



2021-2022

FINDING YOUR FUTURE

A Guide to
Post-Secondary Options
for Parents & Students

CYPRESS  **FAIRBANKS**
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEARN • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE • DREAM



Dear Students and Parents,

This booklet has been prepared to provide you with information to use in exploring all of the options available to you after high school, and to assist you in creating a plan for successful graduation and your post-secondary options. (A Spanish version of this book is available on line at www.cfisd.net.) The information within this book is subject to change at the discretion of the institutions included in this publication.

If you need assistance navigating through this sometimes murky process, please feel free to make an appointment to meet with your counselor. This publication is intended as a resource for your personal use and future reference, but it is not intended to be a substitute for a conference with your counselor.

Decisions you make this year are paramount to your future; therefore, carefully investigate the information contained within this book. Making a decision based on good information enhances your chance for success, and working closely with your counselor will ease the transition from high school to post-secondary education. There are also many other people whose knowledge and expertise are a wealth of information for you, including your parents, older siblings, favorite teachers, family friends, employers, and youth directors. All of these individuals can play an important part in the decisions you make as you map out the exciting road to your future.

Enjoy the journey!



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GETTING TO GRADUATION

The beginning of your journey

Students must enroll in courses necessary to complete the [Foundation High School Program](#) with an endorsement. Students may also earn Distinguished Level of Achievement by including and successfully completing Algebra II in their selected coursework. Students should study the table below which includes a basic outline of the requirements for 22 credits for the Foundation High School Program plus the 4 additional credits required for an endorsement.

For more detailed information about graduation requirements and available courses, please see the [CFISD Course Description Booklet 2021-2022](#).

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2018 AND BEYOND

COURSE	FOUNDATION	+ENDORSEMENT
ENGLISH	4	
PACE	1/2 or 1	
MATHEMATICS	3 Algebra I, Geometry & an additional Math course	+1 Additional math course
SCIENCE	3 Biology, & IP/C, Chemistry, or Physics, & an additional Science course	+1 Additional science course
SOCIAL STUDIES	3 World Geography or World History, US History, Government (1/2) & Economics (1/2)	
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	2	
HEALTH	1/2	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1	
FINE ARTS	1	
ELECTIVES	4	+2 Additional electives
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED	22	26

TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

[State law](#) requires that students pass five STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) assessments in English, math, science, and social studies, along with meeting their course requirements, to receive a diploma from a Texas public high school. Visit [Texasassessment.gov](#) for more about STAAR, find your student scores, and released test questions. Courses with an EOC assessment are listed below.

- ENGLISH // ENGLISH I & ENGLISH II
- MATHEMATICS // ALGEBRA I
- SCIENCE // BIOLOGY
- SOCIAL STUDIES // U.S. HISTORY



COMPLETING A FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) IS A [GRADUATION REQUIREMENT](#). FAFSA OR TAFSA MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE A STUDENT CAN RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FILLING OUT THE FAFSA, PLEASE VISIT THE [FINANCIAL AID SECTION](#) OF THIS DOCUMENT.

GRADE POINT AVERAGES AND CLASS RANK

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD uses a 6 point weighted scale for its GPA Calculation. A student's GPA is cumulative by semester. How many grade points you earn depends on the kind of course you are enrolled in and the grade you earn (see chart below).

ON LEVEL COURSES	K, AP, DUAL CREDIT, HORIZONS
A(90-100) = 6	A(90-100) = 7
B(80-89) = 5	B(80-89) = 6
C(75-79) = 4	C(75-79) = 5
C-(70-74) = 3	C-(70-74) = 4
F(0-69) = 0	F(0-69) = 0

Class Rank will be determined by grade point averages (GPA) of the students. GPA and class rank are calculated in the fall after students complete the ninth and tenth grades. Estimated class rankings are determined at the end of the junior year and the first semester of the senior year for the express purpose of college entrance requirements.

HONOR GRADUATE DESIGNATION

At graduation ceremonies, graduates will be recognized in the following categories: summa cum laude (6.5 GPA), magna cum laude (6.25 GPA), and cum laude (6.0 GPA). A final calculation of GPA and class rank is determined at the end of the senior year and will be reflected on the final transcript which is sent to colleges.

EARLY GRADUATION

IN CFISD STUDENTS MAY GRADUATE EARLY, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. Students must complete a Declaration of Intent to Graduate Early form, a document signed by the parent and submitted to the counselor no later than the semester before the intended graduation date. The counselor will review the plan, sign, and forward the plan to the high school registrar.
2. Early graduation options include the following:
 - c. The June of the third complete year of high school (36 consecutive months)
 - d. The summer after the third complete year of high school (38 consecutive months)
 - e. The December of the fourth complete year of high school (43 consecutive months); students choosing this option may participate in the spring graduation ceremony.

*Interested in graduating early?
Meet with your counselor to discuss
if it is a good option for you.*

HELPFUL LINKS FOR GETTING TO GRADUATION

[CFISD Graduation Information](#)

[Semester Exam Exemptions](#)

[Online Transcript Requests](#)

[Curriculum & Course Descriptions](#)

[CFISD Endorsement Chart](#)

[CFISD Programs of Study](#)

[TEA Graduation Toolkit](#)

[CFISD District Calendar](#)

SO... WHAT MAKES A SENIOR, A SENIOR?

CFISD Grade Classification Standards

Grade	Criteria for Students
9th	Promotion from middle school
10th	1 year of attendance & 5 credits, including English I & Algebra I
11th	2 years of attendance and 11 credits
12th	3 years of attendance and 17 credits or early graduation plan



OTHER WAYS OF EARNING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

High school counselors can provide information, answer questions, and in some instances, help students enroll in courses outside the regular school day. The following options are available to Cypress-Fairbanks ISD students, please contact your counselor for more information.

01 CREDIT BY EXAM WITHOUT PRIOR INSTRUCTION (ORIGINAL CREDIT)

[Credit-by-exam](#) will serve primarily as the vehicle for students to be given credit for a course they have not yet taken formally. The passing standard is a grade of 80+. The passing grade and credit earned (L-level) on the credit-by-exam will be placed on the student's transcript and used in GPA and class rank calculations. Contact your counselor for information.

02 CREDIT BY EXAM WITH PRIOR INSTRUCTION (MAKEUP CREDIT)

[Credit-By-Exam](#) with prior instruction is available to students who have previously engaged in the curriculum of a particular subject. The passing standard is a grade of 70+. The passing grade and credit earned (L-level) on the credit-by-exam will be placed on the student's transcript and used in GPA and class rank calculations. A fee is charged for each exam with prior instruction. Contact your counselor for information.

03 SUMMER SCHOOL

Original credit and make-up credit courses are offered each summer. Students meeting certain criteria may take some courses for original credit prior to the year that the course is required. Courses are offered in English, math, science, social studies, physical education, health, Spanish and art. All summer school courses, whether taken in or out-of-district, will earn L-level grade points only. Visit the website for more information.

04 TEXAS VIRTUAL SCHOOL NETWORK (ONLINE SCHOOL)

The Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) offers online courses for students in grades 9-12. Online courses selected by a CFISD student must be consistent with the student's high school graduation plan and must meet standards that are of equivalent rigor as the district's standards for the same course provided in a traditional classroom setting. More information is available about Texas Virtual program at www.txvsn.org or at [EHDE \(board policy\)](#).

05 **CORRESPONDENCE LEARNING**

A high school student may earn two credits toward graduation through correspondence learning. A student will be awarded credit toward graduation only if he obtains approval from the grade-level counselor prior to course enrollment. All grades earned will be entered on the transcript and included in the grade point average. See your counselor for information.

WAYS TO EARN COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL

06 **ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM EXAMS (AP EXAMS)**

The Advanced Placement Program is a cooperative effort between the [College Board](#) and the high schools to offer college-level courses and exams for secondary students. At the conclusion of the course, which is a special college-level learning experience, students are encouraged to take the three-hour AP exam administered in May of each year. Colleges may grant college-level course credit to students submitting AP scores upon admission to a university. AP tests are offered in thirty-eight subject areas. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest score. Most colleges require minimum AP test scores of 3, 4, or 5 to award credit for a course. Consult your AP counselor or AP teacher for fees.

[Texas House Bill 1992](#) requires Texas state public colleges and universities to accept a minimum score of 3 on Advanced Placement exams taken by high school students for college credit unless the institution's chief academic officer determines, based on evidence, that a higher score is necessary to show the student is sufficiently prepared to be successful in a related, more advanced course for which the lower-division course is a prerequisite. Consult college web-sites for their specific policy in regard to AP test results.

07 **DUAL COLLEGE CREDIT**

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD and [Lone Star College CyFair Campus](#) have entered into an agreement allowing students who meet specified criteria to earn both high school credit and college credit for specific high school courses. Please see your counselor or College & Career Specialist for dual credit eligibility requirements and course availability.

- Tuition is waived by Lone Star College
- Students are responsible for required fees for a specific course.
- Students taking dual credit courses in the summer after their sophomore year must take the grade 11 dual credit course as a prerequisite to enrolling in the subsequent grade 12 dual credit course.
- Students taking dual credit courses in the summer at the Lone Star College Campus must purchase or rent the associated college textbook(s) and pay additional on campus fees.

TESTING INFORMATION

Most degree-granting colleges require an admission examination of some kind; usually either the ACT or SAT Test. For upcoming dates and registration deadlines look online at www.collegeboard.org, www.act.org, or on the [CFISD College Testing Information Page](#). We suggest students begin taking these tests junior year. See your counselor or your campus testing coordinator for more campus-specific information.

// The ACT

American College Testing Program

[The ACT](#) has four sections of multiple-choice questions (English, Math, Reading, and Science) plus an optional Writing section. The exam itself is 2 hours and 55 minutes or 3 hours 35 minutes with the Writing section. Each section is scored on a 1-36 scale. Your composite score is an average of the four sections with the highest score being a 36. The highest score possible on the Writing section is 12. The optional Writing section does not impact the composite score. Score reports are sent to colleges and other institutions at the student's request.

ACT exams are offered seven Saturdays each year. When you register with ACT online, you will choose your test date and your testing site (often a local high school or college will host the exam). To register, you will need a computer with internet, a credit card or other payment, and a headshot photo. You need to register by the registration deadline for the date you choose, typically about a month prior to the exam. Registration takes about 45 minutes.

// The SAT

Scholastic Assessment Test

There are two main sections of [the SAT](#). You will earn a score from 200-800 for each section and your total score will be from 400 to 1600. The first section is called Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and it consists of two tests: The Reading test and the Writing and Language test. The second part of the SAT is the Math test, which has two portions: The Math Test with a Calculator and the Math Test without a Calculator. The SAT is a three-hour exam, not including breaks. There is a 10-minute break between the Reading test and the Writing and Language test, plus a five-minute break between the two parts of the Math test.

SAT exams are offered seven Saturdays each year by the organization [College Board](#). When you register online, pay attention to the registration deadlines (approximately one month prior to each exam). You will choose the test date and location for your exam, upload a headshot photo and pay the registration fee. Registration can take up to 30 minutes to complete.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION FOR SAT / ACT: Students taking the SAT/ACT at a testing center will need to take their admission ticket and some form of identification that has their picture and their signature on it (license, passport, school ID.). As part of SAT and ACT's test security requirements, students must upload a photo of themselves in order to complete their test registration. Photos will be used for identification purposes on test day and on the score report.

THE PSAT/NMSQT

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

The [PSAT/NMSQT](#) is an opportunity for students to take a test that is very much like the SAT with the same format, directions, sample questions, and question types. It measures critical reading, master problem solving, and writing skills for 10th & 11th grade students. The PSAT/NMSQT is the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The [National Merit Scholarship](#) Competition recognizes students for high scores, puts them in touch with many colleges and universities, and results in scholarships for students who become National Merit Finalists. In CFISD the PSAT is given to all 10th grade students and 11th grade students who have not yet had the opportunity to take the test.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTING

This testing program gives students the opportunity to earn college credits while they are still in high school. A more detailed description is included in the previous section entitled [Ways to Earn College Credit](#). Or, simply visit the website ap.collegeboard.org.

For more information on preparing for college entrance exams, see the [Tips, Tricks and Helpful Links](#) Portion of this guide.

IMPACT OF COVID-19:

Many colleges have options to waive the college admission exam requirement. It is worth noting that although you may not have to submit scores to some schools, your GPA, class rank and other aspects of your college application will have much more influence on whether or not you are accepted.



THE TSIA 2.0

TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE ASSESSMENT 2.0

The [Texas Success Initiative \(TSI\)](#) is the statute that requires all Texas public institutions of higher education to determine the readiness of all non-exempt, entering undergraduate students to enroll in freshman-level academic courses ([see TEC, 51.336](#)).

YOU MAY BE EXEMPT FROM THE TSIA2 IF YOU:

- Have met the minimum college readiness standard on the SAT, ACT, or the English III/Algebra II STAAR EOC high school tests;
- Have successfully completed a high school College Preparatory Course;
- Have completed college-level course(s);
- Have enrolled in a Level-One certificate program (less than 43 credit hours);
- Aren't seeking a degree; or
- Have been, or currently are, in the military.

Undergraduate students who enter an institution of higher education without an exemption are required to take the Texas Success Initiative Assessment 2.0 (TSIA2).

FOR THE TSIA2 COLLEGE READINESS IS DETERMINED BY THESE SCORES:

- Math 350
- Reading 351
- Writing
 - Multiple choice score of 340 and essay score of 4, or
 - Multiple choice score below 340, Adult Basic Education Diagnostic score of level 4, and essay score of 5.



If you think you may be exempt or for more information on the TSIA2, contact a College & Career Specialist or counselor at your institution or high school. For a full list of TSI exemptions visit [TSIA Website](#)



CARE ACADEMY **COLLEGE AWARENESS, READINESS, EDUCATION**

CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND LONE STAR COLLEGE-CYFAIR CAMPUS HAVE A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP BENEFITING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS CALLED THE CARE ACADEMY

HOW IT WORKS

By earning an 80 or higher in the second semester of English IV L-level and/or Advanced Algebra, a student may be eligible to enroll directly into credit-level English and/or Math courses at Lone Star College (ENGL 1301, credit Math) without qualifying TSIA 2.0, SAT, or ACT test scores for placement. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to avoid possible remedial courses in English and Math which will save time and money!

ASSISTANCE FOR LONE STAR STUDENTS

The CARE Academy Team will assist CARE Academy students interested in attending Lone Star College to complete the enrollment process. Support will be provided to assist students & parents with the following:

- Application completion
- Bacterial meningitis shot record upload
- College placement testing options
- New Student Orientation
- Enrollment

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The mission of this partnership is to help CARE Academy students successfully transition into college and achieve their educational and career goals. For more information visit the website, www.lonestar.edu/care-cyfair-outreach.htm, or feel free to contact the CARE Academy Team with any questions!

ADDITIONAL EXAMS

OTHER TESTS YOU MAY CONSIDER IN PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

THE COLLEGE-LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM (CLEP)

[CLEP](#) is a national program of credit-by-examination that offers the opportunity to obtain recognition for college-level achievement. More information is on the [following page](#).

THE ASVAB (ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY)

The [Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery \(ASVAB\)](#) is a multiple choice test, administered by the United States Military Entrance Processing Command, used to determine qualification for enlistment in the United States Armed Forces. It is often offered to U.S. high school students when they are in the 10th, 11th and 12th grade, though anyone eligible for enlistment may take it. **Students who participate in the ASVAB have no obligation to talk with military recruiters or consider a military career.** Students interested in [joining the Military](#) should discuss this score with a recruiter.

The ASVAB tests are designed to measure aptitudes in four domains: Verbal, Math, Science and Technical, and Spatial. The ASVAB has 10 tests. Your scores from four of the tests — Word Knowledge (WK), Paragraph Comprehension (PC), Arithmetic Reasoning (AR), and Mathematics Knowledge (MK) — are combined to compute your score on what is referred to as the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT). Scores on the AFQT are used to determine your eligibility for enlistment in the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps. Scores on all of the ASVAB tests are used to determine the best job for you in the military.

See your campus counselor to see when your campus is administering the ASVAB.

COLLEGE-MADE DEPARTMENTAL EXAMS

In addition to the national testing programs, some colleges and universities offer their own credit-by-exam programs using locally constructed and administered exams. These exams are made by the faculty at the university and are designed to measure the student's level of mastery in specific subject areas. Usually, students must qualify to be eligible to take the exams by presenting acceptable scores on either or both the verbal and math part of the SAT, and/or the appropriate subject test, and/or an appropriate course. These exams are sometimes administered during summer orientations. Students must usually reserve a testing date along with the summer conference reservation. At many colleges there is no fee for departmental exams. Like other exams taken for credit, these exams must be taken prior to enrollment in the course. Students need to be aware that departmental exams may not be transferable to other institutions. Students should check with individual colleges to determine if departmental exams are offered.

CLEP Offers 2 Types of Tests:

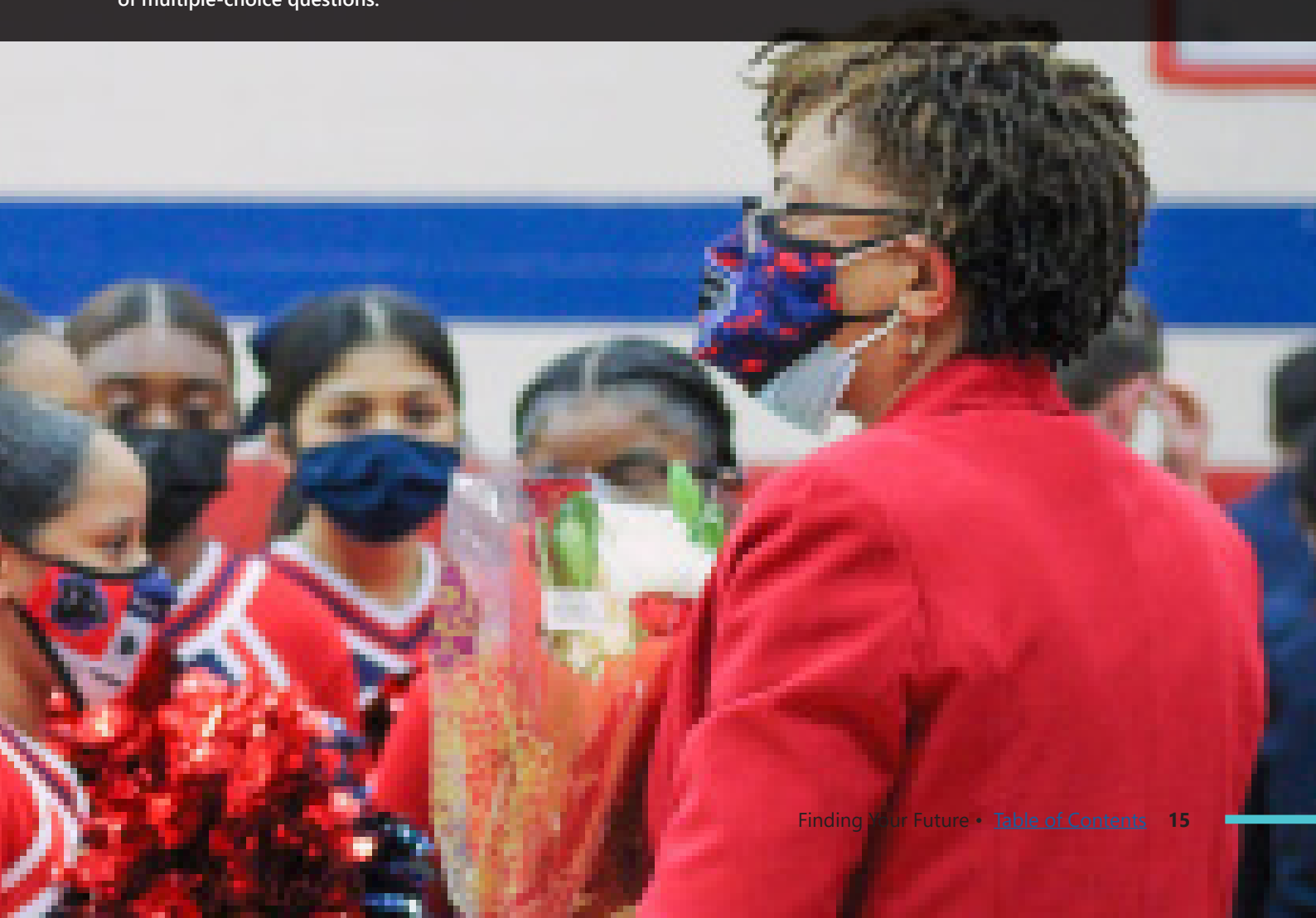
General Examinations

The material in the general examinations is typical of those portions of the first two years of college referred to as general or liberal arts education. The examinations measure the basic elements of their disciplines, which colleges and universities expect their students to learn. The general exams include: English composition, humanities, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, and history. Each is 60 minutes long and is composed of multiple-choice questions.

Subject Examinations

The subject examinations are designed to measure knowledge and achievement usually covered in specific college courses and are used to grant credit for or exemption from these courses. Most of the subject examinations are 90-minute multiple-choice tests. In addition, most of the subject examinations have an optional 90-minute essay section, which can be taken if the college requires it.

The CLEP is offered the third week of each month. Registration to take the CLEP is made directly to a university test center. Consult collegeboard.org for fees.



POST- SECONDARY OPTIONS

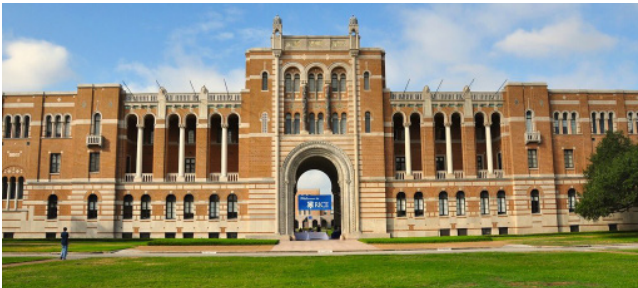
Finding your future involves considering all of your post-secondary options in order to prepare for a lifetime of success. This process should be discussed with your parents and your counselors so that you make an informed decision and one that is best for you.

*As you plan for your future,
keep in mind that many
positions in 21st century
jobs will require some post-
secondary education.*

OPTIONS TO CONSIDER:

4-YEAR UNIVERSITY

EXAMPLES: TEXAS A&M, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON,
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, PRAIRIE VIEW A&M



A post-secondary institution that consists of a liberal arts college, a diverse graduate program, and usually two or more professional schools or faculties, and that is empowered to confer degrees in various fields of study.

2-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

EXAMPLES: LONE STAR COLLEGE, BLINN COLLEGE,
HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Community colleges, sometimes called junior colleges, are primarily two-year public institutions providing higher education and lower-level courses, granting certificates, diplomas, and associates degrees.

TRADE/TECHNICAL SCHOOL



A trade school (also known as a technical school) is a postsecondary educational institution designed to train students for a specific job in a skilled trade career.

MILITARY ENLISTMENT



Enlistment is the act of joining the army, navy, marines, air force, or coast guard.

EMPLOYMENT



Employment most generally means the state of having a paid job—of being employed after graduation.

4-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY PREPARES STUDENTS FOR CAREERS THAT CAN BE FINANCIALLY LUCRATIVE AND REWARDING.

COLLEGES DIFFER IN DEGREE PROGRAM AVAILABILITY, COST OF ATTENDANCE, AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS. *ALREADY KNOW YOU WANT TO GO TO A 4-YEAR COLLEGE? VISIT OUR [CHOOSING A COLLEGE SECTION](#).*



PUBLIC VERSUS PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Public colleges are those financially supported by the state and are usually less expensive for in-state residents to attend (for example, the University of Texas or Sam Houston State University). Private colleges are those who are funded by tuition and donations from alumni and endowments, and are usually more expensive than public colleges (for example, Rice University or Texas Christian University). Private colleges may or may not be affiliated with a specific religious group. Though private colleges

may be more expensive, they commonly may offer more financial aid or scholarships to prospective students, discounting the total cost of attendance and potentially making them comparably priced to a public university. When evaluating four-year college options, it is important to consider both public AND private universities in order to determine which schools will be the best fit in terms of degrees offered and cost of attendance after financial aid has been awarded.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

What do universities look for in an applicant?

01

Academic Record



The most important factor when colleges are evaluating applicants is **the transcript**, including your class rank and GPA. Your **GPA** in high school shows colleges how successful you were in the field of academics and whether you worked hard. Colleges look not only at your overall GPA but also at how well you did in individual classes. Being able to show prospective colleges that you **challenged yourself academically** is important. Admissions officers will look at AP, honors, and other college prep classes you take to see how well you handled the course load, as this is a good indicator of how you'll do in college. Your **class rank** shows how much competition you faced with grades and performance to reach a particular level.

02

Exam Scores



Not all schools rely as heavily on SAT and ACT scores as they used to, but it doesn't hurt to take both tests and do as well as you can. When taken together with your high school transcript, these two factors provide a solid prediction of how well you will do at the college level.

03

Extracurricular Activities



Extracurricular activities both in high school and in the community are significant because admissions officers are looking for students who will **make an impact** on their campus if admitted. The kinds of activities you choose say a lot about your personality and even your morals. Whether or not you stick with your chosen undertakings exhibits your ability to **commit to important projects** in the long term. Any experience you have that shows true commitment, leadership qualities and an interest in community is beneficial to you.

04

Letters of Recommendation



Selective colleges will typically require you to include one to three letters of recommendation from people who know a student well, have interacted with you in the classroom or otherwise can show that you are a good candidate for the school's program. Choose your references carefully and **strive to make and maintain connections** with teachers & adults who positively impact you in high school. A good recommendation letter supports a solid application by affirming all of your best qualities as a student.

05

A Well-Written Essay



An essay that is included as a part of your college application is your best opportunity to highlight things that can't be conveyed through test scores and GPA. Admissions officers want to see essays that go for a **personal connection**. Rather than using the essay to talk up your accomplishments, focus on showing who you truly are and what makes you interesting. Stick with the given prompt as you write and remember to include the reason why you want to attend a particular school. **Note: if your application does not require an essay but it is recommended consider it required! Have someone proof read your essay.**

06

Passion & Individuality



More colleges are moving away from accepting students who did the most "stuff" to looking for those who **focus their energy in specific areas that they're passionate about**. Schools want to see what makes you special and how hard you're willing to work at the things you care about. In addition, colleges are trying to create a diverse and engaging student body. That's why they want to know about your hobbies, passions, interests, and other non-academic pursuits. They want someone unique and interesting. If you can demonstrate that on your college application, you'll be a serious contender!

For a list of Texas universities visit the [Reference section](#) of this guide

Knowing what the colleges you're applying to are looking for helps you to make the best possible choices for college prep and to craft a better application when the time comes. Visit the [choosing a college section](#) to help you in this process.

ROTC & MILITARY ACADEMIES

**COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO
TAKE ROTC WILL ENTER THE
MILITARY AS OFFICERS AFTER
COMPLETING COLLEGE.**

All academies offer a free college education to students they accept. Students interested in applying to one of the academies should start the process during their junior year.



ACADEMICALLY GIFTED STUDENTS MAY FIND EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT ONE OF THE FIVE MILITARY ACADEMIES:



**The United States
Military Academy at
West Point**
www.westpoint.edu



**The United States
Naval Academy**
www.usna.edu



**The United States
Air Force Academy**
www.usafa.af.mil



**The United States
Coast Guard Academy**
www.uscga.edu



**The United States
Merchant Marine
Academy**
www.usmma.edu

Several academies also offer summer programs and those application windows are typically early and brief. Except for the Coast Guard Academy, the military academies use a rigorous two-step application process. 1) **Prequalification.** Applicants must be “pre-qualified” before submitting an application. This includes physical & medical exams and an interview. 2) **Nomination.** Applicants must apply for and obtain a nomination from their Congressional Representative or Senator. These nominations are highly competitive and require a separate application process and deadline for each of your Congressional members (check their websites for their application process).

ADDITIONALLY, STUDENTS MAY BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING A SENIOR MILITARY COLLEGE, SUCH AS:

- [The Citadel](#)
- [Virginia Military Institute](#)
- [Texas A&M Corps of Cadets](#)
- [Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets](#)
- [Norwich University](#)
- [The University of North Georgia](#)

U.S. Coast Guard Direct Commission
Selective Schools ([DCSS](#))

- [Mary Baldwin College](#)
- [Prairie View A&M University](#)

2-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The decision to further your education by attending a community college to gain additional education could not be made at a better time. A degree or certification from a quality campus-based community college institute will carry significant value in any organization's hiring and career advancement decisions.

The majority of the community colleges offer a number of different classes, degree programs, continuing education and career education courses that will help you prepare yourself for a trade or career, for career advancement with the company where you are currently employed or to go on to participate in masters or doctorate degree programs. Many community colleges offer the associate and bachelor degree options/tracks in the areas listed below:

- Business Administration and Management
- Health Care Administration and Nursing
- Culinary Arts and Cooking
- Engineering, Science and Architecture
- Graphic, Interior and Fashion Design
- Accounting & Finance
- Marketing and Advertising
- Website Design, HTML Programming & Flash
- Computer Science, Networking & Programming
- Psychology, Criminology and Behavioral Science
- Legal, Paralegal
- & many more!

Advantages of Community College

- Affordable & close to home
- Flexible schedule, perfect for students who plan to work while attending school
- Open enrollment
- Small classes with individualized instruction
- Gives students opportunities to explore major options without the cost of a university

Items to Consider with Community College

- Transferring of credits can sometimes be a problem
- Lack of on-campus housing
- Persons who have earned an Associates degree often earn less than those with a Bachelors degree
- Campus life is not an integral part of the atmosphere

With nearly 1300 community colleges nationwide to choose from and **Lone Star College** right at our back door, you are sure to find a community college and program of study that meets your unique needs. Find a **list of Texas community colleges** at the back of this guide.



TRADE & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Thinking about going to a career college or technical school? With this option, you would earn a certificate, degree, or diploma from a career college or technical school that will train you for a specific career, trade, or profession.

