

JUNIOR/SENIOR HANDBOOK



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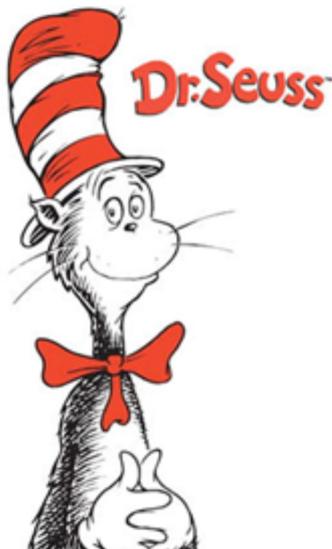
 LEWISVILLE ISD
**COUNSELING &
SOCIAL WORK**

The Counseling Departments of the Lewisville Independent School District have compiled helpful resources and information regarding post-high school options. This guide provides a starting point for all L.I.S.D. graduates. The beginning step for all students is a **self-assessment** outlined at the beginning of the guide.

Many of the LISD graduates plan to enter a **four-year college**. A great deal of detailed information exists in the handbook, including what colleges look for, how to find college information, admissions testing, financial aid, admission requirements, and costs at selected four-year universities, military academies and ROTC opportunities. Juniors and seniors considering four-year universities should pay close attention to the college timelines included.

An increasing number of LISD graduates choose to attend a **community college** either to obtain a certificate or associate 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.

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



**"You have brains in your head
and feet in your shoes,
you can steer yourself in any
direction you choose!"**

--Dr. Seuss

MAKING DECISIONS

Self-Assessment

Assessing your **interests** and goals is an important step to choosing a career path once you graduate from high school. Career Cruising and My College Quickstart are available for you to explore your interests and abilities.



Career Cruising – Provides free online access to career profiles with multimedia interview, military career profiles, interest assessment tools including a skills assessment, access to college and university information, and a personal portfolio tool with a built-in resume builder.

My College Quickstart – Is free for all students who take the PSAT. It is designed to make choosing a major, college, or career path quicker and easier. It features ORA Personality Profiler, profiles sixty-nine academic fields, and contains timely articles covering over 450 occupations.

ASVAB – The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success. It is administered annually to military applicants, high school students and post-secondary students.

| SITE | INTERNET SITE |
|------------------------|---|
| Reality Check | http://www.cdr.state.tx.us/realitycheck/ |
| Self-Assessment | http://www.careerpath.com |
| Texas Work Force | http://www.twc.state.tx.us/ |
| U.S. Dept. Labor | http://www.bls.gov/oco/ |
| College for All Texans | www.collegeforalltexas.com |

Refer to ***Career Search*** in the “*Helpful Internet Addresses*” located in the appendix for additional internet addresses.

COLLEGE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS 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. By learning as much as possible in high school, you'll give yourself the best chance for success in college. Complete the requirements for Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA) on the Foundation High School Plan as your foundation and add additional rigorous courses, as your schedule permits. Although these courses may be more challenging than other courses, they will put you well on your way to success.

Texas Meningitis Vaccination Law: As of Jan. 1, 2012, incoming Texas college students and students returning after an absence of at least one fall or spring semester who are under 30 years old must submit documentation of immunization against bacterial meningitis. Students who fail to meet this requirement will be dropped from courses. This includes first-time college students, students transferring from another institution and students who are re-entering following an absence of at least one fall or spring semester who are under 30 who plan to audit a course.

*The list is not a complete list of Texas universities, rather a list compiled by LISD counselors based on past student choices. For information on colleges not listed, check the college websites.

WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION DECISION BEST SUITS YOU?

| Type Decision | Definition | Application Type | Commitment | Restrictions |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Regular Decision | Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time. | Non-restrictive | Non-binding | Not restricted from applying to other institutions. |
| Rolling Admission | Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle. | Non-restrictive | Non-binding | Not restricted from applying to other institutions. |
| Early Action | Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. | Non-restrictive | Non-binding | Not restricted from applying to other institutions and have longer to confirm enrollment. |
| Early Decision | Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application and decision deadline typically occur early in the fall semester. | Restrictive | Binding | Must be responsible for determining and following institution guidelines and restrictions. |

WHAT DO COLLEGES LOOK FOR?

- **Academic Record/Transcript.** The single most important credential in the applicant's folder is the academic record, particularly the junior year and 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. This includes Pre-AP and AP classes. Your rank in class and GPA are also 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 and class rank, they constitute a reliable predictor of academic achievement. These tests can be taken more than once, but be sure to check if the institution looks at the highest score received or some sort of composite score. Community colleges do not require the SAT/ACT for admissions.
- 
- **Essays.** Many colleges require an essay or personal statements as part of the application. The essay can help colleges assess the student's critical thinking and writing abilities, special interests or experiences as well as values, attitudes, life experiences, etc. Your application may designate a specific topic or allow the student to choose whatever he wants to write about. If an essay is optional, ALWAYS write one – it is your chance to shine. Write about your true passions and interests, and always have others edit and proofread before the essay is submitted. There are lots of helpful websites, so do your homework. Here are a few: www.west.net/~stewart/beste.htm and www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/essay-skills/9406.html
 - **Extra-curricular Activities.** Extra-curricular activities both at high school and in the community play an important role in the admissions process. Increasingly, colleges look for students who will make a significant contribution to the college community, and look for volunteering and commitment that demonstrates both passion and persistence. 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 some colleges, recommendations are a required part of an applicant's file. Recommendations describe not only achievements and skills, but also character, integrity and patterns of growth. Teachers' reports and counselor recommendations can play an important role in the selection process, particularly when they are able to provide insight beyond the resume. Colleges may also ask for personal recommendations from someone outside the school such as an employer, minister, scout leader, etc. Each LISD high school has an established process for letters of recommendation so check with your counselor for the procedure to follow. See the appendix for sample information.
 - **Interviews.** An admission interview may be required or suggested as part of the application process. The interview is a time for colleges/universities to have a conversation and determine if they are a "good fit" with potential students. Although they can be nerve-wracking, good preparation and communication skills can assist with the overall admission process. For more information, see: www.fastweb.com/fastweb/resources/articles/index/102606
www.collegeview.com/articles/CV/application/college_interviews.html

GRADE POINT AVERAGE & CLASS RANK

Beginning with the ninth grade year, courses taken count toward the student's grade point average and class rank. Grades earned in the areas of ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH, ALL AP COURSES, ALL DUAL CREDIT and ACADEMIC DECATHALON will be used to determine rank in class (based on weighted numerical GPA) and GPA.



Levels of difficulty have been assigned to courses in these categories. Grades are weighted according to the assigned level as follows: for students in the classes of 2018, 2019 & 2020: level 3 is 1.3; level 2 is 1.2; level 1 is 1.1. For students in the classes of 2021 and thereafter: level 3 is 1.2, level 2 is 1.15 and level 1 is 1.1. These weights are referred to as Course Grade Multiplier.

The student's actual grade earned is multiplied by the Course Grade Multiplier. The computed score of all weighted courses is then totaled and divided by the number of weighted courses taken (averaged). Each student's averages will be placed in numerical order from highest to lowest. The highest average shall be number one in class. GPA will be reported numerically.

The ACTUAL grade earned in ALL CLASSES will be entered on the report card and the transcript.

TOP TEN PERCENT RULE

Modifications to Texas' Automatic Admission Law

Top Ten Percent Rule - Top students are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas under admissions policies. Under TEC 51.803(a-2), 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 percent of his or her class at a public or private high school in Texas, or graduate in the top 10 percent of his or 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;
- Graduate on the Distinguished Level of Achievement on the FHSP; and
- 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 (check with the university regarding specific deadlines).
- Students admitted through this route may still be required to provide SAT or ACT scores, although these scores are not used for admissions purposes. Check with the admissions office regarding SAT, ACT, and other testing requirements.

After a student is admitted, the university may review the student's high school records to determine if the student is prepared for college-level work. A student who needs additional preparation may be required to take a developmental, enrichment, or orientation course during the semester prior to the first semester of college.

Admission to a university does not guarantee acceptance into a particular college of study or department. *Remember that you may not be admitted even if you are eligible if you do not meet the admission deadline.*

Modifications to Texas' Automatic Admission Law – SB 175, passed by the 81st Legislature in the spring of 2009, modifies TEC 51.802 for The University of Texas at Austin. Under the new law:

- The University is to automatically admit enough students to fill 75% of available Texas resident spaces.
- Each fall by September 15th The University will notify Texas school officials of the class rank that current high school juniors need to attain by the end of their junior year in order to be automatically admitted two years out of high school. **For school year 2017-2018, the university will automatically admit college freshman applicants in the top 7% of their class.**

For updated information, see UT website (www.utexas.edu).

High School Admission Requirements – Public Universities – Under TEC 51.802, the Uniform Admission Policy for admission at a Texas Four-Year Public Institution, students must meet one of the following in order to be eligible for admission:

- Successfully complete the curriculum requirements for the recommended high school program, the distinguished high school program, or the foundation high school program.
- Satisfy the College Readiness Benchmarks on SAT or ACT assessments.
 - SAT – 480 EBRW, 530 Math
 - ACT – 18 English, 22 Reading, 22 Math, 23 Science

The admission offices of specific schools will be able to give you the most current and accurate information about being admitted to their university.

ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION, APPLICATION FEES AND DEADLINES

Sample Public Universities

Note: Check The Institution Web Site For Current Year Dates And Deadlines

| TEXAS PUBLIC 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES | DEADLINES * | FEES | FAFSA CODE |
|--|--|------|------------|
| A&M COLLEGE STATION 979-845-3211 www.tamu.edu | Admission – Dec. 1 Financial Aid - As soon as possible after Jan. 1 Scholarship – Dec. 1 | \$75 | 003632 |
| A&M COMMERCE 888-868-2682 www.tamu-commerce.edu | Priority Admission – March 1 Admission – Aug. 1 Financial Aid – March 31 Scholarship – July 1 Priority Scholarship – Feb. 15 | \$0 | 003565 |
| MIDWESTERN STATE Wichita Falls 800-842-1922 www.mwsu.edu | Priority Admission – March 1 Deadline Admission – Aug. 7 Priority Financial Aid – March 1 Scholarship – March 1 | \$25 | 003592 |
| SAM HOUSTON STATE Huntsville 936-294-1111 866-Bearkat www.shsu.edu | Admission – Aug. 1 Priority Financial Aid – March 15 Scholarship – Varies by department | \$45 | 003606 |
| S. F. AUSTIN STATE Nacogdoches 936-468-2504 www.sfasu.edu | Admission – Aug. 31 Financial Aid – April 1 Scholarship – Varies by department | \$45 | 003624 |
| TARLETON STATE Stephenville 800-687-8236 www.tarleton.edu | Priority Admission – March 1 - July 22 Financial Aid – As soon as possible after Jan. 1 Scholarship – Feb. 15 | \$30 | 003631 |
| TEXAS STATE San Marcos 512-245-2364 www.txstate.edu | Admission – Communication & Business – March 1 All other admission – May 1 Financial Aid – March 1 Scholarship – Dec. 15 Fall Priority – March 1 | \$75 | 003615 |
| TEXAS TECH Lubbock 806-742-2011 www.ttu.edu | Admission – March 1 Financial Aid – As soon as possible after Jan. 1 Scholarship - Feb. 1 | \$60 | 003644 |
| TEXAS WOMAN'S Denton 866-809-6130 www.twu.edu | Admission – Dec. 1 Nursing – Feb. 1, Dental Hygiene – Jan. 9 Financial Aid – March 15 Scholarship - March 15 Priority – March 15 | \$50 | 003646 |
| U OF HOUSTON 713-743-2255 www.uh.edu | Priority Admission – Dec. 2 Admission – April 1 | \$50 | 003652 |
| U OF NORTH TEXAS Denton 940-565-2000 www.unt.edu | Admission – March 1 Financial Aid – March 15 Scholarship - March 1 Priority Scholarship February 1st | \$60 | 003594 |
| UT ARLINGTON 817-272-2011 www.uta.edu | Admission – June 1 Financial Aid –April 12 Scholarship – Feb. 15 | \$50 | 003656 |
| UT AUSTIN 512-475-7387 www.utexas.edu | Admission – Dec. 1 Financial Aid – March 15 Scholarship – Dec. 1 | \$75 | 003658 |
| UT DALLAS 972-883-2270 www.utdallas.edu | Admission – July 1 Financial Aid – As soon as possible after Jan. 1 Scholarship – Varies, check web site | \$50 | 009741 |
| UT TYLER 903-566-7203 www.uttyler.edu | Admission – August 15 Check calendar page of web site | \$40 | 011163 |

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Sample Independent Universities

| Independent Institutions | Required and (Recommended) High School Credits* | | | | | |
|---|---|------|---------|----------------|------------|---|
| | Eng. | Math | Science | Social Science | For. Lang. | Additional Requirements and (Recommended) Academic Credits |
| AUSTIN COLLEGE Sherman 908-813-3000 www.austincollege.edu | 4 | 3-4 | 3-4 | 2-4 | 2-4 | 1-2 fine arts |
| BAYLOR UNIVERSITY Waco 254-710-3435 www.baylor.edu | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | |
| RICE UNIVERSITY Houston 800-527-OWLS www.rice.edu | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 college preparatory courses of student's choice 3 academic electives |
| SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIV Dallas 800-323-0672 www.smu.edu | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | |
| SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Georgetown 800-252-3166 www.southwestern.edu | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 academic elective |
| TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY Ft. Worth 817-257-7490 www.tcu.edu | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 academic electives |
| TRINITY UNIVERSITY San Antonio 800-TRINITY www.trinity.edu | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | |
| UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS 800-628-6999 www.udallas.edu | 4 | 3-4 | 3 | 4 | 2 (3) | 4 academic electives and 2 fine art electives recommended |

Source: The above information was found on the college website. If you do not meet the recommendations listed, please contact the admissions office of the specific college for admissions details.

