



Class of
2011

Your Future

This booklet contains suggestions to help prepare for life after high school. Whether you are planning to start a full time job, join the military, or go to college or trade school, there is information to meet your specific needs!

Remember! In today's world, the better prepared and better trained you are, the better your chances are of reaching your goals. This applies to getting a job or getting into the college or university of your choice.

Share this booklet with your family and keep it all year for reference.

This booklet was prepared by NEISD counselors for NEISD students and parents.

NEISD GUIDANCE SERVICES MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the North East Independent School District Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program, in partnership with parents, school and community, is to provide a system of services which fosters the academic, career, and social development of all students.

Our goal is to empower children to reach their maximum potential and become caring, productive, and responsible citizens.

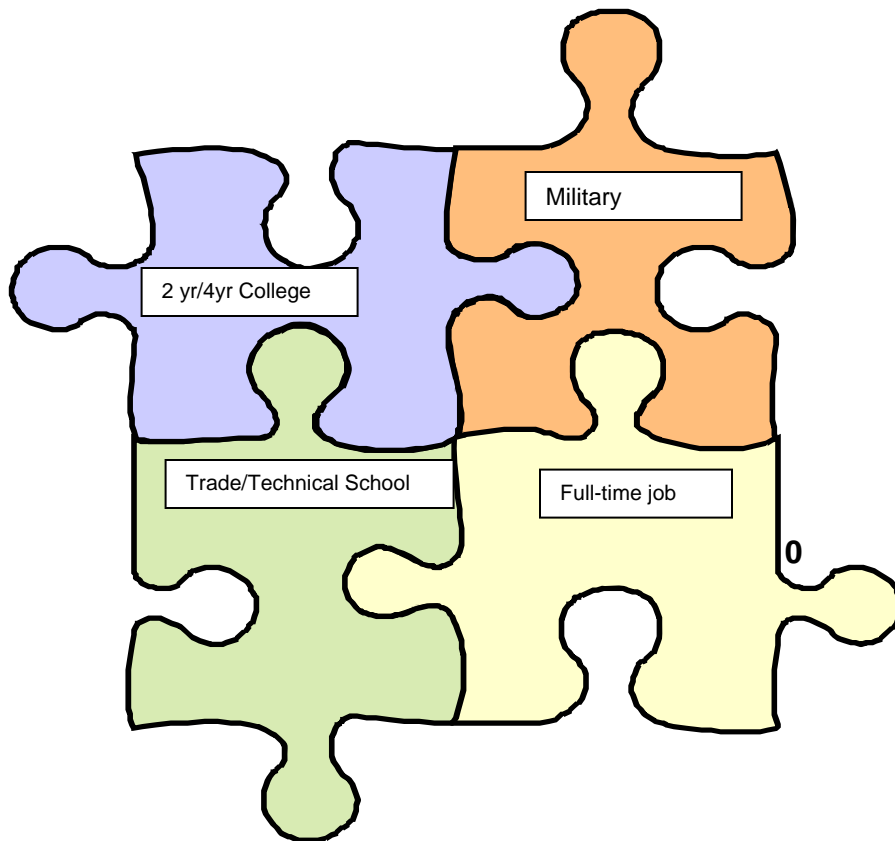
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**NORTH EAST ISD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
PROGRAMS**
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE IN FALL 2007-2011*
All students enroll in the Recommended High School or the Distinguished
Achievement Programs

RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM		DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM	
SUBJECT AREA	CREDITS	SUBJECT AREA	CREDITS
English	4.0	English	4.0
Communication Applications	.5	Communication Applications	.5
Math	4.0	Math	4.0
Science	4.0	Science	4.0
Social Studies	3.5	Social Studies	3.5
Economics	.5	Economics	.5
Health	.5	Health	.5
Physical Education	1.5	Physical Education	1.5
Other Languages	2.0	Other Languages	3.0
Fine Arts	1.0	Fine Arts	1.0
Technology Applications	1.0	Technology Applications	1.0
Electives	3.5	Electives	2.5
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED	26.0	TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED	26.0
TEXAS MINIMUM GRADUATION PLAN		PLUS FOUR (4) ADVANCED MEASURES	
<p>Any student considering graduating on the Minimum Plan must see a counselor. Only students meeting strict criteria during the spring semester of their senior year will be able to select the minimum graduation plan. A waiver acknowledging understanding of the Texas Minimum Graduation Plan must be signed.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One measure maximum: national recognition on PSAT</i> • <i>Two measures maximum: original research/project</i> • <i>Four measures maximum: Performance on AP exams (Scoring 3, 4, or 5); Grades in college credit courses (Grades of "A" or "B")</i> 	