These schools offer short-term training for students for a variety of technical positions, such as those listed below.



- AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN
- INTERIOR DESIGNER
- AIR CONDITIONING/REFRIGERATION
- LEGAL ASSISTANT/PARALEGAL
- ARTIST LICENSED
- PRACTICAL NURSE
- CHILD CARE
- MASSAGE THERAPIST

- COMPUTER TECHNICIAN
- MEDICAL ASSISTANT/ LAB TECHNICIAN
- COSMETOLOGIST
- PHOTOGRAPHER
- COURT REPORTER
- PLUMBER
- DENTAL ASSISTANT/TECHNICIAN

- RESPIRATORY THERAPIST
- ELECTRICIAN
- TRUCK DRIVER
- HAIR STYLIST
- VETERINARY ASSISTANT
- HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
- WELDER

WITH SO MANY SCHOOLS TO CHOOSE FROM, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW THE KINDS OF QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE ENROLLING. ONE KEY ISSUE IS WHETHER THE SCHOOL IS [ACCREDITED BY AN AGENCY RECOGNIZED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION](#) OR LICENSED BY THE STATE IN WHICH IT IS LOCATED.

DOES THE SCHOOL OFFER PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE?

Many career colleges and technical schools provide job placement assistance as part of their service. If the school does offer job placement assistance, ask about the job placement rates (the percent of graduates placed in jobs) and compare the placement rates with those of other schools. Ask for information about recent graduates, and find out where they went to work. Whenever possible, ask former students about their experience at a school you are considering. Did the training they received prepare them for the job they wanted?

HOW CAN YOU AVOID DIPLOMA MILLS?

Unfortunately, there are some schools, that are more interested in taking your money than giving you a quality education. These schools are often called "diploma mills". Information about how to avoid these types of schools can be found at: [U.S. Department of Education: Diploma Mills and Accreditation](#).

Find a [list of trade and technical schools in the Houston area](#) in the reference section of this guide.



MILITARY ENLISTMENT

Joining the military is a big decision and one that must be made with the support of family and trusted advisors. If you are thinking about joining, do some research and make an informed decision. The information on www.todaysmilitary.com will help you carefully weigh the opportunities and benefits service has to offer.

There are plenty of jobs to choose from in the military, many of them requiring highly technical skills. First you need to succeed on the [ASVAB](#), which can be taken at your high school or at your local recruiting office. There is more information about this in the [Testing Section](#) of this guide. After taking the ASVAB, you must discuss the results with your recruiter, counselor, and parents.

MILITARY BRANCH INFORMATION

UNITED STATES ARMY

The United States Army is the main ground-force of the U.S. The Army's main function is to protect and defend the United States (and its interests) by way of ground troops, armor (tanks), artillery, attack helicopters, tactical nuclear weapons, etc. The Army is the largest and oldest U.S. Military Service.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

The Air Force's primary mission is to defend the United States through exploitation of air and space. To accomplish this mission, the Air Force operates fighter aircraft, tanker aircraft, light and heavy bomber aircraft, transport aircraft, and helicopters. The Air Force is also responsible for all military satellites, and controls all of our strategic nuclear ballistic missiles.

UNITED STATES NAVY

With its primary mission to maintain the freedom of the seas, the Navy makes it possible for the United States to use the seas when we require it. Navy aircraft carriers can deploy to areas where fixed runways are impossible. Navy ships can attack land targets from miles away, and cruise missiles. Navy submarines allow stealth attacks on our enemies from off their shores.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Specializing in amphibious operations, the Marine Corps' primary specialty is the assault, capture, and control of "beach heads," which then provide a route to attack the enemy from almost any direction. In recent years, the Marines have expanded ground-combat operations. For combat operations, the Marine Corps have their own air power, consisting primarily of fighter and fighter/bomber aircraft and attack helicopters.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

In peacetime, the Coast Guard is primarily concerned with law enforcement, boating safety, sea rescue, and illegal immigration control. However, the President of the United States can transfer part or all of the Coast Guard to the Department of the Navy in times of conflict. The Coast Guard consists of ships, boats, aircraft, and shore stations that conduct a variety of missions.



BENEFITS

When someone enlists, they are signing up for active duty from two to up to six years. In addition to wages and training, enlistees also receive housing, medical & dental care. The GI Bill also provides the enlistee with funds to cover all or some of the costs for a college education.

BASIC TRAINING

Basic Combat Training or "Boot camp" is your introduction to the military and lasts about ten weeks depending on your [military occupational specialty \(MOS\)](#). It is designed to be highly intense and challenging.

LOCAL RECRUITER CONTACTS

U.S. Army

Staff Sergeant
Brittney Prayor

brittney.n.prayor.mil@army.mil

832-703-3898

U.S. Marines

Staff Sergeant
Juan Salinas

juan.salinas@marines.usmc.mil

832-829-5685

U.S. Navy

Petty Officer
A.J. Brown

andre.j.brown2@navy.mil

713-242-9059

U.S. Coast Guard

CS1
Phillip Steward

phillip.j.steward@uscg.mil

713-641-3559

U.S. Air Force

Technical Sergeant
Justin McAndrews

justin.mcandrews@us.af.mil

281-967-0296

EMPLOYMENT

You'll find more helpful links to help you with resumes & Interviews in the [Tips & Tricks](#) section of this document.

FINDING A JOB AFTER GRADUATION

PREPARE A RESUME

PROFESSIONAL RESUME

Prepare a [professional resume](#) and attach a copy to each application you submit. You can also email a copy of your resume and a cover letter to prospective employers requesting an interview. Even if you don't have much information on your resume, including one shows you are serious about your job search. Make sure to include extracurricular activities & volunteer work on your resume. Don't forget any work you have done in your community, including babysitting, mowing lawns, or pet sitting.

EXPLORE JOB LEADS

JOB LEADS

Job leads can come from anywhere!

- Co-op programs
- Word of mouth (counselors, friends, neighbors, relatives, teachers)
- Former employers
- Internet job search sites

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

Don't limit yourself to certain types of jobs. The more flexibility you have, the more opportunities you'll be able to apply for. **Tell everyone you know that you are looking for a job.** Many jobs aren't advertised, and you may be able to get a good job lead from an unexpected person.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

WHAT TO WEAR

- **LOOK SHARPER** than you usually do. You must sell yourself and let the employer know you take the interview, and the job, seriously.
- **BE CONSERVATIVE** in your attire; revealing clothes, product logos, clothing with holes, very short skirts, and unprofessional shoes are not appropriate.
- **CAREFUL GROOMING** is a must. Avoid too much of anything, such as colognes, make-up, or jewelry. Don't forget to shave.
- **ITEMS TO LEAVE IN YOUR CLOSET:** shorts, flip flops, spaghetti-strap or crop tops, jerseys & athletic wear including yoga pants, hats, hoodies, headphones/earbuds.

THE JOB APPLICATION

Be prepared to complete a job application. It will save you time if you have all the information you need handy when filling out applications in person or when you are applying online. For most jobs you will need the following:

- Contact information (address and phone number)
- Educational background
- Extracurricular activities
- Skills related to the job
- Availability (days and hours)
- Previous jobs and employer contact information (if you have work experience)
- Salary history (if you have work experience)
- References and their contact information (typically three)

When you're in high school and haven't worked much or at all, it can be hard to find a job. In fact, teenagers have a [really high unemployment rate](#). There are a few reasons why finding work as a teen can be challenging:

- Experience: If you're looking for your first job, you may not be able to show you have the necessary skills and experience.
- Hours: Sometimes employers need candidates who can work late nights or during school hours.
- Personal qualities: Interviewers may feel concerned that teenagers lack responsibility, maturity, and other key personal qualities needed to perform in the role.

But don't get discouraged by these factors. If you are a high school student looking for a job, there are plenty of things you can do to overcome those obstacles, get your application noticed, and get yourself hired.

CONSIDER HOW EMPLOYERS THINK

TRAITS EMPLOYERS CONSIDER IMPORTANT

- **Dependability:** always shows up to work with no history of absenteeism
- **Team Player:** is respectful & uses good communication skills
- **Responsibility:** able to hold themselves accountable to their work
- **Self-starter:** is enthusiastic and does not have to wait to be told to start a task
- **Efficiency:** has ability to do things quickly & correctly and learns from mistakes

MAKE SURE YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA IS PRESENTABLE!

Employers may search your name online and on popular social media sites. Before applying, make sure they won't find anything that would make them reconsider hiring you. Find tips for this in the [reference section of this guide](#).

HAVE A GOOD INTERVIEW

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR YOUR INTERVIEW

- DO prepare for the interview by learning about the company and reviewing your qualifications for the job.
- DO take a few copies of your resume and a list of references (with contact information) to the interview. Bring a notepad and a pen for taking notes, writing down your interviewer's name, etc.
- DO arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time of the interview. If you're not sure how long it will take you to get to the interview, do a trial commute in the days before your scheduled time.
- DON'T forget to silence all of your devices, and remove your earbuds. Walk into the building ready to interview.
- DON'T go into the interview with anyone else. If your parents or friends are with you, ask them to wait outside. You want to present yourself as a mature & responsible candidate.
- DON'T bring a drink, food or chew gum before or during your interview.
- DO answer each question concisely with enthusiasm, using proper English and avoiding slang. Use good manners, shake hands, and always make good eye contact. DON'T slouch, yawn, or other distracting behaviors.
- DON'T use one-word answers to your interview questions. It should feel like a conversation you are having with the interviewer.
- DO ask a few questions about the job and/or organization.
- DO thank the interviewer by sending a follow-up letter or email, expressing your appreciation for the interview and repeating your qualifications and enthusiasm for the job.

Committed to getting a job, either now or after graduation? Consider seeking assistance from [Workforce Solutions](#). The Gulf Coast Workforce Board and its operating affiliate [Workforce Solutions](#), are the public workforce system in the 13-county Houston-Galveston region of Texas. They help employers meet their human resource needs and individuals build careers, so both can compete in the global economy. Call 281-807-9462.



COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING

"The best way to predict the future is to create it"
-Abraham Lincoln

AS YOU START THE RESEARCHING PROCESS, THINK ABOUT YOUR ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS:



HOW DO I
SPEND MY
FREE TIME?

WHAT
DO I
WANT TO
DO IN THE
FUTURE?

WHAT
AM I
INTERESTED
IN?



WHAT
DO I FEEL
PASSIONATE
ABOUT?



HOW DO I
LEARN BEST?

CAREER EXPLORATION TOOLS:

01 Xello

xello
Creating Successful Futures

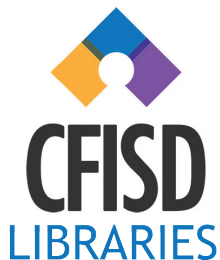


Xello is an engaging online program that helps students build the skills, knowledge and plans to be future ready. The program uses an investigative, discovery-based learning process. Students better understand themselves, their future career options, and the 21st century skills they'll need to succeed. **CFISD students can log into their account through my.cfisd.net, Xello is under "additional resources".**

Xello includes (but is not limited to):

- Interactive career, personality, and learning style assessments to help students better understand their unique interests, skills, and strengths.
- Ability to explore hundreds of career and college options that align with their assessment results.
- A robust college planning tool including resources for applications, recommendation letters, scholarships and transcripts

02



You have access to a wealth of resources through your [CAMPUS LIBRARY](#). Including the entire content of [PETERSON'S TEST PREP](#).

Which includes career searches,

college searches, scholarships, and of course TEST PREP for all high school and college tests. Learn more about this on [the library page at the back of this guide](#). You'll also find access to the [LEARNING EXPRESS LIBRARY FROM EBSCO](#). This resource also provides college & career exploration resources as well as Test Preparation for TSI, STAAR, ACT, SAT and AP.

03



Starting in 2001, a group of friends took a road trip in their bright green RV to figure out what to do with their lives. Since then, the Roadtrippers have interviewed local, national, and international leaders including Wanda Sykes, Questlove, and Margaret Cho, and have compiled an interview archive with thousands of videos just for you! To access the Roadtrip Nation Interviews, visit the website using the link above. Go to the Career Exploration tab. The Roadmap lets you choose what your interests are and finds interviews you might want to watch.

roadtripnation.com



CAREER EXPLORATION CONTINUED

04 **Federal Student Aid** An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

Use the [Career Search](#) to find potential careers using the keyword search, or browse by industry. If you're not sure what you want to do, use the interest profiler to answer a series of questions that will match your interests with potential careers. Once you've used the Career Search to find out how much and what type of education is required for a particular career, you might want to use the college search tool, [College Navigator](#), to find schools that may meet your needs. You can search for colleges based on their type, location, and degrees and programs/majors offered.

05 **o-net® Interest Profiler**

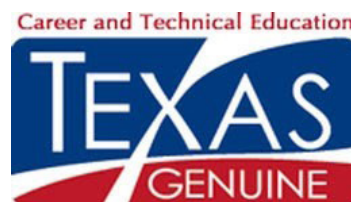
The My Next Move: [Career Interest Profiler](#) is an online career interest assessment for students based on Holland's interest codes. The assessment has about 60 questions. Your results include an interest profiler to help find career clusters organized by the amount of preparation each needs.

06 **US Bureau of Labor Statistics: [Job Seekers](#)**

This page has several useful resources including: the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) learn about work, education & training requirements, advancement opportunities, employment, salary and 10-year job outlook for hundreds of occupations [CareerOneStop](#)- the career, training and job search website of the Department of Labor

EXPLORE CAREERS IN TEXAS

07



TEXASgenuine lets you explore career fields and the college programs to get there! It also includes the TEXASgenuine Assessment, which allows you to respond to questions and identify your top three Career Clusters™ of interest based on your responses (for educational purposes only).

08



Texas Reality Check 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. Features a lifestyle calculator, an occupation calculator or simply compare costs with different occupations.

09



Texas Career Check is an exploration tool built for students to research different Careers and Schools. This system provides an intuitive way to look for information and descriptions on occupations and schools that the student may be interested in. This tool brings together a wealth of information from various sources maintained by different entities. While these independent entities are informative on their own, they are usually difficult to navigate and the required data is hard to find. Texas Career Check relieves this issue with an easy to navigate website. This has 2 sections: Exploring Careers and Exploring Education.

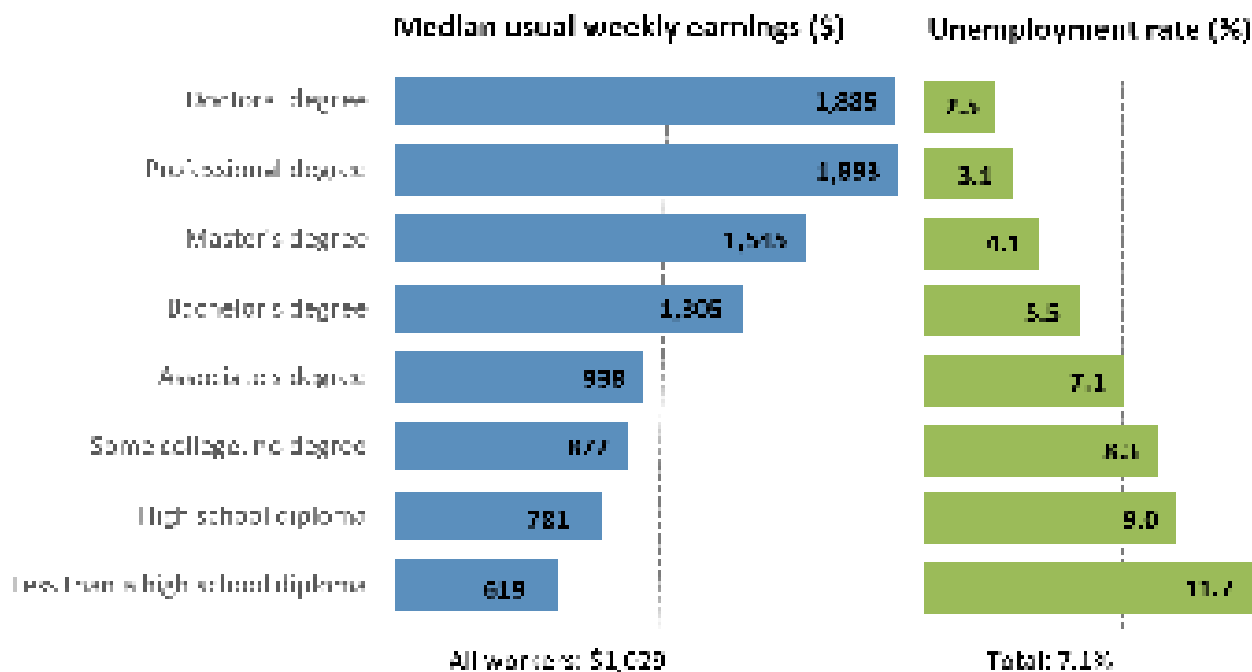
10



Texas OnCourse As you approach the end of high school, there are a number of paths – join the workforce, enlist in the military, go to college or technical school. You may want to play college athletics or work during school. Use these tools (and get help from your counselor!) to check out what's available.

WHY GO TO A COLLEGE OR CAREER SCHOOL?

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2020



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

EDUCATION PAYS IN HIGHER EARNINGS AND LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

These education categories reflect only the highest level of educational attainment. They do not take into account completion of training programs in the form of apprenticeships and other on-the-job training, which may also influence earnings and unemployment rates. For more information on training, see: www.bls.gov/emp/documentation/education-training-system.htm. BLS has some data on the [employment status](#) of the civilian non-institutional population 25 years and over by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic origin online. The Census Bureau also has some data on [educational attainment](#) online.

Last Modified Date: April 21, 2021 Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

Article: [Is the Cost of College Worth It?](#)

5 REASONS TO GO TO COLLEGE

COURTESY OF [knowhow2go](https://www.knowhow2go.org/)

Just as high school isn't just an extension of middle school, college isn't just a harder version of high school. There are real reasons why college is an important step in your education, both personally and professionally.

Reason 1: Ability to Adapt

The more education you get, the more likely it is that you'll be able to adapt to a wide variety of jobs and careers. According to one estimate, by the year 2028, there will be 19 million more jobs for educated workers than there are qualified people to fill them. Businesses want to hire people who know how to think and solve problems.

Reason 2: Increase in Wages

Every bit of education you get after high school increases the chances you'll earn good pay. Most college graduates earn a lot more money during their working years than people who stop their education at high school. Check out www.studentaid.gov/whycollege for more information on wages.

Reason 3: Options to Explore

College provides plenty of options for exploring your interests, whether you choose to dive right into a major field of study or try classes in a variety of different subjects. Continuing your education after high school allows you to choose what suits you best!

Reason 4: New People and New Ideas

Education beyond high school gives you a lot of other benefits, including meeting new people, taking part in new opportunities to explore your interests and experiencing success. A college campus offers you a whole new world of ideas and people to explore!

Reason 5: Self-Discovery

College is one of the best places to learn about yourself. You'll encounter new ideas and challenges. You'll discover new passions. You'll bond with new friends who might be very different from your friends in high school. College opens doors to your future and offers opportunities for you to grow into your best self.



Supporting College Enrollment in Texas During COVID-19



TxCAN
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TEXAS EDUCATION BOARD



[The Future Focused TX campaign](#) - a public-private collaboration - aims to maintain college enrollment rates in Texas despite the effects of COVID-19. As counselors, advisors, and educators, we know involving parents in our students' lives is an important aspect of helping them succeed. However, with the college-going process constantly changing, especially in response to COVID-19, it can be hard for parents to help their students at home. We have created a library of resources that can be shared with parents to both help them learn more about college-going activities and help them better support their child's dreams and goals!

APPLICATION & COLLEGE SEARCH TOOLS



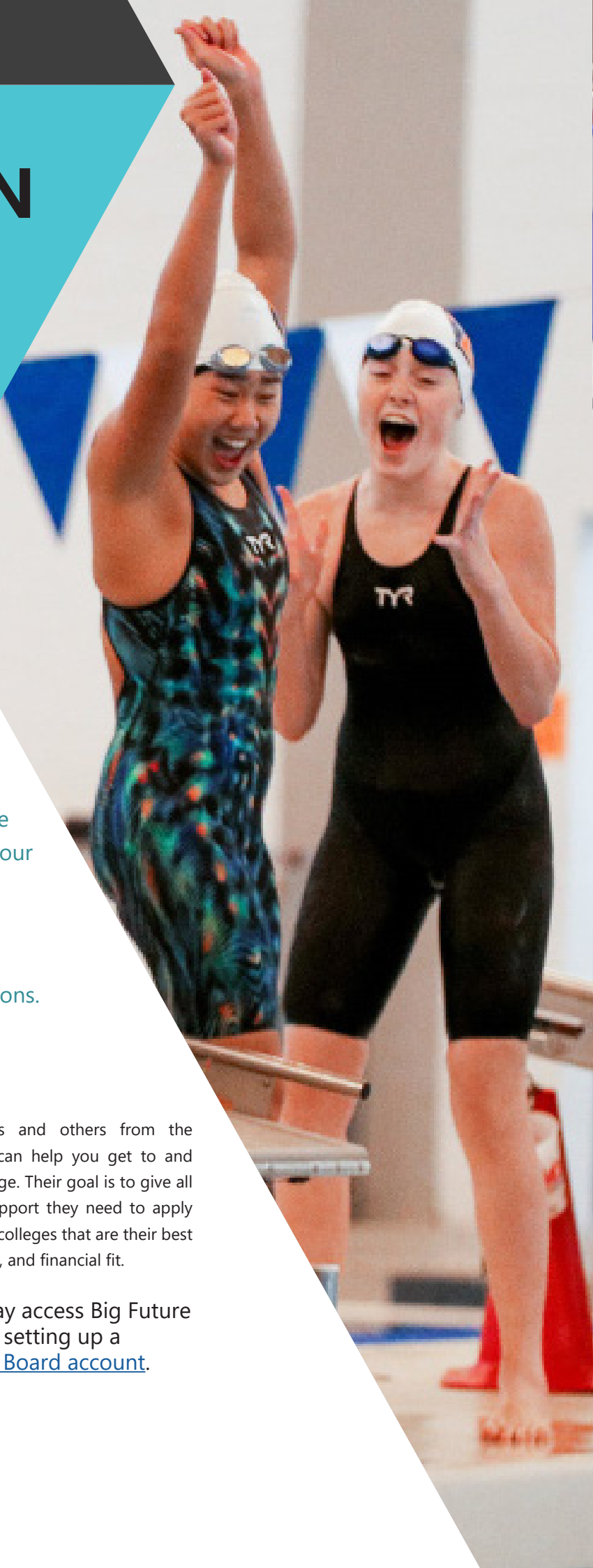
BigFuture is the College Board's free college planning tool, designed to support students like you from your first thoughts about college to your first day on campus. BigFuture will help you:

- Handle the college planning process.
- Find the college where you'll thrive.
- Take a look at your interests and career options.
- Make informed choices.
- Discover your big future.

Each year the College Board connects with millions of students, supporting their success and achievement through programs like the PSAT/NMSQT®, SAT®, and Advanced Placement®, as well as tools and resources like BigFuture. You've probably already interacted with one of their programs, whether you took the PSAT/NMSQT, practiced for the SAT on Khan Academy®, or enrolled in an AP® course. With BigFuture, you'll see how

these programs and others from the College Board can help you get to and succeed in college. Their goal is to give all students the support they need to apply to and enroll in colleges that are their best academic, social, and financial fit.

Students may access Big Future
after setting up a
[College Board account](#).





*“Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.”
-Confucius*

COLLEGE FOR ALL TEXANS

From the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board ([THECB](#))

COLLEGE FOR ALL TEXANS
WEBSITE HOME

GET ALL THE FACTS ABOUT
HIGHER EDUCATION

MAKE A PLAN FOR
SCHOOL IN TEXAS

FINANCIAL AID
ASSISTANCE

APPLY FOR COLLEGES
IN TEXAS

HELPFUL INFO FOR
TEXAS APPLICANTS

The College For All Texans website is a one stop source of information to help students and parents plan, apply, and pay for college in Texas.

Students in Texas have many choices for education beyond high school. Options include four-year colleges, two-year colleges, and technical certification programs. But the decisions do not stop there. Another big piece of the puzzle is figuring out how to pay for college.

Maybe you are deciding which college is right for you. Maybe you need information on scholarships. Or maybe you would like to get a jump-start on planning for your child's future college education.

Whether you are just starting to think about college or you are actively submitting applications, College For All Texans can help. It has many practical resources and tools to guide you through the process of planning and paying for college.

TEXAS MONTHLY COLLEGE GUIDE



We've profiled more than 74 Texas schools from A to Z. These snapshots are designed with parents in mind just as much as the students—it's information that will help you make an informed decision on where your student will spend 4 (give or take) important years.

Texas has close to 200 colleges and universities throughout the state. For this guide, we included schools that met the following criteria: award bachelor's degrees, own their own facilities, are SACS accredited, and are Texas-based. The private institutions listed are members of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas.

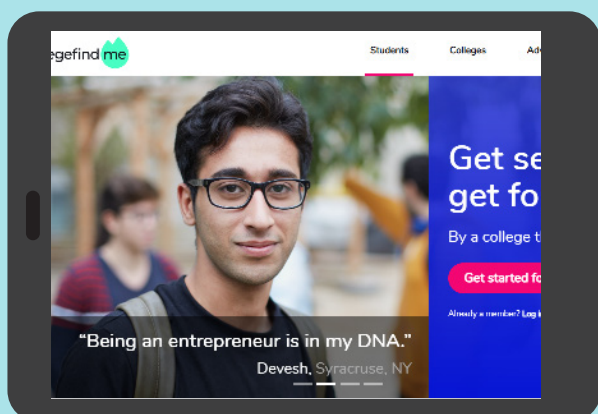
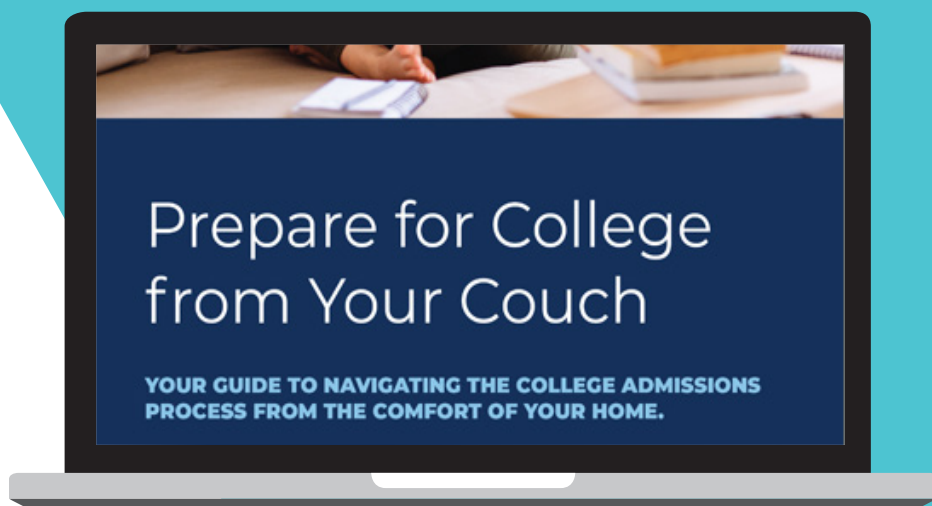
*Confirmation that each school met the criteria was made by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas.



FREE EBOOK:

Preparing for College from Your Couch

Preparing for college during a pandemic isn't normal or easy. But there are things you can do from your couch to stay on track! The most important thing you can do is to stay focused on your goal: getting into college.



Stand out to colleges by standing up for who you are. Showcase your passions, talents, experience and more. [CollegeFindMe®](#) provides everything you need to move confidently through high school, with grade-based roadmaps, access to scholarships, inspiration, and tips for connecting with schools that really get you.

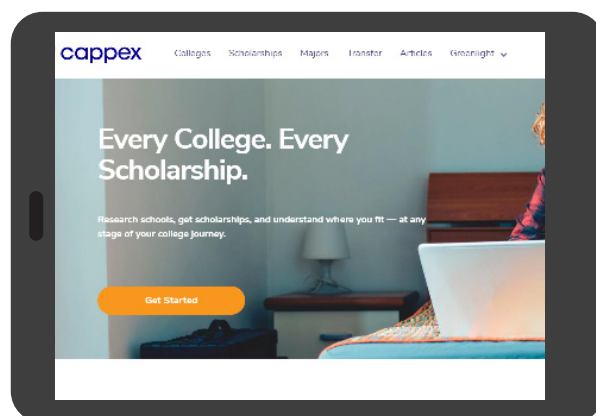


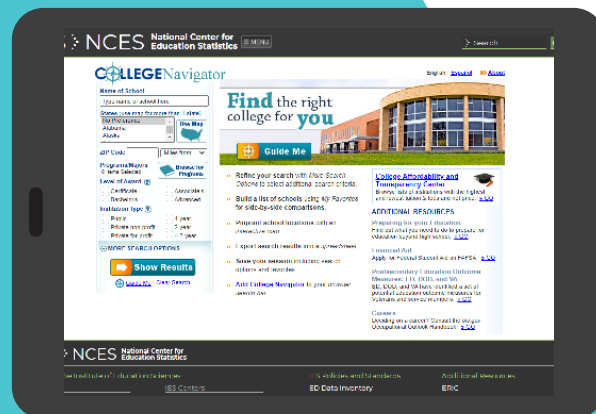
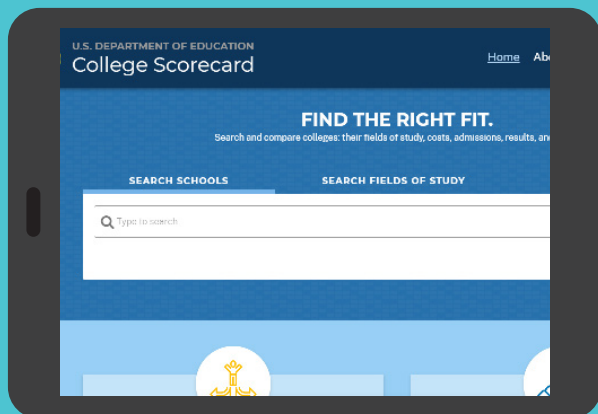
- Tell your story—Add passions, videos, portfolios, references & more
- Stay organized—Search, filter & favorite colleges easily, in one place
- Never miss a milestone—Get prompts, roadmaps, texts and more
- Get inspired—Read other student stories and find peer mentors



[Cappex](#): Find colleges and scholarships that are right for you.