NOTE : Contact the individual university admission's office for the most updated requirements..

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

Sample Independent Universities

NOTE: CHECK ON THE INSTITUTION WEBSITE FOR CURRENT YEAR DATES, DEADLINES AND REQUIREMENTS



| Independent Institutions | Deadlines See page 4 for explanation of admission terminology. | Fees | Required Test | Other Requirements |
|--|---|------|--|---|
| AUSTIN COLLEGE Sherman 903-813-3000 www.austincollege.edu FAFSA #: 003543 | Early Action I – Dec. 1 Early Action II – Jan. 15 Regular Admission – March 1 Financial Aid – April 1 Scholarship – Jan. 15 | | SAT or ACT | Teacher and counselor recommendations, essays, and optional interview |
| BAYLOR UNIVERSITY Waco 254-710-3435 www.baylor.edu FAFSA #: 003545 | Early Action – Nov. 1 Regular Admission – February 1 Single Choice Early Action – Nov. 1 | | SAT or ACT | Recommended: resume, recommendations, personal statement and essays |
| RICE UNIVERSITY Houston 800-527-OWLS www.rice.edu FAFSA #: 003604 | Early Decision – Nov. 1 Regular Decision – Jan. 1 Financial Aid – March 1 | \$75 | ACT + writing or SAT and 2 SAT subject tests | Teacher and counselor recommendations, essays, interview recommended |
| SOUTHERN METHODIST U Dallas 800-323-0672 www.smu.edu FAFSA #: 003613 | Early Action – Nov. 1 Regular Decision – Jan. 15 Financial Aid – Feb. 15 Scholarship – Jan. 15 | \$60 | SAT or ACT | Teacher and counselor recommendations, essays, optional interview |
| SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Georgetown 800-252-3166 www.southwestern.edu FAFSA #: 003620 | Early Action – Nov. 15 Regular Decision – Feb. 1 Financial Aid - March 1 Scholarship – Jan. 15 | | SAT or ACT | Counselor recommendation, essay. Optional : interview, teacher and parent recommendations |
| TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY Ft. Worth 1-800-tcu-frog www.tcu.edu FAFSA #: 003636 | Early Action – Nov. 1 Regular Admission – Feb. 15 Financial Aid – March 15 Scholarship – Dec. 15 | \$40 | SAT or ACT | Essay, resume, counselor recommendations |
| TRINITY UNIVERSITY San Antonio 800-TRINITY www.trinity.edu FAFSA #: 003647 | Early Decision – Nov. 1 Early Decision II – Jan. 1 Regular Decision – Feb. 1 Financial Aid – Feb. 15 Scholarship – Feb. 15 | | SAT or ACT | Teacher and counselor recommendations, essays, resume, optional interview |
| UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS 800-628-6999 www.udallas.edu FAFSA #: 003651 | Early Action I – Nov. 1 Early Action II – Dec. 1 Regular Admission – March 1 Financial Aid – March 1 Scholarship - Jan. 15 | \$50 | SAT or ACT | Teacher and counselor recommendation, essay, and supplement, University Questionnaire |

COLLEGE COSTS

College costs vary greatly and are dependent on several factors and include tuition, books & supplies, room & board, transportation and other costs:



- Public or private
- 2-year or 4-year school
- Number of credit hours taken in a semester (average is 15)
- Amount of financial aid package
- Living on or off campus
- Scholarships

Resources for college costs:

- For the most accurate college cost information, visit the college website.
- College for All Texans: <http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/apps/collegecosts.cfm>
- Find money for college:
<http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/index.cfm?objectid=24B5D6B7-B117-81E0-2D6612325DB02180>
- College cost calculator: <http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/apps/CollegeMoney/>

COLLEGE SELECTION



There are many considerations in the selection of a particular college or university. The intention of this section is to make the student aware of both academic and personal factors that might play a part in his or her college decision. Not all of these factors listed are important to each graduate, so each should be weighed according to individual priorities. Using the resources we have previously discussed, you can decide which colleges meet your criteria. (See the *College Choice* worksheet in the Appendix).

HOW DO I FIND COLLEGE INFORMATION?

Colleges vary greatly in **programs** offered, **costs**, and **admission requirements**. A “College Admissions Check List” is available in the **Appendix**.

Reference Materials – Your High School Counseling Center and the school or local library have a few college reference books and handbook, however; most colleges prefer students peruse the website to find information about the institution. On the website students & parents will find information on college **costs**, **housing**, **admission procedures**, **entrance tests** required, **major programs** of study, and **much more**. Some references available are:

- The College Handbook
- Book of Majors
- Barron’s Profiles of American Colleges
- Comparative Guide to American Colleges
- College Costs and Financial Aid Handbook



Internet Resources – The Internet has a wealth of current and up-to-date information. Almost anything you want to know about schools can be found online. Some helpful sites are:

- **MyRoad** – <https://myroad.collegeboard.com/myroad/navigator.jsp>
- **Career Cruising** – www.careercruising.com
- **NACAC for Parents & Students** – <http://www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/Pages/Default.aspx>
- **Every Chance Every Texan: Minnie Steven’s Piper Foundation Compendium of Texas Colleges** – www.window.state.tx.us/scholars/
- **The College Board** – www.collegeboard.com
- **College View** - www.collegeview.com/
- **University and College Accountability Network** - www.ucan-network.org/
- **College Navigator** – U.S. Dept. of Education – www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/
- **Peterson’s Guide** – www.petersons.com
- **Other web sites (see Appendix)**

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR COLLEGE VISIT

1. Read About the School Online
2. Visit Early
3. Go When Class is in Session
4. Eat in the Dining Hall
5. Stay Overnight
6. Take a Class
7. Talk to Students
8. Go More Than Once
9. Take Notes

Two photographs of college campuses are shown. The top photo shows a large, multi-story brick building with a prominent Gothic-style tower and spire. The bottom photo shows a green lawn with a path leading towards a large, pink-blossomed tree in the foreground.

UncommonGrad
your expert in all things student

College Catalogs – The college catalog in effect for *the year you enter* a university is your contract for graduation. **Keep** it and **refer** to it **frequently**. It is the *best single source of information* about a college. You may want to **write for a catalog** from colleges you are seriously considering or download one from the Internet.

College Visits

Juniors and Seniors are allowed two college visits. Prior to your visit, turn in a written request from your parent or guardian to your **attendance clerk**. Two weeks prior to your intended visit contact the college admissions office in writing, by phone, or e-mail. During your visit you must obtain documentation of your visit from the college. **Documentation** must be given to your attendance clerk once you return to campus. Refer to the *Appendix* for helpful information regarding your college visits.

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS for CHOOSING A COLLEGE



Academic considerations should be the primary factors in college selection, yet we know that a balance of all requirements - academic, social, personal - is needed. Without an understanding of the academic atmosphere, a subjective decision is difficult. We urge you to read carefully these academic considerations and weigh their relative importance to you.

- Will you be more comfortable at a community college or a four-year college?
- Do you know your degree direction? Does the school have adequate curriculum for it? Does it satisfy your specialized interests? Are you aware of job availability in possible career fields relating to those degree directions?
- What are admission standards? (most competitive, less competitive)
- What scholarship programs are available? (see "Financial Aid" section for inquiries)
- What are faculty and class sizes? Is class format lecture or discussion? What is the ratio of students to professor? Remember that published ratios are sometimes misleading, and may be averaged, particularly for first year students. Are labs required?
- Is the school fully accredited?
- Are credits transferable to other schools you might consider for transfer? Are they applicable to your degree plan? (Remember D's don't transfer.)
- Are there foreign language requirements for either high school graduation or college in meeting admission standards or degree requirements?
- What are your personal study habits? Do they fit with the school attitude?
- What are its colleges and graduate professional schools?
- What is the extensiveness of course and program offerings? How soon can you get into courses in your degree plan program?
- Are there advanced placements? What type are they? (Credit by exam or Summer school credits) Do they require or will they accept achievement tests for placement?
- Are there special academic programs available? (i.e., accelerated programs, Plan II, honors, remedial)
- Is there a foreign study program?
- How is the academic year divided? (semester, quarter, block system)
- What is the attrition rate of the freshman class?
- What is the diversity of students and faculty? (scholastic, geographic, graduates vs. undergraduates)
- Find out what percent of graduates, of those who apply, are admitted to professional schools.
- What internship opportunities are available?
- Is there a job placement service for graduates?
- What kind of technology is available for students?

PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS for CHOOSING A COLLEGE

The following information attempts to focus on those non-academic considerations in choosing a college. Read them carefully and be fair to yourself in appraising those that apply to you.



- What is the extensiveness of campus facilities for personal, social and academic needs?
- Area of the country in which school is located and proximity to home (travel to and from home).
- Geographic considerations of climate and clothing needs, and whether the school is located in an urban, suburban or rural area. How does the cost of living vary in the cities or communities under consideration? (Dallas vs. Sherman; Houston vs. Austin)
- What is the size of the school? Small? Medium? Large?
- Dorm availability or general living options. Are there dorms and what type - apartments, special freshman housing? What are the regulations concerning each? What is housing proximity to library, student union, and other campus activity centers?
- What are expenses - tuition, travel, room and board, miscellaneous? (See "Financial Aid" section)
- Family traditions. Are they tied to a particular college, university or religion? Is that important to you?
- What is the degree of personal discipline, independence and aggressiveness required of a student?
- Is the school co-educational or exclusively male/female? What are the ratios?
- What transportation is available? Are automobiles allowed for freshmen? Do you have a car? What are available transportation services? (shuttle, bus service, mass transit)
- What extracurricular activities are available? (Athletics, fraternities, sororities, band, social groups, debate clubs, union activities, student government, etc.)
- What religious organizations are active and what provisions are there for religious services?
- Is military training or ROTC offered?
- Are fraternities or sororities national or local? Can you transfer affiliation to another university? What are their room and board requirements and facilities? Are there time requirements of this affiliation and will they affect your scholastic plans?
- Living quarters. What do you have to furnish? Is there an adequate study facility? How are roommates selected? Are conditions to your standard or need? What are facility rules and curfews?
- Are cultural activities available to suit your interests? (lectures, concerts, plays, etc.)
- What is the school's reputation? (Academic, social, or a good balance)
- Have you talked to graduates or undergraduates of the college? What are the impressions given?
- What percent graduate from college?
- Are there counselors available for personal problems?
- What is the participation of the student body in policy-making? Is it important to you?
- Is part-time work available and how is it arranged? (Refer to the "Financial Aid" section)
- How important are existing friendships with peers going to other colleges? Will they influence your decision?

OTHER HELPFUL HINTS IN COMPLETING YOUR COLLEGE SELECTION

- 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 test.
- 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's normally do not 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 application 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 class for one hour, three times a week for one semester. Many science courses are four-semester-hour courses because one 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). 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 15 semester hours per semester.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Community colleges provide affordable, *career-oriented* programs, which allow students to begin their careers after one or two years of college. Students completing **one-year** programs may receive **certificates or diplomas**, and students completing a **two-year** program earn **associate degrees**. Students may also **begin** their education at a **community college** and **transfer** to a **four-year college** to earn a **bachelor's degree**.

