

# What you need to know about college applications



## Northbrook High School

**Ramiro Fonseca**  
September 28, 2019



# Today's discussion

- Types of colleges
- What matters when applying to college
- College planning timeline
- Researching colleges
- ***FREE*** college planning resources

# Public Colleges and Universities

- Established and funded by state governments.
- Supported by taxes paid by the citizens of the state.
- 4-Year Programs
- Graduate Programs
- Not for profit
- **Examples in Texas:**
  - University of Texas (system)
  - Sam Houston State University
  - Lamar University
  - Texas A&M University (system)



# Private Colleges and Universities

- Supported by student tuition and fees and by private donors
- Offer financial aid to support student cost of attendance (COA)
- Not for profit

## Examples in Texas:

- Rice University
- Baylor University
- Houston Baptist University
- Jarvis Christian College



# Two - year program – Community College

You can earn a certification in a few weeks or an associates degree after two years of successful courses.

You may then **transfer** to a four year college to complete two more years and earn a bachelor's degree.



# For-profit

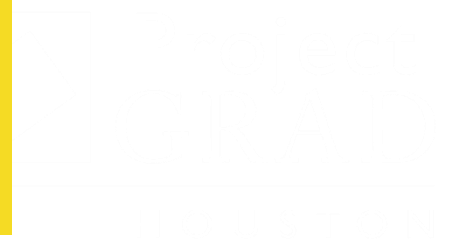
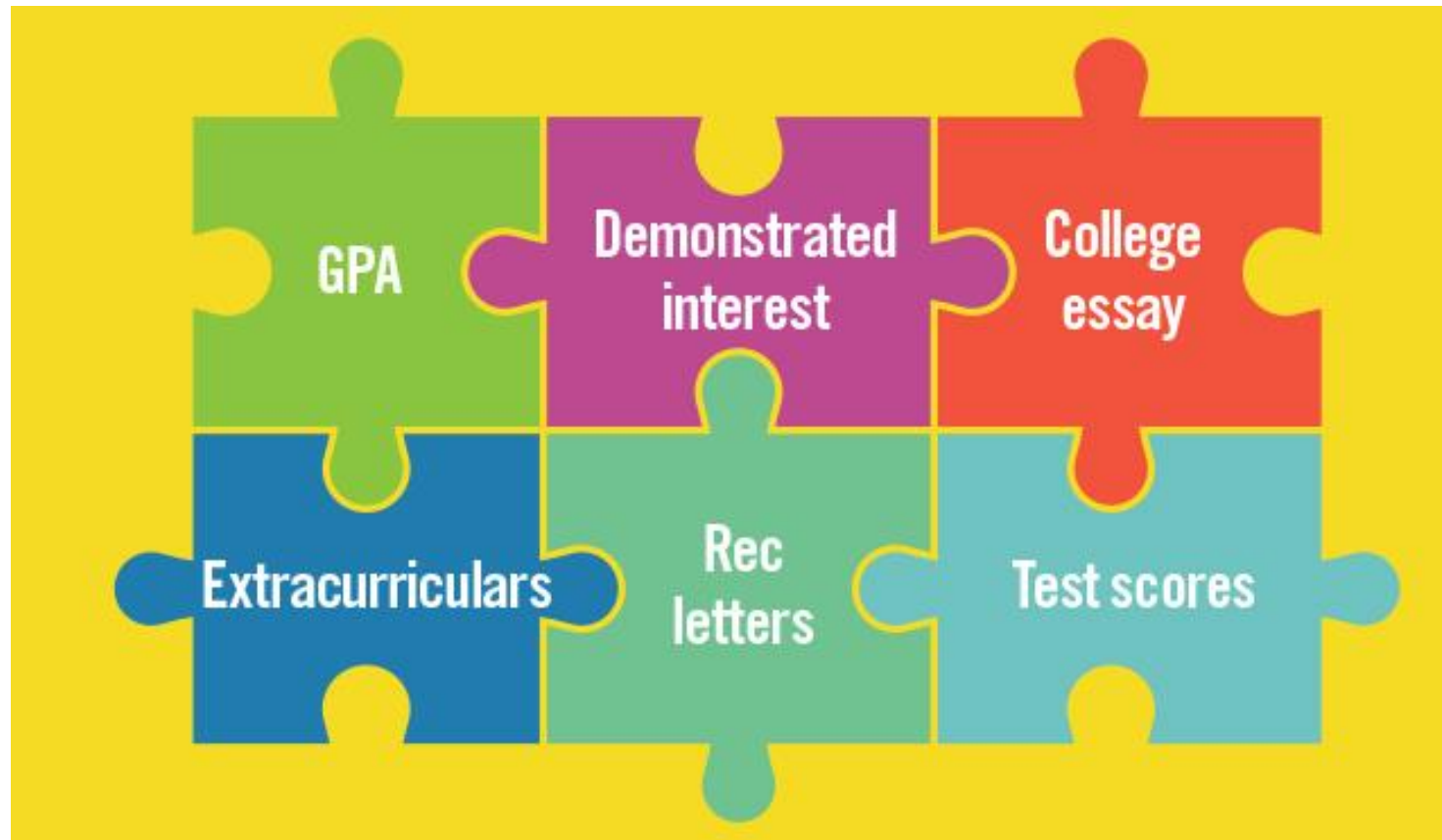
Credits do not usually transfer to other colleges.