By partnering with college admissions departments across the country we provide you with access to the inside track. We help you create the best college list by surfacing new schools that are interested in you and getting you on the radar of your top choices. We dig into the details and provide you with tools to determine your major, calculate your admissions chances, fine-tune your applications, and even arrange college visits. And, because figuring out how to pay for it is often the hardest part, we match you with scholarships and give you detailed financial aid information to find the best combination of funding available to you.





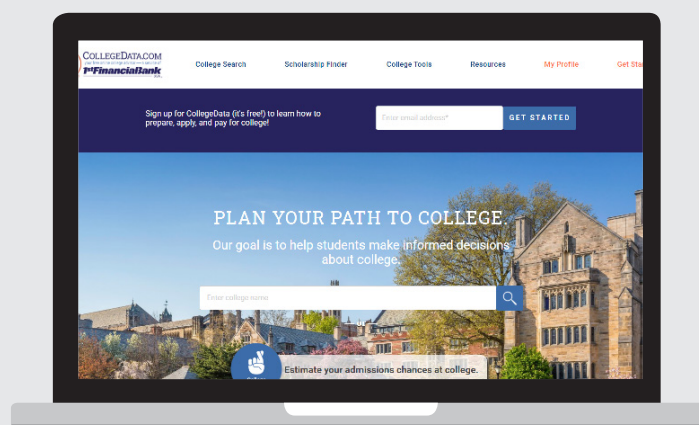
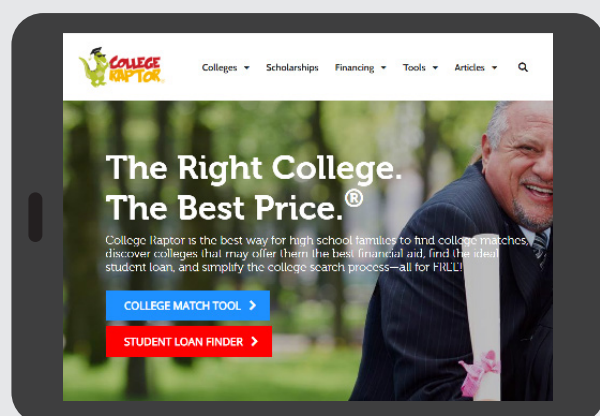
U.S. DEPT OF EDUCATION'S COLLEGE SEARCH TOOL

FIND THE RIGHT FIT. Search and compare colleges: their fields of study, costs, admissions, results, and more.

[The College Scorecard](#) is an online tool, created by the United States government, for consumers to compare the cost and value of higher education institutions in the United States. It displays data in five areas: cost, graduation rate, employment rate, average amount borrowed, and loan default rate.



The U.S. Department of Education's college search tool, [College Navigator](#), is a way to find colleges and career schools that may fit your needs. You can search for schools by location, degrees offered, programs and majors, tuition and fees, setting, size, and much more. College Navigator allows you to compare schools, save your session, and export your results into a spreadsheet.



[College Raptor's](#) free college discovery platform gives students, families, and counselors the tools they need to find

great schools and overcome "sticker shock." With College Raptor, students can quickly and easily get personalized college matches and information to guide their decision process on any mobile device, tablet, or computer. Here is the link to [College Raptor's informational handout](#).



CollegeData's goal is to help students make informed decisions about college. It provides users with tools and expert advice to help you learn how to choose, prepare, apply, and pay for college. View the [CollegeData Fact Sheet](#) or visit their website at [collegedata.com](#).

THE PROCESS OF CHOOSING A COLLEGE

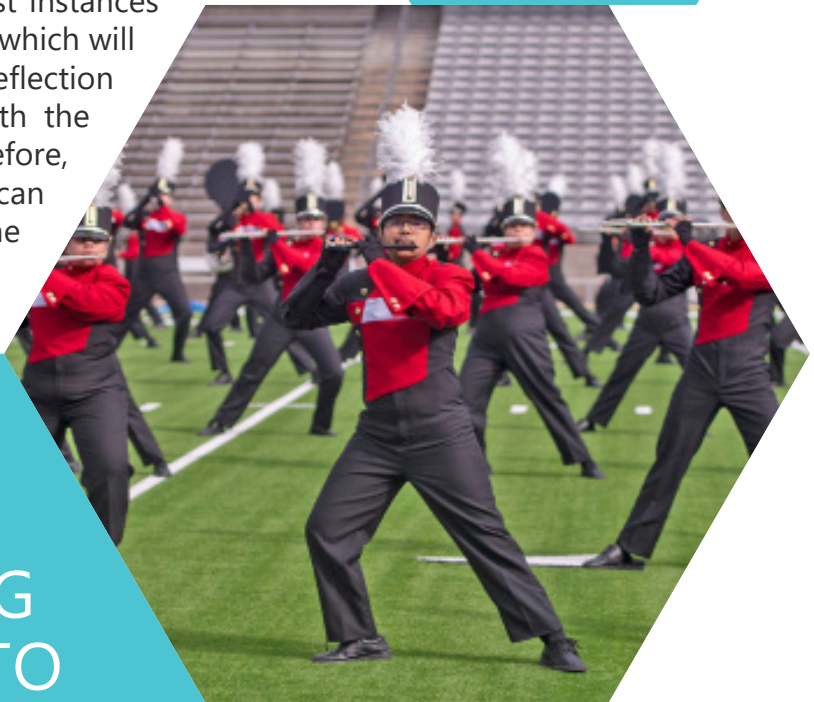
Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to people who prepare for today.
-Malcom X

For those of you who have already made a decision concerning which college you would like to attend, your attention needs to be focused on being admitted to that institution. Have back up plans just in case you are not accepted to your first choice.

For those of you who have not yet settled on a school, your attention will need to be focused on narrowing your choice of colleges to a **workable list**. In most instances there is a wide selection of colleges available which will meet your needs. Each of these colleges is a reflection of an educational philosophy combined with the make-up of the size of its student body. Therefore, selecting the college which is right for you can be an overwhelming task unless you study the differences between colleges and establish what is important to you.

THERE ARE OVER 5,300 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE UNITED STATES, SO SELECTING A SCHOOL THAT FITS YOUR ABILITIES AND AMBITIONS IS AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

THE FIRST STEP IN RESEARCHING COLLEGES IS TO EXPLORE YOUR OWN GOALS AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.



CREATING AND REFINING YOUR LIST OF COLLEGES

From the factors on the next page, set and define your top priorities when selecting a college.

01
List 4 or 5 characteristics that are most important to you



For example:
Curriculum offered: Excellent Biomedical Science Program
Cost: Tuition, fees, housing no more than \$11,000 per year.
Location: At least 2 hours away from home.
Size: Enrollment 10,000 or fewer students.

02
Narrow your choices



Narrow to colleges that meet your specific criteria. Use the college's admission standards to make good matches to what will be on your application. There are multiple search engines online that can help you find schools- see the [college search tools section](#) of this guide for some options.

03
Attend college night or college fairs



Talk with admissions representatives and obtain information about their schools. Look for announcements at www.cfisd.net to see when CFISD will have its next College Night. Your College and Career Specialist at your campus can also inform you when representatives from schools will be visiting your campus, or when virtual college preview days are happening.

04
Talk with your parents or guardians



Show them your list and talk through what it would be like if you were to attend those institutions. It is also important to discuss with them how you plan to finance your education. There are many resources in the [financial aid section](#) of this document.

05
Plan visits to several college campuses in person or virtually



To arrange a college tour, visit college websites to register for tours or call the Office of Admissions to secure an appointment. You may also want to ask for appointments with an admissions representative when they visit your high school, an advisor in your major, or the offices of financial aid and housing. Talk with current students and alumni at each school to get varied perspectives on the kind of college experience you can expect at each place. [Page of this guide](#) has links to college visit checklists.

*Have Questions during this time?
Feel free to consult with your counselor concerning any questions you may have. You are encouraged to arrange a conference with your counselor at a time when your parents may attend. You'll find campus contact info in the [resource section](#) of this guide.*



FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING A COLLEGE



LOCATION

By staying close to family, you can benefit from more affordable in-state tuition and save money by living at home. You can also cut costs on travel, since car rides are usually less expensive than airfare. Consider whether you want to live in a rural area, a sprawling metropolis, or someplace in-between. Small college towns often engender a more intimate sense of community that lets you build strong relationships with peers and professors, whereas schools in large cities can grant you access to a variety of social and cultural activities, not to mention internships with major companies and nonprofits.



COST

Choosing a college near your hometown generally means you'll get lower tuition rates. According to the [COLLEGE BOARD](#), in-state residents attending a four-year public institution pay an average of \$10,560 in tuition and fees, whereas out-of-state students pay \$27,020. Private colleges do not consider residency status, charging all learners an average of \$37,650 per year. On top of tuition, you'll need to factor in housing, meals, transportation, books and supplies, and other miscellaneous student fees when calculating the total cost of attendance. (These numbers are from the 2020-2021 School Year)



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to presenting acceptable scores on entrance exams, some colleges require a particular class rank as well as a certain number of units in high school preparatory courses, essays, recommendations, and interviews. Schools should fall into one of 3 categories:

Safeties: These are colleges that you feel you have a very good chance of getting into and that you think you can afford to attend. **Matches:** These are colleges that you feel you have a good chance of getting into and that are good matches for you overall. **Reaches:** These are colleges that you think may be a challenge to get into. **Remember: colleges consider the whole package.**

SIZE

The size of colleges ranges from very small (500 students) to very large (35,000 students or larger). While small schools often provide specialized degrees and a plethora of hands-on learning opportunities. Small colleges can also mean smaller class sizes, allowing you to easily access one-on-one support from professors and advisors. Students with clear interests and goals tend to thrive at big universities because they can take advantage of the diversity in coursework, activities, and professional resources. Large schools typically maintain well-stocked libraries, state-of-the-art research facilities, and nationally recognized sports teams.



ACADEMIC QUALITY

Despite what they may want you to believe, no school can offer the best programs in all fields of study. Before choosing a college, you can get a sense of its overall academic quality by looking at published rankings, such as those on [BESTCOLLEGES](#) or in [U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT](#). Next, ensure the college is regionally or nationally accredited. Regional accreditation is generally considered a more reliable indicator of academic quality. Then, investigate whether individual academic departments are accredited in their field. You might also try to gauge the career and research achievements of the faculty in your department (awards, publications, etc.).



CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

Because personal and professional growth also occurs outside the classroom, it's important to examine the campus environment when choosing a college. If you value the spirit of sports camaraderie, you might consider schools with renowned athletic teams so that you can attend games and other social events. If academic achievement is your main focus, consider enrolling at a research university that's recognized by the [CARNEGIE FOUNDATION](#). These institutions funnel substantial resources toward student and faculty projects. Depending on your interests, you may want to look into schools with a commitment to Greek life, or a vibrant art scene.



RESOURCES & SUPPORT SYSTEMS

To foster long-term success, you should consider your needs and wants as a whole person, not just as a student. Before choosing a college, make sure the school can accommodate your spiritual life and any medical conditions or special learning requirements you may have. Many students experience homesickness and other emotional challenges when starting college, so it's a good idea to check the availability of counseling services and health and wellness programs ahead of time. While writing and tutoring are ubiquitous among higher education institutions, be sure you can conveniently access these resources should you end up needing them.



OTHER POTENTIAL FACTORS

Family Tradition - Your family may have strong ties to a particular college. **Honors Program** - Distinctive academic activities may be available to students who meet requirements. **Transfer of Credits** - Credits earned at your institution of choice should be recognized by other colleges if you decide to transfer. Always check with the new school to determine which courses will be counted for credit. **Religious Affiliation** - Some private institutions are church related which can influence a student's selection of an school. **Financial Aid** - You may want to consider universities that offer substantial financial aid packages (grants, loans, scholarships, and work-study opportunities).





COLLEGE VISITS

Students are allowed two college visits during their junior year and two college visits during their senior year. Prior to your visit, fill out the college visitation form, and take it with you to your college visit. You must obtain documentation of your visit from the college to be given to the attendance office upon your return to campus. For a copy of your campus' visitation form, contact your campus counselor or attendance secretary. You will find contact information for campuses in the [reference section](#) of this guide.

Remember that during the recent pandemic, many universities now have **excellent virtual options for prospective students**. If you aren't sure about a school enough to visit in person, visit their website to see what options you may be able to participate in from home.

Want more information or a checklist for your college visit? Here are a few options:

- [College Board PDF Checklist](#)
- [The College Campus Tour Checklist from CB](#)
- [NACAC College Campus Tour Checklist](#)
- [Khan Academy Campus Visit Tips](#)
- [Affordable Colleges Online Visiting College Tips](#)



Have a dream
school but not sure
you can get in?

ALTERNATE ADMISSION PROGRAMS OFFERED BY 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

- [The Path to Admission through Co-Enrollment \(PACE\)](#) program offers alternate entrance to The University of Texas at Austin to select students. PACE participants spend their freshman year on the Forty Acres part-time, taking one class per semester at the university while completing the majority of their coursework at nearby Austin Community College (ACC).
- [Coordinated Admission Program The University of Texas System](#) developed the Coordinated Admission Program (CAP) to expand the admission options available to students interested in enrolling at The University of Texas at Austin. In general, CAP makes it possible for some freshman applicants to UT Austin to begin their studies at another UT System university. After completing CAP requirements during their freshman year, students transfer to UT Austin to complete their undergraduate studies.

[TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY](#)

- **Aggie Gateway to Success** is a summer provisional admission program that gives students a unique chance to gain full admission to the university the following fall semester.
- **Texas A&M University Blinn Team Program** is a collaborative admission program between Texas A&M University and Blinn College. Students are co-enrolled at both institutions.
- **Texas A&M Engineering at Blinn** provides students an opportunity to pursue their engineering degree in a co-enrollment program between Texas A&M University and Blinn College-Bryan Campus. Engineering at Galveston provides students an opportunity to begin their engineering studies on the Texas A&M Galveston campus and complete their engineering degree in College Station as part of the College of Engineering.
- **Program for System Admission (PSA)** offers students who are denied freshman admission the opportunity to enroll in a Texas A&M system school for one year with the intention of achieving guaranteed transfer admission to Texas A&M College Station upon successful completion of the program.

[STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY](#)

- **Jacks PASS Summer Admission program** First-semester freshman applicants who do not meet the admission requirements may become eligible for admission by enrolling in the Jacks PASS (Pathway to Accelerated Student Success) Summer Admission program.

[TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY](#)

- **Gateway Program:** Through the Gateway Program, you may attend the first summer session at an accredited community college, and if you earn a 2.5 GPA on six approved credit hours, you will be automatically admitted to the fall semester.
- **Tech Transfer Acceleration Program (TTAP):** TTAP is an admissions pathway for students to attend Texas Tech through a unique partnership with South Plains College. You can attend classes at the Texas Tech campus, live in the Texas Tech residence halls, and enjoy the privileges of Texas Tech student life while strengthening your academic record to become immediately admissible to Texas Tech in a subsequent semester.
- **Texan to Red Raider:** This partnership with South Plains College provides students with a pathway to guaranteed admission at Texas Tech. You'll enroll in courses concurrently at South Plains and Texas Tech and upon successful completion of the program, are guaranteed admission to Texas Tech.

Is your school not listed here? Visit your chosen university's website and look for links to Alternate Admission programs.



05

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

Education's
purpose is to
replace an empty
mind with an
open one.

MALCOM S. FORBES

HOW TO APPLY TO COLLEGE: STEPS & BRIEF OVERVIEW

Before you apply (JUNIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL)

1. **CREATE A COLLEGE APPLICATION CALENDAR** to mark all test, application and housing deadlines as you go through this process. If you choose a digital calendar- share it with your parents/guardian!
2. **SELECT SCHOOLS TO APPLY TO** that have your major/area of interest
 - a. See the [College and Career Planning](#) portion of this guide to help
 - b. See [Choosing a College](#) section of this guide
 - c. Plan [College Visits](#)! Make sure you register as an official visitor at the campus.
3. **TAKE RECOMMENDED ADMISSION EXAMS ([ACT/SAT](#))** and have all score reports sent to your top school choices.
 - a. We suggest taking them spring of your junior year of high school
 - b. Do you receive free or reduced lunch? You are eligible for your [testing fees to be waived](#)! Visit your college and career specialist for more information
4. Visit your chosen university's website and **REVIEW THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS** for "Freshman" or "Prospective Students"
5. If you meet admission requirements, look on the website for "how to apply"
 - a. [ApplyTexas.org](#) is the application for all public universities in Texas and select private schools, see the [application guide](#) at the end of this document
 - b. [CommonApp.org](#) is the application for over 900 public and private schools across the country & has a convenient mobile app, see more links [at the end of this document](#)
 - c. [Coalitionforcollegeaccess.org](#) is the application of more than 150 colleges and universities across the U.S.
 - d. If not found on these websites visit the college's website for their application
6. Determine **WHAT TYPE OF APPLICATION YOU PLAN TO SUBMIT**. (Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Admission, not sure? [Read ahead](#) about applying early and other types of admission)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Filling out the application & other documents (FALL OF SENIOR YEAR)

1. Most schools may require you to create an account or they will assign you an ID# and a password for applying/checking status. **DO NOT LOSE this info!**
2. **FILL OUT THE APPLICATION- COMPLETELY!!**
 - a. READ the INSTRUCTIONS, some applications require essays, resumes, recommendations or supplemental materials
 - b. If an application says something is not required but that section is “recommended” or “optional” - DO IT! Give yourself the best chance possible.
 - c. For [Essays](#), pre-write your responses somewhere other than the application and have others edit, for example, your English teacher or college & career specialist
 - d. For [Recommendations](#) (if required) contact your reference and provide them with a resume 3 WEEKS PRIOR to when you would like the recommendation MAILED
3. **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CY-FAIR ISD APPLICANTS**
 - a. **CFISD GPA** is figured on a **6.0 weighted scale**, if you need your GPA on another scale, contact your counselor
 - b. **Rank is exact** and computed on a **weighted scale**
 - c. Dual Credit courses count as college work to receive credit from Lone Star College, *this is not true for AP courses;*
4. **PAY THE APPLICATION FEE**
 - a. Free Lunch Students who took SAT with a Fee Waiver, get [4 Applications FREE](#), see your College and Career Specialist
 - b. This fee is non-refundable, it is advisable to narrow your choices to 4-5 schools
5. **SUBMIT APPLICATION to Schools**
 - a. Schools do not receive the application until you submit
 - b. Make sure you are aware of **DEADLINES** (postmarked vs received by)
6. [Request your official transcript](#) be sent to the college(s) in the registrar’s office at your school.
 - a. You must complete a transcript request form and pay the required fee for each transcript sent to colleges. You must know your college mailing address.
 - b. Official transcripts must be sent directly from the high school to the college.
7. Complete any **HEALTH FORMS** (if required)



HOW TO APPLY TO COLLEGE: STEPS & BRIEF OVERVIEW CONTINUED

After you have submitted your application (SENIOR YEAR)

1. **APPLY FOR HOUSING** by completing an application and submitting the fee.
 - a. Some require that the student is accepted for admission before an application for housing is mailed to the student, other colleges will accept housing requests prior to acceptance.
 - b. Generally, residence halls are assigned on a first come, first serve basis.
 - c. Some colleges require freshmen students to live on campus.
2. **APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID** after October 1st of your senior year by completing the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA).
 - a. This is a separate procedure and all requests regarding finances should be directed to the college's office of financial aid. ([See Filing the FAFSA section](#))
 - b. Please note: before any prospective student can be considered for financial aid, he/she must be accepted for admission. An application for financial aid does not constitute an application for admission and vice versa.
3. **COMPLETE [SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS](#) ([CFISD Scholarships](#)).**
4. If anything changes in your application status, notify university (schedule, family living circumstances, class rank, etc.) If attending a Public Texas College, verify test scores to determine if you are TSI Exempt-if not, sign up for TSI testing.
5. If you have not received a response via email or letter that your application for admission has been received within a reasonable length of time, contact an admissions counselor. Continue to check your online application status to ensure all application materials have been received by the application deadline.
6. Admission decisions for most colleges are mailed in March and/or April. This date is sometimes referred to as the **Candidate Notification Date**.
7. If you have been accepted to one or more colleges or universities, take note of the **Candidate Reply Date**. 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/she plans to attend.
8. Request an **OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT** be sent to the college you plan to attend upon graduation (this is usually done through your campus' senior survey). At most colleges you are unable to register for classes unless your final transcript is on file.

9. GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL!



WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT APPLYING EARLY TO COLLEGE

If you find a college that you're sure is right for you, consider applying early. Early Decision and Early Action plans allow you to apply early (usually in November) and get an admission decision early (usually by Dec. 15).

EARLY DECISION PLANS ARE BINDING

You agree to attend the college if it accepts you and offers an adequate financial aid package. You can apply to only one college for Early Decision. You may also apply to other colleges through the regular admission process, but if you're accepted by your first-choice college early, you must withdraw all other applications.

IF YOU NEED FINANCIAL AID, EARLY DECISION MIGHT NOT BE A GOOD IDEA

You shouldn't apply under an Early Decision plan if you think you'll be better off weighing financial aid packages from several colleges later in the spring. While you can turn down an early acceptance if the college is unable to meet your need for financial aid, "need" in this context is determined by formulas, not by your family.

EARLY ACTION PLANS ARE NONBINDING

While the college will tell you whether or not you're accepted by early January, you have the right to wait until May 1 before responding. This gives you time to compare colleges, including their financial aid offers, before making a decision. You can also apply Early Action to more than one college.

NOT EVERY COLLEGE OFFERS AN EARLY PLAN

More than 400 colleges offer an Early Decision plan, an Early Action plan, or both; but that is less than 20 percent of all colleges.

SINGLE-CHOICE EARLY ACTION IS ANOTHER OPTION

Some colleges offer this additional plan. This plan works the same way as other Early Action plans, but candidates may not apply early (either Early Action or Early Decision) to any other school. You can still apply for regular admission to other schools and are not required to give your final answer of acceptance until the regular decision deadline.

NOT SURE IF APPLYING EARLY IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Get advice from your school counselor before applying Early Decision. While it may seem appealing to get the process over with early, it might be too soon to know that you've made the right college choice.

OTHER TYPES OF ADMISSION

Think getting admitted to college is as simple as “in” or “not in”?
Think again.

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.

Deferred Admission

A program that allows an accepted student to postpone college enrollment date for up to 3 years for personal reasons. Deferred admission is also used to describe Early Decision or Early Action applicants who are not accepted in the early applicant pools but whose applications will be reviewed with the regular decision applicant pool.

Wait List

An institution’s list of students who were not accepted initially, but who may be accepted at a later date if space becomes available. An applicant is put on the waitlist when an admissions officer or committee decides to offer the applicant the opportunity to enroll in the institution only if there is space available in the incoming class after fully admitted students have responded to their offers to enroll. This category of admissions is reserved for students whose profiles are strong, but who are marginally qualified in comparison to the overall strength of others in the pool of applicants.

Open Admission

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

Provisional Admission

An admissions decision which allows an applicant to be “provisionally” accepted, dependent upon completion of requirements set by the college/university. These requirements may include summer session attendance with specified courses and GPA attainment or limitations on the number of courses taken in the fall.

Rolling Admissions

Application process through which admissions applications are evaluated upon receipt and applicants are usually notified within 4-5 weeks of the decision if accepted.

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”
–Nelson Mandela*

STATE OF TEXAS TOP 10 PERCENT AUTOMATIC COLLEGE ADMISSION POLICY

In accordance with [Texas Education Code \(TEC\), §51.803](#), applicants from accredited Texas schools who graduate in the top ten percent of their high school class shall be admitted to a general academic institution if the students meet the following conditions:

- Distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation High School Program.
- Satisfied college Readiness standard on ACT or SAT
- Submit a completed application prior to filing deadlines set by the college
- Meet curriculum requirements established by college/university
- Provide additional documents requested, including essays, letters of recommendations, admissions tests, high school transcript.

Note: Colleges may limit the number of first time freshmen eligible for admission due to enrollment caps (i.e., University of Texas). In some instances, students may be admitted to the university but not to the college of choice within the university. Colleges may admit students on a first-come-first-admitted basis or may use a lottery system.

PLANNING ON BEING A COLLEGE ATHLETE?



**ONE OPPORTUNITY.
LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.**

If you want to play sports at an NCAA Division I or II school, start by registering for a Certification account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org. If you want to play Division III sports or you aren't sure where you want to compete, start by creating a Profile Page account at eligibilitycenter.org.

- [NCAA Initial Eligibility Brochure](#)
- [NCAA Eligibility Registration Checklist](#)
- [NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete](#)



Generation TX It's starting. All over Texas, students are stepping up, finding their voices, and fueling the movement called Generation TX. Equal parts inspiration and information, Generation TX (spoken "Generation Texas") connects us to each other and clarifies the steps we need to take on the path to college and career education, from taking the right classes and test, to applying to colleges, and then finding the money to pay for school.

We know that education beyond high school can lead us to the future we want. We're strong. We're determined. And we're not alone - we're supported by our families, friends, and by a community that's depending on us to succeed. It's up to all of us to get inspired and make it happen.



COLLEGE ACCESS FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

If you are an immigrant student, or know someone who is, you can go to college regardless of your immigration status. Effective since Fall 2001, [Texas law HB 1403](#), enables immigrant students, including undocumented students, to qualify as Texas residents and pay in-state tuition. This tuition is much lower than the tuition paid by international students. In August 2005, the state Congress approved a [new law SB 1528](#) that expands the benefits of HB 1403.

To qualify, a student must meet the following four provisions:

1. Graduate from a public or private high school, or receive a GED, in Texas;
2. Reside in Texas for at least 3 years leading up to high school graduation or receiving a GED;
3. Reside in Texas for the 12 consecutive months right before the semester you are enrolling in college; and
4. Provide the institution an affidavit stating that you will file an application to become a US permanent resident as soon as you are eligible to do so.

Students who do not meet requirements above but who have filed an I -130 (family petition) or I -140 (work petition) with [immigration services \(USCIS\)](#), and have received a Notice of Action as a response from the USCIS, are also eligible to receive instate tuition if they have been here for at least 12 months. People holding work visas (H1-B) and their dependents (H-4) can now also receive in-state tuition at state universities. The same rule applies for NACARA and TPS applicants, among others.

Undocumented Students Guide to College: www.bestcolleges.com/resources/undocumented-students-guide

FUNDING YOUR FUTURE

**Financial Aid, Scholarships
& Other Programs**

**THERE ARE
BILLIONS
OF DOLLARS
OF FINANCIAL
AID AVAILABLE
TO STUDENTS
WHO NEED
HELP PAYING
FOR COLLEGE. IF
YOU WANT THIS
ASSISTANCE, IT'S
IMPORTANT THAT
YOU DETERMINE YOUR
ELIGIBILITY AND
APPLY ON TIME.**



FINANCIAL AID FAQs FROM COLLEGE BOARD:

HOW MANY COLLEGE STUDENTS GET FINANCIAL AID?

In 2014-15, about 2/3 of full-time students paid for college with the help of financial aid in the form of grants and scholarships. Approximately 57 percent of financial aid dollars awarded to undergraduates was in the form of grants, and 34 percent took the form of federal loans.

CAN I AFFORD TO GO TO COLLEGE?

Despite all the news stories about rising college prices, a college education is more affordable than most people believe. There are many colleges that provide an excellent educational experience at a price you can manage. Public [college prices](#) are much lower than you might expect.

DOES APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID HURT MY CHANCES OF BEING ADMITTED?

You are generally admitted based on your academic performance and the qualities you bring to the campus community. Colleges want to admit a diverse group of students and often use financial aid to achieve that goal. It is very important to apply for financial aid early in the application process, before all of a college's funds are allocated.

DO I QUALIFY FOR AID EVEN IF I DON'T GET STRAIGHT A'S?

It's true that many scholarships reward student performance in high school, but most government aid is based on financial need. Remember, if you do receive need-based aid, you must remain in good academic standing to renew your aid annually.

ARE PRIVATE COLLEGES OUT OF MY REACH?

Although the cost of college is an important factor, focus instead on finding a college that is a [good fit](#) — one that meets your academic, career, and personal needs. You don't have to rule out "expensive" schools. Keep in mind that private colleges usually offer generous financial aid to attract students from every income level. Plus, financial aid can come from different sources such as scholarships, grants, and loans--so think about [net price](#) (not published price), and don't be afraid to apply to colleges you think you can't afford.

IS MY FAMILY'S INCOME TOO HIGH TO QUALIFY FOR AID?

Financial aid is intended to make college available to students from many different financial situations. College financial aid officers consider family income, the number of family members in college, medical expenses and many other factors when reviewing your financial aid application. So, even if you think your family income is too high for you to qualify for aid, you should fill out the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) as soon as possible after Oct. 1. This form determines your eligibility for federal and state student grants, work-study and federal loans.

