



Senior
Conference
Class of 2016

Options After High School:

COLLEGE

Going to college is meant for you to become more knowledgeable and skilled in a certain professional field that will prepare you to be successful in a career pathway. This booklet will guide you, as you plan financially for college, select your colleges of choice, and apply for admissions. Many online resources are provided in the "Helpful Websites" section, under "College/Career Planning."

MILITARY CAREER

Recruiters from different branches of the military will help you as you investigate a military career. Local military recruiters visit your campus frequently. In speaking with a local recruiter, learn as much as possible about the different branches, such as the acceptance requirements, job opportunities, benefits, and obligation of service. Check with the ROTC instructor and/or your counselor at your campus about specialized military opportunities, including the Jr. ROTC Program and ROTC scholarships.

It is also recommended that you take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery), if you are considering serving in any branch of the military. It is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. This test is not (and never has been) a requirement that a test taker with a qualifying score must enlist in the armed forces. Talk to your local recruiter and/or your counselor about when/where to register.

SERVICE ACADEMIES

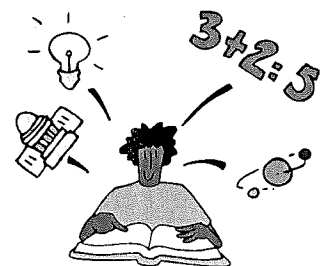
The application process usually begins in the spring of your junior year. If you have not started this process, talk to your counselor immediately. Contact a local recruiter or the individual academy to request a pre-candidate questionnaire. A nomination is mandatory for any young person, before he/she can be appointed to any of the following Department of Defense academies: U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY; U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD; U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO; and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY via the U.S. Department of Transportation. There are very specific requirements that must be met. See your counselor to obtain information.

CAREER/TRADE/TECHNICAL TRAINING

Career/trade/technical training is available through junior or community colleges, such as San Antonio College, St. Philip's, Palo Alto, Northeast Lakeview, and Northwest Vista and specialized vocational/technical/business schools, such as Texas State Technical College. There are many programs at local community colleges that can lead to degrees and/or certifications. If you have an idea as to what you would like to do, call an employer and ask where they would recommend that you get training. Utilize the Career Center at your campus for resources, and talk to your counselor, in order to help you make a plan to reach your goals. At the back of this booklet, you will find references of degree and certification programs that are offered through the Alamo Colleges network. You can find more information online about these specific colleges at www.alamo.edu.

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Testing Information



STAAR EOC

(State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness End of Course Exams)

Before a Texas high school diploma can be awarded, a student must meet the Level II passing standard on each of the following STAAR EOC's: English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, U.S. History. For more information on state assessment requirements in Texas, as related to high school graduation and diplomacy, please visit: www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar.

ACT

www.act.org

The **ACT** attempts to measure skills that are closely-related to the content of courses in the high school curriculum in the four subject areas of English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. It reports those four scores, which are averaged together to form a composite score. Each of the four scores, as well as the composite score, can range from 1 to 36. The ACT has been revised as of the spring of 2015: <http://www.act.org/actnext/>.

SAT

www.collegeboard.org

The **current SAT** attempts to measure your developed reasoning and college-readiness in the areas of Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. Each section of the test will be scored using a scale from 200-800. A perfect score will be a 2400 on the three sections. The **redesigned SAT** to be launched in March of 2016 will be based on the skills and knowledge that are essential for students' college and career readiness and success. A perfect score on the redesigned SAT will be a 1600 because the Essay is optional. <https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/redesign>.

SAT SUBJECT TESTS

www.collegeboard.org

The **SAT Subject Tests** are required by some colleges as a second-step in testing and is generally not used for admissions, but rather for placement in the proper levels of freshman course work. Check with your college to determine if you need to take SAT Subject Tests. The SAT Subject Tests measure specific knowledge of specific courses you are supposed to have taken in high school.

REGISTERING FOR ACT & SAT

The quickest and easiest way is to **register online** for your test(s) of choice at the respective website(s) listed on each testing site. You will receive immediate registration confirmation. You must submit a photo with your registration for the SAT and the ACT. (Many local high schools are testing sites.)

Your scores will be reported to you approximately three weeks after you have taken the test.

TSI ASSESSMENT

The **TSI** (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment is designed to help your university or college determine if you are ready for college-level course work in the general areas of reading, writing and mathematics. The THEA, the ACCUPLACER®, ASSET®, or Compass® assessments have been discontinued.

The TSI is a more rigorous assessment that was implemented on August 1, 2013. The TSI assessment is computer-based (most similar to the ACCUPLACER® format) with immediate results. There is an added Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA) before the test. All students enrolling in a Texas public university or college must take the TSI unless they qualify for a TSI exemption. Students may be exempt based on their scores on the SAT, ACT, or STAAR test (English III EOC only). If you think you may be exempt, please contact an advisor at your institution. For more information, visit: <http://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/accuplacer-tsi-assessment-student-brochure.pdf>

ASVAB

The **ASVAB** (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. This test is recommended for any student, but especially for students who are considering any branch of the military as a possible career. Although the test is administered by the military, it is not (and never has been) a requirement that a test taker with a qualifying score enlist in the armed forces. For more information, visit: www.military.com/join-armed-forces/asvab.

AP EXAMS

Advanced Placement exams are offered in many content areas for college credit. The exam results have no direct impact on college admission. They demonstrate a student's ability to function at a rigorous college-level. Students receiving scores of 3, 4, or 5 could potentially receive college credit for these courses. Check your college's policy on AP exam scores, and view <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>. For more information, visit: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse>.

CEEB CODE

443527

Ingram Tom Moore High School

700 Texas Hwy 39

Ingram, TX 78025

ACT
www.act.org

Test Date	Registration Deadline	<i>(Late Registration Deadline – Late Fee Required)</i>
9/12/15	8/7/15	8/21/15
10/24/15	9/18/15	10/2/15
12/12/15	11/6/15	11/20/15
2/6/16	1/8/16	1/15/16
4/9/16	3/4/16	3/18/16
6/11/16	5/6/16	5/20/16

SAT
www.collegeboard.org

2015-2016 SAT Test Dates	Test	Registration Deadline (postmark/submit by)	Late Registration Phone/Online Deadline (Late Fee)
10/3/15	SAT & Subject Tests	9/3/15	9/22/15
11/7/15	SAT & Subject Tests	10/9/15	10/27/15
12/5/15	SAT & Subject Tests	11/5/15	11/23/15
1/23/16	SAT & Subject Tests	12/28/15	1/12/16
3/5/16	SAT only	2/5/16	2/23/16
5/7/16	SAT & Subject Tests	4/8/16	4/26/16
6/4/16	SAT & Subject Tests	5/5/16	5/25/16

Side-by-Side Comparison: Graduation Program Options to be Implemented Beginning in 2014-2015