First, it is a business. Second, it is a school.

The longer you stay in school and pay tuition, the more profit the school can make.



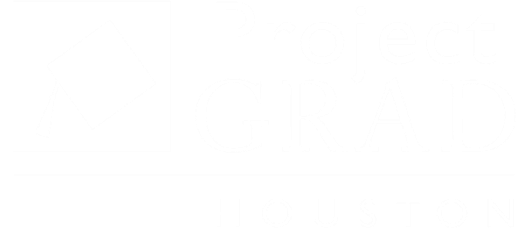
# So what matters when applying to college?



# GPA – grade point average

## GPA

Course	Credit Hours	Grade	Grade Points	Grade Points x Credit Hours
Subject #1	3	A	4	12
Subject #2	5	B	3	15
Subject #3	3	A	4	12
Subject #4	3	C	2	6
Subject #5	3	B	3	9
			17	54
		$54 \div 17 = 3.18$		
<b>Total Grade Points</b>		<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>Weighted GPA</b>	





# What is your target GPA?

- Your target GPA is the GPA required by your first choice college or by the most demanding scholarship application you are trying to win.
- Your GPA is most important to you – no one else. Protect it carefully.



# Rebecca Olmos



- Rebecca Olmos – Sanchez (George I Sanchez HS) 2014 GRAD Spotlight Scholar

“ Don’t freak out. Make the best of your high school years but make sure to keep up with your GPA because your GPA will be the key to set your future.”

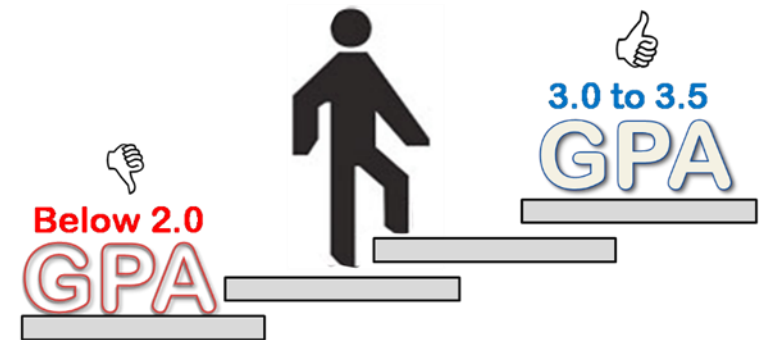
# How can I raise my GPA?

- First, it is much easier to keep a high GPA than it is to raise a low GPA.
- You can raise your GPA by earning higher grades in your classes.



# How can I raise my GPA?

- GPA is a number that can be used to compare your academic achievement to the academic achievement of other students who may apply for the same programs.
- GPA also how much you are willing to work at academic success.
- You are not likely to earn a scholarship if it appears you are not working hard academically



## Ford Driving Dreams Scholarship Program

Complete applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm central time on February 21, 2019.

Welcome and thank you for your interest in the Ford Driving Dreams Scholarship Program! Ford Motor Company Fund and Texas Area Ford Dealers applaud you for recognizing that a college degree will open the doors to amazing possibilities.

This program is intended to encourage high school seniors from the Texas area to pursue a college degree, and to invest in their dreams to drive a brighter future.

