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Denotes Key Websites

TEXAS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

New graduation plans took effect for the fall of 2013 in Texas. Counselors will work closely with students to determine which plan best fits their academic goals and post-secondary plans.

An overview of all graduation plans is shown on page 3 of this handbook. Detailed information can be found in the course catalog, which can be found on the Plano ISD website.

In addition to meeting coursework requirements, all students must pass End of Course exams in the following areas: English 1, English 2, Algebra 1, Biology and US History.

EOC Retest Dates for Spring 2017

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Tuesday, March 28 | English 1 Retest |
| Thursday, March 30 | English 2 Retest |
| May 1 - 5 | Biology/Algebra 1/ US History Retest Window |

EOC Retest Dates for Summer 2017

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Monday, June 19 | English 1 Retest |
| Wednesday, June 21 | English 2 Retest |
| June 19 - 23 | Biology/Algebra 1/ US History Retest Window |

More information regarding End of Course exams can be found at www.tea.state.tx.us

| GRADE POINTS: Class of 2017 | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|---------|----------|-------------------------|
| Numerical Grade | AP/IB | Honors | Regular | Modified | Applied/ Fundamental |
| 97 & above | 5.0 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 2.5 |
| 93 – 96 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 2.3 |
| 90 – 92 | 4.6 | 4.1 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 2.1 |
| 87 –89 | 4.4 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 1.9 |
| 83 – 86 | 4.2 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 1.7 |
| 80 – 82 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 1.5 |
| 77 – 79 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 2.3 | 1.3 |
| 73 – 76 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 1.0 |
| 71 – 72 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 1.9 | 1.0 |
| 70 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 1.0 |
| Below 70 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

| Subject | Minimum Plan | Recommended Plan | Distinguished Achievement Plan | Foundation/Endorsement |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| English | 4 credits English 1,2,3,4 | 4 credits English 1,2,3,4 | 4 credits English 1,2,3,4 | 4 credits English 1, 2, 3, 4 th year choice (EOCs: English 1 and English 2) |
| Math | 3 credits MUST INCLUDE Algebra 1, Geometry, 3 rd Math | 4 credits MUST INCLUDE Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and a 4 th year of Math * Or Algebra 1, Geometry, Math Models, Algebra 2 | 4 credits MUST INCLUDE Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and a 4 th year of Math * | 4 credits Algebra 1, Geometry, 3 rd year choice, 4 th year choice (EOC: Algebra 1) |
| Science | 3 credits: MUST INCLUDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology and IPC and any science course approved by SBOE, or Biology and Chemistry and Physics All students must take Biology. Students that do not take IPC must take Chemistry and Physics | 4 credits: MUST INCLUDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology, Chemistry, and Physics and a 4th year of Science **, or Biology, IPC, and Chemistry and Physics IPC must be taken before Chemistry and Physics | 4 credits: MUST INCLUDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology, Chemistry, and Physics (completed by end of 11th grade) and a 4th year Science ** Note: IPC cannot count for this program | 4 credits: Biology, IPC or Chemistry, 3 rd year choice, 4 th year choice (EOC Biology) |
| Social Studies | 4 credits World Geography, World History, US History, US Government, Economics | 4 credits World Geography, World History, US History, US Government, Economics | 4 credits World Geography, World History, US History, US Government, Economics | 4 credits World Geography, World History, US History, US Government/Economics (EOC: US History) |
| Fine Arts – Speech may not substitute | 1.0 credit Art, Music, Theater, Dance, Principles and Elements of Floral Design – 1 credit of the same course | 1.0 credit Art, Music, Theater, Dance, Principles and Elements of Floral Design – 1 credit of the same course | 1.0 credit Art, Music, Theater, Dance, Principles and Elements of Floral Design – 1 credit of the same course | 1.0 credit Art, Music, Theater, Dance, Principles and Elements of Floral Design |
| Speech | 0.5 credit Communication Applications | 0.5 credit Communication Applications | 0.5 credit Communication Applications | .5 Communication credit – AVID 1, Debate 1, Communication Applications or Professional Communications |
| Health | 0.5 credit or 1.0 credit of Principles of Health Science | 0.5 credit or 1.0 credit of Principles of Health Science | 0.5 credit or 1.0 credit of Principles of Health Science | .5 or 1.0 credit of Principles of Health Science |
| Foreign Language – | 0.0 credit | 2.0 credits Foreign language must be 2 credits of the same language | 3.0 credits Foreign language must be 3 credits of the same language | 2 credits of same language |
| Physical Education | 1.0 credit | 1.0 credit | 1.0 credit | 1.0 credit |
| Electives | 7.0 credits | 5.0 credits | 4.0 credits | 5 credits – defined Elective/Endorsement Requirements |
| Total | 24 Credits – Minimum graduation form must be completed | 26 Credits | 26 Credits (must include 4 advanced measures) | 26 Credits Distinguished Level of Achievement is the Foundation/Endorsement Plan including Algebra 2. Students are eligible for top 10% automatic admission to state universities. |
| | | | | Endorsements: STEM, Business and Industry, Public Services, Arts and Humanities, Multidisciplinary |