Discipline	Foundation HSP	*MHSP	*RHSP	*DAP
English Language Arts	<p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I English II English III An advanced English course 	<p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I English II English III English IV or approved alternate course 	<p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I English II English III English IV 	<p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I English II English III English IV
Mathematics	<p>Three credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry An advanced math course 	<p>Three credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry SBOE approved math course 	<p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Algebra II Geometry An additional math credit 	<p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Algebra II Geometry An additional math credit
Science	<p>Three credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology IPC or an advanced science course An advanced science course 	<p>Two credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology IPC or Chemistry and Physics (one of the two serves as an academic elective) 	<p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Chemistry Physics An additional science credit 	<p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Chemistry Physics An additional science credit
Social Studies	<p>Three credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. History U.S. Government (one-half credit) Economics (one-half credit) World History or World Geography 	<p>Three credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. History (one credit) U.S. Government (one-half credit) Economics (one-half credit) World History (one credit) or World Geography (one credit) 	<p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. History (one credit) U.S. Government (one-half credit) Economics (one-half credit) World History (one credit) World Geography (one credit) 	<p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. History (one credit) U.S. Government (one-half credit) Economics (one-half credit) World History (one credit) World Geography (one credit)
Physical Education Languages Other Than English	<p>One credit</p> <p>Two credits in the same language</p> <p>Two credits from Computer Science I, II, and III (other substitutions)</p>	<p>One credit</p> <p>None</p>	<p>One credit</p> <p>Two credits in the same language</p>	<p>One credit</p> <p>Three credits in the same language</p>
Fine Arts Speech	<p>One credit</p> <p>Demonstrated proficiency in speech skills</p>	<p>One credit</p> <p>One-half credit from either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Applications Professional Communications (CTE) <p>Seven and one half credits (one must be an academic elective)</p>	<p>One credit</p> <p>One-half credit from either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Applications Professional Communications (CTE) <p>Five and one-half credits</p>	<p>One credit</p> <p>One-half credit from either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Applications Professional Communications (CTE) <p>Four and one-half credits</p>
Electives	<p>Five credits</p>	<p>Seven and one half credits (one must be an academic elective)</p>	<p>Five and one-half credits</p>	<p>Four and one-half credits</p>
Total Credits	22	22	26	26

* Only available for students who entered grade 9 before the 2014-2015 school year

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

CALCULATION PRIOR TO THE 2014–15 SCHOOL YEAR	For students who entered grade 7 in the 2010–11 school year, the District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in all high school courses taken in middle school. Weights shall be assigned to specific courses as applicable.						
2014–15 SCHOOL YEAR AND THEREAFTER	For students who entered grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year, the District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in all high school credit courses taken in grades 9–12, unless excluded below.						
EXCLUSIONS	<p>The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in or by summer school, college credit courses not considered dual credit, correspondence courses, credit by examination, courses for which pass/fail is assigned, and local credit courses.</p> <p>Class ranking shall be computed on the basis of courses completed during the normal school year and during regular class hours.</p> <p>If a student repeats a course, both grades shall be included in determining class rank.</p>						
WEIGHTED GRADE SYSTEM	<p>The following provisions shall apply to students who entered grade 9 prior to the 2014–15 school year.</p> <p>The District shall assign weights to grades earned in eligible courses and calculate a weighted numerical grade average, in accordance with the following:</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"><tr><td>Regular</td><td style="text-align: right;">1.0</td></tr><tr><td>Dual Credit, Advanced, and Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) classes</td><td style="text-align: right;">1.05</td></tr></table> <p>These weights shall be assigned by the counseling office at the conclusion of each semester.</p> <p>The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.</p>	Regular	1.0	Dual Credit, Advanced, and Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) classes	1.05		
Regular	1.0						
Dual Credit, Advanced, and Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) classes	1.05						
2014–15 SCHOOL YEAR AND THEREAFTER	<p>The following provisions shall apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year and thereafter.</p> <p>The District shall assign weights to grades earned in eligible courses and calculate a weighted numerical grade average, in accordance with the following:</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"><tr><td>Regular courses</td><td style="text-align: right;">1.0</td></tr><tr><td>Pre-AP courses</td><td style="text-align: right;">1.05</td></tr><tr><td>AP and dual credit courses</td><td style="text-align: right;">1.10</td></tr></table>	Regular courses	1.0	Pre-AP courses	1.05	AP and dual credit courses	1.10
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Pre-AP courses	1.05						
AP and dual credit courses	1.10						

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

These weights shall be assigned by the counseling office at the conclusion of each semester.

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

TRANSFERRED
GRADES

PRIOR TO THE
2014–15 SCHOOL
YEAR

For students transferring into the District prior to the 2014–15 school year, the District shall assign weights to grades for properly documented and eligible courses as follows:

1. Regular classes shall be averaged exactly as the grade appears on the student's transcript from the sending school.
2. Pre-AP and AP courses shall receive a weight of 1.05 applied to the final semester grade transferred from the sending school.
3. Honors or advanced courses other than dual credit, Pre-AP, and AP courses transferred from another school shall not be eligible for any additional weight.

2014–15 SCHOOL
YEAR AND
THEREAFTER

For students transferring into the District in the 2014–15 school year and thereafter, the District shall assign weight to grades for properly documented and eligible courses based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District, if the same course is offered to the same class of students in the District.

LOCAL GRADUATION
HONORS

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the fifth six-week grading period of the senior year. The average of the fourth and fifth six-week grades shall be used as the semester grade for this purpose.

For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate class ranking as required by state law. The District's eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognitions and shall not restrict class ranking for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

VALEDICTORIAN /
SALUTATORIAN

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest ranking, respectively. To be eligible for such recognition, a student must:

1. Have attended the District high school for at least two years; and
2. Have successfully completed at least six courses from either state-recognized advanced courses and/or Pre-AP courses, and/or academic college courses.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

In order to be eligible for recognition as the valedictorian or salutatorian, a student must be in current "good standing" with the District. For purposes of this policy, "good standing" shall mean that the student has not engaged in any serious misconduct violation of the Student Code of Conduct resulting in removal to a DAEP or expulsion during his or her last two semesters.

TIE-BREAKER

In the event of a tie for valedictorian, the student who has the highest grade average in state-recognized advanced courses and Pre-AP courses shall be declared valedictorian. A tie for salutatorian shall be resolved in the same way.

HONOR
GRADUATES

Honor graduates are those students whose cumulative academic grade averages are 90.0 and above. These honor graduates shall be determined at the end of the fifth six-week grading period of the senior year.

EARLY GRADUATION

Students graduating at any time other than the end of the school year shall be given a diploma at the time all graduation requirements are met. Rank in class shall be computed with that year's graduating class. Students graduating ahead of their respective classes shall not be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian, nor for scholarships based on class ranking, but shall be eligible to be included in the list of honor graduates.

STATE OF TEXAS

Explanation of Eligibility for Automatic College Admission

Under the Automatic Admission policy (Texas Education Code §51.803), Texas students may be eligible for automatic admission to a state college or university as an undergraduate student if they meet certain criteria. To qualify for automatic admission, a student **must**:

- (1) earn a grade point average in the **top 10 percent*** of his/her high school graduating class,
- (2) graduate from a Texas public or private high school (or, if the student is a Texas resident, from a high school operated by the U.S. Department of Defense),
- (3) successfully complete the requirements for the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) or the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP) (or the equivalent if enrolled in private school) **or** satisfy ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT college entrance exam or earn a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 on the SAT college entrance exam, **and**
- (4) apply for admission to a state college or university within the first two school years after graduation from high school.

Students who meet the criteria for automatic admission must submit an application before the deadline set by the college or university to which they are applying. Students must also provide a high school transcript or diploma that indicates whether they have satisfied or are on schedule to satisfy the requirements of the RHSP or DAP.