SUBJECT AREA	RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
ENGLISH	English I, II, III, and IV required. Immigrant students with limited English proficiency may substitute English I SOL and English II SOL for English I and II ONLY.	English I, II, III, and IV required. Immigrant students with limited English proficiency may substitute English I SOL and English II SOL for English I and II ONLY.
COMMUNICATION APPLICATIONS	One-half credit Communication Applications required. (5809 may substitute as speech credit)	One-half credit Communication Applications required. (5809 may substitute as speech credit)
MATHEMATICS	Four credits required. The four credits must include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. Computer Science AP counts as a math credit.	Four credits required. The four credits must include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. The fourth math credit must have an Algebra II prerequisite. Computer Science AP will not count for the DAP.
SCIENCE	Four credits required. The four credits must include Biology and 2 credits from either IPC, Chemistry, Physics or Principles of Technology	Four credits required. The four credits must include Biology, Chemistry and Physics. GMO, IPC, and Principles of Technology will not count for the DAP.
SOCIAL STUDIES	Three and one-half credits required and must consist of World Geography, World History, US History, and US Government.	Three and one-half credits required and must consist of World Geography, World History, US History, and US Government.
ECONOMICS	One-half credit required; transfer Economics courses must have an emphasis on the free enterprise system.	One-half credit required; transfer Economics courses must have an emphasis on the free enterprise system.
HEALTH	One-half credit required.	One-half credit required.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	On and off campus substitutions/waivers allowed. Students may earn a total of four credits of PE for graduation. Waivers: drill team, flags, marching band, ROTC, cheerleading, dance, approved private programs, or certain Career and Technology Education courses if taken prior to 2011-12. See your counselor for specific waiver information	On and off campus substitutions/waivers allowed. Students may earn a total of four credits PE for graduation. Waivers: drill team, flags, marching band, ROTC, cheerleading, dance, approved private programs, or certain Career and Technology Education courses if taken prior to 2011-12. See your counselor for specific waiver information.
OTHER LANGUAGES	Two credits of the <u>same</u> language. Exploratory Language and culture courses do not meet the Other Languages requirement.	Three credits of the <u>same</u> language beginning with level I. Exploratory Language and culture courses do not meet the Other Languages requirement.
FINE ARTS	One credit required, selected from courses in the areas of art, music, theatre arts, dance, or floral design.	One credit required, selected from courses in the areas of art, music, theatre arts, dance, or floral design.
TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS	One credit required, selected from designated courses in Technology Applications or Career Technology. See the course catalog for specific courses.	One credit required, selected from designated courses in Technology Applications or Career Technology. See the course catalog for specific courses.
ELECTIVES	Three and one-half credits required	Two and one-half credits required



COLLEGE

The obvious purpose of going to college is to become a more educated and well-rounded person and prepare for a lifelong career or achieve a specific goal. In addition to learning a great deal about a particular field, a college education often means greater earnings over the span of a lifetime. Much of this pamphlet will guide you with planning financially for college, selecting a college, and applying for admissions.

MILITARY CAREER

Recruiters from the various services will help you as you investigate a military career. Many schedule visits to your campus, so listen for the announcements. You need to learn as much as possible about the branches of the military, what each offers, and what your obligation is in return. If you have joined the Jr. ROTC program at your school, you will have an advantage in rank after you enlist. Colleges also offer ROTC programs that offer the same payoff. Check with your counselor about specialized military opportunities including ROTC scholarships.

SERVICE ACADEMIES

The application process usually begins in the spring of the junior year. If you have not begun, talk to your counselor immediately. To request a pre-candidate questionnaire, contact a local recruiter or the individual academy directly. A nomination is mandatory for any young person before he or 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 the Department of Transportation's U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. 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, Northwest Vista, and Northeast Lakeview and specialized vocational/ technical/business schools, such as Texas State Technical College. There are many programs at local community colleges that can lead to certifications in as little as six to twelve months. Generally, you will receive hands-on training in learning the skills needed to seek a well paying job! 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. Make a plan and utilize the GO (Career) Center resources as well as talking to your counselor to help you reach your goals!

FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT

Things to Do:

1. Research NOW about job opportunities in the San Antonio area or the community in which you would like to live.
 - a. Talk to your counselor about your strengths, plans for additional training, etc.
 - b. Use the career materials available in the GO (Career) Center.
 - c. Be alert to newspaper and magazine articles about your career choice and future trends in employment.
2. Compile your RÉSUMÉ.
3. Check the classified ads and the Texas Employment Commission for current employment information and opportunities.
4. Check with various employers to see if they provide apprenticeships or on-the-job training programs.
5. Take courses in high school that will make you more marketable. For many jobs, computer literacy is a MUST!
6. Attend Job Fairs whenever possible.

WORK should be a source of personal satisfaction - a way to learn and a means of helping others and contributing to society.



Senior Calendar



August/September

- Review your career plans and decide which type of school is right for you.
- Narrow your college list to include 3 to 5 schools.
- Request catalogs and admissions information and visit college websites.
- Contact your high school counselor for registration materials and test dates for the SAT and/or the ACT.
- Surf the Internet to review scholarships available to you.
- Make a list of test names, dates, fees, registration deadlines, and deadlines for college admissions and financial aid applications.
- Begin asking teachers, guidance counselors, and employers for letters of recommendation to include with your admissions and/or scholarship applications.
- Complete a senior résumé and questionnaire to be used for recommendations.

October

- Take the SAT or ACT exam if necessary.
- Work on admissions application essays.
- Visit your top school choices. Interview some students, faculty, and staff.
- Attend special programs such as college fairs and financial aid nights.
- Find out which financial aid applications your college choices require and when the forms are due.
- Contact your counselor to take ASVAB if you are considering the military.
- Some private universities may require that you register for CSS/ Financial Aid PROFILE at this time. (This determines your qualification for private school aid.)
- Attend **College Night**, October 27th, at Blossom Athletic Center from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Make requests and pay for transcripts by **30 days prior to any early application deadlines.**

November

- Take the SAT or ACT exam if necessary.
- Obtain a financial aid application (FAFSA) from your guidance office, the appropriate web site or college of choice.
- Read applications carefully to determine what information is required and when they are due.
- Begin preparing your college applications.
- Make requests and pay for transcripts by **Dec 1st** if they need to be mailed before the winter break.
- Check with the colleges to find out when materials must be postmarked.
- See your counselor for the date and time.

December

- Make requests and pay for transcripts. For Jan. 15th deadlines, requests must be made before the winter break.
- Apply for outside funding or scholarships.
- PARENTS: Save your year-end payroll stub if it shows your earnings for the year. You will need it for financial aid eligibility reviews by schools.

January

- Complete the FAFSA financial aid form online as soon after January 1 as possible.

- PARENTS: It's helpful to get your income tax returns prepared early—schools may request them to prove eligibility for financial aid.
- KEEP COPIES OF ALL FORMS YOU SUBMIT.
- Arrange for midyear reports and transcripts to be sent to your college(s) if required.
- Pick up the THEA bulletin if you will be attending a Texas public college.

February

- Check to see if your mid-year transcripts have been sent to the schools to which you have applied.
- Research taking Advanced Placement (AP) or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.
- Prioritize your final list of colleges.
- Attend Financial Aid Night in February.

March

- Look for your Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail. Your SAR contains federal financial aid information.
- Submit your SAR to the financial aid office and tax forms if requested. Contact each office to make certain that your application is complete. Find out what else you need to do to establish and maintain your eligibility for financial aid.
- Keep copies of everything you submit to the financial aid office.
- If you have not received your SAR four weeks after sending in your FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 800-433-3243.
- Sign up for AP tests by deadline. The Counseling Office will announce this.

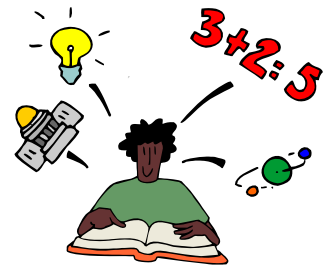
April

- Watch the mail for college acceptance and financial aid award letters.
- Compare the financial aid awards you receive.
- Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline.
- Check with the college you've chosen about the details of signing and returning financial aid award letters.
- Notify the other schools that you will not be attending.
- Watch for important deadlines (housing, financial aid, etc.) at your chosen college.