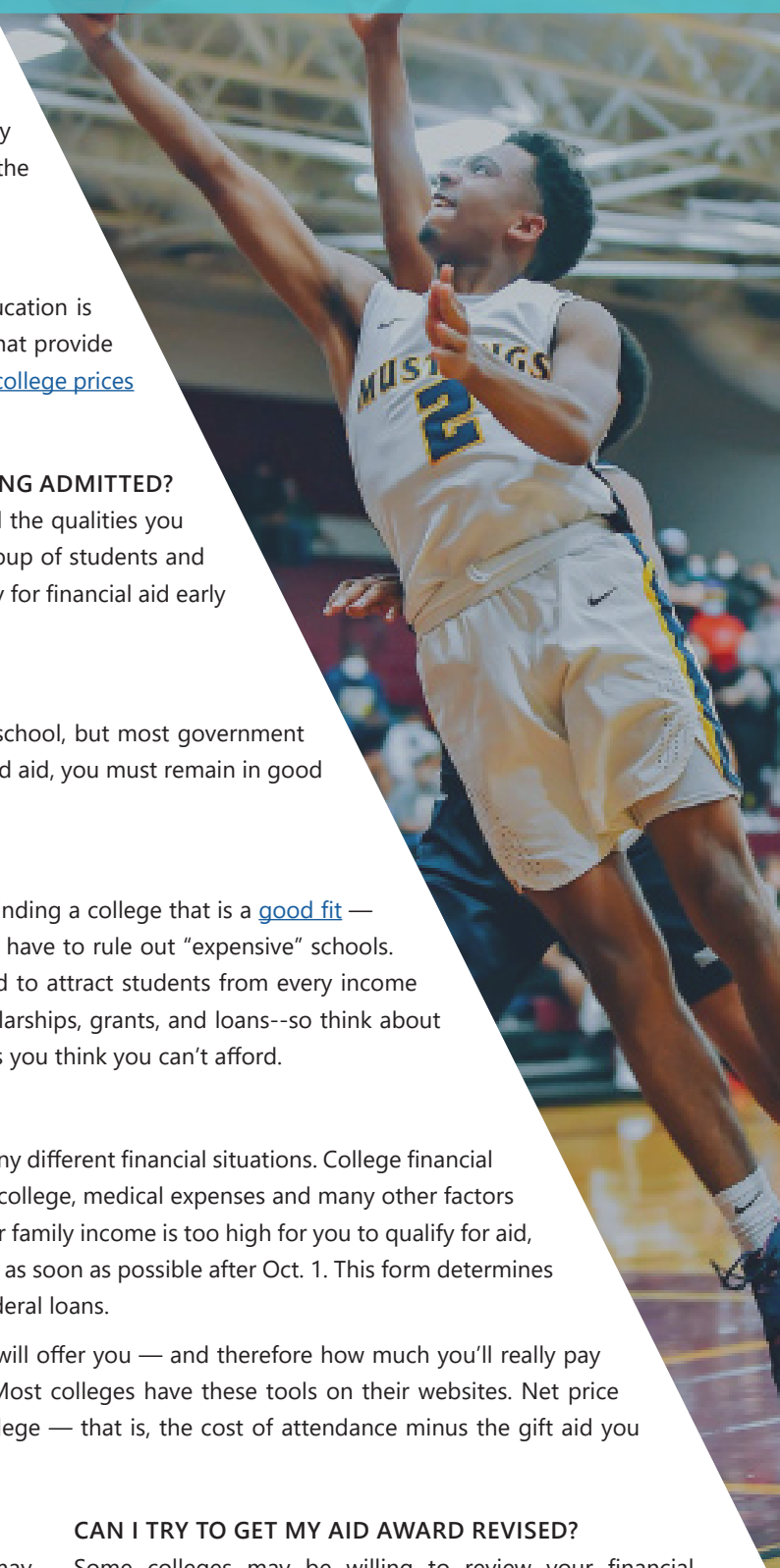
The best way to get an estimate of how much financial aid a college will offer you — and therefore how much you'll really pay to go to that college — is to use the college's net price calculator. Most colleges have these tools on their websites. Net price calculators give you an estimate of your net price for a particular college — that is, the cost of attendance minus the gift aid you might get. Learn more about [net price](#).

SHOULD I WORK WHILE I'M ATTENDING COLLEGE?

Students who attempt to juggle full-time work and full-time studies may have difficulty completing their academic programs. However, students who choose to work a moderate amount often do better academically. You may find that working in campus jobs related to your career goals may be a good way to manage college costs, get experience and create new ties with the university.

CAN I TRY TO GET MY AID AWARD REVISED?

Some colleges may be willing to review your financial aid package if your financial situation changes. Consider discussing these changes with the financial aid office if your family has experienced an unexpected decrease in income or increase in expenses since you applied for financial aid.



FEDERAL STUDENT AID

WHAT IS FEDERAL STUDENT AID?

Federal student aid comes from the federal government—specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. It's money that helps a student pay for education expenses at a college, career school, or graduate school.

Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. Aid also can help pay for a computer and for dependent care. There are three main categories of federal student aid:

- **Grant:** Grant money usually doesn't have to be repaid. Most U.S. Dept of Education grants are based on a student's financial need
- **Work-study:** Work-study money is earned by a student through a job on or near campus while attending school and is not repaid
- **Loan:** Loan money must be repaid with interest

For details about the federal student aid programs, including maximum annual amounts and loan interest rates, visit [StudentAid.gov/types](https://studentaid.gov/types).



WHY GET A FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN?

Federal student loans offer low fixed interest rates; income-based repayment plans; loan forgiveness; and deferment (postponement of repayment) options, including deferment of loan payments when a student returns to school. Generally, repayment of a federal loan does not begin until after the student leaves school. And did you know that a student receiving a federal loan does not need a credit history or a cosigner? Private loans from banks often do not offer such benefits. So if you need to borrow money to pay for college or career school, start with federal student loans. More information is available at [StudentAid.gov/federal-vs-private](https://studentaid.gov/federal-vs-private).

WHO GETS FEDERAL STUDENT AID?

The most basic requirements are that you must...

- Demonstrate financial need (for most programs);
- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen;
- Have a valid Social Security number;
- Be registered with [Selective Service](https://selectiveservice.gov) if you're a male;
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a student in an eligible degree or certificate program;
- Be enrolled at least half-time for Direct Loan Program funds;
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress in college;
- Sign a statement on the FAFSA stating that:
- You are not in default on a federal student loan and do not owe money on a federal student grant, and
- You will use federal student aid only for educational purposes; and
- Show you're qualified to obtain a postsecondary education by having a high school diploma or recognized equivalent

Note: There are some additional requirements and exceptions. For more details about our eligibility criteria, visit [StudentAid.gov/eligibility](https://studentaid.gov/eligibility).

STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS



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

Below lists the State and Federal Grants and Scholarship programs available to students at Texas colleges and universities.

[Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program \(TEOG\)](#) (for 2-year public schools)

[Toward Excellence, Access, and Success \(TEXAS\) Grant Program](#) (for Texas public 4-year universities)

[Tuition Equalization Grant Program \(TEG\)](#) (for nonprofit private institutions)

[Education and Training Vouchers for Youths Aging Out of Foster Care in Texas](#) (for current & former foster youths)

[Federal PELL Grant](#) (generally for undergraduate students with financial need)

[Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant \(FSEOG\)](#) (for 4-year universities)

[Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program](#) (for ROTC students)

[Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant](#) (for students whose parent/guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan)

[Texas Veterans Hazlewood Act](#) (for dependent children of Veterans)

[Marine Corps Foundation Scholarship](#) (for children of Marines & Navy Corpsmen)

[Teacher Education Assistance for College & Higher Education \(TEACH\) Grant](#) (for aspiring teachers)

[National Health Service Corps \(NHSC\) Scholarship](#) (for aspiring primary health care professionals)

[Texas Public Educational Grant Program \(TPEG\)](#) (for in-state public universities)

SELECTIVE SERVICE



Every young man must register with the Selective Service within one month of his eighteenth birthday. Selective Service registration is required by law as the first part of a fair and equitable system that, if authorized by the President and Congress, would rapidly provide personnel to the Department of Defense while at the same time providing for an Alternative Service Program for conscientious objectors. By registering, a young man remains eligible for jobs, Federal student aid, State-based student aid in 31 states, Federally-funded job training, and U.S. citizenship for immigrant men.

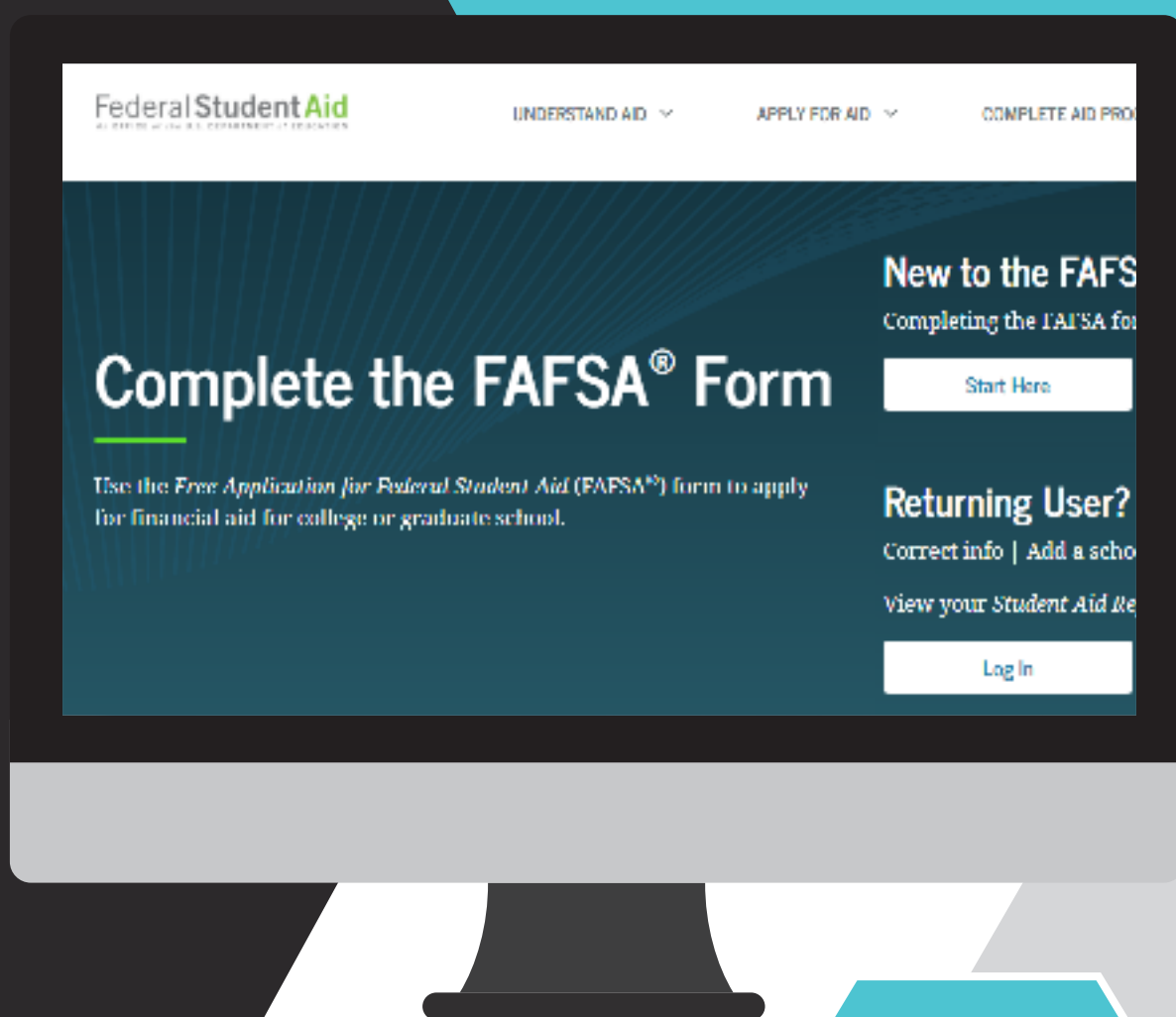
Register online at www.sss.gov

WHY IS SELECTIVE SERVICE IMPORTANT?

For more information, visit www.sss.gov/register/why-is-selective-service-important

THE FREE APPLICATION
FOR FEDERAL STUDENT
AID (FAFSA) CAN BE
FOUND AT [FAFSA.GOV](https://fafsa.gov)

FILING THE FAFSA



ARTICLE:
THE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION URGES
YOU TO COMPLETE
YOUR FAFSA!

Check out our FAFSA to do lists [on the next page](#)

DEADLINES

The FAFSA becomes available on Oct. 1 for the next school year. If you want to be considered for aid from your state or college, you must meet its FAFSA deadline.

STATE DEADLINES: If you plan to go to college in the fall, your state financial aid deadline is probably going to be between March and May, though some states request that you submit your FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1. So in that case, if you planned to start college in the fall, you'd fill out your FAFSA nearly a year ahead of time. The FAFSA site at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) lists many state deadlines and tells you how to find yours if it's not listed.

COLLEGE DEADLINES: College financial aid deadlines may be as early as February. For a college's deadline, check the school's website or contact its financial aid office.

In any case, completing the FAFSA **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** after its release the preceding October is your surest option.

FOR ADDITIONAL HELP FILLING OUT THE FAFSA

FAFSA® Videos and Step-by-Step Instructions: Learn more about the FAFSA at www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid (visit the "FAFSA: Apply for Aid" playlist) and at StudentAid.gov/FAFSA.

Have questions about federal student aid and want to talk to a real person? Call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 1-800-730-8913 (TTY for the hearing impaired). Toll number: 334-523-2691. Much of the information shared in the document about the FAFSA comes from [StudentAid's College Preparation Checklist](#). Many of the publications referenced can be found to download for free at Studentaid.gov/resources.

NOT A UNITED STATES CITIZEN? LOOK AT THE TASFA

The Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) is used to collect information to help determine eligibility for state 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. Find the TASFA Application at collegeforalltexas.com.



STUDENTS: FILING THE FAFSA TO-DO LIST:

- ☐ Get free information and help from your school counselor, the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend, or the U.S. Department of Education at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) or 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). Free help is available at any time during the application process.
- ☐ If you think the Social Security Administration might have the wrong name or date of birth for you in its records, go to www.ssa.gov to find out how to correct any errors. Your information must be correct before your FAFSA can be processed.
- ☐ If you're filing the FAFSA Online, it helps to create an FSA ID ahead of time. This username and password is used to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents. Your FSA ID is unique; it must be your own and not a parent's. **You must create your FSA ID yourself.** To create your FSA ID, and for more information, go to StudentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch. For a step-by-step guide, watch "How to Create an FSA ID" on the "FAFSA: Apply for Aid" playlist at www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid.
- ☐ Collect the documents needed to apply. You may be able to have the FAFSA automatically retrieve information from your tax return; otherwise, you'll need your federal tax documents or your income records. Here are some additional items you might need:
 - ☐ Your Social Security number and your parent's (parents') Social Security number(s) if you are providing parent information
 - ☐ Your Alien Registration number if you are not a U.S. citizen
 - ☐ Information on savings, investments, and business assets for yourself (and for your parent[s] if you are providing parent information)
- ☐ Submit the FAFSA in time to meet school and state aid deadlines. Here are the ways you can complete the FAFSA:
 - ☐ Apply online (**the fastest and easiest way**) by going to [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov).
 - ☐ Download a PDF version of the FAFSA at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov). Fill out the PDF and mail it to the address on the form. (You also can visit studentaid.gov/resources or call 1-800-4-FED-AID to request a print-out of the PDF FAFSA.)
 - ☐ Ask the financial aid staff at the college you plan to attend whether you may fill out the FAFSA with their help and have them submit it for you.
- ☐ Review your Student Aid Report (SAR), the result of your FAFSA. You will receive your SAR by email or by mail. If necessary, make changes or corrections and submit your information for reprocessing. Your complete, correct SAR will contain your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), the index number used by colleges to determine how much federal student aid you can receive.



FILING THE FAFSA TO DO LIST

- ☐ If you do not receive your SAR within 3 weeks of submitting your FAFSA, go to [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) and log in to check the status of your FAFSA; you may also call 1-800-4-FED-AID.
- ☐ Your school might request additional information from you. Be sure to respond by any deadlines, or you might not receive federal student aid.
- ☐ All applicants: Contact the financial aid office if you have any questions about the aid being offered.
- ☐ First-time applicants: Review award letters from schools to compare amounts and types of aid being offered. Decide which school to attend based on a combination of (a) how well the school suits your needs and (b) its affordability after all aid is taken into account.
- ☐ Keep in touch with the school you choose to find out when tuition and fees are due, whether your financial aid will cover those expenses completely, and how much (if any) extra financial aid will come directly to you once your tuition and fees are paid.
- ☐ Pay special attention to letters or emails from schools, and contact the financial aid office if you do not understand what the school is offering you.
- ☐ Follow all directions on the FAFSA and on any communications from your school.

PARENTS: FILING THE FAFSA TO-DO LIST:

- ☐ Complete the “Students: Filing the FAFSA To Do List” of this checklist with your child. If possible, file the FAFSA online—it’s much faster and easier, and your information is safe because it’s encrypted (i.e., we use a mathematical formula to scramble the data).
- ☐ If you’re filing online, create your own FSA ID to be able to sign your child’s FAFSA electronically. Your FSA ID must be separate from your child’s and created by you (just as your child must create his or her own FSA ID). To create your FSA ID, go to [StudentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch). For help with the FSA ID, watch “FAFSA and FSA ID Tips for Parents” in the “FAFSA: Apply for Aid” playlist at [www.YouTube.com /FederalStudentAid](https://www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid).
- ☐ Examine the bill from the school your child chooses and make sure you understand all the fees and how they will be paid (e.g., through scholarships, student loans, etc.).

SCHOLARSHIPS 101

If you're thinking about going to college, you should definitely apply for some scholarships.

WHAT IS A SCHOLARSHIP?

Scholarships are financial aid awards designed to help students pay for an undergraduate degree. Sometimes a scholarship is a one-time check. Other school scholarships are renewable and provide money for students each semester or school year. These awards differ from student loans in that they don't have to be repaid.

Students might receive the money directly as a check in their name. In other cases, the money is given to the student's school. In these cases, the student would then pay the school for the difference on any money owed for tuition, fees, room and board. If the scholarships and other forms of financial aid are enough to cover the direct college costs, the excess money is refunded to the student.

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Scholarships come from a variety of different sources, including clubs, organizations, charities, foundations, businesses, colleges and universities, the government and individuals. Colleges and universities offer financial assistance in the form of merit aid as well, so don't forget to contact the schools you are considering to see if you qualify for any merit aid.

Check out the scholarship search engines [on the next page](#) as places to start finding scholarships for you.

HOW CAN THE MONEY BE SPENT?

Scholarship checks awarded in your name **can be spent on anything**, but you would be wise to look at this as an investment and not a free pass to splurge on video games or concert tickets. This money is for school expenses. This could mean tuition, but it could also be books, pencils, housing, food (you can't study on an empty stomach) or even computers and software.

When you receive the scholarship money depends on the scholarship you won. Sometimes you get the money in one chunk before school begins, and in other cases the money is distributed in installments. Sometimes a scholarship may be paid out in the middle of a semester.

WHO GETS SCHOLARSHIPS?

Scholarships aren't awarded just to students with a 4.0 GPA. Each scholarship has its own criteria. Some scholarships are awarded based on need. For others, you must be a member of an organization, be studying a certain field or fit whatever guidelines the group awarding the money decides upon.

Regardless of whether you excel in academics, **you should be able to find several scholarships that work for you.** There are even scholarships intended for students living in a particular state or town. You can continue to apply for scholarships during your collegiate years all the way up to Ph.D. Studies.

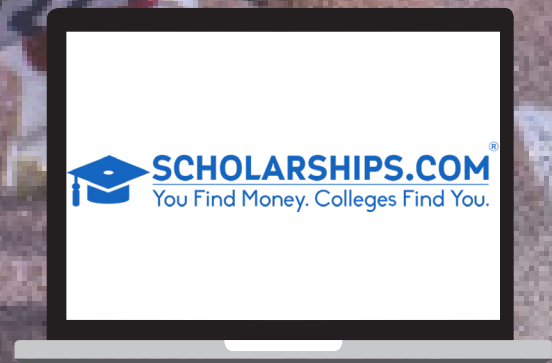
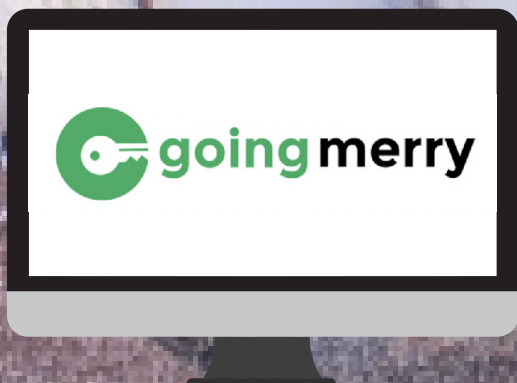


CY-FAIR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
Today's Students – Tomorrow's Future

The CFEF offers unique scholarship opportunities for CFISD students. Find more information on their website at thecfef.org.

FREE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES

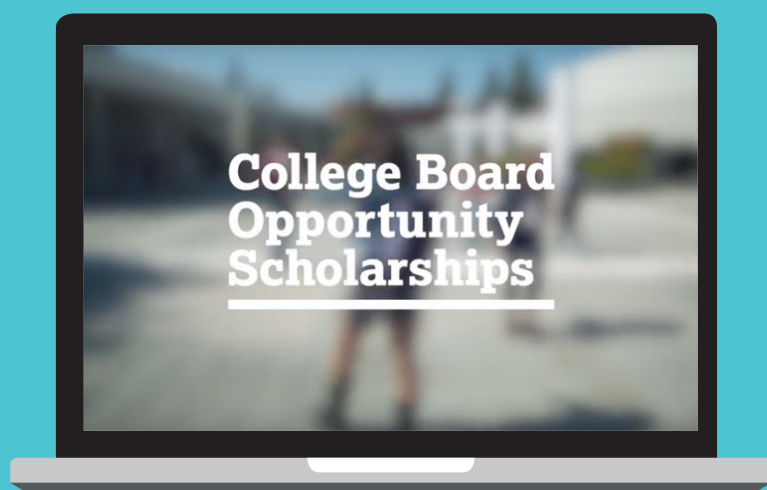
You are encouraged to apply for outside scholarships. CFISD has it's own scholarship page that is updated frequently, you can find it Under Parents & Students> College & Career Readiness> [Scholarships](#). Many of the tools described in the college search section have scholarship search tools. For example, [College Board's Big Future](#), [Cappex](#), [College Raptor](#) & [CollegeData.com](#) all have tools to help you find scholarships. Below are some other options for FREE scholarship searches currently available. Many will need you to create an account. Be sure to use the same professional email for all of them!



TIPS FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Below is a listing of helpful hints on submitting scholarship applications. Students who are declared winners are usually the ones who do what is expected plus that little extra that distinguishes their applications from others.

1. Complete applications neatly and accurately. Type unless instructions specify handwritten responses.
2. Follow instructions exactly as outlined by the sponsor or agency.
3. Submit only complete applications. If you omit any item from the list of requirements or fail to respond to parts of the application form, you may automatically disqualify yourself. Some scholarship applications include photographs, autobiographies, essays, and letters of recommendation.
4. Meet all deadlines. School personnel may need up to 15 days to complete their part(s) especially if your application requires transcripts, letters of recommendation or evaluation by a scholarship committee.
5. If your application requires [letters of recommendation](#), it is your responsibility to request teachers to send them to the counselors' office.
6. Apply for all scholarships for which you are eligible. Do not be selective. Many students have been recipients of several smaller scholarships which, when added together, are most helpful in meeting college costs.
7. Be sure and thank those who help you complete your applications.
8. Do not become discouraged if you do not get the first scholarship for which you apply; remember the competition is high. Scholarship winners must apply often and be persistent.



DID YOU KNOW?

The College Board also has its own scholarship program that aligns with all the activities that a student participates in when they are working toward admission to a college or university. If you are already using the College Board for your future planning purposes, make sure you are logged in to your account so you can be entered to win one of the several awards available. Find more information online about [the College Board Opportunity Scholarships](#).

SCHOLARSHIP FRAUD

In the senior year many transitioning rituals occur. Students order class rings and yearbooks. They take the SAT and ACT. They apply for financial aid. *By participating in many of these activities, students' names are placed in legitimate databases used to assist them in obtaining information from post-high school institutions, scholarship organizations and other sources of financial aid.* There have been great concerns over increasing developments of commercial scholarship search groups. These groups many times require that parents and students pay for services that could have been obtained free of charge from high school counselors, career center technicians and post-high school financial aid administrators.

Don't waste your money on fee-based scholarship matching services. Scholarships that sound too good to be true usually are. Learn how to recognize and protect yourself from the most common scholarships scam.

For more on Scholarship Scams:
finaid.org/scholarships/scams

Learn how to avoid scholarship scams and identify theft at www.studentaid.gov/scams

FIND
ADDITIONAL
FINANCIAL AID
LINKS IN THE
TIPS AND TRICKS
SECTION!

THE
NUMBER
ONE TIP:
If you have to
pay money to
get money,
it's probably
a scam.

The [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\)](http://Federal Trade Commission (FTC)), a watchdog group, [lists claims that should raise red flags](#) to parents and students:

1. **"The grant or scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."** No one can guarantee grants or scholarships without vital information on the student.
2. **"You can't get this information anywhere else."** Scholarship search companies simply access databases that students can obtain on their own.
3. **"The scholarship will cost some money."** Experts warn that if you have to pay money to get money, it is probably a scam.
4. **"May I have your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship?"** Never give out your credit card or bank account number.
5. **"We'll do all the work."** Students must apply for legitimate scholarship grants themselves.
6. **"You've been selected by a certain foundation to receive a scholarship or grant."** Or **"You're a finalist"** ...in a scholarship contest that you never entered.

According to the FTC, a number of bogus search companies falsely claim they are foundations or nonprofit organizations to make their offer look legitimate. If you receive such claims in the mail or by phone, see your counselor before committing to the soliciting organization.

FEE WAIVERS

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR A FEE WAIVER?

There are several ways to be eligible for a fee waiver. The school deems you eligible if you are on free/reduced lunch. If you think there is a financial hardship but are not on free/reduced lunch, complete the application online www.schoolcafe.com.

TESTING FEE WAIVERS

PSAT/NMSQT: Each year, a certain amount of PSAT waivers are available for qualified juniors; Fill out Total Registration and ask for a fee to be waived. Once approved by counseling office through [Total Registration](#), student will receive e-mail and can finish registration.

ACT/SAT: Students who are eligible can receive up to 2 ACT and 2 SAT fee waivers. See your college and career specialist for more information or visit www.act.org or collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat.



COLLEGE APPLICATION FEE WAIVERS

Every college handles their own process for college application fee waivers. Students should do some research on the college website to find out how waivers are accepted. (Or search for your school's College Application Fee Waiver on Google)

COLLEGE BOARD FEE WAIVER:

These are now housed electronically in the student's collegeboard account. Students can go online like they are registering for an SAT and choose the "Apply to College for Free". They can then print their 4 fee waivers. Oftentimes these can be emailed to the admission office, but can also be mailed.

COUNSELOR LETTER:

Sometimes schools will accept a letter from the school speaking of the financial hardship.

COMMON APP:

On the Common App, students can check a box to indicate that they are eligible to receive a college application waiver. The counselor will be notified that you have made this indication and will verify or deny your request for a fee waiver.

UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC:

Several are choosing to have their own verification process, which often includes submitting the FAFSA (ex: TX Tech and TX State). There is not any need for school official signatures, but sometimes students need other assistance.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING (NACAC) WAIVER:

Can print these out and fill out. Counselors can be the authorized official. Students then need to mail or email the form [located here](#).

OTHER:

*Schools do not have to offer any waivers and some choose not to.

*Some college applications are free.

*Some colleges will waive the application fee if you go to a preview day

11TH GRADE CAREER AND COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

FALL/WINTER (AUGUST-DECEMBER)

- ☐ Discuss your career and college ideas with your parents/guardians, teachers and counselor. Explore career interests, search for colleges, learn about post-secondary options, and find answers to the following questions:
 - ☐ What careers am I considering?
 - ☐ What training or education do I need?
 - ☐ What do I need to do to get that training or education?
- ☐ Talk with your family about your financial situation and how you plan to pay for your post-secondary plans
 - ☐ Together, estimate your potential financial aid using [FAFSA4caster](#) at www.FAFSA.gov
 - ☐ Get answers to common questions about college by watching videos provided by federal student aid www.youtube.com/FederalStudentAid
 - ☐ Learn about managing money in the "high school youth" section of mymoney.gov/for-youth
- ☐ Create accounts and access resources such as [Xello](#), [The College Board](#), and [ACT](#) to find and receive updated college, career, and testing information. Be sure to keep your username(s) and Password(s) in a safe place for future reference.
- ☐ Take the [PSAT/NMSQT](#) in October if you have not yet. Registration begins in the summer.
- ☐ Learn the testing dates and registration deadlines for the [SAT](#) and [ACT](#).
 - ☐ Register before the deadlines.
 - ☐ Register online at www.collegeboard.org or www.act.org.
 - ☐ All students should plan to take the SAT/ACT in the spring of junior year.
 - Beginning with the 2021 School year, all CFISD juniors will have the opportunity to take the SAT in the Spring of their 11th grade year at no cost to the student
- ☐ Prepare for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT. Take practice tests online or in practice books.
- ☐ Check your credits carefully with your counselor. It is your responsibility to keep up with the credits required for graduation and ensure you are making adequate progress to graduate on time.
- ☐ Attend CFISD's College Night in October (more details at www.cfisd.net)
- ☐ Research the dates for College Preview Days at colleges you are interested in (days set aside by colleges for prospective students to visit). Register for as many preview days as possible.
- ☐ Consult college websites to review admissions requirements, degree information, housing, and financial aid information.
- ☐ Begin creating your [high school resume](#). Look at the extracurricular sections of [Apply Texas](#) or the national [Common Application](#) to ensure you have all of the required information on your resume.
- ☐ Discuss [Pass/Fail](#) options with your counselor if you are eligible.