Curriculum Requirements

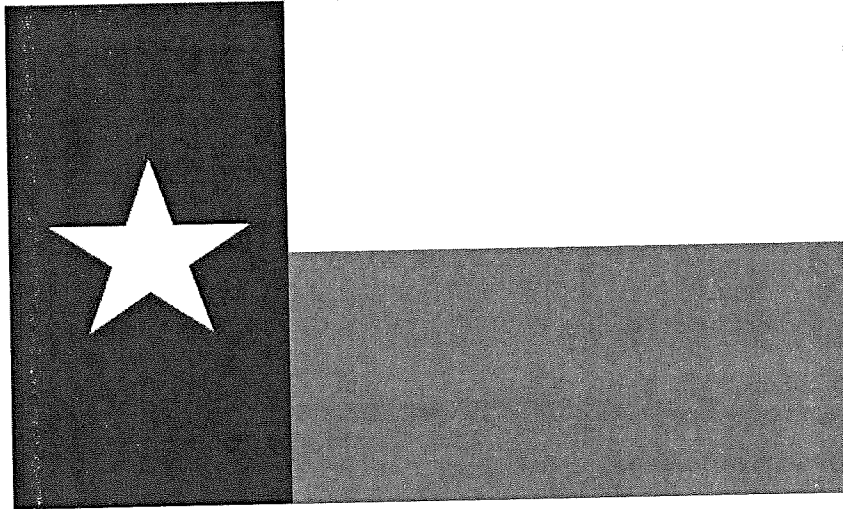
Not later than the end of a student's junior year in high school, his or her official transcript should indicate whether the student has satisfied or is on schedule to satisfy the requirements for the RHSP or DAP. Students who are unable to satisfy the curriculum requirements of the RHSP or DAP because the courses necessary to complete the requirements are unavailable as a result of course scheduling, lack of enrollment capacity, or another cause not within the student's control, are considered to have satisfied the requirements of the relevant program. In such cases, the student must have successfully completed the portions of the RHSP or DAP curricula that were available and the student's official transcript or diploma must indicate this.

Admission and Enrollment

State colleges and universities may admit a student accepted under the Automatic Admission policy for either the fall semester of the academic year for which the student applied or for the summer session that precedes that fall semester. Additionally, the admitting college or university may require that applicants in need of additional preparation for college-level work enroll in enrichment courses or programs during the summer immediately after the student is admitted. Colleges and universities are required to admit an applicant as an undergraduate student if the applicant is the child of a public servant who was killed or fatally injured in the line of duty and who meets the minimum entrance requirements set by the college or university.

*The University of Texas at Austin

Senate Bill 175, passed by the 81st Legislature in the spring of 2009, modified the automatic admission program for UT. Beginning with admissions for the 2011-2012 school year, The University of Texas at Austin (UT) is no longer required to automatically admit applicants in excess of 75% of its enrollment capacity for first-time resident undergraduate students. Should the number of applicants who qualify for automatic admission exceed 75% of enrollment capacity, UT shall provide notice of the percentage of qualified applicants that are anticipated to be offered admission. For students entering UT in **Summer/Fall 2016 and Spring 2017**, the **top 8%** of the graduating class will be automatically admitted. Other students may be admitted through holistic review. <http://bealonghorn.utexas.edu/freshmen/decisions/automatic-admission>.



TEXAS GRANT

The Toward EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant Program was approved during the 76th state legislative session and was awarded to eligible students beginning in the fall of 1999. The purpose is to provide a grant of money to enable academically prepared students and need eligible students to attend institutions of higher education in Texas. The monetary award will vary depending on the number of hours taken, and the type of college the student attends.

Eligibility includes a student who:

- ✓ Is a resident of Texas
- ✓ Has graduated from an accredited public or private high school in Texas no earlier than 1998
- ✓ Has completed the Recommended or Distinguished Achievement Program
- ✓ Shows financial need
- ✓ Has applied for any available financial aid assistance
- ✓ Enrolls at least three-quarter time in an undergraduate or certificate program in a public college or university in Texas
- ✓ Has not been convicted of a felony or crime involving a controlled substance

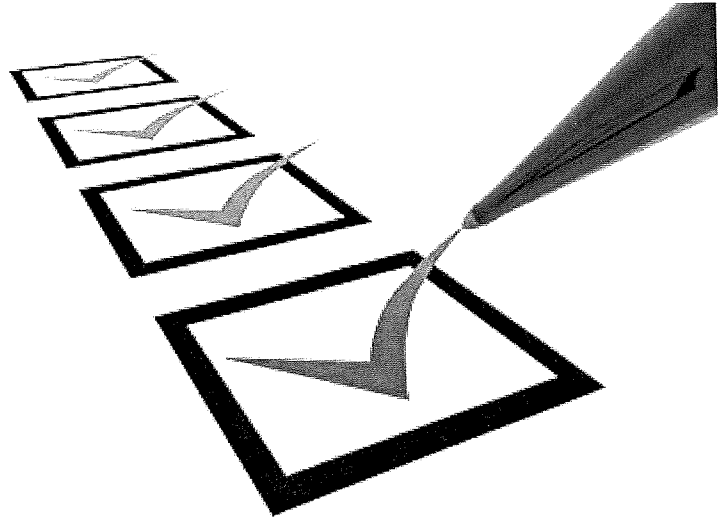
Students may apply

- ✓ By completing the FAFSA prior to February 15th and enter the applicable college code.
- ✓ Talk to the college financial aid office

Preparing for College: Senior Checklist

August/September

- Register for the SAT and/or ACT if you didn't take it as a junior, or if you aren't satisfied with your score and want to take it again. (remember that your counselor can help you with fee waivers)
- Take a look at some college applications and consider all of the different pieces of information you will need to compile.
- The SAT test date most popular with high school seniors is this month.
- Visit with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements. If you're ahead of schedule, consider taking courses at a local university or community college to get a jumpstart on college credit.
- Take every opportunity to get to know colleges: meeting with college representatives who visit your high schools during the fall, attending local college fairs, visiting campuses (if possible). Ask your counselor if they know of special campus visitation programs.
- Narrow down your list of colleges and begin to consider "safe," "reach," and "realistic" schools. Make sure you have the application and financial aid information for each school. Find out if you qualify for any scholarships at these schools.



Create a checklist and calendar to chart:

- Standardized test dates, registration deadlines, and fees
- College application due dates
- Financial aid application forms and deadlines
- Other materials you'll need for college applications (recommendations, transcripts, essays, etc.)
- Your high school's application processing deadlines

Some schools require the CSS/Financial Aid Profile. Ask the colleges to which you are applying for their deadlines. You can register as early as September. See your guidance counselor about fee waivers.

October

- Some colleges will have deadlines as early as this month. These would include rolling admission, priority, early decision, and early action deadlines.
- If you cannot afford the application fees that many colleges charge, ask your counselor to help you request

a fee waiver.

- Finalize your college essay. Many schools will require that you submit at least one essay with your application.
- Request personal recommendations from teachers, school counselors, or employers. Follow the process required by your high school or provide a stamped, addressed envelope, the appropriate college forms, and an outline of your academic record and extracurricular activities to each person writing you a recommendation.
- Research possibilities of scholarships. Ask your counselor, your colleges, and your religious and civic groups about scholarship opportunities. You should *never* pay for scholarship information.

November

- Finalize and send any early decision or early action applications due this month. Have a parent, teacher, counselor, or other adult review the application before it is submitted.
- Every college will require a copy of your transcript from your high school. Follow your school's procedure for sending transcripts.
- Make sure testing companies have sent your scores directly to the colleges to which you are applying.
- The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will be available this month, but cannot be completed before January 1. This is the form you will complete to find out what financial aid you are eligible to receive from the government. Ask your guidance office for a copy or visit www.fafsa.ed.gov. This form should be filed online if at all possible.