Career Fields: There are a **variety** of career fields you can prepare for at a community college. **Some** of those include:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Accounting | Dental assisting /hygiene | Marketing |
| Animation | Dietetics and nutrition | Mechanical engineering tech |
| Applied Graphic Design | Drafting | Medical administrative assisting |
| Architectural drafting | Drama & theater | Medical lab technology |
| Art | Early childhood education | Music |
| Automotive technology | Electronics engineering tech | Nursing |
| Business administration | Executive assistant/secretary | Occupational therapy assistant |
| Business management | Fashion design | Photography |
| Civil engineering technology | Fashion merchandising | Physical therapist assistant |
| Computer and information systems | Finance & banking | Radiologic technology |
| Computer Programming | Fire science/fire fighting | Registered nurse |
| Cosmetology | Hotel/restaurant management | Real estate |
| Court reporting | Industrial engineering technology | Respiratory therapy |
| Culinary Arts | Journalism | Social work |
| Dance | Law enforcement/police science | Travel & tourism |
| | Legal assisting/paralegal | Welding |

Why Community Colleges?

- **Small classes** with individualized instruction
- **Affordable** (tuition is about one half of a four-year school)
- **Accept** high school graduates and students with a **GED**
- **SAT/ACT is not required**
- *Many courses are transferable to a 4-year college* – consult the college counselor
- May be closer to **home**
- Less *stressful* transition
- **Opportunity** to build remedial skills, before taking the plunge at a university
- **Job training courses** that lead to a career in two years

STATEWIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN TEXAS

Alvin Community College
3110 Mustang Road
Alvin, TX 77511
281-756-3500
www.alvincollege.edu

Blinn College - Brenham
902 College Avenue
Brenham, TX 77833
979-830-4159
www.blinn.edu

Central Texas College
6200 W Central Expy
Killeen, TX 76549
254-526-7161
www.ctcd.edu

Collin College
2800 E Spring Creek Pkwy
Plano, TX 75074
972-548-6790
www.collin.edu

El Centro College
801 Main Street
Dallas, TX 75202-3604
214-860-2000
www.elcentrocollege.edu

Navarro College
3200 W 7th Avenue
Corsicana, TX 75110
1-800-NAVARRO
www.navarrocollege.edu

North Lake College
5001 N MacArthur Blvd
Irving, TX 75038-3899
972-273-3000
www.northlakecollege.edu

South Plains College
1401 S. College Avenue
Levelland, TX 79336
806-894-9611
www.southplainscollege.edu

Tyler Junior College
1327 S Baxter Ave
Tyler, TX 75711
1-800-687-5680
www.tjc.edu

Amarillo College
1314 S Polle St
Amarillo, TX 79109
806-371-5000
www.actx.edu

Blinn College - Bryan
PO Box 6030
Bryan, TX 77805-6030
979 209-7200
www.blinn.edu/Brazos

Cisco Jr. College
101 College Heights
Cisco, TX 76437-9321
254-442-5000
www.cisco.edu

Del Mar College
101 Baldwin Boulevard
Corpus Christi, TX 78404-3897
361-698-1200
www.delmar.edu

Hill College
112 Lamar
Hillsboro, TX 76645
254-659-7500
www.hillcollege.edu

North Central Texas College
1500 N Corinth Street
Corinth, TX 76208
940-498-6200
www.nctc.edu

Paris Junior College
2400 Clarksville Street
Paris, TX 75460-6298
903-785-7661
www.parisjc.edu

Tarrant County College District
1500 Houston Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
817-515-8223
www.tccd.edu/

Vernon College
4400 College Drive
Vernon, TX 76384
940-552-6291
www.vernoncollege.edu

Austin Community College
5930 Middle Fiskville Road
Austin, TX 78752-4390
512-223-4222
www.austincc.edu

Brookhaven College
3939 Valley View Lane
Farmers Branch, TX 75244-4997
972-860-4700
www.brookhavencollege.edu

Collin College- Central Park
2200 W. University Drive
McKinney, TX 75071
972-548-6790
www.collin.edu

Eastfield College
3737 Motley Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
972-860-7176
www.eastfieldcollege.edu

Kilgore Junior College
1100 Broadway
Kilgore, TX 75662-3299
903-984-8531
www.kilgore.edu

North Central Texas College
1200 Parker Square
Flower Mound, TX 75028
972-899-8400
www.nctc.edu

Ranger Junior College
1100 College Circle
Ranger, TX 76470
254-647-3234
www.rangercollege.edu

Trinity Valley Community College
500 S Pairieville
Athens, TX 75751
903-675-6200
www.tvcc.edu

Weatherford College
225 College Park Drive
Weatherford, TX 76086-5699
817-594-5471
www.wc.edu

Community College Checklist

If you are planning to attend a community college the *summer* after your senior year, you should *complete the following checklist* in the *Spring* of your senior year. If you are planning to attend a community college in the *Fall* after your senior year, you should complete the following by *mid-June*.

- _____ **High school diploma or GED.**
- _____ **TSI** – plan to take the Texas Success Initiative 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. (Students may be exempt; see page 50.)
- _____ **Application** - Apply online at ApplyTexas.org or download the application in PDF format from the college's website.
- _____ **FAFSA** – Free Application for Federal Student Aid (you may qualify for grants or low interest loans). Complete steps 1-3 online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> for more information, refer to the **Financial Aid** section.
- _____ **Send transcript to the community college of your choice.** See the **registrar** on your high school campus.
- _____ **Meet with community college counselor for course advising.** Call to set up an appointment.
- _____ **Contact Financial Aid Office** for possible *scholarships*.

CREDIT TRANSFER & THE TEXAS COMMON COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM



The Texas Common Course Numbering System is a voluntary, cooperative effort among Texas community colleges and universities to facilitate transfer of freshman and sophomore level general academic coursework. TCCNS provides a shared, uniform set of course designations for students and their advisors to use in determining both course equivalency and degree applicability of transfer credit on a statewide basis. When students transfer between two participating TCCNS institutions, a course taken at the sending institution transfers as the course carrying the same TCCNS designation at the receiving institution. For more information on the Texas Common Course Numbering System, visit the following website: <http://www.tccns.org/>.

College courses usually transfer as one of three types of credits: Elective, General Education or Major Field of Study:

- **Elective courses** are not part of your major or part of your general education requirements, but still count toward your degree. Most majors allow only a limited number of elective credits.
- **General education courses** are similar at many colleges and meet the general education requirements for many degrees. General education courses often include courses in basic English, history, science, math and other subjects. **These courses for Texas college state schools may transfer from one institution to another.**
- **Major field of study courses** may not meet the requirements of your major at your new college. Prerequisites to courses in your major field of study usually can be transferred.

The admissions or transfer committee at the college you're transferring to is made up of admissions officers and faculty members. Usually, **this group decides which of your credits will transfer and into which category your transferable credits will fall based on information from you and your old college.**

Please remember: The people making the decision on which of your credits will transfer do not always have access to all the information they need to make appropriate decisions. It's important that you take an active role in the process and be willing to provide additional information regarding the courses you've taken.

MILITARY ENLISTMENT

Military Service 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.

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 **Post 9/11 GI Bill** provides enlistees with excellent opportunities for college while in the military and after your military commitment. 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
- _____ High School Diploma

Military Service Websites:

- www.airforce.com
- www.goarmy.com
- www.marines.mil
- www.nationalguard.com
- www.navy.com

| | | | |
|------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| AIR FORCE | www.airforce.com 214-222-0989 | NATIONAL GUARD | www.nationalguard.com 1-800-GO-GAURD |
| ARMY | www.goarmy.com 972-219-7083 1-888-550-ARMY | NAVY | www.navy.com 972-436-6527 1-800-USA-NAVY |
| MARINES | www.marines.mil 972-221-6195 817-868-8025 | | |

JROTC & ACADEMIES

ROTC. College students who take ROTC will enter the military as officers. For additional information refer to the section entitled “Military Higher Education Opportunities.”

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. Additional information is included in the section entitled “Military Higher Education Opportunities.”

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.



of

Career Fields: Some of the careers for which you can get training at career and technical schools are listed on page 17.

Public Technical Colleges in Texas – Below is a list of public technical colleges in Texas. See website www.TSTC.edu

Private Technical and Trade Schools in the Dallas Area

| School | Address | Phone |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Arlington Career Institute | 901 Avenue K, Grand Prairie, TX 75050 | 972- 647-1607 |
| Art Institute of Dallas | 8080 Park Lane #100, Dallas, TX 75231 | 214-692-8080 |
| ATI Career Training Center | 12170 Abrams Rd Dallas, TX 75220 | 1-888-209-8264 |
| ATI career Training Center | 1310 S Stemmons Fwy Lewisville, TX 75067 | 972-906-9211 |
| Court Reporting Inst of Dallas | 1341 W. Mockingbird #200E Dallas, TX 75247 | 214-350-9722 |
| DeVry Institute of Technology | 4800 Regent Blvd, Irving, TX 75063 | 972-929-6777 |
| ITT Technical Institute | 2101 Waterview Pkwy, Richardson, TX 75080 | 972-690-9100 |
| KD Studio Actors Conservatory | 2600 Stemmons Frwy, Ste.117, Dallas, TX 75207 | 214-638-0484 |
| Ogle School of Hair Design | 720 Arcadia, St. #B, Hurst, TX 76053 | 817-284-9231 |
| Remington College | 1800 Eastgate Dr, Garland, TX 75041 | 800-734-2490 |
| Toni & Guy Academy | 2810 E Trinity Mills #145 Carrollton, TX 75006 | 972-416-8396 |
| Page Parkes Modeling | 3710 Rawlings Street #100, Dallas, TX 75219 | 214-526-4434 |
| Wade College of Merchandising/Design | 1950 N Stemmons Frwy, Ste. 4080, Dallas, TX 75207 | 214-637-3530 |

Your counselor is available to assist in choice and selection of these schools. Please consult both public and private career schools to compare programs, cost, and scholarships in order to make a better decision.

Trade and Technical Checklist

- _____ High school **diploma** or **GED**.
- _____ **TSI** – plan to take the **Texas Success Initiative** test or an approved alternative test if required. You may be required to take the test **before enrolling** in any courses (not required at most private technical schools).
- _____ **Application** - Apply online at ApplyTexas.org or download the application in PDF format from the college's website or it can be obtained from the trade or technical school.
- _____ **FAFSA** – **Free** Application for **Federal Student Aid** (you may qualify for grants or low interest loans). For more information, refer to the **Financial Aid** section on page 33.
- _____ Send **transcript** to the school of your choice. See the registrar on your 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 (CCST)** scholarships in your high school guidance office. Also, consider applying for the **Imagine America** Scholarship (for information go to www.imagine-america.org/scholarship/hscollegesearch.aspx.)

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Career and Technology Education (CTE) offer programs that prepare students to succeed in high demand occupations within the 21st century's competitive global economy. Students receive life-long skills necessary for a seamless transition to post-secondary education and/or employment opportunities.

Programs of study are offered at home campuses, Career Center East (CCE), or Dale Jackson Career Center (DJCC) and include:

Dale Jackson Career Center: <https://www.lisd.net/djcc>

Career Center East: <https://www.lisd.net/Domain/74>

Programs include:

Agricultural Food and Natural Resources
Architecture and Construction
Arts, Audio Visual Technology & Communication
Business Management and Administration
Education and Training
Finance
Health Science
Hospitality and Tourism

Human Services
Information Technology
Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security
Manufacturing
Marketing
Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM)
Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

Practicums: Designed to help students develop competency in occupational, academic, and employee skills. LISD has Practicum programs in the following areas:

- Business Management
- Construction Management
- Health Science
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Marketing Dynamics

Job vs. Career

Without vocational training, high school graduates may find limited career options. Rather than starting a career, they may be forced to “get a job”. The unfortunate reality is they may not be making more than minimum wage and their opportunities for advancement will be quite limited.

However, businesses and industries are always looking for polite, industrious, punctual, well-groomed employees who are willing to learn. Employees with these qualities can prove invaluable to an employer, possibly leading to advancement and opportunity. High school graduates should attempt to find a job in an area that might prove to be a career interest and lead to job advancement.