Please answer the questions below to determine if you are eligible to apply:

- Are you currently a high school senior?
- Is your cumulative GPA a 3.0 or better?
- Are you currently taking the ACT test, or 1050 or higher on the SAT test?



You are eligible to apply if you:

1. Have graduated or will graduate from high school (or have earned or will earn a high school equivalency diploma) by the end of the 2018-19 academic year;
2. Graduated or will graduate with a GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale;
3. Are not and have not previously been enrolled in a four-year institution or bachelor program and have not earned more than 21 credits in a community college (not counting credits earned in a pre-college or dual enrollment program in high school);



## Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members

### TEXAS CAUCUS OF BLACK SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS \$2000 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JAN 31, 2019.

Complete this application below and email to awards@tcbsbm.net.

( Minimum Requirements: Applicants must be of African American descent, have a B (3.0) average or above and be graduating in the upcoming year.

# Class rank

- Class rank is where you are in the line with the other students in your class.
- Class rank 1 is the #1 person in the class based on GPA.
- Texas schools will use this ranking to decide which students are given
  - Top 10% admission preference



# ACT & SAT – college entrance exams

## Which one should I take?



# How colleges use admissions tests



## 8 things to know:

1. Most four-year colleges use test scores in their admission decisions
2. Test scores are not the most important factor (but they are important!)
3. Most colleges publish student test-score information (as a guide)
4. Admission tests let colleges find you
5. Colleges may use scores to Award Scholarships
6. Scores may determine placement in college classes
7. Most four-year colleges require scores, some two-year colleges recommend them
8. Colleges consider multiple scores in different ways



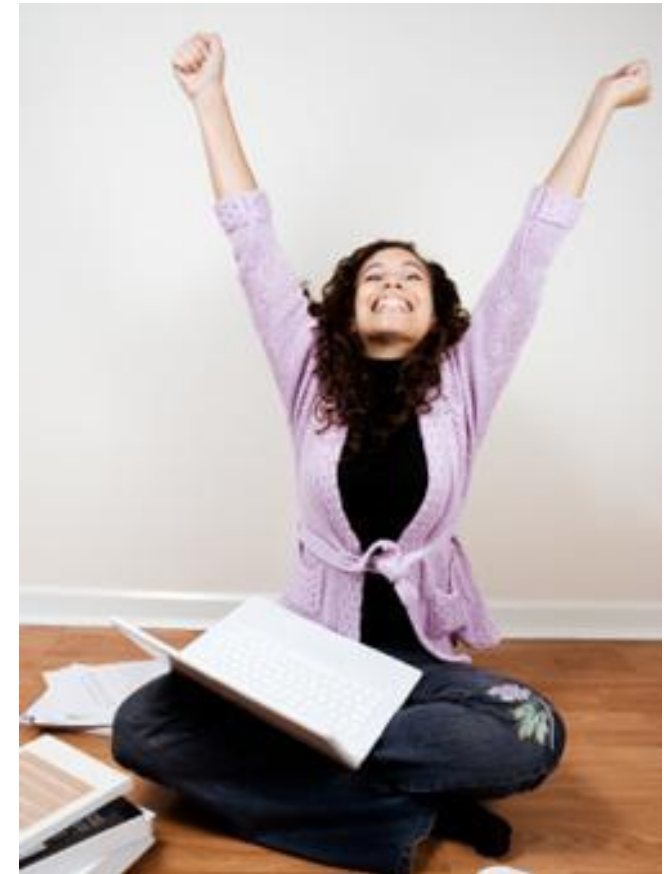
# Why is test prep important?



- Preparing for the tests will inform you about how you compare to other students taking the same test.
- It will help you understand what works best during the actual test.
- Preparing will give you an accurate idea about timing.
- It boosts your confidence.
- Test prep can improve scores.