May/June

- Take AP examinations.
- Request that your final transcript be sent to your chosen university/college.
- Know when the first payment for tuition, room and board, etc. is due. Find out about payment plans.
- Congratulations, you've made it through high school! Enjoy graduation and look forward to college.

TESTS-TESTS-TESTS



TAKS

Texas Assessment of Knowledge of Skills

Before a diploma will be awarded, all graduates must demonstrate mastery in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies as measured by the state required TAKS test. If you have not passed the Exit TAKS, talk to your teachers, counselor and administrator about the TAKS tutoring that is offered. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO YOUR FUTURE!

ACT

The **ACT** attempts to measure skills closely related to the content of courses in the high school curriculum in four areas; English, math, reading, and science reasoning. 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 0 to 36, with approximately 21 being the national average last year.

SAT

The **SAT Reasoning Test** attempts to measure your ability to do college-level work in the verbal/math/writing areas. The new SAT has changed - the analogies section has been eliminated while critical reading questions have been added, and a writing sample is now required. Each section of the test will be scored using a scale from 200-800. A perfect score will be a 2400.

SAT SUBJECT TESTS

The **SAT Subject Tests** are required by some colleges as a second step in testing and is generally used not for admissions but 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 Test measures specific knowledge from specific courses you are supposed to have taken in high school.

REGISTERING FOR TESTS

You may register one of two ways. 1) Pick up registration packet(s) for the ACT, SAT, and/or SAT Subject Tests in the Counseling Office. Take the packet home, choose a test center, fill out the registration form, put your check in the envelope, and mail. This method should be reserved for only those students who do not have access to a computer. 2) It is easy to **register online** for your test(s) of choice at the respective web site(s) listed on each testing calendar. You will receive a ticket in the mail for admittance to the test or you may print your ticket if registering online. Your scores will be reported to you in four to six weeks after you have taken the test.

The test that you take depends on your strengths. You can always take both the ACT and the SAT! Many students do. Many colleges will take your highest score from a single test administration.

ACT

www.act.org

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Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 11, 2010*	August 6, 2010	August 7 – 20, 2010
October 23, 2010	September 17, 2010	September 18 – October 1, 2010
December 11, 2010	November 5, 2010	November 6 – 19, 2010
February 12, 2011**	January 7, 2011	January 8 – 21, 2011
April 9, 2011	March 4, 2011	March 5 – 18, 2011
June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 7 – 20, 2011

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www.collegeboard.com

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Test Dates 2010-2011	Test	U.S. Registration Deadlines*	
		Regular	Late (a fee applies)
October 9	SAT & Subject Tests	September 10	September 24
November 6	SAT & Subject Tests	October 8	October 22
December 4	SAT & Subject Tests	November 5	November 19
January 22	SAT & Subject Tests	December 23	January 7
March 12	SAT only	February 11	February 25
May 7	SAT & Subject Tests	April 8	April 22
June 4	SAT & Subject Tests	May 6	May 20

THEA

Texas Higher Education Assessment - Since the fall of 1998, all students must take the THEA prior to enrolling in a Texas public university or college unless they are exempt. Students with below passing scores on any section of the test are required to enroll in a developmental/remedial program each semester until they pass the THEA in all three areas. Students may be exempt based on their scores on the SAT, ACT, and TAKS. HOWEVER, you must check with the college you plan to attend for specifics since exemptions differ from college to college. Registration materials are available in the Counseling Office and the Career Center. See your counselor for additional information.

ASVAB

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery is one of the best aptitude tests available. This test is recommended for any students but especially for those considering any branch of the military as a possible career. However, taking the test does not commit you to any military service. It does offer you great information about your abilities.

AP Exams

Advanced Placement exams are offered in many content areas for college credit. The test results have no direct impact on college admission. They do demonstrate a student's ability to function at a rigorous college level. Students receiving scores of 3, 4, or 5 may receive college credit for these courses. Check your college's policy on AP exams.

The CEEB codes will be needed for ACT, SAT, AP exams, and college applications.