EMPLOYMENT—FINDING A JOB

Prepare a Resume – Prepare a **professional looking** resume and attach a copy of your resume to each application you complete. Try to keep your resume brief and no longer than one page. You can also mail or e-mail a copy of your resume and a cover letter to prospective employers requesting an interview. A *sample resume* can be found in the *Appendix*.

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

- School counselors
- Co-op programs
- Word-of-mouth
- Former employers
- Employment agencies
- Personnel office postings
- “Help Wanted” signs
- Professional people you know
- Internet-Job Websites

For career-oriented jobs, it is best to network with the people you know in the field you desire and always keep a professional rapport with each of your past employers.

It’s a small world; don’t burn your bridges!

Traits Employers Consider Important

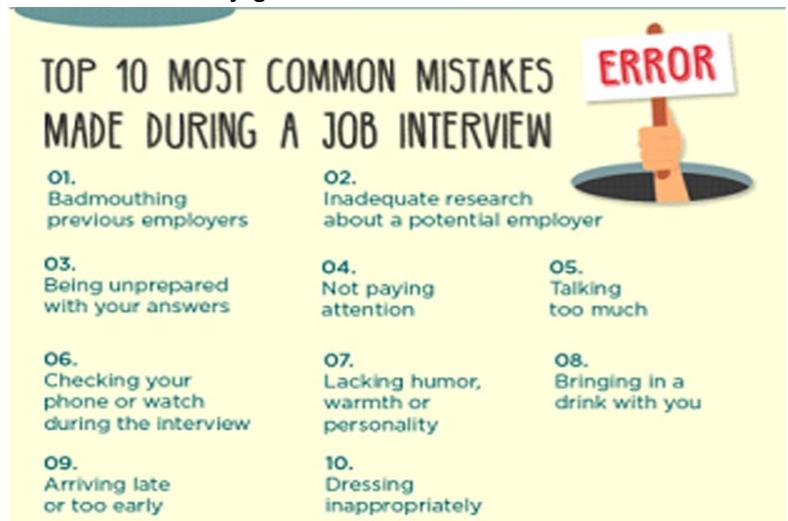
- Dependable
- Team player
- Responsible
- Self-starter
- Efficient

Factors That Eliminate Candidates

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

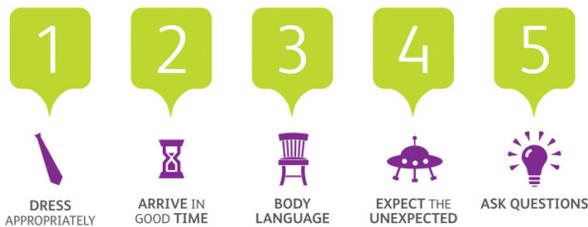
The Interview

- **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 get contact information to follow up with a thank you email or letter.



Information to Bring to an Interview

INTERVIEW



- **Social security** number
- **Driver’s license** number
- **Resume** – Although not all employers require a resume, you should be prepared to have one.
 - **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 and occupation.

Ending the Interview - 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.

PSAT/NMSQT

WHAT IS THE PSAT/NMSQT?



The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a standardized test that measures developed verbal, mathematical, and writing reasoning abilities important for success in college.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| VERBAL | Analogies eliminated, Short Critical Reading passages added |
| MATH | Quantitative Comparisons eliminated |
| WRITING | Multiple Choice Grammar |

Although not expected to recall or memorize facts for the PSAT/NMSQT, the student needs a good working vocabulary and knowledge of arithmetic, elementary algebra, and some geometry. In the test, the student is given verbal, mathematical and writing information and is asked to reason with the material to find the correct answer.

Reasons for Taking the PSAT/NMSQT

- ⇒ The **PSAT/NMSQT** gives students **practice** for taking the **SAT** 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 a **PSAT/NMSQT Score Report** and their test book so they can *review* their own *performance*.
- ⇒ Taking the **PSAT/NMSQT** 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 Corporation. **NMSC** conducts *three* annual *competitions*:

- **The National Merit Scholarship Program**
- **The National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding African-American Students**
- **The National Hispanic Recognition 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.** Sign up through your **campus testing coordinator** by **mid-September**.
- Scores Arrive:** *Late December 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:** *Early September of senior year, about 16,000 eligible participants will be announced publicly as Semifinalists. These are determined by an allocation of Semifinalists based on the number of graduating seniors in each of the 50 states. **NMSC** will provide scholarship applications and material 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**. 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, 8,400 will be chosen to receive a **Merit Scholarship**, based on information submitted about their abilities, accomplishments, and goals. A high school official's recommendation and course grades are also important in this selection.*
- National Merit 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 1500 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 3200 winners will be notified beginning in mid-April.** A list of these institutions can be found in the **PSAT Official Student Guide**.*

- Inside the PSAT/NMSQT: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/inside-the-test>
- PSAT Student Guide: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/official-student-guide-psat-nmsqt-2017.pdf>
- Practice Tests: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice>

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING



Most colleges and universities require either an **ACT** or **SAT** test for freshman admission. They are given on certain Saturdays throughout the school year and early summer. The national test dates and deadlines are listed on the following pages. Students need to register online. **For the SAT, please visit www.collegeboard.org; and for the ACT, please visit www.ACT.org.** Students may also pick up registration packets in the Counseling office; however, LISD high schools do not collect fees for these tests.

The Counseling office would like to *encourage* all college bound students to take an **ACT or SAT** by the end of their *junior year*. While we do not encourage random repeat testing, there are some very good reasons for taking a particular test again. Certain scholarships require a designated minimum score on the **SAT or ACT**, as do many universities. Retaking the test **may** improve the student's score. **Students on free or reduced lunch may receive a fee waiver for these tests. Students need to see their counselor for more information.**



SAT/ACT Prep: Generally your academic courses and extensive outside reading prepares you best. A free practice test is also available at www.collegeboard.org and www.act.org. For more information, contact your high school counseling office. You can find many free test prep materials online. Khan Academy has a free one online: <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>.



SAT Overview www.collegeboard.org

The SAT Test has changed since March 2016. It is now 3 hours (plus 50 additional minutes for the optional essay). It is divided into three subtests: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, Math and an optional Essay. Each section is strictly timed and the possible score ranges between 400-1600. **The basic fee is \$45.00 or \$57.00 with the essay (late registration is an additional \$28.00).**

SAT Subject Tests: Some colleges require SAT subject test(s) for admission. The **SAT Subject Tests** are designed to measure knowledge, and the ability to apply that knowledge in specific subject areas. Students take the **Subject Tests** to demonstrate to colleges their *mastery* of specific subjects like **English, History and Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and Language.**

The cost for Subject Tests range from \$21-\$26, along with a \$26 registration fee for each testing day.

SAT Test Dates:

| <u>Test Date</u> | <u>Test</u> | <u>Regular Deadline</u> | <u>Late Deadline</u> | <u>Online Score Release</u> |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| August 24, 2019 | SAT & Subject Tests | July 26, 2019 | August 6, 2019 | September 6, 2019 |
| October 5, 2019 | SAT & Subject Tests | September 6, 2019 | September 17, 2019 | October 18, 2019 |
| November 2, 2019 | SAT & Subject Tests | October 3, 2019 | October 15, 2019 | November 15, 2019 |
| December 7, 2019 | SAT & Subject Tests | November 8, 2019 | November 19, 2019 | December 20, 2019 |
| March 14, 2020 | SAT Test Only | February 14, 2020 | February 25, 2020 | March 27, 2020 |
| May 2, 2020 | SAT & Subject Tests | April 3, 2020 | April 14, 2020 | May 15, 2020 |
| June 6, 2020 | SAT & Subject Tests | May 8, 2020 | May 19, 2020 | June 15, 2020 |



ACT Test Overview www.act.org
 Please see www.act.org for more information:

Free study guide: <http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Preparing-for-the-ACT.pdf>

Test-taking tips: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html#tips>

TEST OVERVIEW

The ACT® contains multiple-choice tests in four areas: English, mathematics, reading and science. ACT's writing test is optional and will not affect your composite score.

| ENGLISH | MATH | READING |
|--|--|---|
| <p>45 75 </p> <p>MINUTES QUESTIONS</p> <p>Measures: Your understanding of English, production of writing and knowledge of language skills.</p> | <p>60 60 </p> <p>MINUTES QUESTIONS</p> <p>Measures: The mathematical skills you have typically acquired in courses up to the beginning of grade 12.</p> | <p>35 40 </p> <p>MINUTES QUESTIONS</p> <p>Measures: Reading comprehension commonly encountered in first-year college curricula.</p> |
| SCIENCE | WRITING | |
| <p>35 40 </p> <p>MINUTES QUESTIONS</p> <p>Measures: The interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning and problem-solving skills required in biology, chemistry, Earth/space sciences and physics.</p> | <p>40 1 </p> <p>MINUTES PROMPT</p> <p>Measures: The optional writing section measures writing skills taught in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses.</p> | |

ACT Test Dates

2019-2020 Test Dates (National)

| Test Date | Registration Deadline | (Late Fee Required) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| September 14, 2019 | August 16, 2019 | August 17-30, 2019 |
| October 26, 2019 | September 20, 2019 | September 21-October 4, 2019 |
| December 14, 2019 | November 8, 2019 | November 9-22, 2019 |
| February 8, 2020 | January 10, 2020 | January 11-17, 2020 |
| April 4, 2020 | February 28, 2020 | February 29-March 13, 2020 |
| June 13, 2020 | May 8, 2020 | May 9-22, 2020 |
| July 18, 2020* | June 19, 2020 | June 20-26, 2020 |



TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment is a program designed to help your institution determine if you are ready for college-level course work in the general areas of reading, writing and mathematics. This program also will help determine what type of course or intervention will best meet your needs to help you become better prepared for college-level course work.

Visit here for information regarding TSI:

<https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/accuplacer-tsi-assessment-student-brochure-v2.pdf>

What is TSI?



ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS

The Advanced Placement (AP) program allows students to complete college-level studies while still in high school. Students taking AP courses are encouraged to take the appropriate AP 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.



COLLEGE-LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM

The College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) is another opportunity for incoming college students to earn college credit for what they have already learned. Many colleges and

universities award credit for satisfactory scores on one or more CLEP exams. As with the AP exams, you should check with the college or university you plan to attend, to determine whether credit is granted for CLEP exams. For dates, fees, and test centers, go to: <http://clep.collegeboard.org/>. **If your institution requires an optional essay for a composition or exam, you must pay an additional \$10.00.** (Most test centers charge a nonrefundable administration fee for each exam. This fee is payable directly to the test center.)

HIGH SCHOOL CEEB CODES

These are the codes you will need to use when registering for tests such as the SAT, ACT, and the TSI:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| Flower Mound High School | 442-434 | Hebron High School | 441-146 |
| Lewisville High School | 444-135 | Marcus High School | 444-132 |
| The Colony High School | 446-989 | | |

FINANCIAL AID



Excellent resource for financial information:

www.collegeforalltexans.com

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

Scholarships and Grants (Do not have to be repaid)

- Federal Grants (Pell, SEOG, Military)
- State Grants (OTAG)
- Professional and Service Organizations Scholarships and Grants
- Private Foundations
- Local scholarships such as LEF
- Individual Colleges
- **TEXAS Grants Program** - established to provide a grant of money to enable well prepared eligible students to attend public and private nonprofit colleges and universities in Texas.

Eligibility requirements for an Initial Award are:

- Be a Texas resident.
- Show financial need.
- Have not been convicted of a felony or crime involving a controlled substance.
- Have an Estimated Family Contribution less than or equal to \$4000.
- Registered for the Selective Service or are exempt from this requirement.

AND

- Complete the Recommended High School Program or Distinguished Achievement Program in high school.
- Enroll in a non-profit public college or university in Texas within 16 months of graduation from a public or accredited private high school in Texas.
- Have accumulated no more than 30 semester credit hours, excluding those earned for dual or concurrent courses or awarded for credit by examination (AP or CLEP).

OR

- Have earned an associate's degree from a public technical, state or community college in Texas and
- Enroll in any public university in Texas no more than 12 months after receiving your associate's degree.

Loans

- Federal Government
- Private Financial Institutions

Work-study

- Jobs offered through the college
- Find work on your own - - most colleges have student employment placement offices

Exemptions

- Student Education Benefits
- A state program that allows public colleges to lower tuition and/or fees for eligible students
- Who can qualify? The state has programs for some students who
 - were in foster care or adopted
 - were valedictorians
 - are blind or deaf
 - are early high school graduates
 - are children of disabled or deceased peace officers, deceased veterans, POW's, MIA's
 - are children of parents receiving TANF for the student when he/she was a high school senior

FAFSA®

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

WHAT IS A FAFSA?