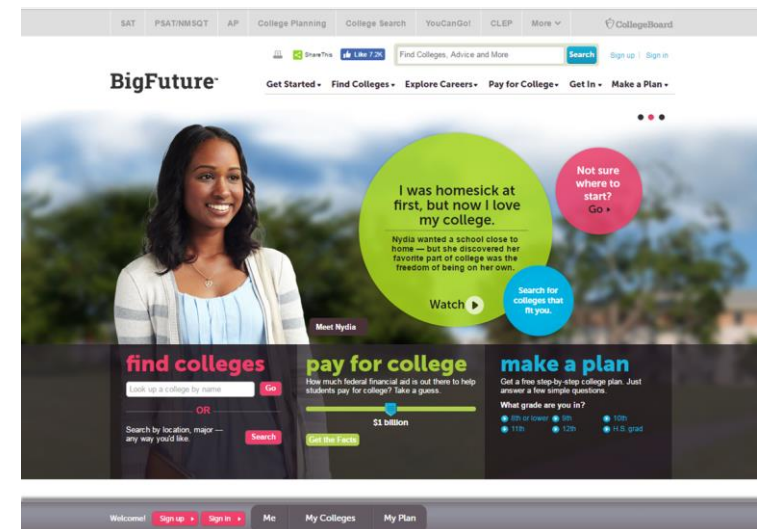
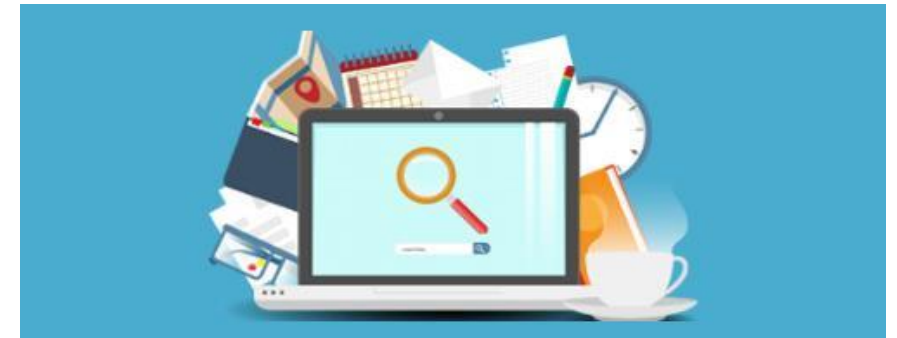
# Other factors important in the college application

- Test scores are only one factor.
- Other factors:
  - Your background
  - Your characteristics
  - Your family history
  - Your community/school involvement
  - Your academics/achievements



# Research. Explore. Plan.

- Research schools and make a list of schools your interested in
- What type of school is it?
- Do they have the major your interested in?
- Have you looked at the cost of tuition?
- What are the admission requirements?
- Do they have early admission?
- Where is the school's application located?
- What type of fee waivers do they accept?



The screenshot shows the BigFuture website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, AP, College Planning, College Search, YouCanGo!, CLEP, and More. A search bar is present with the text "Find Colleges, Advice and More" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar, there are links for "Get Started", "Find Colleges", "Explore Careers", "Pay for College", "Get In", and "Make a Plan". The main content area features a video player with a woman's face and text: "I was homesick at first, but now I love my college." Below the video, there are three main sections: "find colleges" with a search bar, "pay for college" with a progress bar showing "\$1 billion" and a "Get the Facts" button, and "make a plan" with a "Watch" button and a "Search for colleges that fit you." button. At the bottom, there are links for "Welcome", "Sign up", "Sign in", "Me", "My Colleges", and "My Plan".

# Tuition calculators

## COSTS & FINANCIAL AID

### Undergraduate Costs & Financial Aid

How to Apply

**Tuition & Fees**

Tuition

University Fees

College Fees

Course Fees

Estimate Cost of Attendance

Timeline 2018-2019

Types of Aid

Scholarships & Financial Aid Forms

FAQs

Undergraduate Admissions

Graduate Costs & Financial Aid

Payment Information

Contact Us

## Tuition & Fees

Undergraduate tuition and fees vary depending on your department, your residence status, your graduate level, and the courses you're taking.

Be sure to check [college fees](#) and [course fees](#) in addition to [basic tuition](#) and [University fees](#) for a full picture of what you'll pay. Additional fees, such as parking, are not included on the schedule of charges.

Please [click here](#) to view the 2018-2018 timeline of important dates.