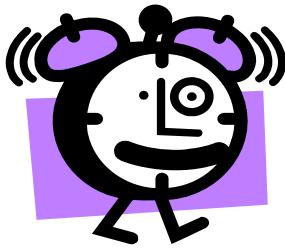
CEEB CODES

CHURCHILL	446-273
ISA	446-144
JOHNSON	446-093
LEE	446-203
MACARTHUR	446-132
MADISON	446-154
REAGAN	446-207
ROOSEVELT (DATA & ETA)	446-258

COLLEGE NIGHT
October 27, 2010
6:00 – 8:00 PM
Littleton Gym at the Blossom Athletic Center
Don't miss this great opportunity to visit with over 100 colleges

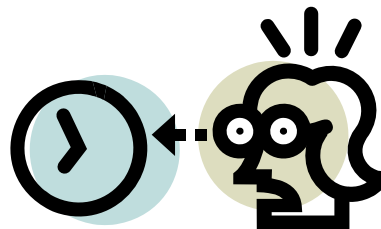
The following check list will be a great help with the college application process:

- Update your RÉSUMÉ! Make sure it contains all your latest awards and honors.
- Register to take the SAT I or the ACT. If your college requires the SAT II, be sure to register for it as well. Registration packets are available in the Counseling Office. Have your scores sent to the college of your choice by entering the college code on the test registration form. Also, be sure to enter your high school code on the registration. Sign up early for the test location of your choice as many test centers fill up fast.
- Check the college web site! Visit this site for admissions, housing, and financial information. Most colleges prefer that you apply on line. Some will waive the application fee if you do so.
- Read about the Common Application for Texas Public Colleges and Universities in this booklet. You may pick up a copy from the Counseling Office or apply on line.
- Obtain a Release of Records from the Counseling Office or from the Guidance and Counseling link on the Madison website, www.neisd.net/madison. This form is required so that we can send your transcript to colleges, scholarships, and other requests.
- Order an official transcript to be mailed to the college of your choice. **NOTE: Official transcripts cannot be given directly to the student or parent for mailing.** Cost of a transcript is \$5.00. Transcripts required for scholarships are free. Some colleges require that the application and the transcript be sent together.
- DEADLINES: It is extremely important that you pay attention to the deadline dates.** Your responsibility as a student is to know the deadlines and make the proper arrangements with those people involved in the application process.



Processing Your Application in a **TIMELY** manner:

- Letters of Recommendation - If these are required from the counselor, teacher, or principal, please give them 10 school days in advance of the mailing deadline date. It will also help if you will provide them with a copy of your résumé!
- Mailing Envelopes - Some applications ask that you provide the enclosed envelopes for your teachers to mail their own letters. Please provide these and the proper postage to the teacher. This makes the process easier. Remember, your teachers may be writing many letters of recommendation so please help them complete yours.
- The school district mailing system takes from 2-4 days to get mail to the post office. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DEADLINE TO SEND OFF TRANSCRIPTS.** Your current transcript includes grades, grade point average and rank in class through your junior year. No additional grades will be on the transcript until the end of first semester. If your college requires a midyear report (1st semester senior year grades), please give the report form to the Counseling Office.
- Honors Programs - Be sure to read that portion of the application very carefully. Many colleges handle these program applications separately from general college admissions.
- Get organized and STAY organized - Make and keep a file for all your college information. Keep copies of everything you send to the college.
- NO PROCRASTINATION – Remember, you are one of hundreds of seniors who need letters and/or transcripts! Allow time to process everything in order to meet deadlines. Ten (10) school days from the deadline date is great.
- SAN ANTONIO ACCESS PROGRAM - Project with Alamo Community Colleges to assist students with the enrollment process. Counselors from SAC administer the ACCUPLACER and then return to complete the registration process.



Texas Common Application for Public Colleges and Universities

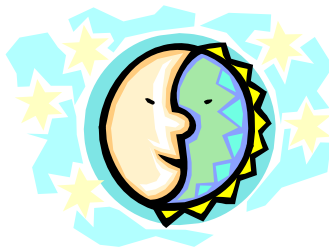
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board established a Texas Common Application for Freshmen Admission to Texas public colleges and universities. The Common Application is available in the Counseling Office and Career Center. It is also available on the Internet at www.applytexas.org where it can be downloaded or used to apply online.