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is the form the U.S. Department of Education (ED) requires to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The government conducts a “need analysis” based on financial information, such as income, assets, and other family information, which you (and your parents if you are a dependent student) will be asked to provide. This resource is located at: www.fafsa.ed.gov. A “Student Guide to Financial Aid” detailing types of aid available from the federal government is available at no cost by contacting 1-800-433-3243, or online at www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov.

The FAFSA is the application most colleges use to determine eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid, including grants, educational loans, and work-study programs. All college students are expected to contribute towards their education costs. How much you and your family will be expected to contribute depends on your financial situation — and is what’s called your **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**.

Click here for deadlines: <https://fafsa.gov/fotw1718/pdf/Deadlines.pdf>

Financial aid is usually awarded on a “first come first serve” basis. Consequently, early application may result in a more attractive aid package. Keep copies of all completed forms and any correspondence with the financial aid office.

Your application is examined by a federal processor and the results are sent by computer to the financial aid offices of the colleges you’ve chosen.

Through the FAFSA website, high school juniors can take advantage of the FAFSA4caster and learn about the financial aid process, gain early awareness of aid eligibility, and much more. See page 51 for more information regarding financial aid.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Some scholarships are *based on merit*, not financial need. Be sure to complete a scholarship application. For many colleges this must be done in addition to the application for admission. Students may be required to complete a financial needs analysis. If a college awards its own scholarship dollars to students eligible for state or federal funds, the student may not qualify for federal need-based funds. This allows the colleges to make the best use of their scholarship dollars and to serve the greatest number of students.

Students should investigate any private sources of financial aid available to them. These may include:

- Parents’ employers
- Cultural Groups
- University Departments
- Businesses
- Foundations
- Contests
- Religious organizations
- Banks
- Fraternal Organizations

Criteria which may determine scholarship recipients includes:

- Grade Point Average
- ACT or SAT scores
- Letters of reference
- Class rank
- Essays
- Difficulty of HS courses
- Activities
- Interviews
- Autobiographical info
- Leadership
- Financial Need



Lewisville ISD Education Foundation (LEF) Scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors to help them in their continued educational journey. Scholarships are awarded based on specific criteria established by donors. These criteria range from academic achievement and community involvement to success outside of academic ranking and career aspirations. For more information go to: <http://lisdef.com/html/scholarships.php>

FINANCIAL AID WEB SITES

| | |
|--|---|
| Cash For Your Education Scholarship Search | www.thesalliemafund.org |
| College Board Scholarship Search | www.collegeboard.org |
| College for All Texans | www.collegeforalltexans.com |
| Fastweb Scholarship Search | www.fastweb.com |
| Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) | www.fafsa.ed.gov |
| The Financial Aid Information Page | www.finaid.org |
| North Central Texas College Financial Aid Home | http://www.nctc.edu/StudentServices/FinancialAid.aspx |
| Peterson's College Quest College Service | www.collegequest.com |
| Scholarship Experts Online Scholarship Search | www.scholarshipexperts.com |
| Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation | www.tgslc.org |
| Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board | www.thecb.state.tx.us |
| U.S. Department of Education | www.ed.gov or www.college.gov |

Financial Aid Checklist

- _____ Determine college costs. Estimates can usually be found on the specific college websites.
- _____ Apply for admission.
- _____ Complete the FAFSA and/or other necessary financial information.
- _____ Visit the colleges Financial Aid portion of the website to learn about the financial aid and scholarship opportunities.
- _____ Meet all application deadlines.
- _____ Investigate private sources of financial aid.
- _____ Check the counseling website weekly for available scholarships.

ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS & NCAA SPORTS ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE



Students who are involved in sports and think that they may qualify for an athletic scholarship need to *register* with the **NCAA Eligibility Center**. The Eligibility Center decides if your courses and ACT/SAT scores meet the requirements. This process should be done upon completion of your *junior year*. A certain grade point and ACT/SAT score are required before a student can accept an athletic scholarship. Athletes registering with the NCAA Eligibility Center *please remember* to list “**9999**” as one of your choices of places to send your SAT and/or ACT scores. If you forget to do this, you will have to pay additional money to send your scores.

Register on-line at www.eligibilitycenter.org.

MILITARY HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)

(Not available at all campuses)

Army ROTC

A program to provide leadership training for individuals wanting to become officers in the Army. *Four-year scholarships* pay tuition, lab fees, on campus educational fees, and a subsistence allowance of \$300 for the first year and increasing to \$500 by the senior year. *To qualify you must:* be a US citizen, be between the ages of 17 and 26, have a high school GPA of at least 2.50, have a high school diploma or equivalent, score a minimum of 920 on the SAT or 19 on the ACT (excluding the required writing test scores), meet physical standards, and agree to accept commission and serve in the Army on Active Duty or in a Reserve Component. **Begin the application spring of junior year; deadline is December 1 of senior year.** *It is recommended that SAT and/or ACT be taken early the second semester of junior year. Take the ACT or SAT on a national test date no later than December of senior year.*

See: www.goarmy.com/rotc/scholarships.html.

Navy/Marine ROTC

A scholarship program which pays high school graduates *full tuition*, costs of textbooks, fees, uniforms; three summer cruises and a subsistence allowance of \$250 for the first year and increasing to \$400 by the senior year. The selection process is very competitive. Contact the Navy Recruiting Command at the college of your choice to receive more detailed information. **Begin the application spring of junior year; deadline is December 1 of senior year.** *Take the ACT or SAT prior to application deadline and preferably during spring of your junior year.* Minimum qualifying scores for the Navy (including Nurse-option) are SAT: 530 critical reading and 520 math and ACT: 22 English and 21 Math. SAT/ACT math and English/critical reading scores can be from two different tests; can combine best math and best English to achieve qualifying scores. Marine Corps minimum qualifying scores are SAT: 1000 composite and ACT: 22 composite. SAT and ACT scores must be from the same tests. Applicants cannot combine scores. See: www.nrotc.navy.mil.

Air Force ROTC

A program which pays *full tuition*, costs of textbooks, fees and a subsistence allowance of \$300 for the first year and increasing to \$500 by the senior year. **Begin the application spring of junior year; deadline is December 1 of senior year.** Selection is based on academic performance using an Academic Composite of SAT and/or ACT scores (no mixing allowed), class rank, GPA, and the number of advanced placement or honors courses you have completed through grade 11. Do not wait until you get grade 12 courses—they are not counted in the composite. To be eligible for scholarship consideration a candidate typically needs to achieve a composite SAT score of 1100 (Math and Critical Reading) or ACT composite of 24, a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and be in the top 40% of the class. See: www.afrotc.com.

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.

MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES



MILITARY ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

Because of the extremely keen competition for an academy nomination, 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.) A list of current congressional representatives is located in the Appendix. 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. You should begin completing papers and counselor recommendations or write the appropriate Academy for information.

*Students should contact the Academy of their choice soon after January 31 of their junior year and send a written request for an application to your State Senator or Representative in April of their junior year to allow adequate time to meet all requirements. **All application requests must be postmarked before October 31.*** E-mail requests can often go astray and are unreliable for this purpose. It is recommended that the student initiate the application process for this highly competitive nomination. As young adults anticipating attendance at an academy, students are expected to exhibit a high degree of maturity and responsibility. This initial act should reflect their actual desire to attend.

Files MUST be complete by November 1. The Academy Nomination Selection Board meets in early December and cannot consider files that have not been completed by the NOVEMBER 1st DEADLINE.

Director of Admissions
United States Military Academy
Building 606
West Point, NY 10996-1797
Phone: (845) 938-4041
Website: www.admissions.usma.edu

Director of Candidate Guidance
United States Naval Academy
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018
Phone: (410) 293-4361
Website: www.usna.edu

Director of Admissions
United States Air Force Academy
HQ USA FA/RRS
2304 Cadet Dr. Suite 2300
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5025
Phone: (800) 443-9266
Website: www.academyadmissions.com

Director of Admissions
U. S. Merchant Marine Academy
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699
Phone: (516) 773-5000
Website: www.usmma.edu

Director of Admissions
United States Coast Guard Academy
31 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320-8103
Phone: (800) 883-8724
Website: www.cga.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



UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMY APPLICATION CHECKLIST

This checklist is meant to be a **GUIDE**. It is the responsibility of the student to insure that all requirements are met as outlined by the specific military academy.

SOPHOMORE/JUNIOR YEAR

FALL (or earlier)

- Self-assessment against typical class profile. Make appropriate plans to improve competitiveness.
- Contact your local academy representative(s) to let them know you are interested. They are good sources of information and are readily accessible.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

- Apply for Summer Seminar Programs.

MARCH/ APRIL

- Visit academy websites and fill out pre-candidate questionnaire, if you have not already done so. Make sure they receive your SAT/ACT scores.
- Visit ROTC websites and apply online.
- Decide on three teachers to ask for recommendations (one English, one Math, one other substantial subject). You will need a recommendation from your counselor also. Remember to ask coaches and club sponsors as well.
- Fill out transcript request form available in the Counseling Office.
- Contact your Congressman, both U.S. Senators, and the Vice President to request a nomination to the academy or academies of your choice. You may request nomination to more than one academy, but at some point your representative will ask you to identify your first choice. It is possible to be nominated to more than one academy. Determine if you are eligible for additional nominations based on family members with previous or current military experience.
- As soon as you receive the nomination packet, begin work on it. Answer all questions carefully and neatly.
- Make a copy of materials before sending
- Practice for PAE (Physical Aptitude Exam). There is only one PAE, but each academy sets its own achievement standards on parts of the PAE. You should check with the academy to which you are applying regarding its specific requirements.
- Interested athletes contact the academy athletic offices and coaches.

SPRING/SUMMER

- Take your medical exams as required. **Do not wait until fall to do this.**

KEEP COPIES OF ALL PAPERWORK.

FOR SUMMER

- Visit the academies. You should visit the academy to which you are applying. Visiting other academies is a good thing to do to get a perspective on their similarities and differences. You should not expect to have a personal interview at this point. Nevertheless, call the admissions' office, tell them you are an applicant and that you would like to visit. You will be part of a group presentation and tour. Casual, but neat, dress is appropriate for this visit.



SENIOR YEAR

FOR LATE SUMMER/FALL

___ Follow up with DODMERB for physical examination.

___ Apply to academies. The applications have several parts and you need to spend a good amount of time on them. It is a good idea to give teacher recommendation forms to the same teachers who wrote your congressional nomination letters. Submit your applications as early as possible.

If you receive the application over the summer, you will need to wait until you return to school to give these forms to your teachers, but please do so on the first day of school. Aim to have all materials mailed in by October 1.

If you have not received an application by August 1, please call the academy and ask them when you should expect to receive it.

SEPTEMBER

___ Work on your ROTC applications. By now you should have received the actual ROTC application (the web application you filled out last spring was a preliminary application). If you have not received an application by the time school begins in the fall, contact the ROTC office to request one.

___ Work on your alternative school applications.

NOVEMBER OF SENIOR YEAR

___ Nomination interviews. Keep your weekends in November free. Interviews for the congressional nominations are held on the weekends in November. Check with your particular representative about dates. It is not unusual for House representatives to hold interviews on one weekend only. You must be available. You may have to do some juggling around with your sports schedule.

*Gentlemen should wear a coat and tie to the interview. Ladies should wear dresses, skirts, or a pants suit to the interview. Nominations are announced in December and January.

THE REST OF SENIOR YEAR

___ Wait. You may be notified as early as October or as late as May. Though admissions offices tend to be evasive and noncommittal, they do appreciate expressions of continued interest.

COLLEGE TIMELINE FOR JUNIORS

August/September

- _____ **Review** high school coursework and activity plans. Consider graduating on the highest graduation program - the Distinguished Achievement Program. See your counselor for details.
- _____ If you do not already have one, obtain a **Social Security** number. It is necessary to apply for college and financial aid.
- _____ Consider taking an **SAT** or **ACT** course to prepare for upcoming SAT/ACTs.
- _____ **Attend Nor-Tex College Fair on September 14, 2015, from 6:30-8:30 at the Golden Triangle Mall.**
- _____ Put together a **list** of 10 **colleges** in which you are interested. Plan to apply to at least 3-5 schools.
- _____ Talk to your parents and high school counselor about where you want to go to college.
- _____ Study and register for the **PSAT** (Preliminary SAT). See your counselor for details.