### Academic Year 2019 Tuition Calculator

PLEASE TELL US YOUR PLANS					
What is your residency status?	Resident				
Which college do you plan to attend?	Engineering				
Taking classes on campus/off campus?	On-Campus				
Career Level	Undergraduate				
Is this your first year as an undergraduate?	Yes				
How many hours do you plan to attend?	15				
ESTIMATED COST PER SEMESTER					
Tuition and Consolidated Fees	\$5752.05				
Mandatory Fee - Student Service Fee	\$260.00				
Mandatory Fee - University Center Fee	\$135.00				
Mandatory Fee - Recreation and Wellness Center	\$106.00				
TOTAL:	\$6253.05				
YOU MIGHT QUALIFY FOR A FIXED TUITION RATE					
	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year	Total
Variable Rate	\$11504.10	\$11757.19	\$12015.85	\$12280.20	\$47557.34
FixedRate	\$10491.46	\$10491.46	\$10491.46	\$10491.46	\$41965.84



#### RELATED LINKS

[Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid](#)

[Academic Calendar](#)

[Waivers - College for Texans](#)

[Financial Aid FAQs](#)

QUESTIONS? ASK SHASTA

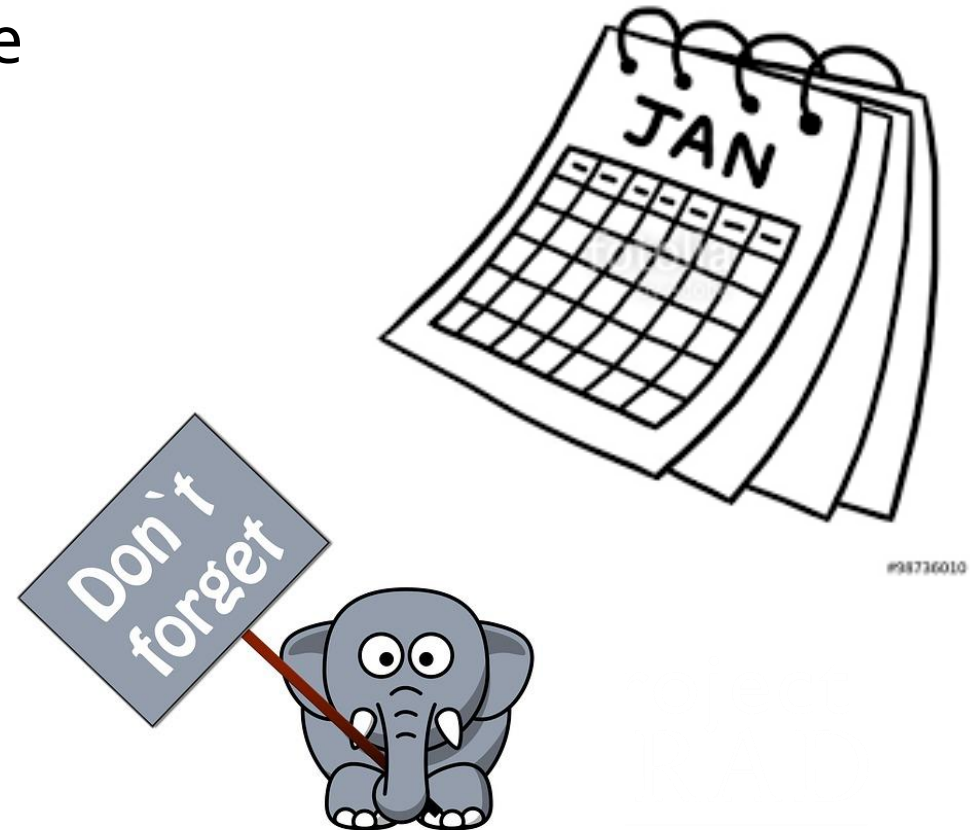
## Check for Guaranteed tuition plans

- Household income
- **Priority deadlines for admission and FAFSA**

# Be aware of deadlines!

- **IMPORTANT-** Not all schools have the same deadlines
- Keep track of the deadlines for the schools/scholarships you are applying to

**Tip:** Create a “College Calendar” with all important college related deadlines. This will help you remember that everything on that calendar is related to college.



# Apply to more than one school

Consider this:

- What if you receive more financial aid awards at one school than another?
- What if you didn't get accepted into the college of your choice?