Important things to remember-

- Complete only one application - either online or on paper - **NOT BOTH**.* Online applications are preferred and will be processed more efficiently. *If you complete both, this creates two files in the admissions office and will cause confusion in processing your application.
- Use this application to apply to as many Texas public colleges and universities as you like. Be sure to make copies of page one before completing item #19.
- Keep your original application and send the copy to the college/university admissions office, along with the application fee, and the essay (if required) in the same envelope. This will prevent these documents from being lost, thus reducing the time for the college/university to make a decision about your admissions status. Please follow up with the college/university to make sure they have all the necessary paperwork. (Check on-line for your admissions status. Colleges will post acceptances on-line then follow-up with a letter.)
- **DEADLINES DO MATTER!!** Major Texas colleges and universities receive thousands of applications for admissions and must have deadlines in order to process these applications.
- Each public college/university will have specific instructions for you to follow when filling out the Texas Common Application. Pay close attention to the number of essays required for admissions, as well as the essays or combination of essays required for scholarship consideration. UT-Austin and Texas A&M have very specific instructions on the essays required.



Who Are You?



Say It With Your Essay!

When you apply to college, you get one special chance to tell your story- your college essay! A college essay sheds light on your personality. It is the perfect opportunity to shine and make a great impression on the admissions people. You can step away from the academics and speak about your organizational and leadership skills.

- DON'T "RECYCLE" ESSAYS. Nothing will land your application in the trash faster than an essay that sounds like it has been used before.
- Take advantage of your English teacher. Many English IV teachers have you write a college essay. Work on this diligently and ask for suggestions on how to make your essay engaging for the reader.
- A good essay has a main idea or thesis, specific evidence to support the thesis, organization showing a clear beginning, middle, and end, coherence, and correctness.
 - Main Idea/Thesis: "My summer job taught me new skills and a new attitude."
 - Evidence: "Eight weeks on the fryer at Burger Heaven made me see French fries and four-year-olds in a new light."
 - Organization: Lead readers into your thesis; draw them to your conclusion
 - Coherence: Do not try to tell everything about your life, just one clear persuasive point is enough
 - Correctness: PROOF AND Re-proof!!! Spell checking alone will not find every mistake. Have someone else read and proof your essay.
- You are already an expert on your topic - YOU! Find your thesis by looking inside first. Who are you? What do you value? Curiosity? Determination? Loyalty? Choose a major personal characteristic and make it your essay's driving force. Choose an event that describes the trait.
- Write more than one draft. The first gets you started and the second allows your passion and conviction to come through.
- The last step is polishing. Remember to relax (this is a "no rules" personal essay), write simply, think small, be specific, use vivid language and details. PROOFREAD!!
- Get help through your English teacher or have it edited at www.essayedge.com

SCHOLARSHIPS and FINANCIAL AID



What You Need to Know!

- BEWARE of scholarship scams! Scholarship information is free!!! No one can guarantee you a scholarship.
- 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. 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 on line at fafsa.edu.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 won't 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.
- Visit the Piper Foundation in the North Frost Center – 1250 N.E. Loop 410 Suite 810. This is a free service for you to do scholarship searches. Call for hours at 525-8494.
- Get free help completing the FAFSA on-line by meeting with COSTEP. Listen for the announcements in late January as to date and time for the meeting.
- 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.



Financial Aid Terms to Know

Scholarship - Free money based on academic merit, talent, or 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 of your college for additional college.

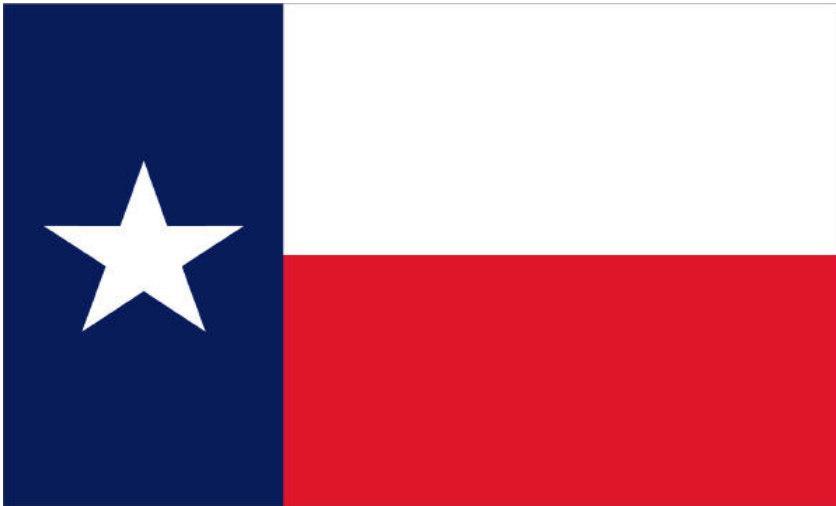
Institutional Departmental Scholarships - These are scholarships awarded by departments for specific majors.