October

- _____ Take the **PSAT/NMSQT**. (Remember to *take your calculator*.)
- _____ Attend a financial aid information meeting. Check with your counselor for dates and times.

November

- _____ Look into eligibility requirements for federal and private student loans. Refer to "*Helpful Internet Addresses*" in the Appendix for additional resources.

January

- _____ **PSAT** score report should be in. Use the guide to interpret and understand your score.
- _____ **Plan to take the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, or ACT exams if necessary.** Check with the colleges you are applying to for specific testing requirements. Pick up registration information in the counseling office.
- _____ **Visit** the web sites (some are listed on pages 8-11) and review catalog information of the 3-5 colleges that interest you most.
- _____ Begin making college visits. (See *College Choice* worksheet in the Appendix.)

February

_____ **Register** and study for the **SAT and/or ACT** exams.

_____ Identify and confirm sites for volunteering/community service activities for the summer.

March

_____ Plan a college visit during Spring Break.

_____ Begin investigating outside funding resources of **financial aid**.

April

_____ Begin working on your "**Resume**," listing awards, extracurricular activities, work experience, and other pertinent information.

_____ Identify teachers to give you recommendations; set up a time to visit with them regarding your recommendation.

_____ Consider **scheduling college visits** for summer months if possible.

May

_____ Take the **SAT and/or ACT** exam.

_____ Take any **AP exams** you have registered for.

June

_____ Obtain a **summer job** that might be related to your career interests.

_____ **Save** money, if possible, to help pay for college costs.

_____ Schedule college visits if you can coordinate it with travel plans

EARLY GRADUATION

What are the benefits? What are the disadvantages? In order to help students answer these questions, this comparison sheet is based on information from college representatives from both the public and private sector.

Advantage:

- A student who does not feel connected to the high school may spend less time enrolled
- Students may have finished required coursework for high school graduation and graduating early may create time for a student to work and earn money for college.

Disadvantages:

- Few opportunities to take additional AP courses, which could lead to college credit
- Fewer opportunities to take Dual Credit courses and receive college and high school credit
- Students may lose competitiveness in the college process due to:
 - Less opportunity to take AP courses
 - Ranking impacted by fewer advanced courses
 - Required to take ACT/SAT earlier with less opportunity for advanced course work prior to testing
- Students may lose many opportunities for college programs and scholarships.
 - Summer admissions and/or other alternative admissions programs
 - The student might be classified as a transfer student if they take classes between January and August causing them to lose their high school admission status
- If students are 16, they will be taking classes with students 18 years and older

Questions to ask students planning to graduate early:

1. Why do you want to graduate early?
2. What do you plan to do if you are an early graduate?
3. Have you been accepted to a college and when do you plan to begin?
4. Have you checked with your chosen college to make sure early graduation does not affect enrollment or scholarship opportunities?
5. Have you taken every advanced and/or dual credit course that you can on the high school campus?
6. Have you and your parents discussed what life will be like if you live on campus and you are under 18?
7. How would your ranking be affected, if you choose to graduate early?

Points to Ponder

- Please note that if you graduate early, you are not eligible for **Valedictorian** or **Salutatorian**.
- Check with your chosen college to make sure that if you graduate early, you will not be classified as a transfer student if you take college courses prior to your enrollment.
- Starting college at an early age would put you in college classes with older students.

COLLEGE TIMELINE FOR SENIORS

August/September

_____ Start a **College Planning Folder**.

_____ Register with **NCAA Clearinghouse** if you are planning to play college sports.

_____ Register for **ACT or SAT** tests if necessary. (If you miss the first fall test date, your next opportunity may be too late to send scores to your college choices.)

_____ Complete **senior resume forms** and/or Senior Brag Sheet to be used for recommendations. If you will need recommendations written for your applications, contact those teachers, counselors, or other individuals this month.

_____ Return **Brag Sheet or Counselor Rec Request** to your counselor.

_____ **Attend NorTex College Fair in September at the Golden Triangle Mall.**

_____ **Decide** on early decision or early action. (See the chart on page 4.)

_____ Narrow **college choices** to a few schools and begin the application process.

_____ If you are **applying** to any Texas Public University, you may apply online at www.applytexas.org. Visit college websites to determine how to apply to each school.

_____ Apply for any and all **scholarships** for which you qualify. Check the counseling website or other websites weekly for additional scholarship opportunities. See the *Financial Aid section of this handbook*.

_____ If your college or scholarship applications require **essays**, **GET STARTED NOW**. Choose an English teacher to help you critique your work.

October

_____ Complete **essays**. Keep a copy for yourself.

_____ Finish making **college visits**.

_____ Retake the **SAT and/or ACT** if necessary.

_____ Give **recommendation forms** to teachers and counselors **TWO WEEKS** in advance of the date you need them.

_____ Attend a **financial aid & FAFSA information meeting**. Check with your counselor for dates and times. Start your FAFSA application.

_____ Check your school's counseling website to **access scholarship and other important information**.

November

_____ Check your school's counseling website to **access scholarship and other important information**.



December

_____ Send **applications** and **recommendations** to meet necessary Dec/Jan deadlines.

_____ Check your school's counseling website to **access scholarship and other important information**.

January

_____ Request the Registrar's office to send **mid-year transcript***, if required.

_____ Check your school's counseling website to **access scholarship and other important information**.

February

_____ Check your school's counseling website to **access scholarship and other important information**.

_____ Make sure that all **applications are complete and sent** (or ready to be sent).

March/April

_____ Register to take appropriate **AP** exams.

_____ **Notices** of acceptance or denial usually arrive from colleges by April 15.

_____ Check your school's counseling website to **access scholarship and other important information**.

_____ **Respond promptly** – in writing – for action on admissions, scholarship, and financial aid information.

_____ **Notify colleges** that you **do not plan to attend** as this frees up openings for other students.

_____ Make a final college decision if required. Many colleges subscribe to a May 1st candidate reply date.

May

_____ Take **AP** exams.

_____ Check your school's counseling website to **access scholarship and other important information**.

June/August

_____ Request a **final transcript** be sent to the college of your choice.

_____ Work and **save money** to help with college expenses.

_____ **Get vaccinated against bacterial meningitis**. (Effective January 1, 2012, all new college students must provide proof of the vaccination *or attendance on campus will be denied*.)

MAKE YOUR SENIOR YEAR COUNT

Seniors have worked hard for three years, taking tests, completing projects, and preparing for college admission. When senior year rolls around, some students just want to get through college applications and relax before they head off to the college of their choice. Also known as senioritis, taking it easy the senior year may seem like a nice break, but is likely to do more harm than good. According to recent reports, incomplete high school preparation can contribute to academic problems in college. ***“As many as half of all college students do not have adequate academic preparation, and are required to take remedial courses.” “More than one quarter of the freshmen at 4-year colleges and nearly half of those at 2-year colleges do not even make it to their sophomore year.”*** Not only does senioritis jeopardize your chances for success later on in college, it can also affect your grades – and college admission officers pay close attention to your performance senior year.

SENIOR-YEAR GRADES AND COLLEGE ADMISSION

Many students mistakenly believe that prepping for college ends after the eleventh grade. However, the senior year – **the entire senior year** – is actually of particular interest to colleges.

APPLYING

Many college applications (including the Common Application) require you to list your senior courses, including information about course levels and credit hours. It will be very obvious to the admission officers if you’ve decided to “take the year off.” Many colleges also include as part of the application a form called the mid-year grade report. Your counselor completes this form with first-half grades and sends it to the colleges to which you’ve applied. It then becomes a crucial part of the application folder.

IF YOU ARE ACCEPTED

Many college acceptance letters include warnings to students such as “Your admission is contingent on your continued successful performance.” This means colleges reserve the right to deny you admission should your senior year grades drop. Mary Lee Hoganson, College Counselor for Homewood-Flossmor Community High School, Flossmor, Illinois writes: “It is not at all rare for a college to withdraw an offer of admission when grades drop significantly over the course of the senior year. (I have a folder full of copies of these letters.)”

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR

Senior year is your opportunity to strengthen your skills and broaden your experiences, in school and out, to prepare for all of the challenges ahead. A successful senior year can help launch you on the path to a successful future.

MAINTAIN A CHALLENGING COURSE LOAD

You should take the most rigorous courses available, and be sure to continue taking college-track subjects. Consider AP® and dual credit courses, which can also earn you credit at many colleges.

STAY ACTIVE AND INVOLVED

Your continued involvement in activities, sports, volunteer work, etc. will help you stay active and focused throughout your final year. A great internship or career-focused job opportunity can help motivate you to start considering your career options. Meaningful and significant experiences will help prepare you to make informed decisions about your education and career goals.

TRY OUT COLLEGE EARLY

If you’re interested in pursuing a subject further, and have excelled in your high school classes so far, consider taking a class at a local college. This challenge can help you avoid sliding into an academic slump, and stimulate your interest in the possibilities of college. Another option in many areas is “middle college” or “early college” high schools. These schools, normally located on community and four-year college campuses, allow students to spend their last two years taking classes in both college and high school. Early exposure to college classes introduces you to the rigor of college work while easing your transition from high school.

Sources: National Commission on the High School Senior Year, *The Lost Opportunity of Senior Year; Finding a Better Way – Summary of Findings*, 2001. Barth, P., Haycock, K., Huang, S. and Richardson, A., *Youth at the Crossroads; Facing High School and Beyond*. Washington, DC: The Education Trust, 2000.

GLOSSARY

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TERMINOLOGY

COLLEGE LINGO: Applicant pool. The total number of students who are applying to a given college or university in a particular year.

WHAT TO KNOW

BEFORE YOU GO

Early decision. An application plan in which students apply in the fall (usually November or December) and learn of the decision on their application during December or January. ED-S: early decision-single choice: students can apply to only one college; ED-F: early decision-first choice; students can apply to more than one college, but if accepted by early decision, they are usually required to withdraw their applications to other colleges. In either case, students are expected to attend the early decision school. Early decision is a binding agreement! This application plan is suggested only for students who are above average academically—and ONLY if the student is very certain of the choice.

FINANCIAL NOTE: A student is released from an early decision obligation if a financial aid package award is not adequate.

Early action. Same as early decision, EXCEPT—a student is not required to make a commitment to the school or withdraw other applications. Considered the best of both worlds by some students! Again, above average applicants fare best.

Early notification/Priority notification/Assured admission/Interim. A policy where students file applications early in the admissions process and receive an admissions decision early.

Rolling admissions. Application process through which admissions applications are evaluated upon receipt and applicants are notified within 3-4 weeks of the decision if accepted. If not accepted, a student's application is rolled over to the next admissions decision.

Admission by Review. An admissions process used by colleges/universities to assess the probability of college academic success of applicants who do not meet published admissions criteria. This process considers various factors: high school course work, extracurricular activities, leadership positions, community service, work experience, letters of recommendation, and/or extenuating circumstances of an individual.

Provisional admission. An admissions decision which allows an applicant to be "provisionally" accepted, dependent on completion of requirements set up by the college/university. These requirements may include summer session attendance with specified courses and GPA attainment, limitations on the number of courses taken in the fall, etc. Each school's policy regarding provisional admission will be different.

Open admissions. An admissions process that allows virtually all applicants to be accepted, without regard to such traditional qualifying criteria as test scores, class rank, grades, etc.

Early admission. A program in which a college accepts high school students to begin college work before they graduate—admissions standards are more stringent for early admissions applicants.

Deferred admissions. A program that allows an accepted student to postpone college enrollment date for up to 3 years for personal reasons (e.g. travel, work, personal hardship, etc.). Two stipulations usually apply: the student may not enroll in another institution and the student must pay a commitment deposit before the deferral is granted.

Candidate reply date agreement. Sponsored by the College Board, this agreement establishes a common date, May 1, as the earliest time a subscribing college may require an accepted applicant to notify the college that he or she plans to attend.

Candidate notification date. The date by which an institution will announce its decision on a student's application (many colleges reply the first two weeks in April).

Waiting list. An institution's list of students who were not accepted initially, but who will be accepted at a later date if space becomes available.

Yield. The number of students who are accepted to a school and accept the offer of admission.

Texas Grant. The Texas Legislature established the TEXAS (Toward Excellence, Access and Success) Grant to make sure that well-prepared high school graduates with financial need could go to college.

