received.

Transfer program. An option in a two-year college (or four-year college that offers associate degrees), primarily for students who plan to move to a four-year college or university.

Trimester. An academic calendar period of about 15 weeks. Three trimesters make up one year. Students normally progress by attending two of the trimesters each year and in some colleges can accelerate their progress by attending all three trimesters in one or more years.

U

Unmet need. The difference between a student's total available resources and the total cost for the student's attendance at an academic institution.

Unsubsidized loan. A loan that is not need based; the borrower is responsible for accrued interest throughout the life of the loan.

U.S. service academies. The Military Academy (West Point, New York), the Naval Academy (Annapolis, Maryland), the Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs), and the Coast Guard Academy (New London, Connecticut). Students' tuition, books, board, medical and dental care all fully paid for all four years. Graduates receive a Bachelor of Science degree and a job as a junior officer in the military. There is a minimum service obligation of five years after graduation.

V

Verification. A procedure through which a school checks the information the student reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, usually by requesting a copy of the tax returns filed by the student and, if applicable, the student's parent(s) and spouse. Schools must verify information about students selected for verification by the Department of Education's central processor. Many schools select certain students for verification in addition to those selected by the central processor.

Virtual university. A degree-granting, accredited institution wherein all courses are delivered by distance learning, with no physical campus.

W

Wait list. A list of students who meet the admissions requirements but will be offered a place in the class only if space becomes available.

William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan program. A program that allows participating schools to administer subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans and Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students programs directly to student and parent borrowers. Direct loans have mostly the same terms and conditions as those under the Federal family Education Loan Program loans. Funds for these programs are provided by the federal government.

Work-study. An arrangement by which a student combines employment and college study. The employment may be an integral part of the academic program (as in cooperative education and internships) or simply means of paying for college (as in the Federal Work-Study Program).

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