

COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING

PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

Here are some websites to visit and research information about Careers, Colleges, Financial Aid, and College Entrance Exams. Researching

Careers: When you do research, you need to look for the following information:

- How do your interests and abilities connect to a career?
- What college degrees, licenses, certifications or specialty training will you need for the career you want?
- How many years will it take you to get to the career you want?
- What is the job description of the career you are interested in? What will you be doing?
- What is the average starting salary of an entry level position?
- What opportunities for advancement will you have in this career? What are the benefits of this career?
- Where will you have to live for this career?

What is the job outlook for the future in this career? Is it growing or dying?

CAREER WEBSITES:

Occupational Outlook Handbook	www.bls.gov/oco/
O*net Online	www.onetonline.org/
Mapping Your Future	http://mappingyourfuture.org/
Career One Stop	www.careeronestop.org/StudentsandCareerAdvisors
My Future	http://www.myfuture.com
Internet Career Connection	http://iccweb.com/index.html
Career Development Resources	www.cdr.state.tx.us
Career Explorer	www.careerexplorer.net

College Board and ACT websites provide excellent guides for career planning. The College Board website (www.collegeboard.com/career) even includes an online Career Questionnaire that will point you to possible careers based on responses to sections on temperament, abilities, working conditions, educational interest areas, salary requirements, and future demand for the employment area. The ACT website (www.act.org/pate/parent/career) encourages parents and student to work together in a career planning process that is developed in six steps. As you progress through high school, continue to visit these websites that continue to expand their guidance for students and their parents. Also, use career and continuing education guidance programs available on your campus

College Entrance Exams and Test Prep:

Going to a 4-year college?

- ✓ You will need the SAT or ACT, and possibly a subject area test.
- ✓ Check the college's website for their entrance requirements and deadlines.
- ✓ Register online by the deadline, late fees will apply after deadline.
- ✓ Fee waivers are available for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch

Going to a 2-year community college, junior college, or technical school?

- ✓ You probably won't need the SAT or ACT.
- ✓ Check the college's website for their entrance requirements and deadlines.
- ✓ You may be exempt from the THEA/Compass Test by your
- ✓ TAKS or SAT scores.

Going to an Armed Service Branch?

- ✓ You need to talk to a recruiter from Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard to see what criteria they have, to see what benefits they are offering, and to get signed up.
- ✓ You will need to take the ASVAB (Army Services Vocational Aptitude Battery).

College Entrance Exams and Test Prep Websites:

The College Board (PSAT, SAT, test prep)	www.collegeboard.org
ACT Testing	www.actstudent.org
Number 2	www.number2.com
Princeton Review	www.princetonreview.com/college/free-sat-practice-test.aspx
4 Tests	www.4tests.com
Test Prep Review	www.testprepreview.com/sat_practice.htm
March 2 Success	www.march2success.com/index.cfm
Test Guide	www.test-guide.com/
Internet 4 classrooms	www.internet4classrooms.com/act_sat.htm

Researching College Information:

When doing research for colleges, find out the following information:

- ✓ Information about campus tours or special orientations for prospective students
- ✓ Degrees and programs the college offers?
- ✓ What courses does that college require for the degree you are seeking?
- ✓ Application process- application, deadlines, requirements
- ✓ Admission Requirements- entrance exams, minimum scores, fee requirements
- ✓ Extra-Curricular activities- clubs, organizations, intramural sports

Campus Websites:

Generation TX	http://gentx.org
Big Future	www.bigfuture.org
College View	www.collegeview.com
Fast Web	www.fastweb.com
Go College	www.gocollege.com
Think College	www.ed.gov/
Texas Colleges and Universities	www.window.state.tx.us/scholars/schools/
The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation	www.everychanceeverytexan.org/about/scholars/
Texas Common Application	www.applytexas.org
Monster College	www.monstercollege.com
Peterson's Guide	www.petersons.com
Know How 2 Go	www.KnowHow2GO.org