11TH GRADE CAREER AND COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

SPRING/SUMMER (JANUARY-JUNE)

- ☐ This is an excellent time for you to [clean up your social media accounts](#). Make sure you know what individuals will find if they Google you- because they will do so if they are considering accepting your application to a college or career school. Here is one of several guides online that can help you with this process: [Social Media Clean Up- A How to Guide for Students](#)
- ☐ Attend your Junior conference with your counselor.
 - ☐ Review your credits and make sure you are on track for graduation.
 - ☐ Explore AP and Dual Credit opportunities for your senior year.
 - ☐ If you need additional courses, consult with your counselor for courses offered in summer school, correspondence, credit-by-exam, or dual credit.
- ☐ Search for scholarship and financial aid sources. The Cy-Fair ISD scholarship website can be accessed at www.cfsd.net under the College and Career Readiness page.
 - ☐ Some deadlines fall as early as the summer between 11th and 12th grades, so prepare now to submit applications soon.
- ☐ Participate in College Knowledge week in February
- ☐ Take the May or June ACT/SAT if you haven't already tested and/or want to improve your scores.
- ☐ If you want to play sports at an NCAA Division I or II school, start by registering for a Certification account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org. If you want to play Division III sports or you aren't sure where you want to compete, start by creating a Profile Page account at eligibilitycenter.org.
- ☐ Continue to attend College Preview Days and visit colleges.
- ☐ Plan a few meaningful activities for your summer. Consider doing an internship, getting a job, or volunteering.
- ☐ Create and maintain positive relationships with teachers, club sponsors, and coaches who you may want to ask to write recommendation letters on your behalf.
- ☐ Find out essay topics for college applications and begin writing rough drafts.
- ☐ Create a username and password called an FSA ID that you'll use to confirm your identity when accessing your government financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents. You and your parent will each need your own unique FSA ID. Learn about the FSA ID, and create yours, at StudentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch. Note: You must create your own FSA ID; if your parent creates it for you, that'll cause confusion later and will slow down the financial aid application process.
- ☐ At the end of your junior year, you should be ready to decide if you are going to apply under a particular [college's early decision or early action program](#). Be sure to learn about the program's deadlines and requirements.

Check out the Senior checklist on Next page!

12TH GRADE CAREER AND COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

FALL/WINTER(AUGUST-DECEMBER)

- ☐ Narrow down your college selections to four or five to which you intend to apply. These selections should include realistic choices along with a “safety” school where you are certain to gain admission and maybe a “dream” school where you know being accepted will be a reach.
- ☐ Attend your Senior Conference with your counselor.
- ☐ If you have not already visited colleges, now is the time to go!
- ☐ If you are still unsure about where to apply to school, attend CFISD’s College Night in October
- ☐ If you have not already taken the SAT/ACT, register for and take them this fall.
- ☐ Carefully read college applications and pay attention to the different kinds of deadlines. The earlier you apply, the better. We recommend all of your applications be complete before you leave for fall break, think “No pie until you apply!”.
- ☐ Begin applying for local, state, national and college-based [scholarships](#).
 - ☐ Search for scholarships on the Cy-Fair district website: www.cfisd.net, Parents & Students> College & Career Readiness> Scholarships
- ☐ Write thoughtful, organized [essays](#) on the required application topics. Have your English teacher help you revise and edit your essays prior to submission.
- ☐ Finalize your extracurricular resume and have someone else look it over to ensure accuracy.
- ☐ Fill out college applications and submit them when they are complete.
 - ☐ Don’t forget to pay the application fee (if required).
- ☐ Apply for housing at your chosen schools as soon as you are able.
- ☐ [Request an official transcript](#) be sent to all of the colleges you are applying to in the registrar’s office at your school.
- ☐ Request [letters of recommendation](#) from teachers, coaches, sponsors, or counselors (if required).
- ☐ Watch the “Overview of the Financial Aid Process” video at www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid to learn about getting student aid from the government.
- ☐ Complete and submit the FAFSA as early as Oct. 1 as well as any financial aid applications your chosen schools may require.
 - ☐ Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.FAFSA.gov
 - ☐ Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TAFSA-for undocumented students) at www.collegeforalltexans.com.
- ☐ After you submit the FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within 3 days to 3 weeks. Quickly make any necessary corrections and submit them to the FAFSA processor.

12TH GRADE CAREER AND COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

SPRING/SUMMER (JANUARY-JUNE)

- ☐ If your college requires it, request a midterm college update from your counselor as soon as your seventh semester transcript is available.
- ☐ If you're planning to attend a public college (two-year or four-year) in Texas, take the [Texas Success Initiative \(TSI\)](#) if you're not exempt.
- ☐ Review your college acceptances and compare the college's financial aid offers.
 - ☐ Use the "Compare Financial Aid Offers" tool at www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college
 - ☐ Learn about the responsibilities involved in accepting a student loan by reviewing studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans
- ☐ Continue to apply for scholarships and inform the counseling office if you are offered any.
- ☐ [Register to vote](#) as soon as you turn 18. Voting is a privilege and your responsibility.
- ☐ Men must register for selective service within a month of turning 18. Register online at Selective Service System www.sss.gov
- ☐ Avoid "senioritis" at all costs! Remember, to graduate you must pass all of your classes! Colleges reserve the right to reverse an admissions decision if you fail classes or make poor grades during your senior year.
- ☐ If you plan to attend a Texas College or University in the fall, consider getting your Meningitis Vaccination. All students entering an institution of higher education are required to show proof of an initial meningococcal vaccination or booster prior to enrolling. Find more information here: www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/college-requirements.aspx
- ☐ When you decide which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit. Many schools require this notification and deposit May 1st.
- ☐ Complete a final transcript request in the registrar's office to have your final transcript sent to the college of your choice after graduation.
- ☐ **PARTICIPATE IN COMMENCEMENT! Congratulations graduate!**

A background image showing several swimmers in a pool, wearing swim caps and goggles, in various stages of a race or swim. The image is partially obscured by a large blue and black geometric overlay.

08

TIPS, TRICKS & LINKS

HELPFUL IDEAS AS YOU PLAN
FOR YOUR FUTURE

THE HONORS COLLEGE AT LONE STAR COLLEGE



The Honors College at Lone Star College offers a wide range of opportunities for honors students—from incoming freshman wanting to graduate with an Honors AA or Honors AS degree, to high-achieving students seeking to graduate with Honors distinction, to students interested in earning individual honors course credit. The Honors College at Lone Star College offers students the advantages of a small “college within a college,” while still providing access to the extensive benefits available through Lone Star College.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE HONORS COLLEGE ARE OPEN TO NEW OR RETURNING STUDENTS WITH AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- If applicant has 9 & college credit hours:
cumulative 3.25 GPA
OR
- A high school GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale
- 1240 or higher composite SAT score
- 26 or higher composite score on the ACT



HELPFUL LINKS FOR STUDENTS USING THE COMMON APPLICATION

After you have created your account and added colleges to your profile, you'll fill out your application in the “My Colleges” tab. It's important to remember that the Common Application varies depending on which colleges you are applying to. Don't forget to complete any additional requirements your college may need. Remember, it is best practice to also complete all optional sections of the application to give the schools the best impression of you possible.

Application Guide for First-Time Students:
www.commonapp.org/apply/first-time-students

Application Ready Toolkit (tons of downloadable documents):
www.commonapp.org/counselors-and-recommenders/common-app-ready

The Common App Solutions Center, available 24/7 to offer help:
appsupport.commonapp.org/applicantsupport/s/

The Common App for your Phone or Tablet:
www.commonapp.org/mobile



APPLYTEXAS APPLICATION WALK-THROUGH (PAGE 1)

1. Go to www.applytexas.org
2. Create an account, fill in the information for your profile & create a password. Make a note: Your username will be the email you provided
3. Go to “MY APPLICATIONS” and choose “Create a new application now” OR “Start a New Blank Application”.
 - a. Choose which type of application to create: most high school students will use either the 2-Year application to apply to community colleges (Lone Star) or the 4-Year Freshman application to apply to colleges & universities that grant undergraduate degrees
 - b. Select the target college or university
 - c. Select a semester of entry (EX. Fall 2022)
 - d. Choose an appropriate deadline (Regular Deadline, Early Decision, etc.)
 - e. You may be asked to choose a field of study- insert your first and/or second choice
 - f. Select a first and second choice major from the list
4. You will then be provided with an application checklist that displays the application pages and page descriptions. If the institution uses ApplyTexas essays, it will also include topic prompts for those essays.
5. Choose “continue to my application”
6. Page 1: **Biographical Information Items to Note**
 - a. **SSN:** A Social Security Number is strongly encouraged for U.S. Citizens and Permanent residents. Please enter your Social Security Number, if you have one, as it is important for purposes of the identity of your application, grade transcript, test scores, and financial aid. (Ask your parent/guardian if you do not know your SSN, leave blank if you do not have a SSN)
 - b. **Citizenship:** Answer the questions regarding your citizenship status. If you have one, be sure to include with your application a copy of your permanent resident card and/or notice of action from the USCIS.
 - c. **Parent/Guardian Educational Background:** Please indicate the highest level of your parents’ or court- appointed legal guardians’ educational background, and indicate their relationship to you. (ASK! DON’T GUESS!)
7. Page 2: **Biographical Information Items to Note (ct’d)** *Although this section is optional, completing this information may assist your admittance to a college or university. You are strongly encouraged to complete this section.*
 - a. **Family Income:** Please indicate your family’s gross income (including both taxed and untaxed income) for the most recent tax year. (Ask your family- don’t guess!)
 - b. **Household:** Please indicate how many people, including yourself, live in your household on a long-term basis. Include brothers and sisters who are in college.
 - c. **Family Obligations:** Please indicate whether or not you have family obligations that have prevented you from participating in extracurricular activities. Note whether that obligation is:
 - i. *Working to supplement the family income*
 - ii. *Providing primary care for family member(s)*
 - iii. *Other obligations.*
 - iv. *Please explain the nature of your particular family obligation(s) (i.e., type of activity, time required).*
 - d. **Supplemental Parent Information:** Please indicate a parent or guardian’s relationship to you, their first and last name, whether they are living, whether you live with them, and either an address, phone number and type, or an email address for them. You may add a second parent or guardian’s information.
8. Page 3: **Educational Background Items to Note**
 - a. Indicate whether you are applying as a freshman without previous college work or with college work prior to high school graduation. **Consider dual/concurrent enrollment but not Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate courses as previous college work.**
 - b. Press the GREY box to search for the high school (it will automatically fill the boxes underneath) **Expected Graduation date: JUNE 2022, You are NOT home schooled, you are NOT graduating with an IB**
 - c. If you have taken courses dual credit, list dates of attendance and number of hours earned • Example: Karina only took College Algebra Dual Credit during spring of 2020. She would list Lone Star College as her institution and Jan 2020 – May 2020.

Applications that are saved, but not worked on again or submitted within 180 days are subject to deletion.

Once the first page of the application is saved, the institution will have access to the application and may contact students.

APPLYTEXAS APPLICATION WALK-THROUGH (PAGE 2)

9. Part 4: Educational Background Items to Note

Senior Course Information- List exact titles of your courses for your senior year (English IV- NOT Eng 4) *If you are unsure, use Home Access Center or Schoology to double check your classes*

10. Page 5: Test Scores

- Know the month and year you have taken or will take the ACT/SAT etc.
- Send your scores through the testing agency, see your College & Career Specialist for help

11. Page 6: Residency Information Items to Note

- During the 12 months prior to the term for which you are applying, did you attend a public college? The answer is **NO! (Even if you did Dual Enrollment)**
- Of what state or country are you a resident: **State: TX**
- Did you live in Texas the **36 months leading up to high school graduation?**
 - If you went to a school in TX the last 3 years, then answer **YES**
 - If you were not in a high school in TX or the US, then answer **NO**
- When you begin the semester for which you are applying, **will you have lived in TX for the previous 12 months?** If you are completing your Senior year at a high school in TX, the answer is YES
- Ask your parent or guardian to help you with residency information regarding property & business ownership, employment or other financial support

12. Page 7: Extracurricular, Personal or Volunteer Activities

(Activities you participated in the last 4 years are most relevant)

- DO NOT put that you are mailing a resume.** Fill in everything on the application and attach a resume as a .pdf if you have made one.
- List anything and everything you have done. Talents, Awards and Honors: Anything and everything counts! Example: member of the week, Busboy distinction, Employee of the Month, etc.
- Activities and awards should be listed in order of importance and should include those that are done during the summer.

13. Page 8: Employment, Internship & Summer Activities

Completing this page is optional, but colleges and universities like to know more about how students spend their time when they are not involved in academics and summer activities.

14. Page 9: Custom Questions

Many universities and degree programs have additional questions for you to answer. Some answers are required, others are optional. However, even if a question is listed as optional, you must acknowledge that you have seen the optional question by clicking the "Save" button.

15. ESSAYS SECTION

- Most colleges and universities in Texas do not require essays as part of the admissions process; some, however, do require them. Please check the essay requirements of the institution(s) to which you are applying (see www.applytexas.org and find the appropriate web site through "Texas Public University Web Sites").
- Even if the essay says OPTIONAL, submit it, as they will use them for scholarship consideration.**
 - Use a word processing software program to write and save your essay(s).
 - When you are ready to save your essay(s) in Apply Texas, come back to ApplyTexas Main Menu page.
 - Access your application, go to the Essays tab, and cut and paste your written, saved essay into the text area.
 - You will be able to save, retrieve and edit the essay as many times as you want in Apply Texas prior to submitting your application.

16. Certification Page

- Students should read each of the sections about the terms and conditions of using the ApplyTexas application.
- Check the boxes to acknowledge that the information has been read and is understood.
- Pay the application fee and the application will be ready to submit.
- If you are Free/Reduced Lunch- apply for a Fee Waiver**

- Submission Page-** Once an application is submitted, students will not be allowed to change it in any way on ApplyTexas. Students should review the application and be sure that it is complete and correct before it is submitted.

Students may return to their applications to finish them later and may make changes to it at any time before it is submitted.

PUTTING TOGETHER A RESUME

WHAT IS A RESUME?

A resume is a summary of your academic and personal experiences, including before- and after-school activities, volunteer work, and/or jobs. Most colleges and employers want to see your resume when they're considering whether or not to admit or hire you.

You'll often provide a brief description of these experiences, focusing on skills you've learned and accomplishments you've achieved. You can also note how long you've participated in a particular activity.

Resumes are usually one page in length, and you can find great templates online and in programs like Microsoft Word ([sample resume](#)).



WHAT SHOULD YOU PUT ON YOUR RESUME?

The information on your resume is typically organized into six categories: personal information, work experience, extracurricular activities, volunteer experience, education, and skills.

And, you may not have information for every category. That's OK – just include the ones that apply to you!



Personal Information

Here, you'll provide your name and contact information, including your home address, phone number, and email address.

Think carefully about including your social media accounts; potential colleges or employers are sure to read them, so they should reflect positively on you.

Work Experience

In this section, you'll list where you've worked and for how long. Be sure to include your job title and your responsibilities. Remember: If you've earned money, then you should list that job – babysitting, moving lawns, scooping ice cream – and what was expected of you.

Extracurricular Activities

Here, you'll describe the before- and/or after-school activities you're involved in, like sports, clubs, or school government. Be sure to list what you did for each activity and how long you participated. And definitely include if you were elected to or chosen as a group or team leader, such as a president or captain.

Volunteer Experience

In this section, you'll list any volunteer activities, like helping out at church camp or delivering meals on wheels, including the name of the organization or company and how long or often you participate.

Education

Here, you'll provide the name of your high school and your anticipated date of graduation. Be sure to include your GPA, if you have it, as well as any college-level courses you've taken.

Skills

In this section, you'll list any specific skills you may have, like knowing how to code or being fluent in more than one language.

Applying for a job? [Here's a link to a great resource](#) for creating a dynamite first resume!

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



From the
College Essay Guy:
A step by step guide

Getting Started: Preparing
to Ask for a Letter of
Recommendation for College

How to Choose the Right
Teachers for a Letter of
Recommendation

How to Ask for a Letter of
Recommendation for College

When to Ask for a Letter
of Recommendation

The Follow-Up Email: What to Send Your Teacher
After Asking for a Letter of Recommendation

FROM COLLEGE BOARD BIG FUTURE: HOW TO GET A GREAT LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Colleges often ask for 2 or 3 recommendation letters from people who know you well. These letters should be written by someone who can describe your skills, accomplishments and personality.

Colleges value recommendations because they:

- Reveal things about you that grades and test scores can't
- Provide personal opinions of your character
- Show who is willing to speak on your behalf

Letters of recommendation work for you when they present you in the best possible light, showcasing your skills and abilities.

WHEN TO ASK FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Make sure to give your references at least one month before your earliest deadline to complete and send your letters. The earlier you ask, the better. Many teachers like to write recommendations during the summer. If you apply under early decision or early action plans, you'll definitely need to ask for recommendations by the start of your senior year or before. Remember that some teachers will be writing whole stacks of letters, which takes time. Your teachers will do a better job on your letter if they don't have to rush.

WHOM TO ASK

It's your job to find people to write letters of recommendation for you. Follow these steps to start the process:

- Read each of your college applications carefully. Schools often ask for letters of recommendation from an academic teacher — sometimes in a specific subject — or a school counselor or both.
- Ask a counselor, teachers and your family who they think would make good references.
- Choose one of your teachers from junior year or a current teacher who has known you for a while. Colleges want a current perspective on you, so a teacher from several years ago isn't the best choice.
- Consider asking a teacher who also knows you outside the classroom. For example, a teacher who directed you in a play or advised your debate club can make a great reference.
- Consider other adults — such as an employer, a coach or an adviser from an activity outside of school — who have a good understanding of you and your strengths.
- Perhaps most important, pick someone who will be enthusiastic about writing the letter for you.
- If you're unsure about asking someone in particular, politely ask if he or she feels comfortable recommending you. That's a good way to avoid weak letters.

HOW TO GET THE BEST RECOMMENDATIONS

Some teachers write many recommendation letters each year. Even if they know you well, it's a good idea to take some time to speak with them. Make it easy for them to give positive, detailed information about your achievements and your potential by refreshing their memory. Here's how:

- Talk to them about your class participation.
- Remind them of specific work or projects you're proud of.
- Tell them what you learned in class.
- Mention any challenges you overcame.
- Give them the information they need to provide specific examples of your work.
- If you need a recommendation letter from a counselor or other school official, follow these guidelines:
- Make an appointment ahead of time.
- Talk about your accomplishments, hobbies and plans for college and the future.
- If you need to discuss part of your transcript — low grades during your sophomore year, for example — do so. Explain why you had difficulty and discuss how you've changed and improved since then.
- Whether approaching teachers, a counselor or another reference, you may want to provide them with a resume that briefly outlines your activities, both in and outside the classroom, and your goals.

FINAL TIPS

The following advice is easy to follow and can really pay off:

- Waive your right to view recommendation letters on your application forms. Admission officers will trust them more if you haven't seen them.
- Give your references addressed and stamped envelopes for each college that requested a recommendation.
- Make sure your references know the deadlines for each college.
- Follow up with your references a week or so before recommendations are due to make sure your letters have been sent.
- Once you've decided which college to attend, write thank-you notes. Tell your references where you're going and let them know how much you appreciate their support.



*If the
Application
says the essay is
“Recommended”
consider the
essay required!*

COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION

THE COLLEGE ESSAY

So, you’ve determined that you’ll be heading to college and are eagerly filling out all the parts of your application. The next question is, does this college require an essay in their application? It is important to note that not all colleges do. However, for schools that do not require an essay, they often have optional essay questions that can be used for scholarship consideration. Make sure you check your school’s website to determine what is required for this year’s application. Some schools have additional odd requests and supplemental writing. **DOUBLE CHECK** each school you intend to apply to.

IT IS OUR ADVICE TO ALWAYS COMPLETE THE ESSAY AND/OR ESSAY QUESTIONS EVEN IF THEY ARE OPTIONAL. HERE'S WHY:

If you're starting your application on time, you should have a few months to perfect your essay answers.

With that extra time, you can have parents, teachers and counselors read over your essay and refine it (so you can be sure that you aren't sending in something that will hurt your application).

Essays help college admission officers learn something about your personality, as well as showing how well you write and support your ideas with logical arguments.

Some colleges use essays to determine scholarship consideration- college is expensive and any chance you may have to get assistance in paying for it is worth taking.



THE COMMON APPLICATION GIVES STUDENTS A CHOICE BETWEEN 7 PROMPTS. THESE ESSAYS HAVE A MAXIMUM OF 650 WORDS PER ESSAY.



APPLY TEXAS ESSAY HAS 3 SEPARATE PROMPTS. EACH HAS A MAXIMUM OF UP TO 120 LINES PER ESSAY OF 80 CHARACTERS EACH. SCHOOLS REQUIRE A DIFFERENT COMBINATION OF THE 3 ESSAYS OR REQUIRE ALL 3 IN THE APPLICATION.



COALITION APPLICATION GIVES STUDENTS A CHOICE BETWEEN 5 PROMPTS. THESE ESSAYS HAVE A MAXIMUM OF 650 WORDS PER ESSAY.

WE ARE INCLUDING SOME COLLEGE ESSAY TIPS ON [THE NEXT PAGE](#), BUT FOR MORE RESOURCES CHECK OUT BELOW:


- US News article on [How to Write a College Essay](#) is a great Start.
- The College Essay Guy's entire website is an excellent resource for students applying to universities. We have linked here his page on [How to Start a College Essay](#). Sometimes the hardest part is knowing where to start, and this site could help in that regard.
 - Here is the link to the more in depth [Free Guide to Writing a Personal Statement](#)
 - [The 35+ Best College Essay Tips from College Application Experts](#)
 - Ethan Sawyer (the College Essay Guy) also has a scholarship for free college application counseling for low-income students. Find the link here: [Matchlighter Scholarship](#)
- John's Hopkins provides [Essays That Worked](#) to help inspire students as they compose their own personal statements.
- Khan Academy offers an entire unit on Applying to College with [a Lesson devoted to Admissions Essays](#). This resource includes videos, sample essays & tips and techniques.
- The National Association for College Admission Counseling provides a wealth of resources. Here is the link to their [10 Tips for College Essays](#).

Before submitting an essay online, we strongly recommend that you compose and save your essay in a program that uses a mono-spaced font (like NotePad), then copy and paste it into the essays submission text box online.

WHEN WRITING YOUR ESSAY:

*Get started early.
Create an outline.
Read instructions.
Follow directions.
Write drafts.
Proofread.
Type.
Submit!*

1. **BE CONCISE.** An admissions officer has a big stack to read every day; he or she expects to spend only a couple of minutes on the essay.
2. **BE HONEST.** Don't embellish your achievements, titles, and offices. It's just fine to be the copy editor of the newspaper or the treasurer of the Green Club, instead of the president. Not everyone has to be a star at everything.
3. **BE AN INDIVIDUAL.** When you are brainstorming for your essay, consider "what makes me stand out amongst my peers?" Most first time applicants are going to have similar life styles- high school teenager doing average high school teenager activities. It is your mind and how it works that are distinctive. How do you think? It's a complicated question but one that could help you write an essay that is distinctly YOU.
4. **BE COHERENT.** You should write about just one subject at a time. Don't feel like you need to explain your entire life in one essay. The whole application is a series of snapshots of what you do. It is inevitably incomplete. The colleges expect this. Focus on making the few topics you do write about clear and illuminating.
5. **BE ACCURATE.** Don't just use spell check. Attend to the other mechanics of good writing, including conventional punctuation in the use of commas, semi-colons, etc. Check that all your references are correct and that you have spelled proper names correctly. Today, there are a wealth of apps and/or websites (like Grammarly) that can help you with this process.
6. **BE VIVID.** A great essay often reads like a story. Many prompts lead the applicant to describe important moments in their lives. Don't shy away from using details that help the reader feel like they're going through the experience with you. This makes it all more human and humane. It also shows the reader that you are thinking about his or her appreciation of your writing which is something you'll surely want to do.
7. **BE LIKABLE.** Colleges see themselves as communities where people have to get along with others, in dorms, classes, etc. Are you someone they would like to have dinner with, hang out with, have in a discussion section? Not sure how to make yourself sound likeable? Ask the people around you- they may surprise you with the likable attributes they already see in you.
8. **BE CAUTIOUS** in your use of humor. You don't know who might read your application and humor, especially written humor, can be easily misinterpreted.
9. **BE CONTROVERSIAL.** It is easy to write about everyday topics, and lots of students do. However, it is fine to write about politics, religion, something serious, as long as you are balanced and thoughtful. Remember that whatever topic you choose, that you are not the expert who has the final truth. Your essay also is not the place for you to vent about your feelings on a sensitive subject. Rather, propose arguments and give reasons for your stance. Consider other perspectives on the issue if you can. Schools value a diversity of ideas and want students who are willing to look at an issue from all directions.
10. **BE SMART.** Ultimately, colleges and universities are places for intellectuals. Places to learn & discover new things. The essay is an excellent place to show what you already know and what you are eager to learn more about. What gets you excited about your future? This is not about what you choose to major in, and more about what interests you.



Worried about the spelling and grammar in your essay? Let someone else read it! There are a wealth of people available to give you feedback. For starters, try: your English teachers, your counselor, your college & career specialist, and your parents/guardians!

10 COLLEGE ESSAY GRAMMAR TIPS

- **SPELL CHECK AND GRAMMAR CHECK** – with the advent of these built-in tools on computers now, there is no good reason for anyone to have spelling errors in their essays. However, you cannot rely solely on spell check to catch all of your mistakes. For example, “I surprised my wife with a rows.” While correctly spelled, this kind of mistake isn’t caught on spell or grammar check.
- **VERB TENSE AGREEMENT** – once you are using a verb tense, stick with it. Don’t flip-flop between past, present, and future in the same sentence.
- **HOMOPHONES** – these are words that sound the same, but are spelled differently and can have vastly different meanings. “To, too, and two.” “There, their, and they’re.” “Flour and flower.” “Affect and effect.” “Then and than.” Make sure you watch out for these.
- **NOUN/PRONOUN REPETITION** – when referring to a person, place, or thing, don’t use the same name or pronoun repeatedly in a given sentence or paragraph. For example, “It is important to me as a female STEM student to attend a university with a robust STEM program. The STEM program at University has a history of supporting women in STEM, and is also a pioneer in the STEM industries.” We get it. You want to be in our STEM program. We don’t need to hear it that many times in the span of two sentences.
- **USING THE THESAURUS** – while it is important to not repetitively use a word throughout your essay, you also need to be careful about how you use a thesaurus as you try to provide some variety. Be wary of using words that you’ve never used before and/or don’t entirely understand the meaning.
- **SHOULD HAVE, COULD HAVE** – review your essay for instances of “should of” and “could of”. While this sounds correct it is grammatically wrong.
- **OTHER CONTRACTIONS** – in formal writing, it is usually frowned upon to use contractions (you’re, it’s, can’t, etc.). However, in a college application essay, it’s ok. Just make sure the apostrophe is in the right place.
- **ACTIVE VOICE VS PASSIVE VOICE** – whenever possible, make sure you use the active voice in your college essays. This means you have to name names and attach responsibility to the action. For example, “Mary kicked open the door” instead of “the door was kicked open.”
- **EXCLAMATION POINTS!!!** – do not use exclamation marks to strengthen weak words. Only use exclamation points for true exclamations and commands.
- **RUN-ON SENTENCES AND PARAGRAPHS** – watch out for long sentences with multiple ideas. Make sure you separate your thoughts in your writing. This is best achieved by planning out your essay before writing.

NAILING THE INTERVIEW

Whether you are interviewing for a college, a scholarship or for your first job, the interview can significantly help (or hurt) your chances. Take time to make sure you are ready by taking the time to prepare in advance.

BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

- Schedule your college interviews early- they fill up fast.
- Do your research! On the school or the company you are applying for a job for. The more you know, the better.
- Prepare. Do practice interviews with friends or family. Take turns asking questions. There is a list of types of interview questions you may face on the next page.
- Troubleshoot problems days before the interview:
 - Make sure you know how to get to your interview location, where to park, and approximately how long it will take you to get there. It is important to arrive on time for your interview.
 - If someone is bringing you, ask them to stay in the vehicle for the interview, you want to present yourself as an independent young adult
 - If this is a virtual interview, make sure your technology up to date and that the background of your camera is appropriate
 - Make sure anyone who will be around during your interview time know not to interrupt you.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

- Bring a [professional resume](#). A resume will make a good impression on the interviewer. You don't need work experience to write a resume. You can include informal experience, volunteering, academic achievements, and your participation in sports or clubs.
- Bring a pen and paper so you can take notes.
- For job interviews- bring your references and their contact information
- Bring questions of your own to ask, here are some examples:
 - How does the college help students secure employment and/or prepare for graduate school?
 - If you could offer one piece of advice to an incoming student, what would that be?
 - How does your college differ from other comparable colleges?
 - How can someone succeed in this role?
 - Can you provide a few examples of challenges an employee encounters in this position?
 - How do you expect to be working with this employee?
 - What do you like best about working for this organization?

WHAT TO WEAR TO YOUR INTERVIEW

- The "grandma" rule is always a good one to go by. If your grandma would approve of the outfit, you have made the right choice. Generally avoid things that are too revealing, too tight, too loose, or are flashy/gaudy.
- Avoid anything that is too casual, like denim, flip flops, or athletic wear.
- Aim to look clean and professional: don't overdo your makeup, wear too much cologne/perfume, & don't forget to shave!
- Keep your outfit simple: Avoid large accessories or anything distracting. Don't wear a hat or hoodies that hide your face.
- If you'd prefer a visual, google "business casual attire", even if the interviewers are dressed casually, you want to look put together for the interview.

WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO ASK?

NAILING THE INTERVIEW

- **Questions about what brought you to them**

- Why do you want this job? What do you bring as an employee?
- Why do you want to attend our college? What can you contribute to our college campus?
 - Answers: To answer these questions well, you need to have done your research. Make sure you know what they are looking for in an applicant and tell them what they will like most about you particularly.

- **Questions about your personality**

- What three adjectives describe you?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
 - Answers: Be descriptive and give examples of how you exemplify certain qualities. Talk about how you overcome your own personal challenges, and how you have accommodated to be successful.

- **Questions about activities, interests and goals**

- What activities do you find most rewarding?
- What is the last good book you read?
- Where do you see yourself in ten years?
 - Answers: Think about the “why” when answering questions like these. For college applicants this is an opportunity to talk about why you are interested in a specific topic or major. For job applicants, make it clear that you have goals for yourself in the workforce and that you are interested in learning more about the job.

- **Broad-Subject questions**

- If you had a \$10,000 to give away to someone else, what would you do with it?
- What is your opinion on the Black Lives Matter movement (or other current social issue)?
 - Answers: For starters, stay up-to-date on current events and relevant news. If you have strong opinions about something, be able to clearly articulate why that is your perspective. This is a chance to show interviewers more about your personal system of values and what you are all about.

ON INTERVIEW DAY

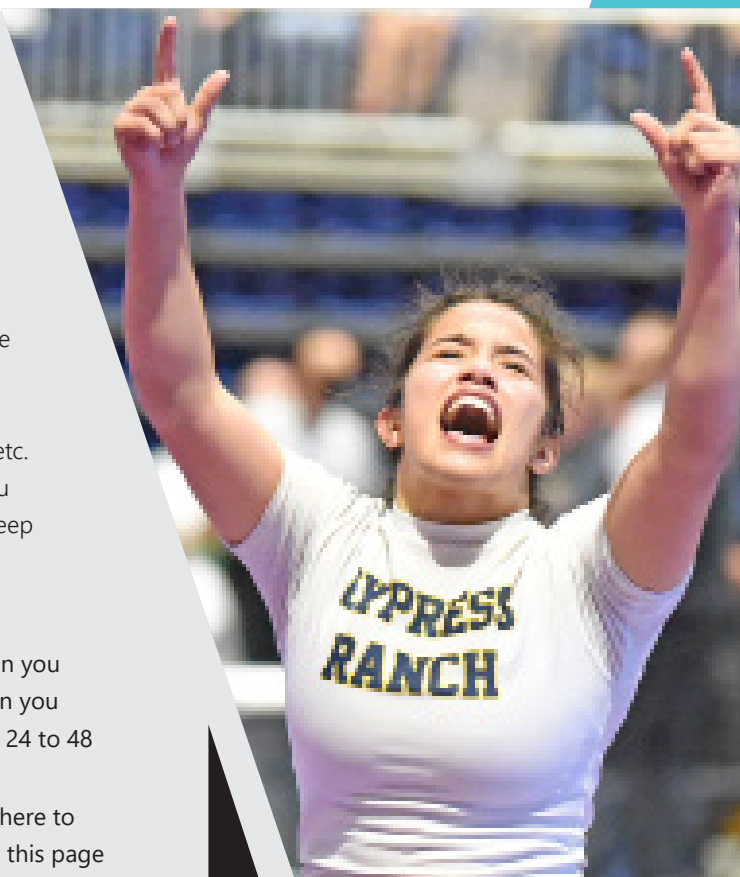
- Arrive on time, dress appropriately (even if it is a virtual interview)
- Silence your phone, and remove your earbuds!
- Don't bring a drink, food, or chew gum during the interview (or when you are waiting for the interview to start!)
- Use good manners & make good eye contact. Don't slouch, yawn or otherwise show attitude.
- Be yourself. Don't try to answer questions based on what you think the interviewer wants to hear.
- Have a conversation. Don't try to memorize a script.
- Avoid one word answers, slang, and words that fill space, “um”, “like” etc.
- Try to stay cool and collected. Staying as calm as possible will help you focus on the interviewer. If you feel flustered, pause and take a few deep breaths to gather your thoughts.

AFTER THE INTERVIEW

Take the initiative and send a personalized thank you note to each person you interviewed with. Make sure you obtain a business card from each person you interviewed with, so you know their email. You should email them within 24 to 48 hours after the interview.

With most things these days, there is a wealth of more information out there to help you prepare for an interview. Here are a few of the sources used on this page for your further reading:

- bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/interviews/college-interviews-practice-questions-and-strategies
- collegedata.com/resources/prepare-and-apply/ten-tips-for-successful-college-interviews
- <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/interviewing/job-interview-tips-how-to-make-a-great-impression>
- thebalancecareers.com/first-job-interview-tips-2061337
- monster.com/career-advice/article/first-job-interview



SAT VERSUS ACT, WHICH ONE DO I TAKE?

Both the ACT and the SAT can be used for admission to any college or university in the USA. Some schools require or recommend the optional writing section these tests offer, so be sure to research the requirements of the schools you are interested in attending. If you are interested to know how your score measures up against the other exam, there are official conversion tables that colleges use to translate your ACT composite score into the comparable SAT score and vice versa (see table below). While the tests are similar in many ways, there are some differences that can help students determine which test is a better fit. You can find comparisons of the tests online or refer to the table on the next page.

Remember, beginning Spring 2021, all CFISD students will have the opportunity to take the SAT during their junior year, FREE!

ACT COMPOSITE SCORES COMPARED TO SAT REASONING SCORES

The ACT Assessment tests are curriculum-based tests of educational development while the SAT Reasoning, in contrast, measures general verbal, quantitative aptitudes (readiness to learn), and writing skills and is less curriculum-based.

ACT SCORE	SAT SCORE		ACT SCORE	SAT SCORE
36	1600		23	1070
35	1560		22	1030
34	1510		21	990
33	1460		20	950
32	1420		19	910
31	1380		18	870
30	1340		17	830
29	1300		16	790
28	1260		15	740
27	1220		14	690
26	1190		13	640
25	1150		12	590
24	1110		11	530

SAT VS. ACT

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

	SAT	ACT
TIME	3 hours	2 hours, 55 minutes
SAT WRITING & LANGUAGE/ ACT ENGLISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 minutes • 44 questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 passages with 11 questions each • Assesses your ability to revise and edit texts about a range of topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 minutes • 75 questions • Consists of 5 passages followed by questions • Measures your understanding of the conventions of standard English, production of writing, and knowledge of language
READING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65 minutes • 52 questions • 5 passages total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 individual passages • 1 set of paired passages • 1 or 2 informational graphics • Assesses your ability to read and interpret a variety of texts (analysis skills) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 minutes • 40 questions • Measures your reading comprehension (detail-extraction skills) • Four passages with 10 questions per passage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 long prose passages • 1 section with 2 shorter prose passages
MATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 minutes • 58 questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One 55 minute section with 38 questions & calculators OK • One 25 minute section with 20 questions & calculators not permitted • Measures your ability to apply mathematical concepts and skills to problems • Covers arithmetic, algebra I & II, geometry, trigonometry and data analysis • Formulas are provided • Multiple choice with some write-in answers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 minutes • 60 questions • Designed to assess the mathematical skills students have typically acquired in courses taken up to the beginning of grade 12 • Covers arithmetic, algebra I & II, geometry, trigonometry, probability and statistics • Formulas are not provided • All multiple choice • Calculator allowed for all questions
SCIENCE	No science section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 minutes • 40 questions • Questions on science-based passages presented with graphs, charts, tables and research summaries • Tests critical thinking & analysis skills
SAT ESSAY/ ACT WRITING (OPTIONAL)	As of January 2021, College Board will no longer offer the SAT with Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 minutes • 1 essay • Test-takers read about an issue and then choose one of three perspectives on the issue to support in their written response • Scored from 2-8 in three sections: reading, analysis and writing
SCORING	400–1600	1–36
COST	\$52.00	\$55.00 \$70.00 (with writing)

HOW TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Preparation for college entrance exams like the SAT or ACT is helpful if you are anxious about getting a good score. We've got some top tips to help you get ready for entrance exams so you can get the best possible score. Courtesy of greatvaluecolleges.net.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Take as many practice tests as you can. There are plenty of places you can take them online. Websites like Khan Academy and the College Board offer practice tests for free. You will also find helpful test tips, videos, and quizzes on these sites. Taking advantage of these helpful resources will give you a distinct leg up when it's time for the real thing.

WEAR A WATCH

Since you won't be able to have your phone with you, a good old-fashioned watch will help you keep track of the time in case the clock in the classroom doesn't work. As you are taking the test, it can help you to manage your time better so you don't lag behind. If you don't own a watch, borrow one for test day. Don't bring a smartwatch, though, as these will be confiscated upon entry.

KNOW THE FUNDAMENTALS

Even if you are pretty sure you have a firm grasp on the basics of math and grammar, these foundational subjects are critical to both the SAT and the ACT. In the SAT, you will be given some of the most common math formulas, while in the ACT, you need to know them from memory. It is a good idea to go over the basic rules for both grammar and math before the test.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Staying up late to cram for the exams with junk food on one side and energy drinks on the other will do you no favors in the long run. The tests take the better part of the day, and you are likely to run out of steam. Proper hydration, healthy food, and adequate sleep will ensure you perform your best. You will also want to bring water and a snack for breaks.

MAKE NOTES IN THE TEST BOOKLET

Although you won't be able to take it home, the test booklet is an item you have paid for and is the only scratch paper that will be available during the test. If you need to write a reminder, draw diagrams, or solve math problems, mark up the booklet. You can also use it to keep track of the stop times for each subtest.

STAY CALM

One of the best ways to calm test anxiety is to be prepared ahead of time. Being confident in your abilities will go a long way towards quelling your fears. If you typically have the jitters no matter what, learn some deep breathing techniques to calm your mind and body. That way, when the time comes, you will know what to do to stay cool.

UNDERSTAND THE DIRECTIONS

If you understand the directions for taking the SAT or ACT, you won't waste valuable energy getting flustered or disoriented. You can dive right in and start answering questions instead of acquainting yourself with guidelines. The directions are generally the same from year to year, so you should have no problem obtaining them online before testing.

BE COMFORTABLE

If you are sensitive to temperatures, remember to dress in layers in case the room is too hot or cold. Avoid tight-fitting or itchy clothing as they can be distracting. Instead, opt for the most comfortable clothes and footwear you have. Also, be sure to use the rest room before the beginning of the test as you won't be allowed to leave once all of the students are seated.

INTERPRETING YOUR SAT SCORE OFFICIAL GUIDE

INTERPRETING YOUR ACT SCORE OFFICIAL GUIDE



HOW DID I DO? SAT & ACT

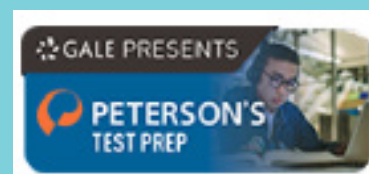
	<u>SAT SCORES 2020</u>	<u>ACT SCORES 2020</u>
BEST SCORES These scores put students in the top 10% of all test takers.	EBRW: 650-800 Math: 650-800	English: 31-36 Math: 28-36 Reading: 32-36 Science: 29-36
	Total Score: 1290-1600	Composite Score: 30-36
COMPETITIVE SCORES These scores put students in the top 25% of all test takers.	EBRW: 590-640 Math: 580-640	English: 24-30 Math: 25-27 Reading: 26-31 Science: 24-28
	Total Score: 1160-1280	Composite Score: 25-29
GOOD SCORES These scores put students in the top half of all test takers.	EBRW: 510-580 Math: 510-570	English: 20-23 Math: 19-24 Reading: 20-25 Science: 20-23
	Total Score: 1010-1150	Composite Score: 20-24
BELOW AVERAGE SCORES These scores put students below average compared to other test takers.	EBRW: 500 & below Math: 500 & below	English: 19 & below Math: 18 & below Reading: 19 & below Science: 19 & below
	Total Score: 1000 and below	Composite Score: 19 & below

Your campus library has a wealth of free online resources at your fingertips! Not sure how to access it? Follow the directions below:

FREE RESOURCES FROM YOUR CAMPUS LIBRARY

1. Head to www.cfisd.net
2. Parents & Students>Academics>[Library Resources](#)
3. Click on **Find Your Campus Library**
4. Choose your Campus to be redirected to your campus' online library resources

While each site might be slightly different, all of our libraries give students access to **GALE PRESENTS: PETERSON'S TEST PREP**, this resource was formerly referred to as TERC (Testing & Education Reference Center). Look for the icon shown to the right on your library's resource page, or find it under "Learning Links".



To best use this FREE resource, we encourage you to register & create an account. It is best practice to use a good personal email when you register so you can see your practice test scores and track your progress.

Once you have accessed this resource, you can use the search tool to find a specific resource, for example, you might search for "SAT", "Certification Exam", or "Resume". The site offers help in several areas:

GALE PRESENTS

PETERSON'S
TEST PREP



Improve Your Score

There's a reason why practice makes perfect. Prep for standardized tests, train for an upcoming exam, or refresh your academic skills, all with Peterson's award-winning educational content.

This tab has study skills for help in most subjects and has test preparation lessons and practice tests for AP Tests, the TSI, STAAR for High School Students. It also has test prep for ACT, CLEP, PSAT, & SAT. It even has help for graduate level exams!



Find A School

Find the colleges and universities of your dream! Search through nearly 4,200 two- and four-year accredited schools and find your perfect fit.

This tab takes you to the site's college and scholarship search. It has programs that will help you with financing your future as well. The College Planning tab includes checklists (that start at 9th grade!) as well as articles ranging from finding a summer job to increasing your chances of receiving a scholarship!



Explore Careers

Whether you're preparing to enter the workforce for the first time, considering a career change, or just looking to brush up on your skills, we're here to help. Create or update a resume or use the career advice tutorials to learn about everything from job searching and interviewing to negotiating salaries.

In this tab you will find career advice for different HR representatives, a tool for helping you create a resume & a career college search.



Vocational Test Prep

All that stands between you and a new career is a test. Prepare for your certification, credentialing, or licensing exams for vocations in fields such as nursing, law enforcement, public safety, teaching, and more.

In this tab, you'll choose the area you are seeking certification and find help to prepare for certification & licensing for your chosen vocation.



ADDITIONAL LIBRARY RESOURCE



After you have followed [the steps to log into your campuses library](#), you will also have access to the [LEARNING EXPRESS HUB](#). Look for the icon shown to the left on your library's resource page, or find it under "Learning Links".

Once again, it is best practice to register an account in order to save their work in progress, store score reports, and revisit any practice tests, tutorials, or eBooks.

While all of the resources available, we have highlighted below the resources in the "High School Library: PrepSTEP" section our junior and senior student families will want to take note of.

The screenshot shows the EBS LearningExpress website. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Sign In/Register, Contact Us, and Help. A search bar is located at the top right. The main content area features a grid of resource tiles. Yellow callout boxes highlight the following resources:

- STAAR & TSI PREPARATION**: This just what it says, test prep for these exams by subject.
- PREPARE FOR COLLEGE**: this tab is where students will find test prep resources for the ACT, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, AP and several other college exams.
- JOB & CAREER ACCELERATOR**: This is where you will find help to build resumes, job letters, search for jobs and internships, prepare for interviews and find career ebooks.
- CAREER EXPLORATION**: Here you can learn about careers, find career test prep, find information on entering the military, build workplace skills and find preparation for WorkKeys Assessments.

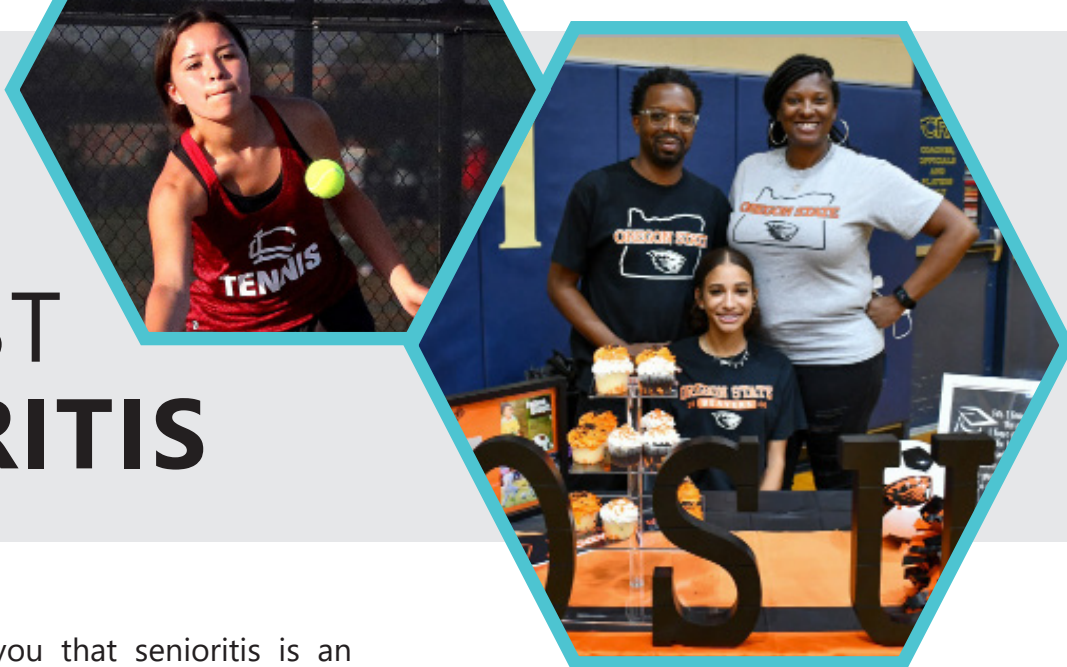
OTHER TEST PREPARATION LINKS

ACT's Test Prep Resource
www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html

SAT's Official Test Preparation
Resource Through
Khan Academy
www.khanacademy.org/SAT

TSIA-2 Test Prep
1) www.lonestar.edu/placement-test-preparation.htm
2) tsia2.pearsonperspective.com/perspective/home?passCode=TSIA2_family
TSIA2 [ELAR sample questions \(Reading and Writing\)](#)
TSIA2 [Math sample questions](#)

THE BATTLE AGAINST SENIORITIS



WHAT IS SENIORITIS?

Your dictionary will tell you that senioritis is an **ebbing of motivation and effort by school seniors as evidenced by tardiness, absences and lower grades.** Senior students can 'catch' senioritis for a number of reasons. For example:

- They may have already received acceptance from their college of choice and maintaining grades & attendance feels like a waste of time.
- They might have pushed so hard for four years straight that they emotionally collapse during the final spring push.
- Some students have received rejection letters and lose hope for the future.
- Some are waiting for just ONE acceptance letter- and seem to wallow in feelings of existential dread as the window of acceptance closes, and their dream future begins to fade.

CONSEQUENCES

Whatever the reason may be for a senior's dwindling motivation in the spring of their senior year- there can be serious consequences if left unchecked. Every year, college and university admission deans from schools large and small, public and private, and of all levels of selectivity share stories of admitted students they are forced to contact due to academic or disciplinary demise. Senior students also risk failing courses that are graduation requirements for finishing high school. Imagine having to let the college know that you have to take summer school because you failed senior English!

THE BOTTOM LINE

It is ultimately up to our seniors to make good choices during those last few months to ensure that they get to graduation in good standing. Parents should expect some slipping in student grades and minor issues like tardiness for school, staying up late, etc.. For students who have been working towards high school graduation and college acceptance for four years- the spring can be a welcome time of respite. It is important for parents and students to continue to communicate openly about the situation, and to **give each other grace when needed.** Seniors need to maintain passing grades in all of their classes, verify that they aren't receiving excessive absences in their courses, and to recall that acceptance to their dream school can be rescinded if they make poor choices before graduation.

There are a wealth of resources out there to help students who succumb to senioritis, see links below & the list on the next page.

From Collegeboard.org:
[Guidance- Senioritis](#)

[From FastWeb.com: College Applications are Sent- How to Combat "Senioritis"](#)

From Forbes: [Senioritis: College Acceptances in Jeopardy](#)

From NACAC: [Avoiding Senioritis](#)

From the New York Times: [How to Cure the New Senioritis?](#)

6 WAYS TO FIGHT SENIORITIS

From collegedata.com

1. Accept the feelings.

Senioritis can take many shapes. You might have a general feeling of malaise, have trouble getting out of bed in the morning, or even feel a loss of purpose now that senior year is ending. These feelings are normal.

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2. Set some academic goals for the rest of the year.

Setting goals will help you stay engaged in school intellectually and socially. For example, you could set out to achieve a certain score on an AP exam, end the year with straight As, or get involved in school activities and end-of-year festivities.

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3. Pretend you're in adulting boot camp.

You can expect adulting to be more challenging and demanding than high school. So use this time to hone your study skills. Read more, especially in an academic area of interest. Take on an independent study project. Experiment with organizational and time management tools and apps.

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4. Make some money.

Consider getting a part-time job to help cover expenses and gain practical skills and work experience you can use later on. For college bound students, don't forget to continue to search and apply for scholarships. If you plan to work and go to college, this will give you experience juggling work and school demands.

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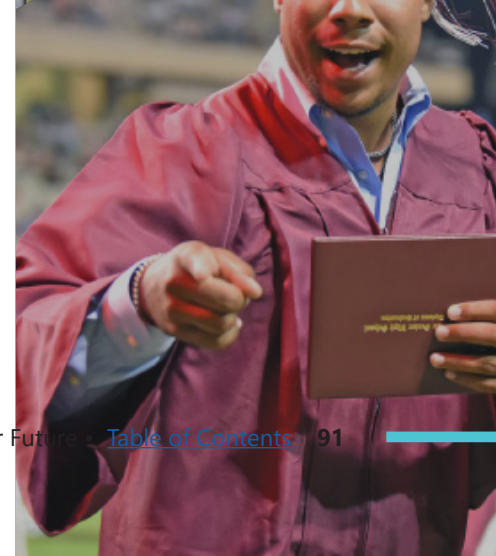
5. Try something new.

Explore a passion, interest, or activity you didn't have time for while you were busy planning your post-secondary life. Perhaps it's volunteering in your community, taking an art class, or trying a new sport. You might test drive a potential career or major by interviewing people working in that field or by finding an internship.

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6. Savor your senior year.

While you might feel totally "finished" with high school, it's also the end of a significant stage of your life. Spend time with friends and family members, thank your teachers, and enjoy your last couple of months as a high school senior. Then celebrate all you've accomplished and start planning your new adult life.



ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AID LINKS AND INFORMATION

- **THE TRELLIS COMPANY:** www.trelliscompany.org Trellis Company is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation with the dual mission of helping student borrowers successfully repay their education loans and promoting access and success in higher education.
- **TEXAS TOMORROW FUND:** www.texastomorrowfunds.org Savings plan for future payment of college tuition
- **MINNIE STEVENS PIPER FOUNDATION:** www.comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/msp Scholarship services & info for Texas colleges
- **THE FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION PAGE:** www.finaid.org Finaid was established in the fall of 1994 as a public service. This award-winning site has grown into the most comprehensive source of student financial aid information, advice and tools — on or off the web.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT INFORMATION

Americans owe nearly **\$1.67 trillion – and counting** – in student loans, according to the Federal Reserve. In 2019, college graduates with loans owe about \$28,950 on average. This document has given you a lot of resources to find loans to help you pay for your post-secondary education, but at what cost? **It is important to have conversations with your family about what you want to do in your future, and what will be most fiscally responsible.** Below are links to some articles and sites that will give you information on student loan debt and helpful information on how to graduate as close to debt free as possible.

- [2021 Student Loan Debt Statistics](#) from NerdWallet
- [7 Things Students Should Know about Student Loans](#) from fastweb
- [How to Graduate Debt Free](#) from BestColleges
- [I Killed My Teenager's Fancy College Dreams. You Should, Too.](#) by Melody Warnick on slate.com, this is an opinion article about a family struggling to determine if their student should go to the more expensive dream school while also going in to debt or to make a choice of a school that was less expensive but still good.
- [The State of Student Loan Debt](#) from Experian
- This article, [Overcoming the Student Loan Crisis](#) by financial expert Anthony Oneal at Ramsey Solutions is a good primer for those who don't understand how student loans really work, and a guide for families who want to stay debt-free. Mr. Oneal also has written a book, [Debt-Free Degree](#) if you are interested in further reading.
- [What High Schoolers Need to Know about Student Loans](#) from MassMutual

1. **CHANGE YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS.** Of course, you'd like to keep all your social media public to increase your chances of becoming an iNfLuEnCeR. However, until you receive your school acceptance or job offer, set all your posts to private & limit who can see your pictures, likes & information.
2. **CLEAN IT UP!** Go back to the beginning and remove anything that might hurt your reputation. Any pictures that could be interpreted as you doing something illegal, videos with foul language, or any posts that portray you as volatile (don't forget the comments sections!) This includes anything you may have been tagged in as well- untag, delete or hide from your profile.
3. **REVIEW YOUR PROFILE.** Unfollow anything & anyone even mildly offensive. Make sure you aren't following anything you probably shouldn't have to begin with- for example, anything involving alcohol or tobacco. Keep your profile simple and friendly.
4. **BE WARY OF WHAT YOU POST & WHO YOU SHARE WITH.** Best rule is not to send anything to anyone you wouldn't mind going public.
5. **FOLLOW YOUR FUTURE.** Follow the social media accounts of your top choice schools or companies you'd like to work for. Comment and like posts coming out of admissions & HR.
6. **GOOGLE YOURSELF.** Make sure whatever pops up is appropriate. You can also take it a step further, start posting things in your own name that reflect your goals and passions so that they show up when someone looks you up.

HOW TO CLEAN UP YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA

students.myothers.org/advice/social-media-cleaning-up-for-college-191



COMMUNICATION TIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL APPLICANTS

- Create a **professional email account** using your full name. This makes it easy for colleges & employers to identify you and is a great way to keep information organized. Use your professional account for all your testing and application accounts.
- Make sure the **voicemail box** on your phone number is functioning (*no mailbox full*) and professional (*Hello, you have reached Jane Smith, I am unable to answer the phone right now so please leave a message or send me a text and I will get back to you as soon as I am able*).
- When **leaving a voicemail**, make sure you leave your name, what you need from that individual and how best to contact you.
- **Remember your audience** when you are emailing, texting or calling someone. You speak to your peers very differently than how you would speak to an employer.
- For **written communication**, always check spelling and grammar. Avoid slang and acronyms like "lol" & "tbh". Emails should address the recipient (*Dear Ms. Green*) and end with a digital signature (*Respectfully, John Jones*).
- Are your parents or guardians helping you with this process? Great! However, **the bulk of communication** between you and your schools and/or job leads should **come from YOU!** Communicating with schools and employers demonstrates independence, confidence, and self-sufficiency.





REFERENCE MATERIALS



**FOR
ALL**

OPPORTUNITY IS HERE.