TESTING TERMINOLOGY

ACT. ACT is a college entrance exam composed of four 35-50 minute tests in academic areas (English usage, mathematics, reading, and social science reasoning). Scores are reported on a scale of 1-36 for each academic area, as well as a composite score which averages the four tests. Some colleges may award college course credit for ACT individual tests in the academic areas. ACT has added a writing component that is optional.

AP: Advanced Placement. AP tests, sponsored by the College Board, are three-hour exams, administered in May, based on full-year college-level courses in high school. The results are reported on a scale of 1-5, and a college may use the results for college credit or course placement.

CEEB: College Entrance Examination Board. Generally referred to as “The College Board,” this agency sponsors the SAT and provides other services for students and parents. Also, forms may ask, “What is your high school CEEB number?” (See page 32 for high school codes.)

CLEP: College-Level Examination Program. Sponsored by College Board, this program provides students with the opportunity to obtain college credit by examination. The CLEP tests are administered at most colleges and universities.

PSAT/NMSQT: Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Sponsored by College Board, the PSAT is a test that uses the same format as the SAT, but is shorter. It is administered in October. PSAT results are reported as verbal, math, and writing scores on a scale of 20-80. Selection index is a score equal to $V+M+W$.

This test is useful as an indicator of SAT scores and/or for test practice. Students may take the test as a sophomore, and are strongly encouraged to take the test as a junior. The PSAT is the basis of some merit scholarships and the source of many college mailings. National Merit Semi-Finalists are named based on a student's junior year PSAT selection index.

SAT. Developed and administered by the Educational Testing Service for College Board, the SAT Reasoning Test measures developed reasoning abilities related to successful performance in college. The SAT contains three parts: critical reading, math, and a writing section.

SAT Subject Tests. Sponsored by the College Board, these one-hour tests measure knowledge and skills in a particular subject and a student's ability to apply the knowledge. All tests, except Writing, consist of multiple-choice questions. There are 22 subject tests. Scores are reported on a scale of 200-800. Colleges may use the SAT Subject Tests for admission, credit, or placement purposes.

SAT Subject tests are offered on the same dates as SAT, but students may not take both on the same day. Students may not take more than 3 subject tests on one day.

STAAR EOC : State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness End-of-Course. STAAR EOC assessments measure a student's academic performance in core high school courses and are part of Texas graduation requirements.

High school students are now required to pass five State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) end-of-course exams to meet the new graduation requirements. The five assessments under HB 5 include Algebra 1, English 1, (combined reading/writing), English II (combined reading/writing), biology, and U.S. history. Students must pass all five of these end-of-course assessments to be eligible to graduate from a Texas public high school.

TSI: Texas Success Initiative. Not all incoming students need to take the TSI Assessment. There are many ways you can be exempt. Qualifying for a TSI Assessment exemption means that you can enroll in any entry-level college course without restrictions. In other words, there are no prerequisites for enrollment in college-level courses. You may be exempt if you:

- Have met the minimum college readiness standard on SAT®, ACT, or a statewide high school test;
- Have successfully completed college-level English and math courses;
- Have enrolled in a Level-One certificate program (fewer than 43 semester credit hours);
- Are not seeking a degree; or
- Have been, or currently are, in the military.

If you think you may be exempt, please contact an advisor at your institution. For more information visit our website at <http://bit.ly/1q2xrzQ>

Please check with the school of your choice for their exemption policy.

FINANCIAL AID TERMINOLOGY



Cost of Attendance (COA). A student's cost of attendance includes tuition and fees, room and board expenses while attending school, and allowances for books and supplies, transportation, loan fees (if applicable), dependent care costs, cost related to a disability, and other miscellaneous expenses. The school, within guidelines established by federal statute estimates the cost of attendance. The cost of attendance is

compared to a student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to determine the student's need for financial aid.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The amount determined by a formula Congress established, that a student's family is expected to contribute toward the cost of attendance. It is determined for the purposes of the federal SFA programs. The EFC is printed on the front of a Student Aid Report (SAR) or on an Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR).

William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans (Direct Subsidized Loans), Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loans (Direct Unsubsidized Loans), Federal Direct PLUS Loans, and Federal Direct Consolidated Loans. Funds for these programs are lent to student and parent borrowers from the federal government through colleges and career schools that participate in the program.

Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program. The Federal Stafford (subsidized and unsubsidized), Federal PLUS, and Federal Consolidation loan programs. Private lenders provide funds for these programs and the federal government guarantees the loans.

Financial Need. The difference between the student's cost of attendance (COA) and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application filled out and filed by a student that collects household and financial information used by the federal government to calculate the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Apply on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Need Analysis. The process of analyzing household and financial information on a student's financial aid application and calculating an Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Pell Grant. Awarded through strict rules set by the Department of Education. If a student is eligible on the basis of these rules, an eligible college can pay the student his or her Federal Pell Grant and will be reimbursed by the Department.

Student Financial Assistance Programs (SFA). Programs administered by the office of Student Financial Assistance Programs within the U.S. Department of Education: Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study, Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans, Federal Direct PLUS Loans, Federal Stafford Loans, Federal PLUS Loans, and State Student Incentive Grants.

Student Aid Report (SAR). A federal output document sent to a student by the application processor. The SAR contains financial and other information reported by the student on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). That information is entered into the processing system, and the SAR is produced. A student's eligibility for aid is indicated by the EFC, which is printed on the front of the SAR.

Unmet financial need. Difference between the COA (cost of attendance), the EFC (expected family contribution) and the awarded aid.

Verification. A procedure where a school checks the information a student reported on the FAFSA, usually by requesting a copy of signed tax returns filed by the student and, if applicable, the student's parent(s) and spouse.

APPENDIX

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION



Virtual Learning Academy/TXVSN Online Courses

The Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) provides online learning opportunities to secondary students across the district. VLA serves high school students who

- want a flexible learning environment
- learn better online
- want to make room in their schedule for fine arts, athletics, or career and technology courses
- want to take a course not offered on campus
- want to graduate early
- want to work and go to school
- want an original credit option for credit recovery

High school juniors and seniors may take online courses outside the school day to supplement their regular instructional program. Some students may qualify to take an online course inside the school day if they have late arrival or early release. Instruction and content are delivered primarily over the Internet, and most instructional activities take place online. This means that students have flexible mobility and do not have to be physically present at school to work on their online course.

Students are not alone in their online courses! There is extensive interaction between students and the online teacher and students and their classmates. These frequent, ongoing interactions occur within the course and in real time through a variety of tools: phone, Twitter, course messaging, district email, Blackboard Collaborate, Google Docs, and other Web 2.0 tools.

Online courses help students develop important college and career readiness skills in key areas: self-directed learning, time management, organization, and self-advocacy.

For more information about online courses, Visit the VLA website: <http://vla.lisd.net>



Campus-based Enriched Virtual (blendED) Courses

Enriched Virtual (blendED) classes offer the best of both worlds: face-to-face instruction and online learning. Students attend class on campus 2-3 days a week and complete the remainder of the coursework online. Students enrolled in an Enriched Virtual class have flexible mobility. This means they may work at a location of their choosing on days they don't meet as a class. Some students work at home, the library, or a coffee house, while others choose to work on campus in the teacher's room or in the library media center. Enriched Virtual classes are powerful because students may work with the teacher on an off/online day for personalized instruction. Additionally, off days provide built-in opportunities for students to meet and collaborate around their learning.

As with online courses, Enriched Virtual courses help students develop important college and career readiness skills in key areas: self-directed learning, time management, organization, and self-advocacy.

For more information about Enriched Virtual courses, Visit the VLA website: <http://vla.lisd.net>

Other Credit Opportunities –Night High School, credit by exam (CBE) or credit recovery.



Eligibility
Center

ARE YOU A STUDENT ATHLETE?

VISIT THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

WWW.NCAA.ORG

SAMPLE RESUMÉ

VISIT THESE SITES FOR FREE RESUME TEMPLATES:

WWW.RESUME.COM

WWW.RESUME-NOW.COM

Your Name
Your Street Address
North, TX 75000
Your Telephone Number

EDUCATION

Senior at North High School
GPA: 92.45
Class Rank: 83 in a class of 402
Significant Academic Endeavors: (International Baccalaureate candidate, etc.)

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

National Honor Society, junior and senior years
Fellowship of Christian Athletes Vice President, junior year
Basketball team, four years
Key Club, sophomore, junior, and senior years

AWARDS AND HONORS

National Merit semi-finalist
Ranked in the top quarter of class for four years
Spanish Achievement Award
Eagle Scout

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

President of National Honor Society
Vice President of Senior Class

COMMUNITY AND CHURCH ACTIVITIES

North Hispanic Youth Council, senior year
Church Youth Group, Church Name, sophomore, and junior year
Boy Scouts of America, eight years

WORK EXPERIENCE

Materials Transportation Company welder, senior year
McDonald's Restaurant cook, junior year

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Olin E. Teague Veterans Center, summer volunteer – 2011-2013
Denton County Rehabilitation Center, after school recreation volunteer – 2 years

RECOMMENDATION LETTER INFORMATION

(SAMPLE)

Name _____ ID# _____

Address _____ DOB _____

_____ Social Security # _____

E-mail _____ Telephone _____

FAMILY DATA

FATHER

MOTHER

Name _____

Occupation _____

Name of business
or organization _____

Please explain if there are any special circumstances regarding your family that I should know.
(For example, if one of your parents is deceased, job layoff, etc.)

SIBLINGS

Name **Age** **School/College**

PERSONAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS

What have you enjoyed most about high school?

If you could change one thing about your high school experience, what would it be? Why would you change it, and how?

Is your academic record an accurate measure of your ability? Why or why not?

Describe an academic experience which has been a highlight in your years in high school. (For example, a particular teacher, a class, a paper you wrote, a project or book.)

Who has had the greatest influence on you? Why?

WRITING THE COLLEGE ESSAY

The college entrance essay is often required (and at least preferred) as part of the overall admissions process. The essay is an important piece of the process, because that is your time to shine! It is through the essay that you reveal your intelligence, maturity, humor, enthusiasm, and writing ability.

EVALUATION - Colleges are looking for the following:

1. Standard written English skills.
2. Depth of content, substance, and integrity of response.
3. Creativity in expressing fresh and innovative viewpoints/opinions.

DIRECTIONS – Be very careful to follow the directions EXACTLY:

1. Answer the question/prompt specifically. Being too broad and/or unclear will only confuse the admissions committee and does not best represent your viewpoints.
2. Answer the question honestly. Don't go for answers that you think committees want to read. This essay is your time to show other areas of your life that are not represented anywhere else. Be real!

OTHER TIPS:

1. Don't wait until the last minute! You need time to let the essay "gel" in your mind and in your own style. Plus, you will need time to let others edit and refine any errors or unclear areas.
2. If the essay is optional – WRITE and SUBMIT IT! The extra effort gives the committee more information about you – and is often the difference between those who are admitted and those who are not.
3. Monitor the content – read to make sure that you are not being shallow, unclear, pathetic, or just plain weird. Remember that funny and unique are in the eye of the reader.
4. Read your essay out loud so that you can hear how it flows. If possible, find an English teacher or someone else that you trust to read and evaluate what you have written.
5. Type your essay unless it specifically requests a handwritten copy. Don't rely on the word processor's spell check...it doesn't catch everything.
6. Avoid slang or text language. Just because you use it with your friends does not make it the best representation of you.
7. Make a photocopy for your own files before you send it out.
8. Using the same basic essay is OK, as long as it fits the required questions and best represents you. Be very careful that you change the names of the schools before you send out the wrong copy to the wrong college.
9. Be sure to send the essay in before it is due. You may disqualify yourself if you don't!