December

- Begin to organize regular decision applications and financial aid forms, which will be due in January and/or February.
- Register for the January SAT (if needed). It is the last one colleges will be able to consider for a senior.

January

- Many popular and selective colleges will have application deadlines as early as January 1. Others have deadlines later in January and February. Keep track of and observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork.
- If necessary, register for the February ACT (some colleges will be able to consider it).
- Ask your guidance office in January to send first semester transcripts to schools where you applied. At the end of the school year, they will need to send final transcripts to the college you will attend.
- It is time to file the FAFSA (no later than Feb 1). The sooner you complete it, the sooner you will have an idea of your financial aid options. Watch the mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR)—it should arrive four weeks after the FAFSA is filed.

Feb/March/April

- While most of your applications will be complete and you are waiting to receive admission decisions,

don't slack in the classroom. The college that you do attend will want to see your second semester transcript. No Senioritis!

- Acceptance letters and financial aid offers will start to arrive. Review your acceptances, compare financial aid packages, and visit your final choices, especially if you haven't already.

May

- May 1 is the date when the college you plan to attend requires a commitment and deposit. When you've made your college decision, notify your counselor and the colleges. Send in your deposit by the postmark date of May 1. If you've been offered financial aid, accept the offer and follow the instructions given. Also notify schools you will not attend of your decision.
- Make sure that you have requested that your final transcript be sent to the school you will be attending.
- If you are "wait listed" by a college you really want to attend, visit, call and write the admission office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your application.

Collegiate Terminology for College-Bound Students and Parents

Associate Degree - A planned and sequential two-year degree or certificate program offered through a community or junior college.

Bachelor Degree - A program of study requires 4 or more years to complete, granted by a college or university.

CEEB - College Entrance Examination Board produces test instruments for high school students. Each high school is assigned a unique number.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) - A series of general and subject examinations for the evaluation of abilities of college applicants whose education has been achieved in such non-traditional ways as independent reading, on-the-job training, and/or correspondence courses.

College Work Study - A federally-funded program that enables college students to earn money from non-profit organizations assigned by the college.

Credit Hours - A means of counting credits for course work in college. It may also denote the amount of time spent in class per week.

Grant - An award of money given to a college student that requires neither repayment nor performance of a service.

Honors Program - Any program offering opportunity for students with superior academic ability to enrich their educational experience through independent, advanced, or accelerated study.

Major - The sequence of study in which the student chooses to specialize, a series of related courses primarily taken in the junior and senior year.

Student Aid Report (SAR) - The information that you receive 2-4 weeks after your FAFSA has been processed. This report includes the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) used by the college financial aid officers.

Scholarship - Financial award based on need, scholastic achievement, merit, special interest, competition, or some special affiliation. A college, governmental agency, corporation, or private group may give this money. It is a gift and need not be repaid.

Wait List - An admissions decision option utilized by colleges in which the student is neither offered or denied admissions, but extended to the candidate the possibility of admission in the

Finding the Perfect College

Most students want to find the “perfect” college. The truth is, there’s no such thing. You can find many colleges where you can be happy and get a great education. The college search is about exploring who you are and what you want and then finding colleges that will meet your goals.

BEFORE SEARCHING CONSIDER THESE 8 FACTORS

Size	Location
Available majors and classes	Available extracurricular activities
Distance from home	Makeup of the student body
Housing options	Campus atmosphere

Questions to consider:

- Which of these aspects are things you feel you must have to be comfortable at a college?
- On which factors are you flexible?
- What do you want to accomplish in college?
- Do you want to train for a specific job or get a wide-ranging education?
- If you have a major in mind, do the colleges you are considering specialize in that major?

Bigfuture.collegeboard.org is a great option to sort through the many options out there, based on your preferences.

Here are steps you can take to find colleges where you will thrive.

KEEP AN OPEN MIND

Although it’s good to have some ideas in mind about what sorts of colleges will be right for you, stay open to all the possibilities at the beginning of your search.

TALK TO PEOPLE WHO KNOW YOU

Tell parents, teachers, relatives, friends, and your school counselor about your goals, and ask if they can suggest colleges that may be a good fit for you.

DON'T LIMIT YOUR SEARCH

At the start of this process, you may rule out colleges because you think that they are too expensive or too hard to get into, but this may not be the reality. Remember that financial aid can make college more affordable, and colleges look at more than just grades and test scores.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Once you have a list of schools, it’s time to do some research. To learn more about the colleges you’re considering, check out college guidebooks and websites. Jot down your questions and get answers by:

- Talking to your school counselor or teachers
- Checking out colleges’ student blogs, if available
- Contacting college admission officials
- Asking admission officials to recommend current students or recent graduates with whom you can have conversations
- Visiting college campuses, if possible

DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



National Association for
College Admission Counseling
Guiding the way to higher education.

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Restrictive Application Plans

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

For a copy of this flyer, please visit www.nacacnet.org

College Application Materials Checklist



Use this checklist to keep track of the application forms and materials required by each school to which you're applying.

FORMS	College 1	College 2	College 3	College 4
Requires secondary school report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires midyear school report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TEST SCORES				
Requires entrance exam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires test scores be sent from testing agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires SAT Subject Tests™	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires other state test scores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RECOMMENDATION LETTERS				
Requires teacher letter of recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires counselor (or other school official) letter of recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ESSAYS/INTERVIEWS				
Requires essays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires interview	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recommends interview	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FINANCIAL AID FORMS				
Requires FAFSA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires supplemental institutional form	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires state form	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Anatomy of a College Application

In order to get your college application together, you need to get many different pieces together to give the admission team a glimpse into who you are. Be sure to stay organized and find out from your school counselor or principal which of these items you have to send and which items your high school will send.

APPLICATION

Application Forms

This is the most common first step required to show your interest in a college. It might require information and forms from your parents. Both online and paper application forms are available, as well as services (such as the Common Application) that let you complete one application for multiple schools.

Application Fees

Fees vary, but generally it costs from \$35 to \$75 to apply to each college. Fees are nonrefundable. Many colleges offer fee waivers to students who can't afford to pay. If you need application fee waivers, speak with your counselor or principal.

SCORES AND REPORTS

College Admission Test Scores

Most colleges require that you send your scores from a college entrance exam (such as the SAT®). Some colleges will only accept scores that are sent directly from the testing organizations. Check with each college to verify their policy on receiving test scores.

High School Transcript

This is the record of the classes you have taken and your grades in each one. This is one of the most important parts of your application. Review your transcript for accuracy prior to completing your college application. Follow the procedure outlined by your high school for the submission of your transcript to your prospective colleges.

Secondary School Report

Some colleges require a Secondary School Report form to be completed by a high school official, usually a school counselor, with information about the school, the graduating class, and specific information about you. Your high school is responsible for sending this form to the college.

Midyear School Report

Much like the Secondary School Report, this form is submitted by your high school; it typically includes the fall semester grades of your senior year and updates to your spring semester schedule (if any apply). All colleges do not require this form.

LETTERS, ESSAYS, AND INTERVIEWS

Letters of Recommendation

Many colleges require letters of recommendation from teachers or other adults who know you well. Ask your references to write recommendations well in advance of the deadlines. You may want to give them a short written summary of your achievements and goals to help them write about you.