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

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

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.



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 Graduation Program
- ✓ Shows financial need
- ✓ Has applied for any available financial aid assistance
- ✓ Enrolls at least three-quarter time in an undergraduate or certificate program.
- ✓ 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

TEXAS BE-ON-TIME Program: Students must graduate on the Recommended or Distinguished Achievement Programs, be eligible for financial aid, and graduate from college within the required time for your major. If so, your loan will be forgiven. If not, your loan will be charged at the current interest rate.

Collegiate Terminology for College-Bound Students and Parents

Advanced Placement (AP) - While in high school, credit is granted to an advanced course on the basis of evidence that the student has mastered the equivalent of a college introductory course.

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.

Early Action Admissions - The practice of some colleges of admitting certain students, based on exceptional ability, who have not yet completed high school.

Early Decision - The application process in which students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they commit to a binding agreement.

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 future- before the admission cycle is concluded.

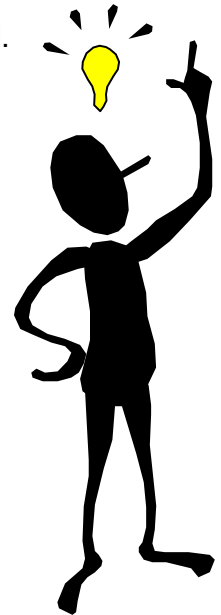
REMEMBER!

Just when you thought you were finished...



A FEW REMINDERS:

- Don't let "SENIOR-ITIS" get to you! Be sure to keep up your grades and attend all classes.
- Official transcripts **MUST** be mailed or sent electronically to the college/university. They cannot be given to either the student or parent, not even in a sealed envelope. This rule is TEA policy.
- Transcripts for colleges and scholarships must be requested at least 5 school days before the mail deadline.
- Recommendation letters from counselors and teachers need to be requested 10 days before they are needed.
- Scholarships and college applications will have either a "received by" deadline date or a "postmarked by" deadline date. Be sure you know the due date so that you can request transcripts in enough time for processing. Completed applications must be in the Counseling Office at least one week before they have to be mailed.
- The district mail system can take three days before it is postmarked.
- PLAN WISELY!!!
- Visit with your counselor if you have questions



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) 773-5391
<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.

Helpful Websites

From the College Board's Internet Guide for College-bound Students and Octameron's College.edu: On-line Resources for the Cyber-savvy Student

College Information

www.embark.com - Comprehensive information with good graphics
www.collegeboard.com - Provides services- on-line registration for SAT, AP, financial aid calculators, etc.
www.collegexpress.com - Information about private colleges, including college search and admissions tips
www.petersons.com - Publisher of a number of college guides offering information about pre-college programs, test preparation, colleges and universities, financing education, distance learning, careers and vocational /technical education, studying abroad, special schools, and more
www.collegiate.net - Detailed page providing links to university home pages, allows for college searching, gives general information about college admissions, majors, and programs
www.miskatonic.net/university/ivy.html - Shortcut for selective colleges in the country
www.nacac.com - College fair news
www.campustours.com -Links to virtual tours of college campuses
www.yahoo.com/education - Allows searching for a home page or following other links to home pages of thousands of colleges and universities, as well as other educational information
www.review.com - Provides SAT/ACT review, a database of the best undergraduate, graduate, medical, law, and business schools, plus hot links to individual college home pages
www.schoolsintheusa.com - College information classified by majors
www.texasmentor.org - College information
www.wiredscholar.com - College information
www.campussafety.org - College security on campus
www.allcampus.com - Provides information about college life (and takes a while to download)
www.black-collegian.com -Information on college life and commentary by leading African-American writers
www.greekpages.com - Information regarding sororities and fraternities on campus
www.ubp.com - Links to historically black colleges and universities, fraternities and sororities, and African-American student groups
www.supercollege.com – college information