Researching Financial Aid and Scholarships:

- ✓ **Financial Aid**- all financial assistance given to students to attend college is financial aid.
- ✓ **Scholarships**- money given to students that doesn't have to be paid back.
- ✓ **Grants**- money that comes with some stipulations- may have to qualify for or participate in a specific program of study, may have to be paid back if student doesn't fulfill their obligation. (Pell Grant, TPEG Grant, Teach for Texas Grant)

- ✓ **Student Loans**- Money loaned to students that has to be paid back with low interest. Subsidized- interest is paid while student is enrolled in school. Unsubsidized- interest has to be paid by the student while the student is enrolled. A re-payment plan is made for when the student is no longer a student and is employed in their career choice.
- ✓ **Colleges give scholarship money to their own students**- Fill out financial aid applications at the college were you are thinking of attending. These are the biggest scholarships. Sometimes the financial aid deadline is before their application to the college. Do your research.
- ✓ **Avoid Scholarship Scams**. Do not pay anyone money to find scholarships for you. You can do the same searches. Do not pay an application fee for a scholarship application. That is a sign of a scam.

Financial Aid and Scholarships Websites:

College for All Texans	www.collegeforalltexas.com
FAFSA	www.fafsa.ed.gov
Federal Student Loans	www.collegeloan.com
Fast Web	www.fastweb.com
The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation	www.everychanceeverytexas.org/about/scholars/
Federal Student Aid Information Center	www.studentaid.ed.gov
Fin Aid	www.finaid.org/
College.gov	www.college.gov
Adventures In Education	www.AIE.org
Next Step U	www.nextSTEPSU.com

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING

www.bridges.com – free online website for DHS students. Set up a profile and begin career/college search

www.college.us.com – free information on degree programs online

www.fastweb.com – Internet’s largest free scholarship search. Free registration online and weekly updates delivered to your e-mail address. Search 600,000 national scholarships and 4,000 schools, includes student tips.

www.brokescholar.com – free website for national scholarships

www.collegeanswer.com – comprehensive website for college planning, covers all facets from selecting a program that is right for you through preparing for entrance exams, applying, and searching for scholarships and financing

www.fafsa.ed.gov – application online for US Dept of Education free financial student aid.

www.collegeboard.com – general information regarding SAT, AP tests, and college searches. Check for dates given at DHS.

www.act.org – ACT testing information and registration. Check for dates given at DHS.

www.applytexas.org – complete the online Texas Common Application which covers most state colleges

www.ncaaclearinghouse.com – NCAA rules of eligibility for entering college as an athlete

www.collegequest.com – college search website to find the right school for students

www.collegenet.com – website for college searching, applying for colleges, scholarships and financial aid

www.studentaid.ed.gov – federal student aid website

www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator - find colleges in the US; apply for federal student aid; consult occupational outlook handbook

www.collegeispossible.com – designed to help parents and students with financial aid and finding the right college

www.ed.gov/students/prep/college - help with the college process

www.finaid.org – general information about the financial aid process

www.gocollege.com – college searches, financial aid, scholarships, distance learning, ACT/SAT practice tests, and tips

www.uscollegesearch.org – find a college in the US

www.campuscompare.com – check out to see how your top picks for schools compare to one another

www.usnews.com/sections/education - get information on colleges and tips on admissions and financial aid

www.peterson.com/college - college and admission information; test review information

www.collegeanswer.com – information regarding searches for college

www.window.state.tx.us/education - compendium of Texas colleges and financial aid for high school seniors

www.collegeview.com – college finder and recruiting service

www.anycollege.com – search for colleges; view videos to glimpse college life; register to win scholarships

www.careerbuilder.com – upload resume; use the patent-pending matching technology to enhance career choices; apply

www.careersearch.com – utilize career searches, blogs, and postings to find the right career for you

www.texashotjobs – a guide to health careers