HELPFUL INTERNET ADDRESSES

| WHAT DO YOU WANT TO | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #6 | #7 | #8 | #9 | #10 | #11 | #12 | #13 | #14 |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ACT On-line Registration | ** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT Sample Questions/Test | ** | | | | | | | | ** | | | | | |
| ACT National Test Dates | ** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Admission Requirements | | | | | | ** | | | | | | | | ** |
| AP Test Dates | | ** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Applications On-line | | ** | | | | ** | | | | ** | | | | |
| Career Search | | ** | | | | | ** | | ** | | | | | |
| College Planning | ** | ** | | | | ** | | | ** | | | | | ** |
| College Search | | ** | ** | | | | | | ** | | | | ** | |
| Cost of Education | | | | | | ** | | | ** | | | | | |
| CSS Financial Profile | | ** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Degrees Offered | | | | | | ** | | | ** | | | | | |
| FAFSA Help | | | ** | ** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Financial Aid for Texas Students | ** | ** | ** | ** | ** | ** | | | ** | | | ** | | ** |
| NCAA Guidelines | | | | | | | | ** | | | | | | |
| SAT On-line Registration | | ** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SAT Sample Questions | | ** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SAT National Test Dates | | ** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SAT (Sending Scores) | | ** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scholarships | | | | | ** | ** | | | | | ** | | ** | |
| Texas Colleges On-line | | | | | | ** | | | | | | | | |
| TASP/THEA | | | | | | ** | | | | | | | | |

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|--|
| #1 | AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING | www.act.org |
| #2 | COLLEGE BOARD | www.collegeboard.org |
| #3 | FAFSA | www.fafsa.ed.gov |
| #4 | SALLIE MAE | www.salliemae.com |
| #5 | LISD HOME PAGE | www.lisd.net/parentstabcounseling |
| #6 | TEXAS HIGHER ED COOR.BOARD | www.thecb.state.tx.us |
| #7 | TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION | www.cdr.state.tx.us |
| #8 | NCAA | www.ncaa.org |
| #9 | GO COLLEGE SEARCH | www.gocollege.com |
| #10 | TEXAS COMMON APPLICATION | www.applytexas.org |
| #11 | FASTWEB | www.fastweb.com |
| #12 | FINANCIAL AID | www.finaid.com |
| #13 | PETERSON'S | www.petersons.com |
| #14 | ADVENTURES IN EDUCATION | www.adventuresineducation.org |

DALLAS/FORT WORTH AREA CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

| District | Name | Staffer | Local Phone | USMA Local Liaison | Academy Forum(s) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1st | Louie Gohmert | Sue Lowes | 202-225-3035 903-561-6349 | | No |
| 3rd | Sam Johnson | Lori McMahon | 202-225-4201 972-470-0892 | Air Force – Major Lisa McMeme | Yes |
| 4th | Ralph Hall | Janet Perry- Poppleton | 202-225-6673 972-771-9118 | Tom Hughes | No |
| 5th | Jeb Hensarling | Mike Garcia | 202-225-3484 214-349-9996 | Margaret Smith | No |
| 6th | Joe Barton | Linda Gillespie | 202-225-2002 817-543-1000 | Jenny Howell | Yes |
| 12th | Kay Granger | Barbara Ragland | 202-225-5071 817-338-0909 | Chelsea Payne | Yes |
| 13th | Mac Thornberry | Sandra Ross | 202-225-3706 940-692-1700 | Paul Simpson | Yes |
| 17th | Bill Flores | Ed Getterman | 202-225-6105 254-732-0748 | Penny Forrest | Yes |
| 24th | Kenneth Marchant | Susie Miller | 202-225-6605 972-556-0162 | Amanda Calogne | Yes |
| 26th | ***Michael C. Burgess | Eric With | 202-225-7772 972-434-9700 | Robin Vaughan | Yes |
| 30th | Eddie Bernice Johnson | Rod Givens | 202-225-8885 214-922-8885 | Collin Chlebak | Yes |
| TX US Senators | | | | | |
| | John Cornyn | John Wood | 202-224-2934 972-239-1310 | Juan Garcia- Liscuran | No |
| | Ted Cruz | Chip Roy | 202-224-5922 214-361-3500 | Ben Murrey 512-916-5834 | Yes |

* Most file completion deadlines are in the first two weeks of November. Check with each office to Verify the deadline

**Web page to determine Congressional District by address is <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>

***LISD Representative

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR COLLEGE VISIT

I. Take the regularly scheduled tours given by the Office of Admissions or High School Recruitment.

- A. Have a list of questions prepared so you can ask your student guide for information while you are touring.
- B. Make sure you see typical classrooms, dorm rooms and any athletic or music facility you are interested in using.

II. Send your parents to the Financial Aid Office while you visit a class in the subject in which you might major.

PARENTS

- A. Ask which financial aid forms are required (FAFSA only or any further forms specific to that school).
- B. Ask what documentation will be needed, i.e. income tax.

STUDENTS

A. Academics

- For what programs is this university or college well known?
- What is the student to professor ratio?
- How many volumes are in the library?
- How many hours of advanced standing may a student bring?
- Do you have a core curriculum?

B. Housing Considerations

- Are freshmen required to live in the dorm?
- Is housing guaranteed for all four years?
- Are the dorms co-ed?
- Are there "quiet" floors and if so, what are the regulations?
- What appliances can you bring?
- Can you paint your own dorm room?
- What are the steps for changing roommates if necessary?

C. Social Aspects

- Do students remain on campus or leave on weekends?
- How important is the Greek system?
- Are the students politically active? (READ THE SIDEWALKS)
- How active is the student association in planning activities?
-



III. Stop by the Placement Office to ask the following questions:

- A. How many students graduated in YOUR MAJOR last year?
- B. How many of those were employed within six months?
- C. How many were employed in their field?
- D. Which companies came to the campus to recruit YOUR MAJOR?
- E. What summer internships or co-op programs might be available?

IV. Ask what support systems are available i.e. tutoring, writing or math labs, organizations.

V. Ask in the College Office for the names of former HS students from your campus who have volunteered to host prospective students or to answer their questions.

CAMPUS VISIT CHECKLIST

Name of College _____

Date and time of visit _____

Address and travel instructions _____

Contact Person _____

Admissions Office phone number _____

Date and time of visit _____

Campus tour _____

Places to see _____

Names of faculty appointments _____

Classes and social events to attend _____

Dormitory to visit _____

Student Host _____



COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CHECK-LIST

Use this convenient check-list to remind yourself of individual college admissions requirements and to record the progress of your application procedures.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| College Name | | | | | | | | |
| College Address/Web Address | | | | | | | | |
| Catalog Requested | | | | | | | | |
| Admission Application Deadline | | | | | | | | |
| Application Fee | | | | | | | | |
| Required Tests: | Registration Deadline | Testing Date | Registration Deadline | Testing Date | Registration Deadline | Testing Date | Registration Deadline | Testing Date |
| PSAT/NMSQT | | | | | | | | |
| SAT | | | | | | | | |
| ACT | | | | | | | | |
| THEA | | | | | | | | |
| Course Requirements Fulfilled | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Interview Required | | | | | | | | |
| Interview Date | | | | | | | | |
| Interview Questions Prepared | | | | | | | | |
| Application Requested | | | | | | | | |
| Applications Received | | | | | | | | |
| References Required | | | | | | | | |
| Names/Addresses of References | | | | | | | | |
| References Complete | | | | | | | | |
| Application Completed On-Line | | | | | | | | |
| Transcript Sent | | | | | | | | |
| College Reply Date | | | | | | | | |
| Financial Aid Deadline | | | | | | | | |
| FAFSA Completed | | | | | | | | |
| Required Financial Forms | | | | | | | | |
| Income Tax Forms | | | | | | | | |
| Private Colleges Additional Information | | | | | | | | |
| Other | | | | | | | | |
| Housing Deadline | | | | | | | | |
| Housing Fee | | | | | | | | |
| Housing Application Mailed | | | | | | | | |

SUMMER PROGRAMS

This is not a complete list of all University Summer Programs. Contact individual universities for program offerings.

| | |
|---|---|
| Baylor University http://www.baylor.edu/summerscience/ | Summer Science Research Institute |
| Boston University http://www.bu.edu/summer/high-school-programs | High School Honors, Research Internship, Summer Challenge, Summer Preview |
| Brown University http://brown.edu/ce/pre-college/ | Summer Programs for Pre-College Students |
| Cornell University http://www.se.cornell.edu/sc/ | Summer College & Summer Honors Programs |
| Duke University http://www.tip.duke.edu/node/286 http://www.learnmore.duke.edu/youth/ | Programs for Academically Gifted Students (TIP) Summer Youth programs |
| Johns Hopkins http://www.jhu.edu/summer | Summer Programs for Pre-college Students |
| The Junior Statesman Foundation http://jsa.org/summerprograms | Government & Politics for Outstanding Students |
| Military Academies | Refer to academy web sites on page 38 |
| Savannah College of Art & Design http://www.scad.edu/admission/admission-information/pre-colleges/scad-summer | Pre-College Summer Seminars |
| Southern Methodist University http://www.smu.edu/simmons/community/Enrichment/youth | Pre-College and College Programs |
| Texas A&M – College Station http://engineering.tamu.edu/news/2012/10/12/summer-camps-help-high-school-students http://www.math.tamu.edu/outreach/camp/ http://vermed/tamu.edu/bims/future/veterinary-enrichment-camp | |
| Texas Lutheran University http://www.tlu.edu/community | Scholars Academy, Summer Music Academy |
| Texas Summer Programs and Camps for High School and Middle School Students http://www.studenteducationprograms.com/texas.html | |

Graduation Program – Overview

Foundation High School Program

The Foundation High School Program with endorsements is a flexible program that allows students to pursue their interests. It is the default graduation program for students who entered high school in the 2014-15 school year or later.

The program contains up to four parts:

- A 22-credit foundation plan which is the core of the Texas high school diploma program
- Five endorsement* options that allow students to focus on a related series of courses
- A higher performance category called Distinguished Level of Achievement
- Performance Acknowledgments that note outstanding achievement in specific areas**

The Foundation requirements (22 credits) include:

English (4 credits) • English I • English II • English III • An advanced English course

Mathematics (3 credits) • Algebra I • Geometry • An advanced math course

Science (3 credits) • Biology • Integrated Physics & Chemistry or an advanced science course
• An advanced science course

Social Studies (3 credits) • World History or World Geography • U.S. History
• U.S. Government (one-half credit) • Economics (one-half credit)

Languages Other Than English (2 credits) • 2 credits in the same language or
• 2 credits from Computer Science I, II, III

Physical Education (1 credit) **Fine Arts (1 credit)** **Electives (5 credits)**

Speech: Demonstrated proficiency

Endorsements Total credits with endorsements 26

Enhancements

Additionally, a student may earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement and/or a Performance Acknowledgment for outstanding performance. The Distinguished Level of Achievement must be earned to be admitted to a Texas public university under the Top 10 percent automatic admission law.

Distinguished Level of Achievement

- Foundation Program requirements
- 4 credits in math including Algebra II
- 4 credits in science
- at least 1 endorsement

Performance Acknowledgments Areas**

- dual credit courses
- bilingualism and biliteracy
- PSAT, ACT ASPIRE®, SAT or ACT
- Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams
- earning a state-, nationally- or internationally-recognized business or industry certification or license

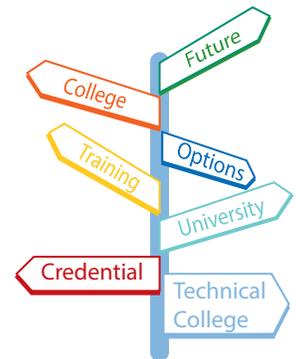
*A student entering 9th grade must indicate an endorsement he or she plans to follow. A student may change or add an endorsement at any time.

A student may graduate without earning an endorsement if, after his or her sophomore year, the student's parent signs a form permitting the student to omit the endorsement requirement.

Choices determine options

Most of the very best jobs available now and in the future require education and training beyond a high school diploma. Whether you intend to pursue a high-demand, industry workforce credential from a community or technical college or a traditional four-year degree from a university, the choices made in high school will determine your future options.

To best prepare yourself now for the transition to post-high school education or quality workforce training, choosing and taking the right classes is essential. The Distinguished Level of Achievement will ensure the best preparation for your future.



Why it matters — *Benefits*

The Distinguished Level of Achievement opens a world of educational and employment opportunities for you beyond high school. The Distinguished Level of Achievement will:

- Allow you to compete for Top 10% automatic admissions eligibility at any Texas public university;
- Position you among those first in line for a TEXAS Grant* to help pay for university tuition and fees; and
- Ensure you are a more competitive applicant at the most selective colleges and universities.

*Must be financially qualified

What it means

The Distinguished Level of Achievement requires more math and more science than the Foundation High School Program. The Distinguished Level of Achievement requires:

- A total of four credits in math, including Algebra II;
- A total of four credits in science; and
- Successful completion of an endorsement in your area of interest.



Advantages

- Opportunity to earn an endorsement in an area of interest
- More college and university options
- More financial aid options
- Better preparation for college-level coursework at community/technical colleges and universities
- Opportunity for immediate enrollment in classes related to your chosen field of study
- Strong foundation to successfully complete an industry workforce credential or college degree



COUNSELING & SOCIAL WORK

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LEWISVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT