# COLLEGE BOUND TO DO LIST

(SOME ITEMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE FOR UNDERCLASSMAN)

GUIDANCE & COUNSELING DEPARTMENT NOVEMBER 2021

# PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- Always ask for your parent's permission to utilize social media and internet based platforms for downloads and access.
- Brownsville ISD provides students with assistance for college planning activities such as college applications, financial aid applications, and scholarships year round at the school campuses.
- Every early college high school has a college access GO Center classroom that is equipped with a full-time college advisor and university staff to assist all students to apply for colleges, apply for financial aid, apply for scholarships and register for college tests such as SAT, ACT and TSIA2.
- Parents are strongly encouraged and invited to meet with the GO Center staff and Brownsville ISD Counselors to assist with questions regarding college planning.

## **#1 BEGIN DRAFTING COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAYS**

- Apply Texas: college application used to apply to 2 or 4 year colleges and universities in Texas www.applytexas.org
- Common Application: application for out of state and private college and universities www.commonapp.org

HINT: Research College Application Deadlines and Scholarship Deadlines

Explore. Apply. Rep	eat.	
tesearch your options. dimission information for every exas public university and two-year chool, plus many private colleges nd universities. legin your search a	Apply online. Complete and submit your admission and scholarship applications online. Gals started now. Provine the 2019-2021 applications a Preview the 2019-2020 applications a Were the 2019-2020 applications a	Do it again. No need to start from scratch. Copy a completed application and use it to apply to another school. Learn how a
Essay prompts for U.S. Freshman 021, and Spring 2022 have been po First time here? No pro Get started	sted and are unchanged from the prev the <u>essay prompts here</u> , blem.	ns for enrollment in Summer 2021, Fall fous application cycle. You may preview Already have an account? Log in now



### APPLY TEXAS ESSAY PROMPTS A, B AND C FOR U.S. FRESHMAN AND INTERNATIONAL FRESHMAN APPLICATIONS ESSAY WORD LIMIT: 800 (500-700 RECOMMENDED)

Each college/university application will state which essays are required.

- **Essay A**: Tell us your story. What unique opportunities or challenges have you experienced throughout your high school career that have shaped who you are today?
- **Essay B**: Most students have an identity, an interest, or a talent that defines them in an essential way. Tell us about yourself.
- **Essay C:** You've got a ticket in your hand Where will you go? What will you do? What will happen when you get there?

#### **COMMON APP ESSAYS** 250 - 650 WORD LIMIT ON ESSAYS

#### Each college/university application will state which essays are required.

- I. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, please share your story.
- 2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- 3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- 4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you? -
- 5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- 6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
- 7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

# TIPS TO WRITING YOUR BEST COLLEGE ESSAY

- Present your most authentic self in your essay
- Write about genuine experiences that have impacted your life
  - Write about what you are passionate about
  - Your essay should reflect your unique perspective
    - Maintain a positive attitude

## **#2 UTILIZE COLLEGE BOARD BIG FUTURE AND OTHER COLLEGE PLANNING PLATFORMS**

HTTPS://BIGFUTURE.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG/

LET YOUR MOUSE HOVER OVER THE SQUARE BELOW FOR THE VIDEO WINDOW TO APPEAR – CLICK TO START

# **#3 REGISTER AN ACCOUNT ON SCHOLARSHIP PLATFORMS:**

• Raise Me: https://www.raise.me/

🞴 RaiseMe

- The College board Opportunity Scholarship: <u>cb.org/opportur</u>
- Quest Bridge: <u>https://www.questbridge.org/</u>
- Fastweb: https://www.fastweb.co
- College Greenlight to find scholarships: <u>https://www.collegegreenlight.com/</u>

fastweb



**CollegeBoard** 

HINT: Always visit your school website or campus Go Center for the latest local scholarship applications and deadlines

QUEST BRIDGE

# **#3 REGISTER AN ACCOUNT ON SCHOLARSHIP PLATFORMS:**

Apply to all different types of scholarships that you meet eligibility.