Most Frequently Requested Texas College Web Sites

www.utexas.edu - University of Texas at Austin
www.tamu.edu - Texas A & M University
www.aggiecorps.org - Texas A & M University Corp of Cadets
www.utsa.edu - University of Texas at San Antonio
www.accd.edu - Northwest Vista, Palo Alto, St. Philip's, San Antonio Colleges
www.uiw.edu - University of the Incarnate Word
www.stmarys.edu - St. Mary's University
www.ollusa.edu - Our Lady of the Lake University
www.tlu.edu - Texas Lutheran University
www.txstate.edu - Texas State University
www.ttu.edu -Texas Tech University
www.baylor.edu - Baylor University
www.tcu.edu - Texas Christian University
www.blinncol.edu - Blinn College
www.tstc.edu - Texas State Technical College (all campuses)
www.trinity.edu - Trinity University

Helpful Websites continued

Scholarships and Financial Aid

www.collegenet.com - Scholarship search, electronic applications, college search, links to financial aid information

www.finaid.org - Information about student loans, federal programs, scholarship services, etc.

www.ncaa.clearinghouse.org - Student athlete information

www.finaid.org/scholarships/common.phtml - Tips on spotting scholarship scams

www.fastweb.com - Fill out an application on-line for scholarship search, and review later for updates

www.gocollege.com - Free scholarship search through database with over 500,000 scholarships

www.legion.org/needalift - scholarship and financial aid information

www.loanstar.com - One of many banking options for educational funding

www.educaid.com - College financial information and planning

www.scholarships.com - Create personal profile to compare with database of over 600,000 scholarships

www.ed.gov/index.jsp - Department of Education web site with links to the FAFSA and other student financial aid information in a step-by-step process

www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/eduhome.htm - *U.S. News and World Report* offers information about getting into college, finding educational funding, choosing a career, and more

www.collegeview.com - Offers in-depth resources about the college admission process, financial aid, and careers, includes a search engine and on-line multimedia presentations featuring hundreds of colleges

www.salliemae.com - Calculates future college prices and expected family contribution

www.ed.gov/studentaid - Student financial assistance programs

www.nasfaa.org - In-depth information from college financial aid officers

www.fafsa.ed.gov - Official federal student aid web site featuring the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

www.wiredscholar.com - Sallie Mae (financial institution) information

www.college-scholarships.com - Scholarship page updated weekly

www.armyrotc.com - Information on the Army ROTC Program

www.afrotc.com - Information on the Air Force ROTC Program

www.myfuture.com - Overview of military education/career benefits

www.ftc.gov - consumer protection – tips on spotting scholarship scams

<http://scholarships.fatomei.com/minorities.html> - scholarships for minorities

www.freschinfo.com – free scholarship search

On-Line Application Sites

- CollegeNet's On-line Applications www.applyweb.com
- Peterson's On-line Applications www.collegequest.com
- XAP Applications www.xap.com
- College View's College Search www.collegeview.com
- College Application On-line www.collegeboard.com
- College Apps www.collegeapps.com
- Common Application www.commonapp.org

Testing Information Web Sites (for practice tests or review)

- SAT I and II www.collegeboard.com
- ACT www.act.org
- THEA www.tasp.nesinc.com or www.thea.nesinc.com

Testing Information Web Sites (for practice tests or review)

www.testprep.com - Web ware for SAT tutorials

www.seldeen.com/sat - Vocabulary words to study

www.wordsmyth.net - Wordsmyth SAT Dictionary of 2,000 words

www.number2.com - SAT prep study site

Helpful Websites continued

Selective Service Registration

www.sss.gov - All males must register within 30 days of 18th birthday. Those who do not register will not be eligible for financial aid.

On-Line Job Searches: Employment Opportunities

www.bls.gov/oco - *Occupational Outlook Handbook* published by the U.S. Department of Labor's Department of Labor Statistics, provides information about employment in hundreds of occupations, offers detailed discussions of each occupation, including degrees, training, and other qualifications required, provides employment outlook and sources of additional information

www.ajb.dni.us - America's Job Bank (sponsored by the Department of Labor) listing over 500,000 job opportunities

www.careers.org - Career Resource Center which includes national and international job opportunities

www.jobbankusa.com - Career Search providing information on jobs in the military, technology, medical, legal, and other fields

www.careerbuilder.com - Career Search site providing high school students with a look at real jobs in the real world

www.monster.com - Parent company of FastWeb providing job and career information, including résumé building information

<http://mappingyourfuture.org> - Mapping your future includes links to various financial institutions serving as educational funding sponsors

Help is available when you need it. As long as you start early, listen attentively during counselor visits, read all counselor communications and meet all deadlines promptly, you will be well prepared.

NOTES