Applying to more than one school allows you to have more options instead of being stressed out and missing application deadlines

Remember the rule of 5:

- 2 guarantee schools
- 2 reach schools
- 1 back up school



# Where do I Apply?

This will depend on the school you are interested in

- Some schools may have their own application
- Others may use sites like
  - ApplyTexas
  - Common Application

**TIP:** Create your account for sites like ApplyTexas ahead of time & write down your username and password in a safe place



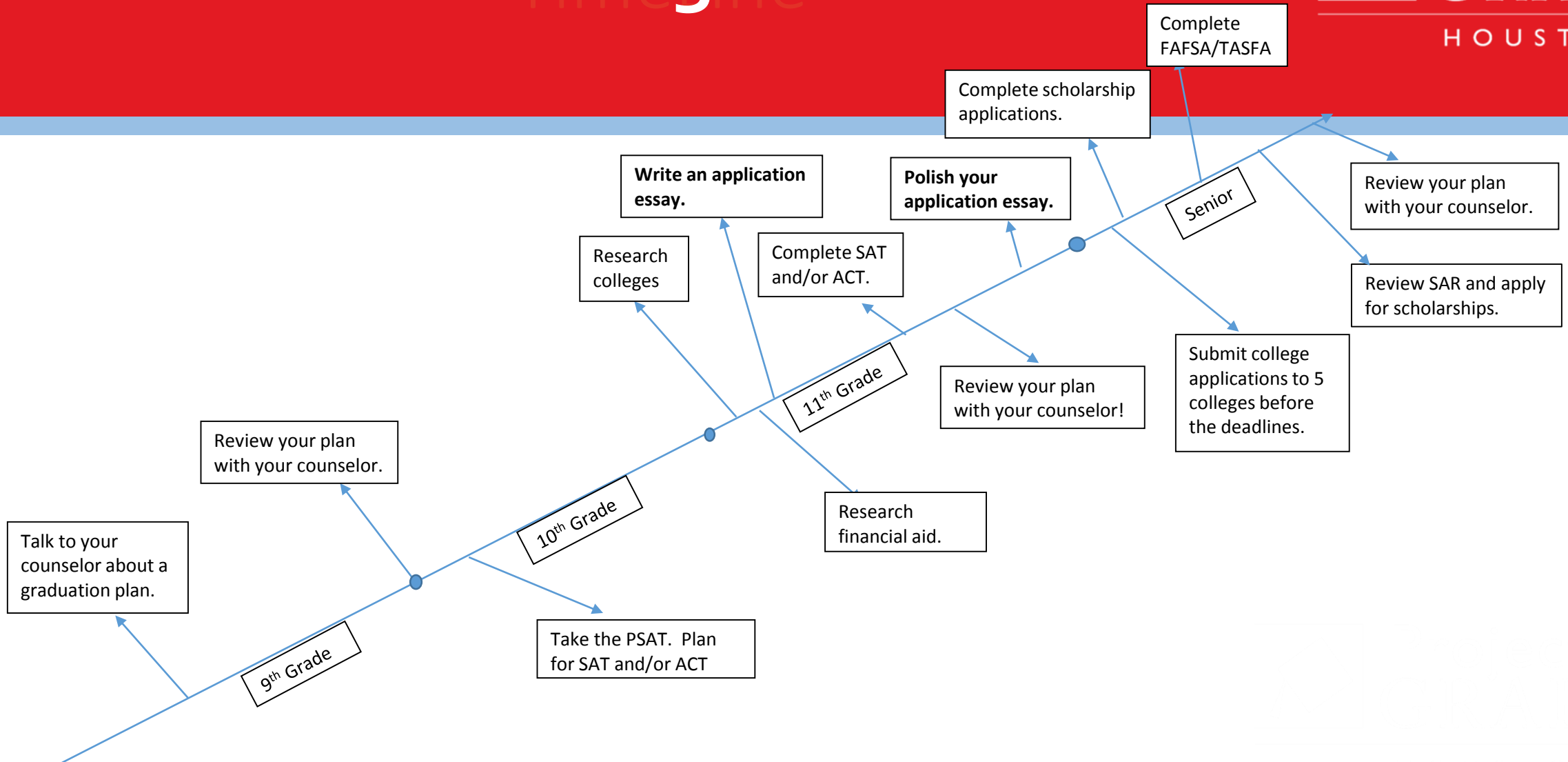
# What's next after I submit my application?

- Sending Transcripts to Universities
- Sending Test Scores
- Letters of Recommendation (if needed)
- Get Bacterial Meningitis shot
- Research for scholarships at schools you applied to
- Plan your school visits





# Timeline for college access





Project  
**GRAD**  
HOUSTON

# Applying for financial aid



Complete only one application

**FAFSA**- Free Application for *Federal* Student Aid

VS

**TASFA**- Texas Application for *State* Financial Aid

# Who completes the FAFSA?

- U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
- High school graduate or college student
- Eligible degree or certificate program
- Valid social security number
- Males registered for selective service
- Satisfactory academic progress while in college/career school



The screenshot shows the FAFSA.gov website interface. At the top left, it says "Federal Student Aid | FAFSA.gov" with a small "AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION" tagline. To the right, there are language options for "English" and "Español", and a search bar labeled "Search FAFSA Help". The main content area has a dark background with the heading "Need money for college?". Below this, it states: "Complete the FAFSA® (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school." There are two main sections: "NEW TO FAFSA.GOV?" with a subtext "Submitting the FAFSA form is quick, and most importantly, it's FREE. Get started today." and a blue "START HERE >" button; and "RETURNING USER?" with a list of actions: "Make a correction", "Add a school", and "View your Student Aid Report (SAR)", accompanied by a blue "LOG IN >" button. At the bottom, a small notice reads: "Due to scheduled site maintenance, FAFSA on the Web will be unavailable every Sunday from 3 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Eastern Time). We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause."

# FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid



Federal Student Aid | FAFSA.gov  
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

English | Español

Search FAFSA Help



## Need money for college?

Complete the FAFSA® (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.

### NEW TO FAFSA.GOV?

Submitting the FAFSA form is quick, and most importantly, it's FREE. Get started today.

START HERE >

### RETURNING USER?

- Make a correction
- Add a school
- View your *Student Aid Report* (SAR)

LOG IN >

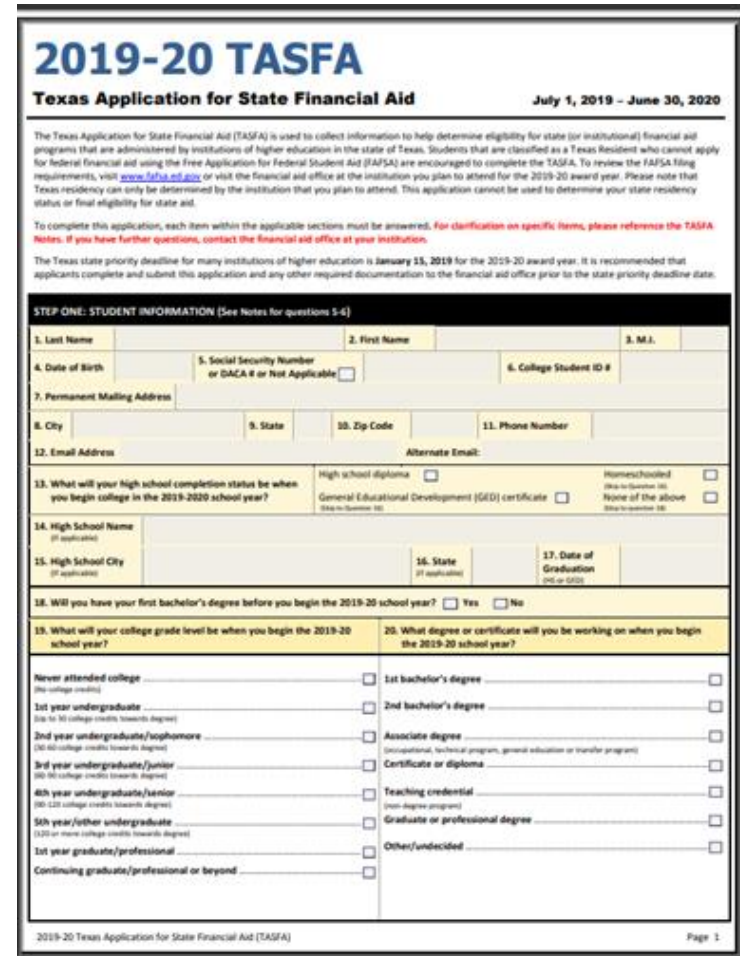
Due to scheduled site maintenance, FAFSA on the Web will be unavailable every Sunday from 3 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Eastern Time). We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

- FAFSA opens **October 1**
- For the 2020-2021 school year, need 2018 tax returns
- [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov)
- Estimate aid: [fafsa4caster](https://fafsa4caster)