- University Scholarships
- Foundation Scholarships
- Local Scholarships
- Refer to slides #26-#30 in Appendix for information scholarships
   HINT: Always visit your school website or campus Go Center for the latest local scholarship applications and deadlines

**HINT:** Research the criteria for scholarships and meet the scholarship application deadlines

### **#4A** REGISTER AN ACCOUNT ON TEXAS ONCOURSE

Students and Families can use several college planning resources on Texas OnCourse

https://texasoncourse.org Select: Students & Families

- Middle School Students: Plan for High School and Beyond!
- Choose what high school program, called endorsements, you will follow
- Plan for High School and make the right course geared toward your future
- Understand your future career options
- Game your way to success using fun games and quizzes to help you plan for what is next

Featured Tools for Middle School



Lead a space voyage in this web and mobile game exploring the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for a variety of careers.



ENDORSEMENTS High School Endorsements and Career Paths

Prepare students to select high school endorsements with labor market and career information.

Learn More >

Middle School Early High School

Learn more >

Middle School Early High School

Learn more >

**Middle School** 

### **#4B REGISTER AN ACCOUNT ON TEXAS ONCOURSE**

Students and Families can use several college planning resources on Texas OnCourse

https://texasoncourse.org Select: Students & Families

Featured Tools for 9th and 10th Grade

- Early High School: Prepare for college and career in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grades
- Get ready for Graduation
- Learn and prepare what you'll need for college
- Explore careers
- Understand what is and how financial aid works



#### **#4C REGISTER AN ACCOUNT ON TEXAS ONCOURSE**

- Late High School School: Prepare for college and career in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grades
- Understand your options: Workforce, Military, College or Technical School
- **Explore** Careers •
- Apply for College
- Plan your Finances for after Graduation

Featured Tools for 11th and 12th Grade



JOBS AND CAREERS Share Your Road

Discover opportunities you never knew existed! Texans share their career journeys. Explore their stories and get inspired.

COLLEGE PLANNING | FINANCES College Scorecard

based on information such as

salary after graduation.

average cost, graduation rate, and

Find Scho

**IOBS AND CAREERS Texas Career Check** Compare colleges and universities

TEXAS

Learn about hundreds of careers with this career search for high school students. Explore salaries, popularity, and more.



Khan Academy SAT Prep

Prepare students for the SAT with lessons and practice tests from this official partner of the College Board.

Middle School Early High School			Late High School 10th
Late High School	Late High School	Early High School Late High School	Early High School
Learn more >	Learn more >	Learn more >	Learn more >

# **#5A PRACTICE FOR THE TSIA2, SAT, ACT, ASVAB TESTS:**

• <u>khanacademy.org/sat</u> – download the APP

Link your PSAT score to Khan Academy to receive free online access

to a personalized SAT review test.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=patbkNnnAQ4

Let your mouse hover over the square below for the video window to appear -Click to start



## **#5B PRACTICE FOR THE TSIA2, SAT, ACT, ASVAB TESTS:**

Download the APPS or visit the practice sites:

ACT: <u>www.act.org</u> TSIA2: <u>https://www.TSIA2practicetest.com/</u> ASVAB: <u>https://www.officialasvab.com/</u>



## **#5C MORE INFORMATION ON** TSIA2, SAT, ACT, ASVAB TESTS:

- If you qualify for **testing accommodations**, visit with your Counselor or School Testing Coordinator to request assistance with registration for testing accommodations for the applicable tests. This must be done at least 6 weeks before the test date.
- Test dates and deadlines for the **SAT** and **ACT** test are posted on the **SAT** and **ACT** websites.
- Ensure you meet the registration deadline.
- Ask your Counselor about ACT / SAT School Day testing.
- Plan ahead for your testing dates to avoid conflicts with other activities.
- Meet with the Go Center Staff or your Counselor for your **SAT** and **ACT** test fee waivers.
- All high school campuses offer **TSIA2** testing on your campus.
- Ask your Counselor about registering for your **TSIA2** test.
- US Military recruiters visit the high school campuses and can provide you with information on **ASVAB** testing. Ask your Counselor for the designated dates and times.

HINT: Always have a school or state picture ID with you on the date of the test.

You will not be allowed to test without a picture ID.