Essays

Many colleges require an essay or a personal statement as part of your application. Your essay is a chance for you to give admission officers a better idea of your character and strengths. Your essay should be drafted well in advance of the application deadline to ensure adequate time for review and revision.

Interviews, Auditions, and Portfolios

It is a good idea to ask for an interview, even if it is optional. It shows you're serious and gives you a chance to connect with someone in the admission office. Even if a college is far away, you may be able to interview with a local alumnus. If you're applying to music, art, or theater programs, a college may want to see samples of your work as part of your application. This means you may need to audition, send portfolios, or submit videos demonstrating your artistic ability.

The College Essay



The college essay is your chance to use your voice to add to your college application. Many colleges require the essay as a way to hear from the student directly and to get a sense of who you are in your own words. It's a great opportunity to personalize your application beyond the grades, scores, and other information you've provided and can make a difference at decision time.

8 KEY POINTS THAT ADMISSION OFFICERS LOOK FOR:

- A command of the basics of good writing
- A direct answer to the essay question
- A strong opening paragraph that captures the reader's interest
- A comprehensive argument or narrative—make your point and stick to it
- A style that is comfortable for you and that is appropriate for the subject matter
- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Correct data—check your facts, dates, and names
- Succinctness—pay attention to the recommended length

WHAT THE ESSAY CAN DO FOR YOUR APPLICATION:

- Demonstrate your writing ability, a key component of success in college.
- Show that you have thought carefully about where you are applying and why you are a good match for the college, in your own words.
- Explain your commitment to learning and that you are willing and able to be a contributing member to the college community.
- Draw distinctions between you and other applicants, something that selective colleges especially rely on.

An essay will rarely take an applicant out of consideration at a college, but it certainly can elevate an applicant in an admission committee's eyes.

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

- Often you will be asked to write about a personal experience, an achievement, or a person who has been significant to you. Go beyond the what or the who and dig into the how and the why.
- If you write about a trip or event, describe how this experience affected you and is meaningful to you.
- If you are writing about a person in your life, be personal and specific, not just sentimental. Explain how or what this person did for you that is important to you.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Revise, revise, revise. Take the time to reread and revise. This process will help you develop a strong opening and a solid direction, and refine what you are trying to express.

Show, don't tell. Give readers such convincing evidence that they will come to the conclusion that you want. Provide detailed examples instead of providing a list of things.

Be authentic. Don't stress trying to write what you think they are looking for—just showcase who you are!

Just get started! Writing something meaningful can be a long process, so get started right away to allow for time to draft and revise. Be sure to write your essay long before the deadline.

Tips for Letters of Recommendation

Whether it is required for a college application or a scholarship opportunity, a letter of recommendation plays a crucial role in painting the complete picture of YOU. While grades, entrance exam results, and extracurricular activities all describe the type of student you are, the letter showcases your accomplishments, personal attributes, and skills.

WHEN TO ASK

- The earlier you ask, the better!
- One month before your earliest application deadline, especially when asking a teacher or counselor who might be writing many letters of recommendation.
- Early decision applications might require a recommendation at the start of your senior year.

WHOM TO ASK

- Often colleges request letters of recommendation from a teacher, your school counselor, or both. If you're considering a specific major, you might consider getting a recommendation from a teacher of a related subject.
- A counselor's recommendation broadly showcases the student's potential, while a teacher's recommendation provides a more specific focus on academic performance.
- If it can be any teacher, core subject teachers, such as your English, math, science, or social studies teachers, make good candidates.
- In some cases additional recommendations may come from a coach, work supervisor, or community member, but be sure to follow the specific guidelines provided by the college regarding letters of recommendation.
- It is recommended to ask a teacher from your junior year or a current teacher if they have known you long enough to form an opinion.
- It is best not to go back too far, as colleges want current perspectives on their potential candidates.
- A teacher who can speak to your potential outside the classroom as well is a great bonus!

HOW TO ASK

- Ask in a way that allows a teacher to decline comfortably if he or she does not have time to do a good job.
- For example: "Do you feel you know me well enough, and have enough time, to write a letter of recommendation for me?"
- On the application form, waive your right to view recommendation letters. This gives more credibility to the recommendations in the eyes of the college.

HOW TO HELP

- Advise teachers and counselors of appropriate deadlines, especially noting any early deadline dates.
- Take some time to speak with them, even if they know you well.
- Make it easy for them to give positive, detailed information about your achievements and your potential by providing them with a résumé or a “brag sheet” to reference.
- Follow up with your recommendation writers a week or so prior to your first deadline to see if they need more information before they mail their letters.
- Answer some of the questions below to provide your recommenders with the information they need to write the best letters for you.

Helpful Questions to Answer for Recommendation Writers:

- 1** What two adjectives best describe you? Give one example of why one of those words came to mind.
- 2** Are there any special circumstances, living situations, or relevant family aspects that have had a significant impact on your personal or academic life?
- 3** What do you consider some of your greatest strengths and how did you come to realize them?
- 4** What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? What achievements have you accomplished? Describe the ones that are most meaningful to you.
- 5** Why is a college education important to you? What are some of your long-term academic goals and what do you intend to study?
- 6** Have you had any experience in a leadership position? If so, what did you learn from the experience?
- 7** Have you served your community or had any volunteer experience? If so, which of these was the most memorable or meaningful and why?
- 8** Are there any challenges you have faced and overcome that you would want someone to know? Be sure to include what you learned from the experience.

College Application Tracker



Use this form to note the dates you've completed each task in the application process. It will help you remember what you've already done, and what you still need to do.

APPLICATION

- Made copies of all application materials
- Signed and submitted application (online or paper)
- Requested transcript sent
- Paid application fee
- Sent additional materials if needed
- Confirmed college received all materials
- Gave counselor (or school official) midyear school report

	College 1	College 2	College 3	College 4
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

TEST SCORES

- Took entrance exam
- Had test scores sent
- Had additional required test scores sent (SAT Subject Tests™, AP® Exams, etc.)

	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS/FORMS

- Gave teacher(s) form for recommendation
- Provided teacher(s) with helpful information (i.e., résumé, deadlines)
- Gave counselor (or other school official) secondary school form
- Wrote thank-you notes to recommenders

	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

ESSAYS

- Completed first draft of essay
- Had two people proofread essay
- Revised and submitted essay

	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

CAMPUS VISITS/INTERVIEW

Scheduled visit/interview

Made campus visit

Completed interview

Wrote thank-you notes to college representative and interviewer

	College 1	College 2	College 3	College 4
Scheduled visit/interview	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Made campus visit	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Completed interview	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Wrote thank-you notes to college representative and interviewer	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

FINANCIAL AID FORMS

Completed and submitted FAFSA

Submitted additional required forms (i.e., CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®, college form)

Completed and submitted FAFSA	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Submitted additional required forms (i.e., CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®, college form)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

ADMISSION

Reviewed letters of admission decisions

Reviewed and responded to financial aid offers

Made enrollment deposit to chosen college (by May 1)

Notified the colleges you will not attend

Reviewed letters of admission decisions	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Reviewed and responded to financial aid offers	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Made enrollment deposit to chosen college (by May 1)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Notified the colleges you will not attend	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

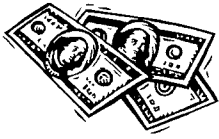
NOTES

SCHOLARSHIPS and FINANCIAL AID



What You Need to Know

- BEWARE of scholarship scams. Scholarship information is free! No one can guarantee you a scholarship. For tips on spotting scholarship scams, visit www.finaid.org/scholarships/common.phtml.
- Scholarship information will be listed in the monthly Senior Newsletter/Bulletin which will be available online or in the Counseling Office and listen to the announcements so that you do not miss an important opportunity.
- Remember to request financial aid and scholarship information from your college EARLY! Each college has different procedures, deadlines, and forms.
- **FAFSA** - Free Application for Federal Student Aid forms will be available in the Counseling Office and Career Center in December. You may also apply online at fafsa.ed.gov. Your parents will need to have this year's taxes complete in order to file the FAFSA. The resulting report will tell you and your college what the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is and will help the college formulate a financial aid package for you. The EFC also helps determine eligibility for Pell Grants.
- APPLY EARLY for financial aid. The old adage - first come, first served- really applies here. Colleges give out the money and when it is gone, there is no more. Apply early. Many colleges have a February 1 deadline. If you do not apply, you surely will not get it.
- The US Department of Education will gladly send you a FREE copy of The Student Guide. Call 1-800-433-3243. This guide helps you learn how to finance your college education.
- Keep a copy of all forms you send anywhere! Keep a file of college and financial aid information.
- Investigate all sources of \$\$\$. Check for scholarships where your parents work, where you work, your church, civic organizations, etc. Explore all options.
- Keep in mind that in order for males to be eligible for college financial aid, they must register with the "Selective Service" upon their 18th birthday. For more information about "Selective Service" and to register online, please visit: www.sss.gov.



Financial Aid Terms to Know

Scholarship - Free money based on academic merit, talent, ability, religion, ethnicity.

Grant - Free money usually based on need.

Work Study - Jobs on campus for students who qualify for financial assistance.

Educational loans - Low interest, federally backed loans from banks or other lending institutions which must be repaid. No repayment is due until you leave school. Loans are available for both vocational and professional degrees/certifications. It is best to shop around for the lowest interest rate.

Perkins Loans - Awarded by colleges to low income students at low interest rates.

Stafford Loans - Formerly called the Guaranteed Student Loans. These are given through banks and commercial lenders to students who pass a standard of financial need. Loans may be subsidized or unsubsidized and interest rates will vary.

Plus SLS - Given by commercial lenders to students or parents who pass a credit check. Interest rate is variable and set each June. Contact your bank or savings and loan.

Sources of Financial Aid Information

College Financial Aid Office - 90% of all financial aid available is controlled by this office. Always check with the financial aid office of your college for additional college.

Institutional Departmental Scholarships - These are scholarships awarded by departments for specific majors.

Community Organizations - In Bexar County, most of these scholarships are handled through the Bexar County Scholarship Clearing House and the high school scholarship committee. Deadline is in October.

Foundations, Businesses, Unions, Religious Groups, Community and Military organizations - Check all organizations with which your family is involved.

ROTC scholarships - Contact the recruiters.

The Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Calendar - Copies of the Compendium from the Piper Foundation are available in the Career Center.

GENERAL FINANCIAL AID TOOLS & RESOURCES

Financial Aid Toolkit (<http://FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov>)

- Online “one-stop shop” for counselors with information about financial aid, a searchable database of resources, and outreach tools. Includes resources in Spanish and information for parents.

College Scorecards (<http://collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard/>)

- Puts key data on costs and outcomes together in a clear and comparable way, though two of the data points may be misleading (see <http://views.ticas.org/?p=982>).

NET PRICE CALCULATORS (NPCs)

Using NPCs can help students and families:

- Start thinking about affordability early in their college search
- Prepare for the overall financial aid process (including senior year financial aid forms)

Tips for finding NPCs:

- School website (“Costs” and/or “Financial Aid” sections)
- Use a search engine (e.g., Google) to search for “net price calculator” and “[school name]”
- Use the following resources to find NPC links:
 - College Scorecard (<http://collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard/>)
 - College Navigator (<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>)
 - Net Price Calculator Center (<http://collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx>)

Academic Year: 2012-13	
Estimated tuition and fees	\$5,338
+ Estimated room and board charges <small>(includes rooming accommodations and meals)</small>	\$6,724
+ Estimated cost of books and supplies	\$1,960
+ Estimated other expenses <small>(Personal expenses, transportation, etc.)</small>	\$2,800
<hr/>	
Estimated total cost of attendance:	\$16,822
- Estimated total grant aid: <small>(includes both merit and need based grant and scholarship aid from Federal, State, or Local Governments, or the Institution)</small>	\$6,662
<hr/>	
Estimated Net Price After Grants and Scholarships:	\$10,160
<small>Grants and scholarships do not have to be repaid. Some students also qualify for student loans to assist in paying this net price; however, student loans do have to be repaid.</small>	

Tips for Students	Tips for Counselors/Practitioners
<p>Using and Comparing NPCs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have information about your family’s finances ready (e.g., parents’ tax returns or earnings statements). • Be honest when answering the questions. • Focus on the “net price” when interpreting results and comparing colleges. • Be wary of estimates that include unrealistic estimates of self-help (work and loans). <p>Heads up!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPC results are estimates, not final aid awards, and colleges can calculate them differently. • NPC estimates apply to a particular academic year and costs may be different in later years. • Grants and scholarships don’t have to be repaid, while work expectations must be earned and loans repaid with interest. 	<p>Helping Students Use and Compare NPCs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a glossary of NPC terms • Prepare a case study for students to use in case family financial information isn’t accessible. • Try to go through the NPC (at least, the results) with each student to explain complex financial aid terms. • Complete NPCs for popular area institutions to flag any potential challenges or areas for clarification. • Dissect results and terminology side by side with students when possible. • Provide next steps: contact information for schools’ financial aid offices, scholarship resource lists, etc. <p>Heads up!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect emotions that may occur. • Always remind students: NPC results do not equal award letters, nor does the NPC take place of any financial aid application

FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTERS

Tips for Counselors/Practitioners

- Prepare students and families ahead of time by practicing conversations and sharing past data.
- Analyze award letters with student and families.
- Provide a glossary of terms to the students to help decode the language and distinguish between what is free money and what they/their family is responsible for paying.
- Broker communication with colleges for financial aid appeals and/or connecting families to them.
- Collect data to analyze trends.
- Encourage students and families to ask you questions, and be present for conversations.

Tools for Counselors/Practitioners

- CFPB Paying for College tool: <http://1.usa.gov/1hXTxNz>
- Big Future aid comparison tool: <http://bit.ly/1jrydmB> (recommended by uAspire)
- Information about Financial Aid Shopping Sheet (pictured at right): <http://1.usa.gov/1gVaqdS>

STUDENT LOANS

Tips for Counselors/Practitioners

- You are not a loan provider – no need to be an expert
- Be able to explain Subsidized and Unsubsidized terminology
- Build comfort with borrowing smart - federal loan options over private
- Create awareness of Parent PLUS, a loan that is packaged but may not be approved.