# Who completes the TASFA?

## For undocumented students ONLY

- An application used by financial aid administrators at most Texas colleges and universities to determine a student's eligibility for **state** financial aid
- Where do you get it?
  - [www.collegeforalltexas.com](http://www.collegeforalltexas.com)
- What does it look like?
- TASFA Process



**2019-20 TASFA**  
Texas Application for State Financial Aid July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

The Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) is used to collect information to help determine eligibility for state (or institutional) financial aid programs that are administered by institutions of higher education in the state of Texas. Students that are classified as a Texas Resident who cannot apply for federal financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are encouraged to complete the TASFA. To review the TASFA filing requirements, visit [www.tfasfa.org](http://www.tfasfa.org) or visit the financial aid office at the institution you plan to attend for the 2019-20 award year. Please note that Texas residency can only be determined by the institution that you plan to attend. This application cannot be used to determine your state residency status or final eligibility for state aid.

To complete this application, each item within the applicable sections must be answered. For clarification on specific items, please reference the TASFA Notes. If you have further questions, contact the financial aid office at your institution.

The Texas state priority deadline for many institutions of higher education is January 15, 2019 for the 2019-20 award year. It is recommended that applicants complete and submit this application and any other required documentation to the financial aid office prior to the state priority deadline date.

**STEP ONE: STUDENT INFORMATION (See Notes for questions 1-6)**

1. Last Name	2. First Name	3. M.I.
4. Date of Birth	5. Social Security Number or DACA # or Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>	6. College Student ID #
7. Permanent Mailing Address		
8. City	9. State	10. Zip Code
11. Phone Number		
12. Email Address		
Alternate Email:		
13. What will your high school completion status be when you begin college in the 2019-2020 school year?	High school diploma <input type="checkbox"/>	Home schooled <input type="checkbox"/>
	General Educational Development (GED) certificate <input type="checkbox"/>	None of the above <input type="checkbox"/>
14. High School Name (if applicable)		
15. High School City (if applicable)	16. State (if applicable)	17. Date of Graduation (M/D or GED)
18. Will you have your first bachelor's degree before you begin the 2019-20 school year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
19. What will your college grade level be when you begin the 2019-20 school year?	20. What degree or certificate will you be working on when you begin the 2019-20 school year?	
Never attended college <input type="checkbox"/>	1st bachelor's degree <input type="checkbox"/>	
1st year undergraduate <input type="checkbox"/>	2nd bachelor's degree <input type="checkbox"/>	
2nd year undergraduate/sophomore <input type="checkbox"/>	Associate degree <input type="checkbox"/>	
3rd year undergraduate/junior <input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate or diploma <input type="checkbox"/>	
4th year undergraduate/senior <input type="checkbox"/>	Teaching credential <input type="checkbox"/>	
5th year/other undergraduate <input type="checkbox"/>	Graduate or professional degree <input type="checkbox"/>	
1st year graduate/professional <input type="checkbox"/>	Other/undecided <input type="checkbox"/>	
Continuing graduate/professional or beyond <input type="checkbox"/>		

2019-20 Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) Page 1



Lee College Center for Workforce and Community Development  
909 Decker Dr. Baytown, TX 77520

Tuesday-Thursday 11-7  
Friday 11-5  
Saturday 10-5

@gradcafebaytown  
@gradcafebaytown  
gradcafe.org



Whether you want to attend college to get a degree or work on a certificate in a professional trade, we are here to guide you through every step. You're never too old or too young to get started. **All services and coffee are free!**

We're here to assist you from here to career. Anyone, any age. Project GRAD programs offer personalized planning services, enriching experiences, and one-on-one counselling to help you develop and achieve your career and education goals. Come see us in Houston at cafécollege and in Baytown at GRADcafé.



Carnegie Neighborhood Library  
1050 Quitman St. Houston, TX 77009

Tuesday & Wednesday 9-7  
Thursday 9-8  
Friday 1-5  
Saturday 10-5

@cafecollegehouston  
@cafecollegehouston  
cafecollegehouston.org



cafécollege Houston

1050 Quitman  
Houston, TX 77009

832-393-1737

[cafecollegehouston.org](http://cafecollegehouston.org)



GRADcafé  
909 Decker Dr.  
Baytown, TX 77520

281-425-6804

[gradcafe.org](http://gradcafe.org)



# Questions?



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[www.projectgradhouston.org](http://www.projectgradhouston.org)



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