### **#6** PARTICIPATE IN VIRTUAL COLLEGE VISITS AND FREE ONLINE COLLEGE FAIRS TO RESEARCH AND EXPLORE COLLEGES AND COLLEGE MAJORS

- Visit university fly-in programs: <u>collegegreenlight.com/</u>
- Virtual College Tours <u>https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/</u>
- NACAC National College Fairs: <u>www.nacacfairs.org</u>

**HINT**: Research College Application Deadlines and Scholarship Deadlines

## **#7** WORK ON CREATING YOUR EXPANDED RESUME FOR COLLEGE AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS:

• Here are some examples to guide you: tinyurl.com/ExpandedResume

HINT: Be sure to create and use an appropriate email address that reflects your professional self
 HINT: Think about 2-3 people who will be able to write a strong recommendation letter for you.
 Give them your resume and a bullet list of things they should know about you and may consider mentioning in your letter of recommendation.

### **#8** MAKE SURE YOUR PARENTS KEEP THEIR TAX RETURN IN A SAFE PLACE! YOU'LL NEED IT FOR YOUR FAFSA/TASFA APPLICATION!

- The college financial aid application (FAFSA) portal opens on October 1<sup>st</sup>: <u>https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid</u>
- You and your parents will need to apply for an FSA ID which you will use to access your FAFSA account: <a href="https://fsaid.ed.gov">https://fsaid.ed.gov</a>
- Submit your college applications and FAFSA by the Priority Deadline of your Senior year to get the most financial aid you are eligible for!
- Beginning with the graduating class of 2022, all graduates must complete an application for FAFSA/TASFA or Opt-Out form as a graduation requirement.

**HINT**: The GO Center staff will assist all students with their FAFSA and TASFA applications.



# **#9** ARE YOU A FUTURE COLLEGE ATHLETE?



- Visit the NCAA official site: ncaa.org
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center here: <a href="https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/">https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/</a>
- Visit the NAIA portal here: <u>https://play.mynaia.org/</u>
- Register with the NAIA Eligibility Center:

#### https://www.naia.org/registrars/eligibility-center-resources

- CORECOURSEGPA.com Formerly Clearinghouse Calculator
- Work closely with your high school coaches for recruiting opportunities
- Your high school grades and SAT/ACT scores also determine your eligibility to play college sports.
- Register with your student account on CoreCourseGPA to track your high school courses and grade point average for collegiate athletic eligibility

<u>CoreCourseGPA.com (formerly Clearinghouse Calculator) - College Academic Eligibility Tool for High</u> <u>School Student-Athletes</u>

**Hint:** Visit with your School Counselor to keep track of required course credits and grade point average for NCAA and NAIA eligibility. Practice your SAT and ACT tests

# **#10 USE "ASK ADVI":**

#### askadvi.org

Meet ADVi A Virtual Advisor Designed for Texas Students

Text COLLEGE to 512-829-3687 OR Mark the checkbox on Your ApplyTexas account



#### Who is ADVi? Is ADVi a person?

ADVi is a chatbot, powered by artificial intelligence, that is available 24/7. ADVi doesn't know everything, but they have a lot of information about applying to college, completing the FAFSA (or TASFA), college readiness, and more! What can I ask ADVi?

You can ask ADVi all questions related to attending a public college or university in the state of Texas, including things like how financial aid works, what tests you need to take, how to transfer credits, and how to access campus resources. ADVi provides general information but can also connect you with advisers at specific colleges if you have a college or university in mind.

#### How do I ask ADVi a question?

To ask ADVi a question, click on the 'chat' icon in the lower right-hand corner of our website. ADVi also chats via SMS text message, but right now, that option is only available to select audiences. Stay tuned!

#### What if ADVi can't answer my question?

Sn't worry, we've got your back! If ADVi does not know the answer to your question, a live college adviser will step in to assist you with your question within 48 hours.

# **#11 LEARN HOW MUCH YOUR FUTURE** LIFESTYLE WILL COST

Texas Reality Check's Lifestyle Calculator: texasrealitycheck.com



FAQ Feedback

#### Will you be able to afford the lifestyle you want?

It's difficult to predict the future, but it's never too early to start planning for it. Texas Reality Check will show you how much your living expenses will cost, and the amount of money you will need to earn to pay for them.

#### It's time for a Reality Check.



# **#12 LEARN ABOUT CAREERS YOU BASED ON YOUR INTERESTS**

- Learn about careers you might be well suited for--based on your interests--using O\*Net Online's Interest Profiler: <u>mynextmove.org/explore/ip</u>

What do you want to do for a living?



### **#13** LEARN ABOUT CAREERS BASED ON YOUR INTERESTS

Use the Occupational Outlook Handbook research tool to continue

researching your career interests: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/

Get the Career Info app for IOS and Android devices



## **#14 LEARN ABOUT THE ARMED FORCES MILITARY ACADEMIES**

The military service academies annually award the biggest scholarships in the country. Each scholarship consists of a four-year education, room and board, pay, exclusive benefits and training. But remember it can be quite grueling and will require you to be very disciplined and dedicated.

Research 10 tips to give you an edge in getting into one of these elite institutions:

https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/us-military-academies-overview.html

- <u>The U.S. Air Force Academy</u>
- The U.S. Coast Guard Academy
  - The U.S. Military Academy
  - The U.S. Naval Academy

Contact your designated state representative for the nomination application.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/service-academy-nominations/steps/

Visit Military.com for more information

## **#15 CONNECT** WITH YOUR COUNSELOR

- Ensure you are following the REMIND 101 and other school and district social media to receive up to date information and announcements from your Counselors and campus news about college activities, events, scholarships and more!
- Visit your high school GO Center <u>at least</u> 2X a week

Always ask for assistance GET READY TO SOAR!

# APPENDIX FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Scholarships on the following slides are available to students who meet the criteria to apply.
- Links are provided on the following 4 slides for students to research and apply for the scholarship as applicable.
- See your school counselor for assistance and more information.

# **DELL SCHOLARS SCHOLARSHIP**

Competitive Scholarship Information		
Scholarship Name	DELL SCHOLARS Michael & Susan Dell Foundation DELL Scholarship	
Where do I Apply?	dellscholars.org/scholarship/	
Whe Should Apple?	Dell Scholars program targets low-income, highly motivated students	
	who are better than their numbers indicate and demonstrate the drive to succeed	
Who Should Apply?	despite personal obstacles. The ideal candidate will demonstrate a unique	
	"GPA" of grit, potential, and ambition in their quest for a college education	
	Participate in a program-approved college readiness program in grades 11 and 12	
	(check website for list of program-approved programs before applying)	
	Be on track to graduate from an accredited high school in the current academic year	
Application Criteria	Demonstrate a need for financial assistance	
Application Citteria	Be eligible to receive a federal Pell Grant in first year of college	
	Plan to enroll full time at an accredited higher education institution in the pursuit	
	of a bachelor's degree in the fall directly following high school graduation	
	Earn a minimum of a 2.4 GPA	
Deadline to Apply	Typically October 1st - applicants should check online	
	Winners announced in March	
	A \$20,000 scholarship	
	Personalized, multifaceted support for the academic, financial, and emotional life	
	challenges that may prevent students from completing college	
	A laptop with 4-year warranty	
Scholarship Award	Chegg credits (\$500 annually for four years) to be used for textbook purchases and	
	rentals and/or textbook solutions (via Chegg Study)	
	A Scholars Resource Network that connects students and their families with	
	resources to deal with stress, debt, managing child care, and life circumstance	
	A teletherapy service that connects students to professional counseling	
WATCH VIDEO	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNH8V_GhQqc	

# THE GATES SCHOLARSHIP

Name of Scholarship	GATES Scholarship		
Where do I Apply?	https://www.thegatesscholarship.org/scholarship		
	An ideal candidate will have:		
Who Should Apply?	Top 10% of his/her graduating class		
	Leadership ability as shown through in community service, extracurricular, etc		
	Exceptional personal success skills (emotional maturity, motivation, perseverance, etc)		
	Be a high school Senior		
	Be Pell-eligible		
	A US citizen, national, or permanent resident		
Application Criteria	Minimum cumulative weighted GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent)		
	Student must plan to enroll full-time, in a four-year degree program, at a		
	not-for-profit, private or public college or university.		
	From at least one of the following ethnicities: African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native*, Asian & Pacific Islander American, and/or		
	Hispanic American Hispanic American		
	*For American Indian/Alaska Native, proof of tribal enrollment will be required.		
Deadline to Apply	Application opens in July		
	Due in September - applicant should verify on website		
	Winners are selected in April and announced April - July		
	Scholars will receive funding for the full cost of attendance* that is not		
	already covered by other financial aid and the expected family contribution,		
Cabalanahin Aurand	as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)		
Scholarship Award	or the methodology used by a Scholar's college or university.		
	*Cost of attendance includes tuition, fees, room, board, books,		
	and transportation, and may include other personal costs.		
WATCH VIDEO	https://www.thegatesscholarship.org/about-gates		