Tools for Counselors/Practitioners

- **From TICAS:**
 - Federal Student Loan Terms for 2014-15 (<http://bit.ly/1iQWuEx>)
 - <http://projectonstudentdebt.org>
- **From the Department of Education:**
 - Information on Studentaid.gov
 - Videos (<http://bit.ly/1tjRvOD>)
 - Repayment estimator (<http://studentaid.gov/repayment-estimator>)
 - Enter specific loan information (can be hypothetical), use average loan balances, or import actual loan data
 - Enter tax filing status, income, family size, state of residence
 - View estimated payments under different repayment plans

Questions?
Contact:

Diane Cheng, The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS), dcheng@ticas.org
Claire Dennison, uAspire, claired@uaspire.org

ANNOTATED

Financial Aid Shopping Sheet

(As of 3/11/13)

Student Information

*Student name/identifier; date issued (right side) →

*Individual student's cost of attendance →

*The sum of each grant sub-category appears here; campus-based FSEOG and TEACH Grants would appear under "Grants from Your School." →

NET COST AFTER GRANTS

*Aid awarded by school but earned through work →

*School recommended Federal loan amounts; state and institutional loans appear below in the customized information box. →

*Other funds that can be used to meet net costs; includes family contribution—FAFSA-calculated or institutional methodology →

*Space for institution to send custom message →

Institutional Performance Metrics
(All data supplied by the Department)

← Student Right-to-Know graduation rate compared to the rates of similar institutions (Source: IPEDS)

← Most recent cohort default rate compared to the national rate. (Source: NSLDS)

← Median debt for undergraduate borrowers entering repayment (Source: NSLDS)

← Loan repayment calculator

← School contact details: for more information and next steps

NOTE: See the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet page on the Office of Postsecondary Education's Web page at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/guid/aid-offer/index.html>. This Web page provides students, families and institutions with resources and background about the development and adoption of the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet. Institutions may contact ShoppingSheet@ed.gov to indicate their commitment to use the Shopping Sheet. Students, parents, and institutions may also direct questions about the Shopping Sheet to that e-mail address.

University of the United States (UUS)

Student Name, Identifier

Download

Costs in the 2014-15 year

Estimated Cost of Attendance

\$X,XXX / yr

Tuition and fees	\$ X,XXX
Housing and meals	X,XXX
Books and supplies	X,XXX
Transportation	X,XXX
Other education costs	X,XXX

Grants and scholarships to pay for college

Total Grants and Scholarships ("Gift" Aid; no repayment needed)

\$X,XXX / yr

Grants and scholarships from your school	\$ X,XXX
Federal Pell Grant	X,XXX
Grants from your state	X,XXX
Other scholarships you can use	X,XXX

What will you pay for college

Net Costs

(Cost of attendance minus total grants and scholarships)

\$X,XXX / yr

Options to pay net costs

Work options

Work-Study (Federal, state, or institutional)	\$ X,XXX
---	----------

Loan Options*

Federal Perkins Loan	\$ X,XXX
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	X,XXX
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	X,XXX

*Recommended amounts shown here. You may be eligible for a different amount. Contact your financial aid office.

Other options

Family Contribution

(As calculated by the institution using information reported on the FAFSA or to your institution.)

\$X,XXX / yr

- Payment plan offered by the institution
- Military and/or National Service benefits
- Parent or Graduate PLUS Loans
- Non-Federal private education loan

Graduation Rate

Percentage of full-time students who graduate within 6 years



XX.X%

Low Medium High



Loan Default Rate

Percentage of borrowers entering repayment and defaulting on their loan

X.X%

X.X%

This institution

National

Median Borrowing

Students who borrow at UUS typically take out \$X,XXX in Federal loans for their undergraduate study. The Federal loan payment over 10 years for this amount is approximately \$X,XXX per month. Your borrowing may be different.



Repaying your loans

To learn about loan repayment choices and work out your Federal Loan monthly payment, go to:
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/understand/plans>

For more information and next steps:

University of the United States (UUS)
Financial Aid Office

123 Main Street
 Anytown, ST 12345
 Telephone: (123) 456-7890
 E-mail: financialaid@uus.edu

Customized information from UUS

Sample Résumé

JOHN SMART

123 School Road
San Antonio, TX 78258
(210) 123-4567

High School: Culpepper High School

Class Rank: 43 out of 511

Weighted Grade Average: 99.25017

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

2014-2016 Varsity Baseball: 1st Baseman, All-Star Team
2015-2016 National Honor Society
2015-2016 Student Government Representative
2013-2016 Key Club

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

2013-2016 Youth Group
2015-2016 Led Children's Church Choir
2015 Vacation Bible School Teacher
2014-2016 Baptist Hospital Volunteer

HONORS/AP COURSES:

2013-2014 World History AP

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

2014-2015 Junior Class President
2015-2016 NHS Treasurer

WORK EXPERIENCE:

2014-2015 GAP, North Star Mall: assist customers, answer phones

HOBBIES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

2010-2016 Piano Lessons
2012-2016 Blue Sharks Swim Team

For additional sample résumés resources, some available options are:

www.myperfectresume.com
www.mycollegecalendar.org

Military Academies

Many young men and women wish to attend one of the service academies to serve their country as a military officer. The screening process is a rigorous one and begins early. Some senators have a November 1st deadline. If you are interested, you need to see your counselor in the spring of your junior year to begin the necessary testing and paper work. The following addresses are provided for your information:



Army

Director of Admissions
United States Military Academy
Building 606
West Point, New York 10996
1-845-938-4041
<http://www.usma.edu/>

Navy/Marine

Candidate Guidance Office
United States Naval Academy
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21402-5018
(410) 293-4361
<http://www.nadn.navy.mil/>

Air Force

Director of Admissions
HQ USAFA/RRS
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200
USAF Academy, Colorado 80840
1-800-443-9266
<http://www.usafa.af.mil/>

Coast Guard

Director of Admissions
United States Coast Guard Academy
31 Mohegan Avenue
New London, Connecticut 06320-8103
1-800-883-8724 or (860)701-6815
<http://www.cga.edu>

Merchant Marines

Director of Admissions
United States Merchant Marine Academy
300 Steamboat Rd, Admissions Center
Kings Point, New York 11024-1699
1-866-546-4778 or (516) 726-5800
<http://www.usmma.edu>

R.O.T.C. Scholarships

R.O.T.C. scholarships pay young men and women to go to college before they serve four to six years in the military service. Standards for acceptance are very high, and the process of testing and applying must begin early. To receive information about R.O.T.C. opportunities, call: Army 1-800-U.S.A.-R.O.T.C., Navy: 1-800-U.S.A.-N.A.V.Y., or Air Force: 1-800-552-0033.

NCAA COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT ATHLETES

www.ncaa.org and

http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Quick_Reference_Sheet.pdf

Divisions I and II Initial-Eligibility Requirements

Core Courses

- **NCAA Divisions I and II require 16 core courses.** See the charts below.
- **Beginning August 1, 2016, NCAA Division I will require 10 core courses** to be completed **prior to the seventh semester** (seven of the 10 must be a combination of English, math or natural or physical science that meet the distribution requirements below). These 10 courses become "locked in" at the start of the seventh semester and cannot be retaken for grade improvement.
- *Beginning August 1, 2016, it will be possible for a Division I college-bound student-athlete to still receive athletics aid and the ability to practice with the team if he or she fails to meet the 10 course requirement, but would not be able to compete.*

Test Scores

- **Division I** uses a sliding scale to match test scores and core grade-point averages (GPA). The sliding scale for those requirements is shown on Page No. 2 of this sheet.
- **Division II** requires a minimum SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.
- The SAT score used for NCAA purposes includes **only** the critical reading and math sections. The writing section of the SAT is not used.
- The ACT score used for NCAA purposes is a **sum** of the following four sections: English, mathematics, reading and science.
- **When you register for the SAT or ACT, use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of 9999 to ensure all SAT and ACT scores are reported directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores that appear on transcripts will not be used.**

Grade-Point Average

- **Be sure** to look at your high school's List of NCAA Courses on the NCAA Eligibility Center's website (www.eligibilitycenter.org). Only courses that appear on your school's List of NCAA Courses will be used in the calculation of the core GPA. Use the list as a guide.
- **Division I** students enrolling full time **before August 1, 2016**, should use Sliding Scale A to determine eligibility to receive athletics aid, practice and competition during the first year.
- **Division I** GPA required to receive athletics aid and practice **on or after August 1, 2016**, is 2.000-2.299 (corresponding test-score requirements are listed on Sliding Scale B on Page No. 2 of this sheet).
- **Division I** GPA required to be eligible for competition **on or after August 1, 2016**, is 2.300 (corresponding test-score requirements are listed on Sliding Scale B on Page No. 2 of this sheet).
- **The Division II** core GPA requirement is a minimum of 2.000.
- Remember, the NCAA GPA is calculated using NCAA core courses only.