CY-WOODS



Campus Main: 281-213-1800 [Campus Website](#)
Counseling: 281-213-1800 [Counseling Website](#)
Registrar: 281-213-1800 [Registrar Link](#)
College & Career: 281-213-1800 [College & Career Link](#)

CY-FAIR

Campus Main: 281-897-4600
Counseling: 281-897-4600
Registrar: 281-897-4600
College & Career: 281-897-4600

[Campus Website](#)
[Counseling Website](#)
[Registrar Link](#)
[College & Career Link](#)



CY-FALLS

Campus Main: 281-856-1000 [Campus Website](#)
Counseling: 281-856-1000 [Counseling Website](#)
Registrar: 281-856-1000 [Registrar Link](#)
College & Career: 281-856-1000 [College & Career Link](#)

BRIDGELAND

Campus Main: 832-349-7600
Counseling: 832-349-7600
Registrar: 832-349-7600
College & Career: 832-349-7400

[Campus Website](#)
[Counseling Website](#)
[Registrar Link](#)
[College & Career Link](#)



CY-CREEK



Campus Main: 281-897-4200 [Campus Website](#)
Counseling: 281-897-4200 [Counseling Website](#)
Registrar: 281-897-4200 [Registrar Link](#)
College & Career: 281-517-2171 [College & Career Link](#)



CY-RANCH

Campus Main: 281-373-2300 [Campus Website](#)
Counseling: 281-373-2300 [Counseling Website](#)
Registrar: 281-373-2300 [Registrar Link](#)
College & Career: 281-213-1987 [College & Career Link](#)

CY-PARK

Campus Main: 346-227-6000
Counseling: 346-227-6000
Registrar: 346-227-6000
College & Career: 346-227-6000

[Campus Website](#)
[Counseling Website](#)
[Registrar Link](#)
[College & Career Link](#)



CFISD GUIDANCE & COUNSELING LINKS

[Guidance & Counseling Main Page](#)

[Guidance & Counseling Information & Contact Page](#)

[College & Career Readiness Main Page](#)

[List of Campus College & Career Specialists](#)

[CARE Academy \(Partnership with Lone Star College\)](#)

[District Scholarship Pages](#)

Guidance & Counseling Main Number: 281-897-4068

CY-RIDGE

Campus Main: 281-807-8000
Counseling: 281-807-8000
Registrar: 281-807-8000
College & Career: 281-807-8000

[Campus Website](#)
[Counseling Website](#)
[Registrar Link](#)
[College & Career Link](#)



CY-SPRINGS



Campus Main: 281-345-3000 [Campus Website](#)
Counseling: 281-345-3000 [Counseling Website](#)
Registrar: 281-345-3000 [Registrar Link](#)
College & Career: 281-345-3000 [College & Career Link](#)

CY-LAKES

Campus Main: 281-856-3800
Counseling: 281-856-3800
Registrar: 281-856-3800
College & Career: 281-856-3800

[Campus Website](#)
[Counseling Website](#)
[Registrar Link](#)
[College & Career Link](#)



JERSEY VILLAGE

Campus Main: 713-896-3400 [Campus Website](#)
Counseling: 713-896-3400 [Counseling Website](#)
Registrar: 713-896-3400 [Registrar Link](#)
College & Career: 713-896-3400 [College & Career Link](#)

LEONARD BRAUTIGAM CENTER



Campus Main: 281-807-8684
Counseling: 281-807-8684
Registrar: 281-807-8684

[Campus Website](#)
[Counseling Website](#)
[Registrar Link](#)
[College & Career Link](#)

LANGHAM CREEK

Campus Main: 281-463-5400
Counseling: 281-463-5400
Registrar: 281-463-5400
College & Career: 281-463-5400

[Campus Website](#)
[Counseling Website](#)
[Registrar Link](#)
[College & Career Link](#)



LIST OF PUBLIC COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES IN TEXAS

Angelo State University
2601 W. Avenue N
San Angelo, Texas 76909
(325) 942-2073
www.angelo.edu

Lamar University
4400 Martin L. King Boulevard
Beaumont, Texas 77710
(409) 880-7011
www.lamar.edu

Midwestern State University
3410 Taft Boulevard
Wichita Falls, Texas 76308-2099
(940) 397-4000
www.msutexas.edu

Prairie View A&M University
FM 1098 & University Drive
Prairie View, Texas 77446
(936) 857-3311
www.pvamu.edu

Sam Houston State University
1806 Avenue J
Huntsville, Texas 77341
(866) 294-1111
www.shsu.edu

Stephen F. Austin State University
1936 North Street
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962
(936) 468-2011
www.sfasu.edu

Sul Ross State University
East Highway 90
Alpine, Texas 79832
(432) 837-8011
www.sulross.edu

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande
Route 3, Box 1200
Eagle Pass, Texas 78852
(830) 278-3339
www.sulross.edu

Tarleton State University
1333 West Washington
Stephenville, Texas 76402
(254) 968-9000
www.tarleton.edu

Texas A&M International University
5201 University Boulevard
Laredo, Texas 78041
(956) 326-2001
www.tamiiu.edu

Texas A&M University
1265 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843
(979) 845-3211
www.tamu.edu

Texas A&M Univ. at Galveston
Seawolf Parkway
Galveston, Texas 77553
(877) 322-4443
www.tamug.edu

Texas A&M University System
Moore Connally Bld 301 Tarrow
College Station, Texas 77840
(979) 458-6000
www.tamus.edu

Texas A&M Central Texas
1001 Leadership Place
Killeen, Texas 76549
(254) 519-5400
www.tamuct.edu

Texas A&M University Commerce
1700 Hwy 24
Commerce, Texas 75429
(903) 886-5014
www.tamuc.edu

Texas A&M at Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412
(361) 825-5700
www.tamucc.edu

Texas A&M University Kingsville
700 University Boulevard
Kingsville, Texas 78363
(361) 593-3207
www.tamuk.edu

Texas A&M San Antonio
One University Way
San Antonio, Texas 78224
(210) 932-6299
www.tamusa.edu/

Texas A&M University Texarkana
7101 University Avenue
Texarkana, Texas 75503
(903) 223-3000
www.tamut.edu

Texas Southern University
3100 Cleburne Avenue
Houston, Texas 77004
(713) 313-7011
www.tsu.edu

Texas State University
601 University Drive
San Marcos, Texas 78666
(512) 245-2111
www.txstate.edu

Texas State University System
200 East 10th Street Suite 600
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 245-2111
www.tsus.edu

Texas Tech University
2500 Broadway
Lubbock, Texas 79409
(806) 742-2011
www.ttu.edu

Texas Tech University System
P.O. Box 42013
Lubbock, Texas 79409
(806) 742-2011
www.texastech.edu

Texas Woman's University
304 Administration Drive
Denton, Texas 76204-5589
(940) 898-3201
www.twu.edu

The University of Texas Arlington
701 S. Nedderman Drive
Arlington, Texas 76019
(817) 272-2011
www.uta.edu

The University of Texas at Austin
University Station
Austin, Texas 78712
(512) 471-3434
www.utexas.edu

The University of Texas at Dallas
800 West Campbell Road
Richardson, Texas 75080-3021
(972) 883-2111
www.utdallas.edu

The University of Texas at El Paso
500 West University Avenue
El Paso, Texas 79968
(915) 747-5000
www.utep.edu

The University of Texas San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, Texas 78249-0601
(210) 458-4011
www.utsa.edu

The University of Texas at Tyler
3900 University Boulevard
Tyler, Texas 75799
(903) 566-7000
www.uttyler.edu

University of Texas Permian Basin
4901 East University
Odessa, Texas 79762
(432) 552-2020
www.utpb.edu

UT of the Rio Grande Valley
1201 West University Drive
Edinburg, Texas 78541
(956) 381-2011
www.utrgv.edu

The University of Texas System
601 Colorado
Austin, Texas 78701-2982
(512) 499-4201
www.utsystem.edu

University of Houston
4800 Calhoun Road
Houston, Texas 77204
(713) 743-8820
www.uh.edu

University of Houston System
3100 Cullen Boulevard Ste 205
Houston, Texas 77204-6001
(713) 743-1000
www.uhsa.uh.edu

University of Houston-Clear Lake
2700 Bay Area Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77058-1098
(281) 283-7600
www.uhcl.edu

University of Houston-Downtown
One Main Street
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 221-8000
www.uhd.edu

University of Houston-Victoria
3007 N. Ben Wilson
Victoria, Texas 77901-5731
(361) 570-4848
www.uhv.edu

University of North Texas
1155 Union Circle #311277
Denton, Texas 76203
(940) 565-2000
www.unt.edu

University of North Texas @Dallas
7300 University Hills Boulevard
Dallas, Texas 75241
(972) 780-3602
www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/

University of North Texas System
1901 Main Street
Dallas, Texas 75201
(940) 565-2000
www.untsystem.edu/

UNT Dallas College of Law
1901 Main Street
Dallas, Texas 78501
(214) 752-3232
lawschool.untDallas.edu

West Texas A&M University
2501 4th Avenue
Canyon, Texas 79016
(806) 651-2000
www.wtamu.edu

LIST OF PRIVATE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES IN TEXAS

Abilene Christian University
ACU Box 29100
Abilene, Texas 79699
(325) 674-2412
www.acu.edu

Amberton University
1700 Eastgate Drive
Garland, Texas 75041
(972) 279-6511
www.amberton.edu

Austin College
900 N Grand Avenue
Sherman, Texas 75090
(903) 813-3001
www.austincollege.edu

Baylor University
One Bear Place, #97056
Waco, Texas 76798-7056
(254) 710-3555
www.baylor.edu

Concordia University Texas
11400 Concordia University Drive
Austin, Texas 78726
(512) 313-3000
www.concordia.edu

Dallas Baptist University
3000 Mountain Creek Parkway
Dallas, Texas 75211
(214) 333-5130
www.dbu.edu

East Texas Baptist University
One Tiger Drive
Marshall, Texas 75670
(903) 923-2222
www.etbu.edu

Hardin-Simmons University
2200 Hickory
Abilene, Texas 79698
(325) 670-1226
www.hsutx.edu

Houston Baptist University
7502 Fondren Road
Houston, Texas 77074
(281) 649-3450
www.hbu.edu

Howard Payne University
1000 Fisk Street
Brownwood, Texas 76801
(325) 649-8000
www.hputx.edu

Huston-Tillotson University
900 Chicon Street
Austin, Texas 78702-2795
(512) 505-3001
www.htu.edu

Jarvis Christian College
P.O. Box 1470
Hawkins, Texas 75765
(903) 730-4890
www.jarvis.edu

LeTourneau University
2100 South Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602
(903) 233-3100
www.letu.edu

Lubbock Christian University
5601 19th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79407
(806) 720-7127
www.lcu.edu

McMurtry University
1400 Sayles Blvd
Abilene, Texas 79697
(325) 793-3801
www.mcm.edu

Our Lady of the Lake University
411 S.W. 24th Street
San Antonio, Texas 78207
(210) 431-3950
www.ollusa.edu

Paul Quinn College
3837 Simpson Stuart Road
Dallas, Texas 75241
(214) 379-5515
www.pqc.edu

Rice University
6100 Main
Houston, Texas 77005
(713) 348-5050
www.rice.edu

Schreiner University
2100 Memorial Boulevard
Kerrville, Texas 78028
(830) 792-7346
www.schreiner.edu

Southern Methodist University
6425 Boaz Lane
Dallas, Texas 75275
(214) 768-3300
www.smu.edu

Southwestern Adventist Univ.
100 West Hillcrest
Keene, Texas 76059-0567
(817) 202-6202
www.swau.edu

SW Assemblies of God University
1200 Sycamore
Waxahachie, Texas 75166
(972) 825-4652
www.sagu.edu

Southwestern Christian College
P.O. Box 10
Terrell, Texas 75160-9002
(972) 524-3341
www.swcc.edu

Southwestern University
1001 East University Avenue
Georgetown, Texas 78627-0770
(512) 863-1454
www.southwestern.edu

St. Edward's University
3001 South Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78704
(512) 448-8411
www.stedwards.edu

St. Mary's University
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Texas 78228
(210) 436-3722
www.stmarytx.edu

Texas Christian University
2800 South University Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76129
(817) 257-7783
www.tcu.edu

Texas College
2404 North Grand Avenue
Tyler, Texas 75702
(903) 593-8311
www.texascollege.edu

Texas Lutheran University
1000 West Court Street
Seguin, Texas 78155
(830) 372-8001
www.tlu.edu

Texas Wesleyan University
1201 Wesleyan Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76105-0010
(817) 531-4422
www.txwes.edu

Trinity University
One Trinity Place
San Antonio, Texas 78212
(210) 999-8401
www.trinity.edu

University of Dallas
1845 E. Northgate Dr.
Irving, Texas 75062-4799
(972) 721-5203
www.udallas.edu

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
900 College Street
Belton, Texas 76513
(254) 295-4501
www.umhb.edu

University of St. Thomas
3800 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006
(713) 525-2160
www.stthom.edu

University of the Incarnate Word
4301 Broadway, CPO # 303
San Antonio, Texas 78209
(210) 829-3900
www.uiw.edu

Wayland Baptist University
1900 W. 7th Street
Plainview, Texas 79072
(806) 291-3400
www.wbu.edu

Wiley College
711 Wiley Avenue
Marshall, Texas 75670-5199
(903) 927-3200
www.wileyc.edu

LIST OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN TEXAS

Alamo Colleges District
2222 N. Alamo St.
San Antonio, Texas 78215
(210) 485-0000
www.alamo.edu

Alamo CC - Northeast Lakeview
1201 Kitty Hawk Rd
Universal City, Texas 78148
(210) 485-0000
www.alamo.edu/nlc

Alamo CC - Northwest Vista
3535 North Ellison Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78251
(210) 486-4900
www.alamo.edu/nvc

Alamo CC - Palo Alto College
1400 West Villaret Boulevard
San Antonio, Texas 78224
(210) 486-3880
www.alamo.edu/pac

Alamo CC - San Antonio College
1300 San Pedro Avenue
San Antonio, Texas 78212
(210) 486-0959
www.alamo.edu/sac

Alamo CC- St. Philip's College
1801 Martin Luther King Blvd.
San Antonio, Texas 78203
(210) 486-2900
www.alamo.edu/spc

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

Amarillo College
P.O. Box 447
Amarillo, Texas 79178
(806) 371-5000
www.actx.edu

Angelina College
3500 South First
Lufkin, Texas 75904
(936) 639-1301
www.angelina.edu

Austin Community College
5930 Middle Fiskville Road
Austin, Texas 78752
(512) 223-7000
www.austincc.edu

Blinn College District
902 College Avenue
Brenham, Texas 77833
(979) 830-4000
www.blinn.edu

Brazosport College
500 College Drive
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566
(979) 230-3000
www.brazosport.edu

Central Texas College
6200 West Central Texas Expwy
Killeen, Texas 76549
(254) 526-7161
www.ctcd.edu

Cisco College
101 College Heights
Cisco, Texas 76437
(254) 442-5000
www.cisco.edu

Clarendon College
1122 College Drive
Clarendon, Texas 79226
(806) 874-3571
www.clarendoncollege.edu

Coastal Bend College
3800 Charco Road
Beeville, Texas 78102
(361) 358-2838
www.coastalbend.edu

College of the Mainland
Community College District
1200 Amburn Road
Texas City, Texas 77591
(409) 938-1211
www.com.edu

Collin County Community
3452 Spur 399
McKinney, Texas 75069
(972) 758-3801
www.collin.edu

Dallas College
1601 South Lamar St.
Dallas, Texas
(214) 378-1824
www.dcccd.edu

Dallas College Brookhaven
3939 Valley View Lane
Farmers Branch, TX 75244
(972) 860-4700
www.dcccd.edu/about/bhc

Dallas College Cedar Valley
3030 North Dallas Avenue
Lancaster, Texas 75134
(972) 860-8200
www.dcccd.edu/about/cvc

Dallas College Eastfield Campus
3737 Motley Drive
Mesquite, Texas 75150
(972) 860-7001
www.dcccd.edu/about/efc

Dallas College El Centro Campus
801 Main Street
Dallas, Texas 75202
(214) 860-2000
www.dcccd.edu/about/ecc

Dallas College Mountain View
4849 West Illinois Avenue
Dallas, Texas
(972) 860-8700
www.dcccd.edu/about/mvc

Dallas College NorthLake
5001 North MacArthur Blvd
Irving, Texas
(972) 273-3010
www.dcccd.edu/about/nlc

Dallas College Richland Campus
12800 Abrams Road
Dallas, Texas
(972) 238-6106
www.dcccd.edu/about/rlc

Del Mar College
101 Baldwin Boulevard
Corpus Christi, Texas 78404
(361) 698-1200
www.delmar.edu

El Paso Community College
P.O. Box 20500
El Paso, Texas 79998
(915) 831-2000
www.epcc.edu

Frank Phillips College
P.O. Box 5118
Borger, Texas
(806) 457-4200
www.fpctx.edu

Galveston College
4015 Avenue Q
Galveston, Texas 77550
(409) 944-4242
www.gc.edu

Grayson College
6101 Highway 691
Denison, Texas 75020
(903) 465-6030
www.grayson.edu

Hill College
112 Lamar Drive
Hillsboro, Texas 76645
(254) 659-7500
www.hillcollege.edu

Houston CC - Central Campus
1300 Holman
Houston, Texas 77004
(713) 718-6040
www.hccs.edu/locations/central-college/central-campus

Houston CC - Northeast Campus
401 Northline Mall
Houston, Texas 77022
(713) 718-8010
www.hccs.edu/locations/northeast-college/northeast-campus

Houston CC - Northwest College
1550 Foxlake Drive, Suite 101
Houston, Texas 77084
(713) 718-5721
www.hccs.edu/locations/northwest-college

Houston CC - Southwest College
6815 Rustic
Houston, Texas 77087
(713) 718-7071
hccs.edu/locations/southwest-college

Houston Community College
3100 Main Street
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 718-5059
www.hccs.edu

Howard College
1001 Birdwell Lane
Big Spring, Texas 79720
(915) 264-5000
www.howardcollege.edu

Southwest College for the Deaf
3200 Avenue C
Big Spring, Texas 79720
(915) 264-3700
www.howardcollege.edu/swcid

Kilgore College
1100 Broadway
Kilgore, Texas 75662
(903) 984-8531
www.kilgore.edu

Laredo College
West End Washington Street
Laredo, Texas
(956) 722-0521
www.laredo.edu

Lee College
200 Lee Drive
Baytown, Texas
(281) 427-5611
www.lee.edu

LoneStar College Connect
5000 Research Forest Drive
The Woodlands, Texas 77381
(832) 813-6500
www.lonestar.edu/lsc-online

Lone Star College - Cy-Fair
9191 Barker Cypress Road
Houston, Texas 77433
(281) 290-3200
www.lonestar.edu/cyfair.htm

LoneStar College-Houston North
250 N. Sam Houston Parkway E.
Houston, Texas 77060
(281) 260-3500
www.lonestar.edu/houstonNorth

Lone Star College - Kingwood
20000 Kingwood Drive
Kingwood, Texas 77339
(281) 312-1600
www.lonestar.edu/kingwood.htm

Lone Star College - Montgomery
3200 College Park Drive
Conroe, Texas 77384
(936) 273-7000
www.lonestar.edu/montgomery.htm

Lone Star College - North Harris
2700 West West Thorne Drive
Houston, Texas 77073
(281) 618-5400
www.lonestar.edu/northharris.htm

Lone Star College - Tomball
30555 Tomball Parkway
Tomball, Texas 77375
(281) 351-3300
www.lonestar.edu/tomball.htm

LoneStar College-University Park
20515 SH249
Houston, Texas 77070
(281) 290-2600 www.lonestar.edu/universitypark.htm

LoneStar College System District
5000 Research Forest Drive
The Woodlands, Texas
(832) 813-6500
www.lonestar.edu

McLennan Community College
1400 College Drive
Waco, Texas 76708
(254) 299-8000
www.mclennan.edu

Midland College
3600 North Garfield
Midland, Texas 79705
(432) 685-4500
www.midland.edu

Navarro College
3200 West 7th Avenue
Corsicana, Texas 75110
(903) 874-6501
www.navarrocollege.edu

North Central Texas College
1525 West California Street
Gainesville, Texas 76240
(940) 668-7731
www.nctc.edu

Northeast Texas CC
2886 FM 1735 Chapel Hill Road
Mount Pleasant, Texas
(903) 572-1911
www.ntcc.edu

Odessa College
201 West University
Odessa, Texas 79764
(432) 335-6400
www.odessa.edu

Panola College
1109 West Panola Street
Carthage, Texas 75633
(903) 693-2000
www.panola.edu

Paris Junior College
2400 Clarksville Street
Paris, Texas 75460
(903) 785-7661
www.parisjc.edu

Ranger College
1100 College Circle
Ranger, Texas 76470
(254) 647-3234
www.rangercollege.edu

San Jacinto College Central
8060 Spencer Highway
Pasadena, Texas 77505
(281) 476-1501
www.sjcd.edu

San Jacinto College North
5800 Uvalde Road
Houston, Texas 77049
(281) 458-4050
www.sjcd.edu

San Jacinto College South
13735 Beamer Road
Houston, Texas 77089
(713) 484-1900
www.sjcd.edu

San Jacinto Community College
4624 Fairmont Parkway Ste 200
Pasadena, Texas 77504
(281) 998-6100
www.sjcd.edu

South Plains College
1401 College Avenue
Levelland, Texas 79336
(806) 894-9611
www.southplainscollege.edu

South Texas College
3201 West Pecan
McAllen, Texas 0
(956) 872-8311
www.southtexascollege.edu

Southwest Texas Junior College
2401 Garner Field Road
Uvalde, Texas 78801
(830) 278-4401
www.swtjc.edu

Tarrant CC- Connect Campus
1500 Houston Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
(817) 515-1650
www.tccd.edu/locations/tcc-connect-campus

Tarrant CC- Northeast Campus
828 Harwood Road
Hurst, Texas 76054
(817) 515-8223
www.tccd.edu/locations/Northeast-Campus

Tarrant CC- Northwest Campus
4801 Marine Creek Parkway
Fort Worth, Texas
(817) 515-8223
www.tccd.edu/locations/Northwest-Campus

Tarrant CC- South Campus
5301 Campus Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76119
(817) 515-8223
www.tccd.edu/locations/South-Campus

Tarrant CC- Southeast Campus
2100 Southeast Parkway
Arlington, Texas
(817) 515-8223
www.tccd.edu/locations/Southeast-Campus

Tarrant CC - Trinity River Campus
300 Trinity Campus Circle
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
(817) 515-8223
www.tccd.edu/locations/Trinity-River-Campus

Tarrant County College District
1500 Houston Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
(817) 515-8223
www.tccd.edu

Temple College
2600 South First Street
Temple, Texas
(254) 298-8282
www.templejc.edu

Texarkana College
2500 North Robison Road
Texarkana, Texas 75501
(903) 838-4541
www.texarkanacollege.edu

Texas Southmost College
80 Fort Brown
Brownsville, Texas 78520
(956) 295-3600
www.tsc.edu

Trinity Valley Community Col.
100 Cardinal Drive
Athens, Texas 75751
(903) 677-8822
www.tvcc.edu

Tyler Junior College
P.O. Box 9020
Tyler, Texas 75711
(903) 510-2200
www.tjc.edu

Vernon College
4400 College Drive
Vernon, Texas 76384
(940) 552-6291
www.vernoncollege.edu

Victoria College
2200 East Red River
Victoria, Texas 77901
(361) 573-3291
www.victoriacollege.edu

Weatherford College
225 College Park Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
(817) 594-5471
www.wc.edu

Western Texas College
6200 College Avenue
Snyder, Texas 79549
(325) 573-8511
www.wtc.edu

Wharton County Junior College
911 Boling Highway
Wharton, Texas 77488
(979) 532-4560
www.wcjc.edu



THE TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

Texas State Technical College
3801 Campus Drive
Waco, Texas 76705
(254) 867-4891
www.tstc.edu

Texas State Technical College-West Texas
300 Homer K. Taylor Drive
Sweetwater, Texas 79556-3697
(325) 235-7300
www.westtexas.tstc.edu

Texas State Technical College-Harlingen
1902 North Loop 499
Harlingen, Texas 78550-3697
(956) 364-4000
www.tstc.edu/campuses/harlingen

Texas State Technical College-Marshall
2400 East End Boulevard South
Marshall, Texas 75670
(903) 935-1010
www.marshall.tstc.edu

Texas State Technical College-Waco
3801 Campus Drive
Waco, Texas 76705
(254) 799-3611
www.waco.tstc.edu

Texas State Technical College-Fort Bend
26706 Southwest Freeway Rosenberg, Texas 77471

Texas State Technical College-North Texas
119 North Lowrance Red Oak, Texas 75154

PRIVATE TECHNICAL AND TRADE SCHOOLS IN THE HOUSTON AREA*

Art Institute of Houston
(800) 275-4244
www.artinstitutes.edu

Aviation Institute of Maintenance
(713) 644-7777
www.aviationmaintenance.edu

Center for Advanced Legal Studies
800 West Sam Houston Parkway S
Ste 100
www.paralegal.edu

Champions School of Real Estate
Houston
(281) 893-4484
www.championsschool.com

Commonwealth Institute of
Funeral Service
415 Barren Springs Dr.
www.commonwealth.edu

Culinary Institute LENOTRE
7070 Allensby
www.Culinaryinstitute.edu

Devry University
(866) 338-7934
www.devry.edu

Fortis Institute
450 N. Sam Houston Parkway
www.fortis.edu

Houston School of Carpentry
3522 Polk St.
www.housoc.org

Houston School of Floral Design
(713) 681-2400
www.houstonschoolofflowers.com

Institute of Cosmetology,
Esthetics & Massage
(713) 783-9988
www.icehouston.com

Mark Kislingbury Academy of
Court Reporting
15840 Farm to Market Rd 529 #209
(281) 859-0791
www.mkcourtreporting.com

MIAT College of Technology
533 Northpark Central Drive
www.miat.edu

Paul Mitchell the School (Houston)
10516 Katy Freeway
[paulmitchell.edu/houston/
programs/cosmetology](http://paulmitchell.edu/houston/programs/cosmetology)

Pima Medical Institute
11125 Equity Drive, Suite 100
pmi.edu/locations/texas/houston

Plumbers Training Center
(713) 861-3202
www.plu68.com/training-center

Professional Career Training
Institute
227 W. Airtex Blvd
www.pcti.edu

School of Automotive Machinists
& Technology (SAM Tech)
(713) 683-3817
1911 Antoine Drive
www.samtech.edu

Texas Health School
11211 Katy Freeway
www.ths.edu

Tulsa Welding School (Houston
Campus)
243A Greens Road
www.weldingschool.com

Universal Technical Institute
(800) 325-0354
www.uti.edu

***Note that these programs are NOT endorsed by CFISD,
they have been provided for information only**

GLOSSARY OF COLLEGE & CAREER TERMS

A.A.: This stands for an “associate of arts” degree, which can be earned at most two-year colleges.

A.A.S.: This refers to an “associate of applied science” degree, which can be earned at some two-year colleges.

Accreditation: is review of the quality of higher education institutions and programs. In the United States, accreditation is a major way that students, families, government officials, and the press know that an institution or program provides a quality education.

ACT (American College Test): One of the most common college entrance exams. The exam consists of four sections including math, science, English, and reading. There is an optional writing section that is usually taken for the first time in the spring of the junior year and again in the senior year of high school.

Academic Scholarships: Academic scholarships are based upon academic achievement as reflected in your college application.

Admission: Admission is the status granted to an applicant who meets the entrance requirements of the institution. Or more simply, getting accepted into a college

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.

Application: Application is what you need to do, in order to be considered by a college. Depending on how good your application is, you might gain acceptance to the institution.

Advanced Placement (AP): AP courses are college-level classes taught in the high school following guidelines and covering material that will instruct students in AP subject areas and should prepare them to take Advanced Placement tests offered by [The College Board](#).

Alumni: This is a group of people who have graduated from a college or university

ApplyTexas: is the application for all public universities in Texas and select private schools.

Apprenticeship: An apprenticeship is a system for training a new generation of practitioners of a trade or profession with on-the-job training and often some accompanying study (classroom work and reading). Apprenticeships can also enable practitioners to gain a license to practice in a regulated profession.

Articulation Agreement: Formal arrangements between two or more colleges and universities that specify how courses, a general education plan, and/or major requirements transfer from one institution of higher education to another. Articulation agreements are crucial for transfer students who need to understand how their credits will translate to other institutions.



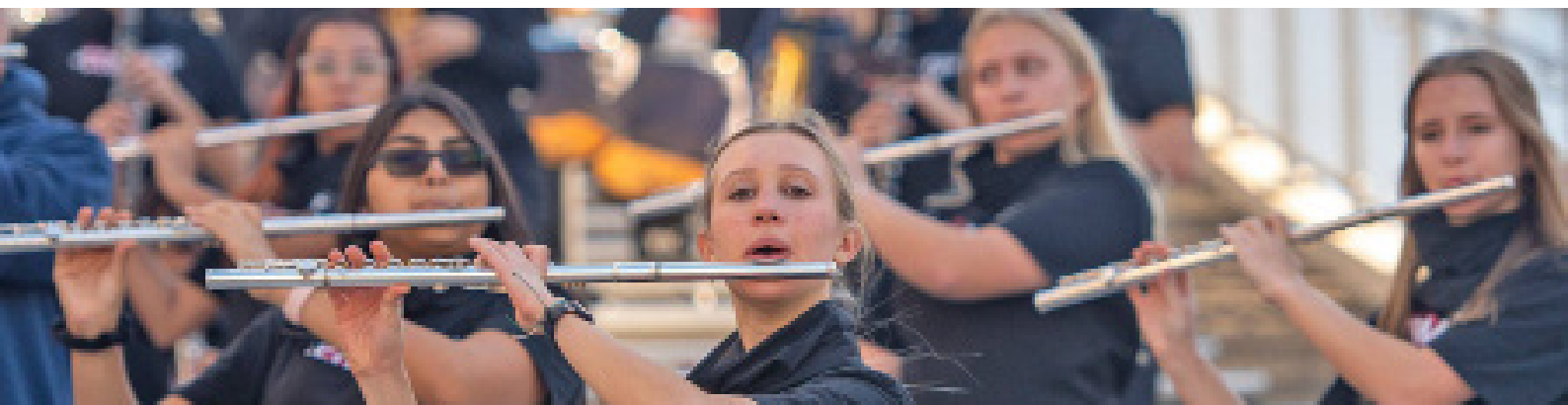
ASVAB: [The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery \(ASVAB\)](#) is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. It is administered annually to more than one million military applicants, high school, and post-secondary students.

Athletic Scholarships: These scholarships are based upon athletic ability and your prospective college's departmental needs. Division I, II, and III college athletic scholarships are very difficult to receive because of fierce competition.

Automatic Admission: [Automatic or assured admission](#) is a practice that guarantees college acceptance to students who meet certain requirements regarding grades, class rank, and test scores. [The Top 10% Rule](#) requires public universities in Texas to admit all Lone Star students who graduate in the top 10% of their high school classes.

Award Letter: An award letter from a school states the type and amount of financial aid the school is willing to provide the student, if s/he accepts admission as a full-time student.

B.A. or B.S.: B.A. stands for "bachelor of arts," and B.S. stands for "bachelor of science." Both degrees can be earned at four-year colleges



BigFuture: the College Board's free college planning tool, designed to support students through the entire college application process.

Candidate Notification Date: The date by which an institution will announce its decision on a student's application. (Usually the first two weeks in April).

Candidate Reply Date Agreement (CRDA): Any college subscribing to this agreement will not require you to notify the school of your decision to accept admittance before May 1st of the year the applicant applies. The purpose of the agreement is to give you time to hear from all of the colleges you applied to before having to make a commitment to any one of them.

CARE Academy: Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District and Lone Star College - CyFair Campus have a unique partnership benefiting high school seniors called the [CARE Academy](#) (College Awareness, Readiness, Education). This program offers students special college prep classes in English and/or Math in their senior year of high school.

Career Clusters: [The National Career Clusters Framework](#) serves as an organizing tool for Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, curriculum design and instruction. There are 16 Career Clusters in the National Career Clusters Framework, representing 79 Career Pathways to help learners navigate their way to greater success in college and career.

CBE: Credit-By-Exam, a way to earn credit for taking a course by sitting for a single exam.

Class Rank: A measure used to show how a student's academic performance compares to that of their peers within the same high school class.