# **QUEST BRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP**

Name of Scholarship	QUEST BRIDGE QuestBridge National College Match		
Where do I Apply?	https://www.questbridge.org/		
Who Should Apply?	High school seniors who have shown outstanding academic ability despite financial		
	challenges. Applicantions are rated by a holistic approach - no absolute		
	criteria or cut-offs for GPA, standardized test scores, income, or other factors.		
	Students must graduate senior year and enroll in college in the immediate fall		
	semester		
	All Seniors may apply regardless of legal residency or citizenship, however		
	awarding colleges and universities may have citizenship requirements.		
	Applicants should verify citizenship requirements with their preferred universities		
	Grades and rigor of high school curriculum		
	Top 5-10% of graduating class.		
	SAT score >1280 ACT composite score >27		
	Students who do not have standardized test scores can still be selected as Finalists		
Application Criteria	if the rest of their application is strong; however, they should ensure they meet the		
	standardized testing requirements for each college partner they're interested in.		
	We also look for evidence of strong writing ability, intellectual spark,		
	and determination through essays and teacher/counselor recommendations.		
	Finalists typically come from households earning less than \$65,000 annually		
	for a typical family of four and have minimal assests		
	This is not a strict cut-off and we encourage students who feel they faced significant		
	financial hardship to review these financial criteria carefully to see if they may qualify.		
	Visit QuestBridge site for financial criteria, Students must present family tax returns		
Deadline to Apply	Application available in the summer		
	Due late September - applicant should verify date on the website		
Scholarship Award	Full 4 year scholarship to the partner univeristy		
WATCH VIDEO	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNZndnqRxQs		

# **COLLEGEBOARD SCHOLARSHIP**

Scholarship Name	CollegeBoard CollegeBoard Opportunity Scholarship - CBOS		
Where do I Apply?	https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/		
Who Should Apply?	The College Board Opportunity Scholarships program is currently open to class of 2022 students in the United States, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Territories, regardless of citizenship status.		
	Complete six college planning steps for six separate chances at \$500. When you finish all six, you'll be entered into a drawing for a \$40,000 scholarship, but you can still earn money even if you don't complete them all.		
Application Criteria	The Program is also open to class of 2021 until the end of February, 2021. This program is open to students regardless of their family income.		
	At least half of all scholarships (over \$2 million) will be designated for students whose families earn less than \$60,000 a year.		
	Whenever students who meet these requirements complete a step,they'll earn an extra entry in monthly drawings for scholarships.		
Deadline to Apply	Any student can join the program any time from December of their junior year until the end of February of their senior year.		
	<ul> <li>Class of 2021 students who earn an entry for five of the six actions (Build, Practice, Strengthen, Complete, and Apply) will earn a chance at a \$40,000 scholarship.</li> <li>Class of 2022 students who earn an entry for all six steps in the College</li> </ul>		
Scholarship Award	Board Opportunity Scholarships (Build, Practice, Explore, Strengthen, Complete, and Apply) will earn a chance at a \$40,000 scholarship.		
	For students in the class of 2022, the College Board will award 25 \$40,000 Opportunity Scholarships in February 2022.		
WATCH VIDEO	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3rbZauttMk		

# FREE COLLEGE PLANNING SERVICES

CollegeBoard	CollegeBoard BIGFUTURE - Free College Planning Services	
WATCH: https://www.youtube.com/user/collegeboard		
CollegeBoard BigFuture	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/	
College Board BigFuture Scholarship Search	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search	
College Board BigFuture College and Career Search	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search	
BigFuture Days	College Board is hosting virtual events for high school students to connect directly with college admissions representatives and take action on the most important steps for college. https://pages.collegeboard.org/big-future-days	
Official SAT Practice & KHAN ACADEMY	https://www.khanacademy.org/SAT	
ACT	The ACT test www.act.org	
ACT Free Test Prep	https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html	