DIVISION I

16 Core Courses

4 years of English
3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
2 years of natural/physical science
(1 year of lab if offered by high school)
1 year of additional English, mathematics
or natural/physical science
2 years of social science
4 years of additional courses (from any area
above, foreign language, or comparative religion/
philosophy)

DIVISION II

16 Core Courses

3 years of English
2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
2 years of natural/physical science
(1 year of lab if offered by high school)
3 years of additional English, mathematics
or natural/physical science
2 years of social science
4 years of additional courses (from any area
above, foreign language, or comparative religion/
philosophy)

SENIOR YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST



General Stuff

- Review your class schedule with your counselor to ensure you meet all college preparatory requirements.
- Attend college fairs in your area.
- Visit college campuses. Attend events at the colleges you are interested in.
- Explore careers and job opportunities in those careers. Talk to your parents and your friends' parents about what they do.
- Make sure your high school counselor knows what you're looking for in a college so he/she can help you choose the best one for you.

Early Fall

- Gather applications to the schools you are considering (note deadlines for admission, scholarships, housing, etc.).
- Begin the college application process in September.
- Line up people to write letters of recommendation
- Take the ACT/SAT in September/October (repeat as necessary or desired).

Mid-Fall

- Talk to your high school counselor about local scholarships and get the applications.

- Faculty/Programs in your major
- Do you need a car?
- Where will you park?
- Do you need a bike?
- Should you have your own computer? Desktop or laptop?

Summer before college

- See an academic advisor at the university or college you will attend, then register early.
- Attend a summer orientation program. Also be sure to enroll in a freshman orientation class, even if it isn't required.
- Make a list of what you will need to take to college (coordinate with your roommate so you won't have two of everything). Carpet? Refrigerator? Microwave? Stereo? Computer? Etc.
- Work with your parents on a financial plan or budget. Where will your money come from? Who pays for what? How/When to ask for more?



ACCD COLLEGE CHECKLIST

STEP ONE: ADMISSIONS

- Complete On-Line Admission Application (www.applytexas.org)
• Email required (Yahoo, Hotmail, AOL, etc....)
• Apply to the Alamo College that you would like to attend.
• All students will receive two emails from Alamo Colleges within 4 - 5 days.
Submit final and official High School Transcript, GED scores, or College Transcript.

STEP TWO: FINANCIAL AID

- Apply for FAFSA PIN number(s) (www.fafsa.ed.gov)
Complete FAFSA. You will need:
• 2012 IRS Forms 1040 and W-2 (tax documents)
• Student's/ Spouse's
• Parent's
• Untaxed Income (social security, TANF, child support, or VA benefits)
• School Codes
NVC: 033723 SAC: 009163
PAC: 016615 SPC: 003608

CHECK YOUR ACES ACCOUNT IN REGARDS TO YOUR FINANCIAL AID

STEP THREE: TESTING

- Take College Placement Test (TSI)
• All first time in college students MUST complete their Test Prep module in MyMaps before taking the TSI.
• Students taking the test need to know:
• \$32.00 Fee
• Photo I.D.
We will also accept SAT, ACT scores (if taken within three years)

Check scores on Placement Chart. OVER

STEP FOUR: PROOF OF BACTERIAL MENINGITIS VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

____ Per Texas State Law (SB 1107), students who meet the criteria below, must provide proper documentation that they have received the bacterial meningitis vaccination within the last five years and at least 10 calendar days before the beginning of the semester.

- All new or transfer students under age 30.
- All returning students under the age of 30, who have experienced a break in enrollment of at least one fall or spring term.
- Students enrolled in online or dual credit courses who physically attend classes at any of the Alamo Colleges.
- New or returning continuing education students enrolled in a course or program that is at least 360 contact hours.

____ Required Documents

- Alamo Colleges Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination Verification Form
- Photo ID
- An Immunization record from a state or local health authority

____ For more information and forms

- www.alamo.edu/meningitis/

STEP FIVE: COUSELING & REGISTRATION

____ Meet with advisor at Greater Kerrville Center.

- Beau Saul: (830) 896-0049

____ Register for classes at college.

INGRAM TOM MOORE HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT RELEASE REQUEST

Ingram Tom Moore High School has my permission to send a copy of my transcript, which may include all standardized test scores, TAKS results, PSAT, SAT 1, SAT 11 and ACT scores, and/or any other pertinent records.

As of the 2008/2009 school year, transcripts sent to Texas public schools (and many private and out-of-state schools) are sent electronically through the TREx system. Transcripts sent via the TREx system do **NOT** include SAT/ACT scores.

STUDENT NAME: _____

STUDENT ID #: _____ DATE OF GRADUATION: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ PHONE #: _____

I need my official transcript sent to:

(sent via TREx, or mailed if: *school is not a member of the TREx system or
*transcript is needed for other purposes)

Name of College or University: _____

Address: _____

I need my transcript for scholarship purposes:

(pick up to include with your scholarship applications)

_____ Transcript(s) for Scholarship Purposes – To be picked up.
(number)

I need my unofficial transcript:

(this is a copy of your transcript – it is not official)

_____ Unofficial Transcript(s) - To be picked up.
(number)

Signature: _____

Date Requested: _____

The fee for each transcript
(official or unofficial) is \$2.00 and
there is a 3 day processing period.

Palo Alto College Enrollment Services

Transcript Request Form

1) Print Form. 2) Complete form. Mail or Fax in with a copy of a valid state or federally issued photo ID.

NOTE: One (1) transcript per request.

Palo Alto College, Admissions & Records Department, 1400 W. Villaret, San Antonio, TX 78224-2417

Fax: (210) 486-9157

State law requires that you be informed of the following: 1) you are entitled on request to be informed about the information that is collected about you by use of this form (with few exceptions as provided by law); 2) you are entitled to receive and review the information; and 3) you are entitled to have information corrected at no charge to you.

Print and complete all fields.

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____
Last First Middle mm/dd/yy

Former Name: _____ Social #: _____
Last First

Banner ID #: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

In case there are problems with your request please include one or both of the following so we can contact you.

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Transcript Request

Mail Transcript to: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Students should allow 10 working days for Center for Student Information (CSI) to process their transcript and not request multiple transcripts unless they are sending them to different institutions. Transcripts are no longer processed on-site at the Admissions Center. All transcript requests are processed online through ACES Portal (<https://aces.alamo.edu>).

Transcripts are not issued until all accounts with the college are paid, all Admissions requirements are met and a copy of picture ID is submitted.