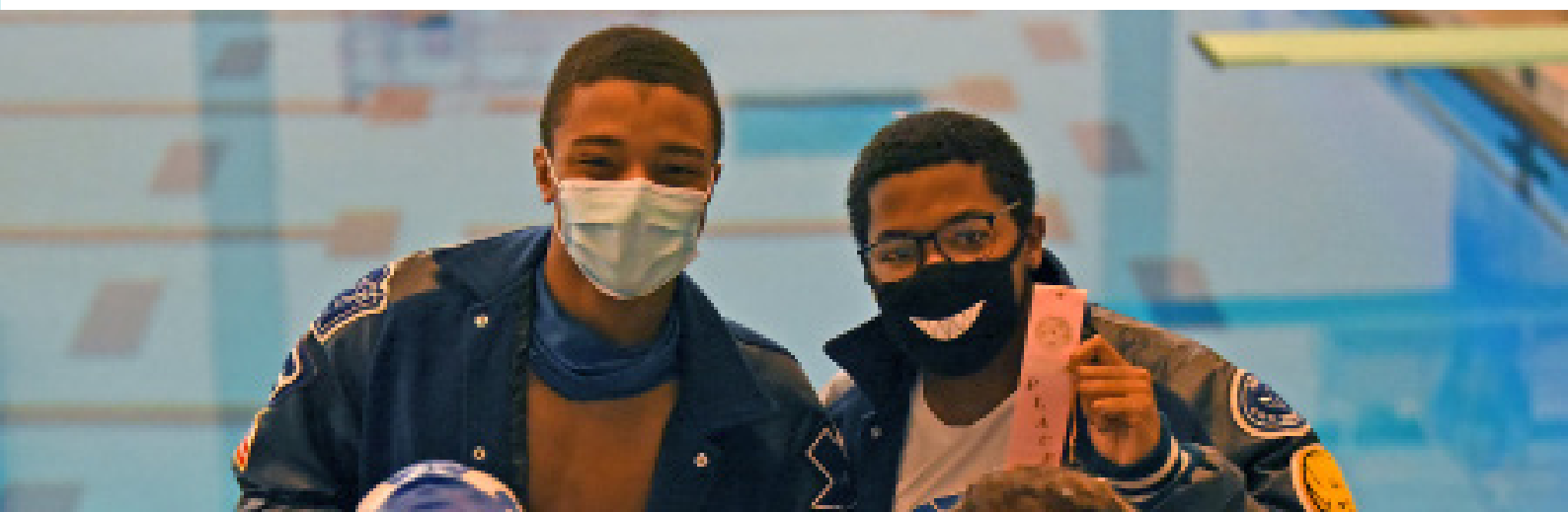
CLEP ([College Level Examination Program](#)): This is for students who want to get college credit by taking proficiency tests in selected courses. If you score high enough on the test, college credit can be awarded. There is a charge for each test taken. Information concerning an individual institution's policies toward CLEP tests can be found in the college's catalog.

[Coalition for College Access \(Coalition App\)](#): A college application accepted by more than 140 colleges and universities. The application platform also offers a set of free online college planning tools that help students learn about and prepare for college.

College: An institution of higher learning, often referred to as a "four-year" institution, which grants the bachelor's degree in liberal arts or science or both.

College Board: The [College Board](#) is an American not-for-profit organization that was formed as the College Entrance Examination Board to expand access to higher education. College Board is the nation's largest college-going organization, helping millions of students navigate the transition from high school to college each year through programs like the SAT, AP, and BigFuture.

College Readiness Standard Scores: College Readiness is a combination of academic and personal readiness for students in grades 9-12+. Students hoping to take college level courses must meet the minimum prerequisites for college courses and demonstrate reading, writing, and math college readiness using test scores from the TSI, PSAT, SAT, or ACT.



[CommonApp](#): An online application for admission that is accepted by over 600 universities in the US, Canada, UK, and more. Some colleges also require a school-specific supplement, which can ask for additional information like essays, short-answer questions, and more.

Community College: [Community colleges](#), sometimes called junior colleges, technical colleges, or city colleges, are primarily two-year public institutions providing higher education and lower-level courses, granting certificates, diplomas, and associate's degrees. Many also offer continuing and adult education.

Co-Op Program: Co-op, short for cooperative education, is a program that balances classroom theory with periods of practical, hands-on experience prior to graduation. Through the co-op program, students are able to alternate academic study with full-time employment, gaining practical experience in their field of study.

Correspondence Learning ([Distance Learning](#)): Distance education, also called distance learning, is the education of students who may not always be physically present at a school. Traditionally, this usually involved correspondence courses wherein the student corresponded with the school via mail. Today, it involves online education.

Corporate Scholarships: These scholarships are awarded to help employees and their families, show community support and to encourage future job seekers toward a career in the company's area of business. Corporate scholarships are much less competitive than other types of scholarships because of geography, employment and the relatively low number of applicants.

Cost of Attendance: What it costs to attend a specific college, including tuition & fees, room & board, books, transportation, personal expenses, and all other necessary expenses associated with going to that college.

Credit (or Semester) Hour: Credit given for attending one lecture hour of class each week for 15 weeks or equivalent. Most college classes are three credit hours, meaning their total meeting time for a week is three hours.

Cum Laude: Graduating With Honor means graduating cum laude. Translators define cum laude as With Praise. Cum laude honors, graduated with honors, graduation honors, and graduate cum laude all involve a high GPA.

Deferral: Once you have been admitted to a college, you can postpone starting your studies for a specified period of time (usually one year). Make sure you apply for a deferral before beginning your studies.

Demonstrated Interest: This includes a student's expression of his or her desire to attend a particular college through campus visits, contact with admissions officers, and other actions that attract the attention of college admissions personnel. While not all institutions use this as a factor in accepting students for admissions, studies have shown that more than half of schools do consider demonstrated interest in their admissions decisions.

Demonstrated Need: This is the difference between the cost of attending a college and your expected family contribution.

Diploma Mill: A [diploma mill](#) (also known as a degree mill) is a company or organization that claims to be a higher education institution but provides illegitimate academic degrees and diplomas for a fee.

Distinguished Level of Achievement: In Texas a student earns a distinguished level of achievement when they have completed the Foundation High School Program with an Endorsement and including Algebra II in their selected coursework.

Dual Credit: Courses a student takes in high school in which an agreement has been reached allowing the student to earn both high school credit and college credit upon successful completion of the class. In [CFISD dual credit courses](#) are taken through Lone Star College-CyFair Campus.



Early Action: Early action is a non-binding process that allows you to apply, and potentially gain admission, to one or more schools earlier than regular applicants. As an early action applicant, you usually have until November 1 or 15 to submit admissions materials. Early action schools send out decisions in January or February and allow prospective students until May 1 (the national response date) to formally reply to their offers.

Early Decision: Unlike early action, early decision is a binding agreement, and you can apply to only one school using this process. Early decision normally benefits top-performing students who know their first-choice college, and since it's a binding agreement, the institution requires signatures from you, your family, and a school counselor.

Early Graduation: When a high school student completes their graduation requirements before the end of their 4th year of high school.

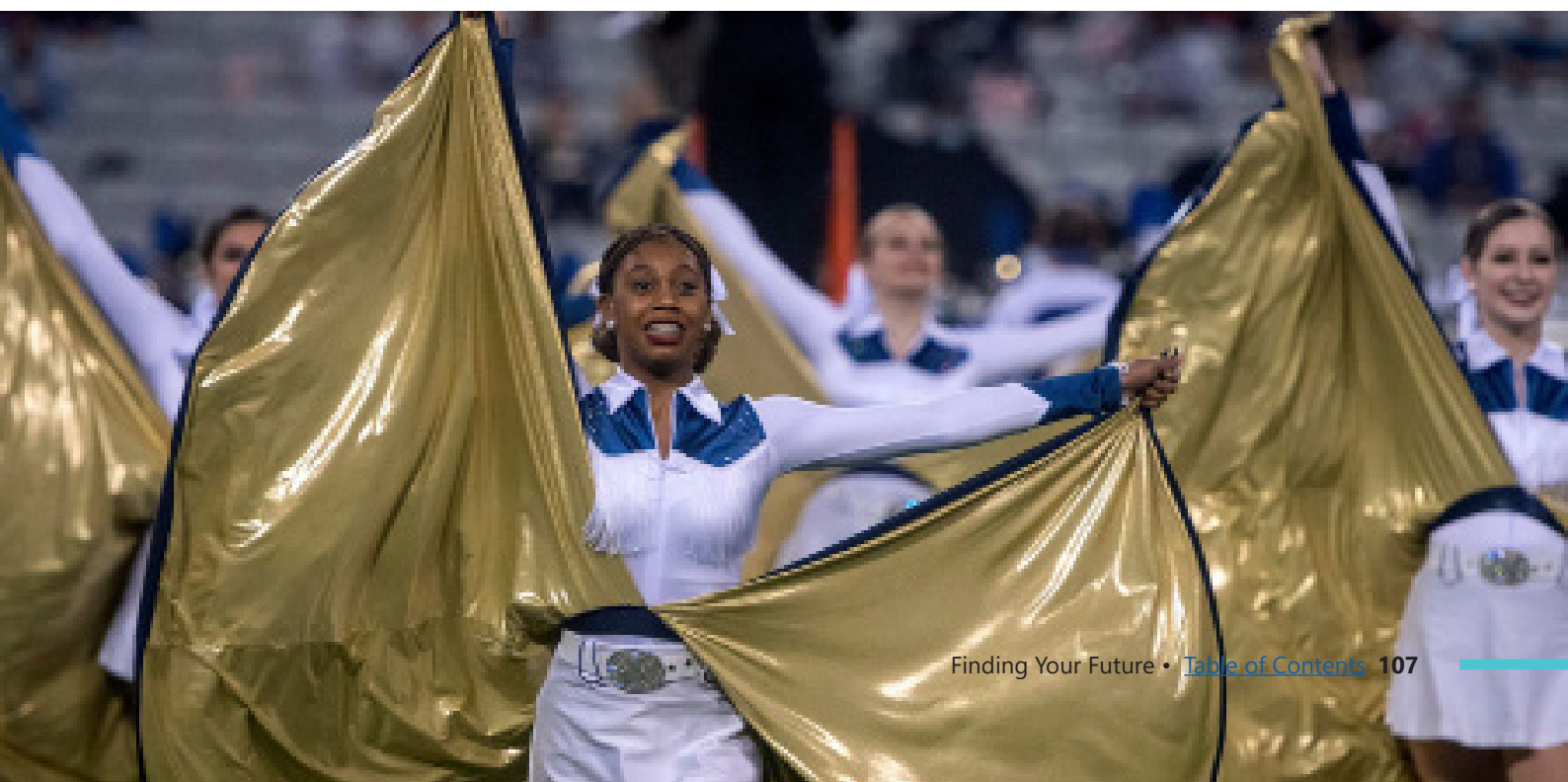
Employment: Employment most generally means the state of having a paid job—of being employed.

Endorsement: Students may earn one or more endorsements as part of their high school diploma. An endorsement consists of a sequence of courses that are grouped together by interest or occupational skill. They provide students with in-depth knowledge of a subject area or a high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand occupation. Every career and technical education (CTE) Program of Study leads to an endorsement. Students earn an endorsement by completing four credits each in both math and science, two additional elective credits, and the curriculum requirements for the endorsement.

Extracurriculars: Extracurricular activities are simply anything you do that is not a high school course or paid employment (but note that paid work experience is of interest to colleges and can substitute for some extracurricular activities). You should define your extracurricular activities in broad terms—many applicants make the mistake of thinking of them solely as school-sponsored groups such as yearbook, band or football. Not so. Most community and family activities are also “extracurricular.”

FAFSA: This is the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#), a federal form required as the application from all students who wish to apply for need-based financial aid, including grants, loans and work-study awards.

Federal Pell Grant: This grant is a form of financial aid provided by the Federal government to students whose FAFSA indicates a high level of financial need.



Federal Perkins Loans: These loans are similar to Stafford loans in that no interest accrues while you are in college. The interest rate is lower, and the repayment grace period is longer than that of a Stafford subsidized loan. The need-based standards are more stringent for the Perkins loan and funds are awarded based on the FAFSA Student Aid Report.

Fee Waiver: If you qualify for free or reduced lunch programs, you are eligible for your College Exam fees and college application fees to be waived.

Financial Aid Package: The total amount of financial aid a student receives. Federal and non-federal aid—such as grants, loans, or work-study—are combined in a “package” to help meet the student’s need. Using available resources to give each student the best possible package of aid is one of the major responsibilities of a school’s financial aid administrator

For-Profit Proprietary Institution: This is a term used to describe postsecondary schools that are private and are legally permitted to make a profit. Most proprietary schools offer technical and vocational courses.

Foundation High School Program: [The Foundation High School Program](#) identifies the requirements that all Texas public school students need to satisfy to earn a high school diploma. It is a flexible graduation program that allows all students to pursue their interests and prepare for high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand occupations. Students may customize their high school experience beyond the Foundation High School Program by completing requirements for additional components such as endorsements, the distinguished level of achievement, and performance acknowledgments.

FSA ID: An FSA ID is a username and password that gives you access to Federal Student Aid’s online systems and can serve as your legal signature.

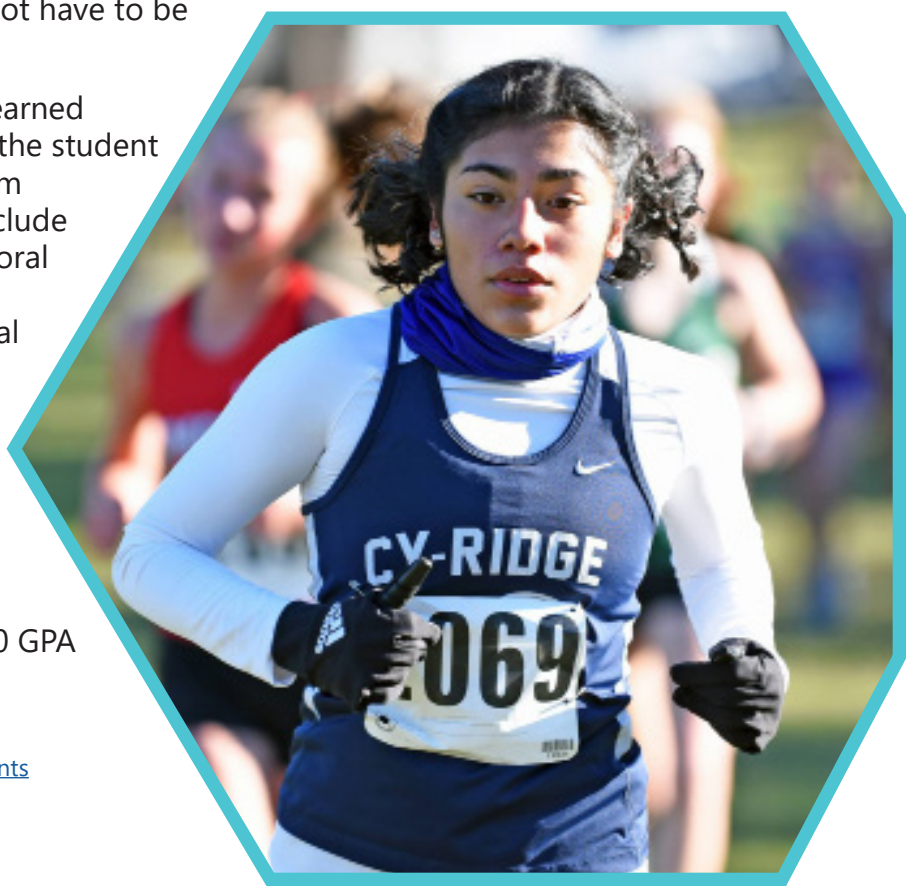
GPA (Grade Point Average): Quantitative measure of a student’s grades. The GPA is figured by averaging the numerical value of a student’s grades. It is cumulative, starting freshman year: grades count every year. A poor GPA in ninth grade can drag down the overall average, despite, for example, good grades junior year.

Grant: Grants, like loans and most scholarships, are based on financial need. A grant may be provided by federal or state governments, an institution, a foundation, or some other nonprofit funding source and does not have to be repaid.

Graduate Degrees: These degrees are earned beyond the bachelor’s degree when the student completes graduate school curriculum requirements. Common examples include the MA (master’s degree), PhD (doctoral degree) MBA (master’s degree in business administration), MD (medical doctor).

Greek Life: Sororities and fraternities are known as the Greek system, and often greatly influence the campus social life of a college or university.

Honor Graduate: In CFISD, an honor graduate is a student who earns a 6.0 GPA or higher.





Housing: Refers to where a student lives during their time at the university/college. Also known as room & board.

In-State (Resident) Student: A student whose permanent residence is in the same state as the college or university he or she attends or hopes to attend. In-state students pay lower tuition than do out-of-state students.

Institutional Grant: This is a need-based grant provided by an institution and offered to students whose families are unable to pay the full cost of college. Institutional grants do not have to be repaid.

Institutional Loan: Any student loan administered by the college or university using the institution's funds as the source of funding. Perkins Loans may also be considered institutional loans.

Internship: An experience-based opportunity that is related to your major, many students schedule their internships during breaks in the academic calendar. Internships are usually required but you'll receive credit towards your degree for your supervised work experience.

Intramural Sports: Intramural sports are recreational sports organized within a particular institution.

Loan: A loan is a type of financial aid that is available to students and to the parents of students. An education loan must be repaid. In many cases, however, payments do not begin until the student finishes school.

LOR: [Letter of Recommendation](#). These letters are usually written by your teachers to provide credibility to your college applications. Generally, you may be required to present two or more of these from your academic teachers of junior year. While including letters from community members and coaches are acceptable, you must not include such recommendations from your family members.

Magna Cum Laude: The magna cum laude definition is With Great Honor. Scholars define magna cum laude meaning With Great Praise. Usually it means you had the second best grades.

Major: A student's concentrated field of study.

Merit-Based Grant: A form of gift aid (does not require repayment) based upon your grade point average, academic excellence and extracurricular involvement with some attention to your financial need.



Minor: A student's secondary field of study.

Make-up Credit: Taking a course or a credit-by-exam for a subject that the student has already taken and failed to earn credit for.

Military Enlistment:

Enlistment is the act of joining the ARMY, NAVY, MARINES, or AIR FORCE.

Mini-mester: are 'miniature semesters' (3 or 4 weeks long) that take place after the fall and spring semesters, in December and May.

NACAC: The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), founded in 1937, is an organization of more than 23,000 professionals from around the world dedicated to serving students as they make choices about pursuing postsecondary education.

National Merit Scholarship: is a United States academic scholarship competition for recognition and university scholarships administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), a privately funded, not-for-profit organization.

Need-Based Grant: This grant is offered, as a part of the financial aid package, when a student and his or her family are unable to pay the full cost of attending an institution. The grant does not need to be repaid.

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

Original Credit: Taking a course or credit-by-exam that the student has not yet taken before.

Out-Of-State (non-Resident) Student: Student whose permanent residence is in a different state than that of the college or university which he or she attends or hopes to attend. Out-of-state students generally pay higher tuition than do instate students.

PLUS Loan: The Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) allows parents, regardless of income, to borrow up to the total cost of education minus the amount of any other financial aid awarded by the institution or the government.

Post-Secondary: After high school.

Prerequisite: A course that must be taken prior to enrollment in another course.

Priority Date or Deadline: The date by which your application — whether it's for college admission, student housing or financial aid — must be received to be given the strongest consideration.

Private Institution: This is a college or university funded by private sources without any control by a government agency. The cost of attending a private institution is generally higher than the cost at a public institution.

Prospective Student: Any student who is a potential applicant for admission, particularly those who have shown interest in attending the institution or in which the institution has shown interest.

Provisional Admission: An admissions decision which allows an applicant to be “provisionally” accepted, dependent upon completion of requirements set by the college/university. These requirements may include summer session attendance with specified courses and GPA attainment or limitations on the number of courses taken in the fall.

PSAT/NMSQT: The [PSAT/NMSQT](#) is a preliminary version of the SAT. It is meant to prepare students for taking the SAT (or ACT) by simulating a shorter version of the exam, exposing students to relevant testing material, and showing students where they need to improve in order to reach their goal score on the SAT. The PSAT/NMSQT is also the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT). This means that students who obtain a certain score on the PSAT can qualify for National Merit Scholarships, which can go a long way toward financing your college education.

Public Institution: A college or university that receives public funding, primarily from a local, state, or national government that oversees and regulates the school’s operations is considered a public institution.

Recommendations: Statements or letters of endorsement written on a student’s behalf during the college application process.

Rolling Admissions: Application process through which admissions applications are evaluated upon receipt and applicants are usually notified within 4-5 weeks of the decision if accepted.

SAR: a [Student Aid Report \(SAR\)](#) summarizes the information you provided on your FAFSA form.

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test): One of the most common college entrance exams required for admission to many colleges. It is made up of 3 sections: Critical reading, math and writing.



Scholarship: A [scholarship](#) is a sum of money given to a student for the purposes of paying at least part of the cost of college. Scholarships can be awarded to students based on students' academic achievements or on many other factors. Scholarships do not need to be repaid.

School Profile: This is an overview of your high school's program, grading system, course offerings, and other features that your school submits to admissions offices along with your transcript. For better or worse, admissions offices use this information to weigh your GPA, placing a student's GPA against the academic reputation of the school she or he attends.

Selective Service: All male U.S. citizens and immigrant non-citizens who are between the ages of 18 and 25 are required by law to have registered for selective service for military conscription within 30 days of their 18th birthdays.

Self-Report/SRAR: A process through which students self-report their academic record by providing their course history, grades, and credits earned. This process is usually completed through an online portal, like the SRAR, short for the Self-Reported Academic Record.

Senioritis: a supposed affliction of students in their final year of high school or college, characterized by a decline in motivation or performance.

STAAR: The [State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness](#), commonly referred to as its acronym STAAR, are a series of standardized tests used in Texas public primary and secondary schools to assess a student's achievements and knowledge learned in the grade level.

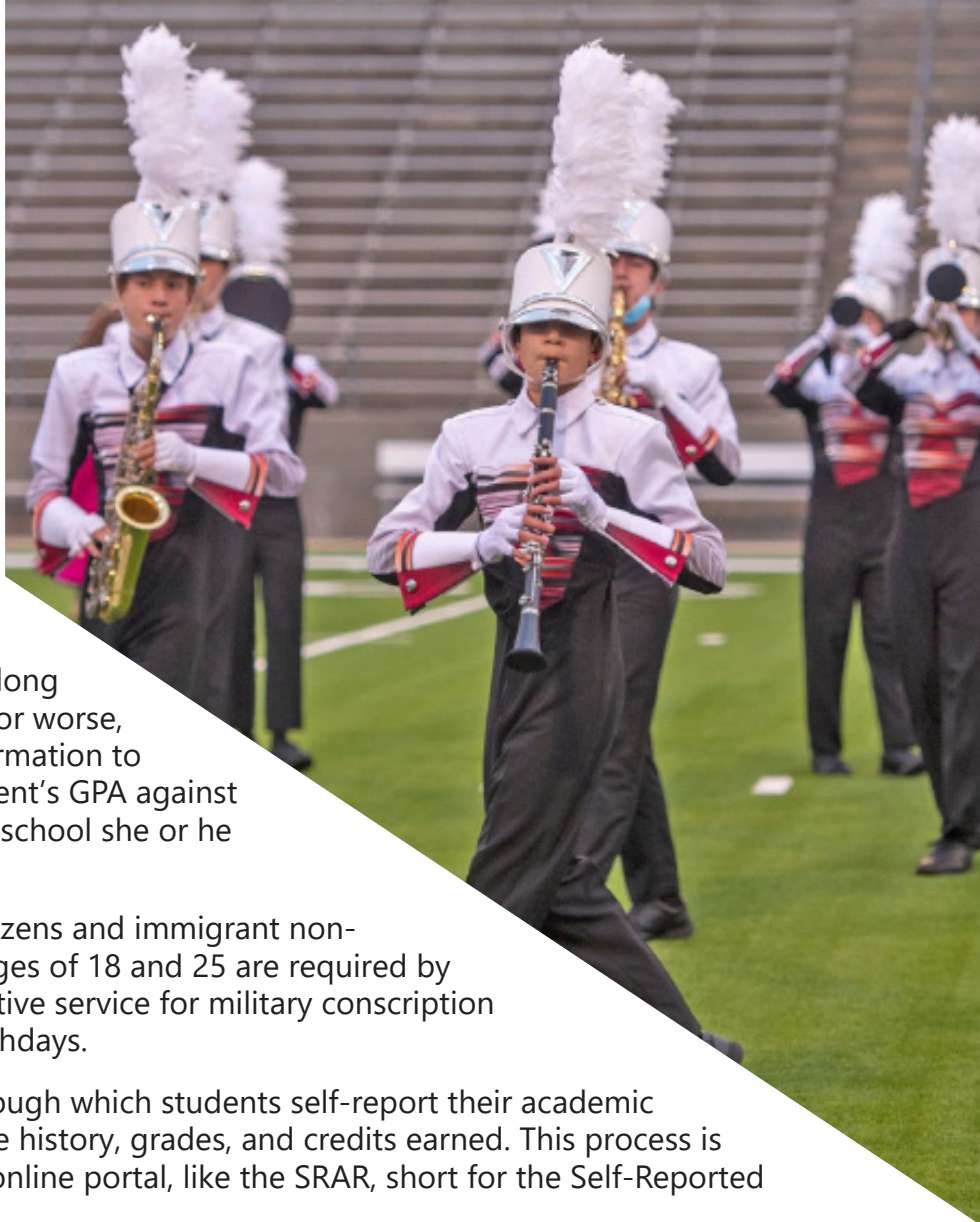
STAAR EOC: The [State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness End-Of-Course Exams](#) (STAAR EOC assessments) measure students' academic performance in core high school courses (Algebra I, English I, English II, biology, U.S. history) and are required for graduation.

Stafford Loan: This is a federal student loan for college students used to supplement personal and family resources, scholarships, grants, and work-study. A Stafford Loan may be subsidized or unsubsidized, depending on whether it is need-based.

Subsidized Loans: These loans are need-based loans with interest paid by the government and payments deferred as long as the student is enrolled in a post-secondary program of studies.

Summa Cum Laude: Most define summa cum laude as With Highest Praise, and the summa cum laude definition is With Highest Honor. It usually means highest grades.

TASFA: The Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) is used to collect information to help determine eligibility for state financial aid programs that are administered by institutions of higher education in the state of Texas.



Top 10%: The “Top 10 Percent Law” is the common name for Texas House Bill 588, the state law passed in 1997 that guarantees Texas students who graduated in the top ten percent of their high school class automatic admission to all state-funded universities.

Trade or Technical School: A trade school (also known as a technical school) is a postsecondary educational institution designed to train students for a specific job in a skilled trade career.

Transcript: A student’s academic history, usually curated by a high school counseling department, submitted as part of the college application.

TSIA: The [TSI Assessment \(TSIA\)](#) is part of the Texas Success Initiative program designed to help your college or university determine if you are ready for college-level course work in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics.

TSI Exemption: Qualifying for a [TSI Assessment exemption](#) means that you can enroll in any entry- level college course without restrictions.

Tuition: How much your college courses cost. Tuition is the amount paid for each credit hour of enrollment. Tuition does not include the cost of books, fees, or room and board. Tuition charges vary from college to college and are dependent on such factors as resident or out-of-state status, level of classes enrolled in (lower, upper or graduate division), and whether the institution is publicly or privately financed.

TxVSN: The Texas Education Agency (TEA) provides online courses to eligible students through the [Texas Virtual School Network \(TXVSN\)](#). The TXVSN is made up of two components—the course catalog and the full-time online schools.

Undergraduate Student: A student enrolled in a 4- or 5-year bachelor’s degree program, an associates degree program, or a vocational or technical program below the baccalaureate.

University: A post-secondary institution that consists of a liberal arts college, a diverse graduate program, and usually two or more professional schools or faculties, and that is empowered to confer degrees in various fields of study.



Vocational Training: Vocational Training is education that prepares people to work as a technician or to take up employment in a skilled craft or trade as a tradesperson or artisan. Vocational education is sometimes referred to as career and technical education (CTE).

Vocational or Technical School: This type of institution is similar to a community college in that it offers specific career-oriented programs that last from a few months to a couple of years. Most are specialized and offer intense training in one specific skill area

Wait list: An institution's list of students who were not accepted initially, but who may be accepted at a later date if space becomes available. An applicant is put on the waitlist when an admissions officer or committee decides to offer the applicant the opportunity to enroll in the institution only if there is space available in the incoming class after fully admitted students have responded to their offers to enroll. This category of admissions is reserved for students whose profiles are strong, but who are marginally qualified in comparison to the overall strength of others in the pool of applicants.

Weighted GPA: A grade point average that's calculated using a system that assigns a higher point value to grades in more difficult classes.

William Ford Direct Loan Program: The [William Ford Direct Loan Program](#) is administered by the U.S. Department of Education to provide loans that help students pay for their postsecondary education.

Withdrawal: You may withdraw from courses during a semester, which means you will no longer be registered in that course and will be exempt from coursework and credits without penalties or a failing mark. There are deadlines for withdrawal and you must follow the established procedures, which are specified in the college catalog and class schedule. Written approval from a university official must be secured, and some fees must be paid.

Work-Study Program: Most colleges offer work-study programs. They allow students to work part time during the school year as part of their financial aid package. The jobs are usually on campus and the money earned is used to pay for tuition or other college charges.

Xello: [Xello](#) is an engaging, online program that helps K-12 students define their future goals and transform their aspirations into actionable plans for success. The program puts students at the center of their college and career planning experience. Each CFISD student has a Xello account.



ONLINE SOURCES

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- About | GenTX, <http://gentx.org/about/>.
- About Accreditation | Council for Higher Education ..., <https://www.chea.org/about-accreditation>.
- ACT College and Career Planning - Students and Parents | ACT, <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents.html>.
- Applying 101 | How to Finalize Your College List, <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/how-to-finalize-your-college-list-admissions-college-application#!>.
- ASVAB Career Exploration Program | ASVAB, <https://www.officialasvab.com/counselors-educators/asvab-career-exploration-program/>.
- CARE Academy - Lone Star College System, <https://www.lonestar.edu/care-cyfair-outreach.htm>.
- Career Clusters | Advance CTE, <https://careertech.org/career-clusters>.
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- College Preparation Checklist - Student Aid, <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/college-prep-checklist.pdf>
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- College terms for students | Student Financial Aid In The ..., <https://www.scribd.com/doc/142785386/college-terms-for-students>.
- Early Action vs. Early Decision | BestColleges, <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/early-action-vs-early-decision/>.
- FAFSA Filing Time - Student Aid, <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/fafsa-filing-time.pdf>.

Federal Student Aid, <https://studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/students/choosing-schools>.

Federal Student Aid, <https://studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/checklists/11th-grade?sf88251360=1>.

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How to Choose the Right College | BestColleges, <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/how-to-choose-the-right-college/>.

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*The future belongs to
those who believe in the
beauty of their dreams.
-Eleanor Roosevelt*





Houston, Texas 77065
Phone: (281) 897-4000

info@cfisd.net
www.cfisd.net

THANK YOU
CFISD Guidance and Counseling