SENIOR COURSE SELECTIONS

| <u>ART</u> | <u>PHYSICAL ED & HEALTH</u> | <u>UIL SPORTS</u> |
|--|--|--|
| Art 1 451001 | ½ credit courses | Cross Country 4 (G) 303104 |
| Art 2 452001 | Health Education 30100B | Diving 305104 |
| Art 3 456401 | Individual Sports 30260B | Football 4 304404 |
| Art 4 IB 456451 | Team Sports 30250B | Golf 4 305204 |
| Art Sculpture 452081 | 1 credit courses | Soccer 4 (B) 304504 |
| Art H/AP 2-D Design (2 hrs) (Application) 456351 | Aerobics 302201 | Soccer 4 (G) 303204 |
| Art H/AP 3-D Design (2 hrs) (Application) 456371 | Cheerleading 4 (Tryout) 306104 | Softball Conditioning 4 303304 |
| Art H/AP Drawing (2 hrs) (Application) 454051 | Dance 1 451871 | Softball 4 303404 |
| Art 3 IB SL 456401 | Dance 2 452871 | Swimming 4 305304 |
| Art 4 IB HL 456451 | Dance 3 453871 | Tennis 4 305404 |
| Art History AP 454071 | Dance 4 454871 | Track 4 (B) 304604 |
| Art and Media Communications 451501 | Dance IB SL 453861 | Track 4 (G) 303504 |
| AVID | Dance IB HL 454861 | Volleyball 4 303604 |
| AVID 4 (by approval only) 951901 | Drill Team 4 (Tryout) 307104 | Wrestling 4 (B) 304704 |
| COMPUTER SCIENCE | Outdoor Education 302401 | Wrestling 4 (G) 304704 |
| Computer Science 1 (semester 1) 401001 | PE Partners 301241 | CAREER EDUCATION |
| Computer Science 2 (semester 2) 402001 | STEP 302301 | AGRICULTURE SCIENCE |
| Computer Science AP 401051 | Team Sports Officiating 952651 | ½ credit courses |
| Computer Science 1 IB SL 401061 | Weight Training (Ind/Tm Sports) 302901 | Landscape Design & Management 55155B |
| Computer Science 2 IB HL 402061 | SCIENCE | Prof Standards in Agribusiness (Application) 55195B |
| Computer Science 3 H 403531 | Anatomy & Physiology 204101 | Turf Grass Management 55160B |
| ENGLISH | Biology 1 204001 | 1 credit courses |
| English 4 104001 | Biology 1 IB SL 204261 | Ag Mechanics & Metal Technologies (Sem) 55250Q |
| English 4 H 104031 | Biology 2 AP (2 hrs) (2 credits) 204151 | Floral Design 551501 |
| English 4 AP Literature 104051 | Biology 2 IB HL 204161 | Floral Design II 551601 |
| English 4 IB HL 104061 | Chemistry 1 205001 | Livestock Production (Sem) 55130Q |
| Creative Writing (½ credit) 10310B | Chemistry 1 IB SL 205361 | Veterinary Medical Applications (Application) 552801 |
| Bible Literacy (½ credit) 10370B | Chemistry 2 AP (2 hrs) (2 credits) 205151 | Vet. Medical Assistant 2 (Application) 552901 |
| Literary Genres (½ credit) 10350B | Chemistry 2 IB HL 205261 | Welding I 557601 |
| Theory of Knowledge IB 952461 | Earth and Space Science 207501 | Wildlife, Fisheries, & Ecology Mgmt (Sem) 55110Q |
| LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH | Environmental Systems 208201 | BUSINESS & INFO TECHNOLOGY |
| American Sign Language 1 500101 | Environmental Science AP 208251 | ½ credit courses |
| American Sign Language 2 500201 | Environmental Science IB SL 208261 | Global Business 33540B |
| American Sign Language 3 500301 | Honors Scientific Research & Design 208001 | Social Media Marketing 55560B |
| Chinese 3 H 503631 | Physics 1 206001 | Sports and Entertainment Mkt. 55515B |
| Chinese 3 IH 503661 | Physics 1 H 206031 | Virtual Business 33550B |
| Chinese 4 AP 504651 | Physics 1 IB SL 206061 | 1 credit courses |
| Chinese 4 IB SL 504661 | AP Physics 1 (1 st semester course) 20615B | Accounting 355001 |
| French 3 H 503131 | AP Physics 2 (2 nd semester course) 20625B | Business Information Management 352001 |
| French 4 AP 504151 | AP Physics C Elect. & Magnetism (1 st sem) 20635B | Business Law (Sem) 35330Q |
| French 4 IB SL 504161 | AP Physics C Mechanics (2 nd semester) 20645B | Digital Design & Media Production 403001 |
| French 5 IB HL 505161 | Physics 2 IB HL 206161 | Digital Electronics 556351 |
| German 3 H 503231 | SOCIAL STUDIES | Digital Media 403051 |
| German 4 AP 504251 | ½ credit courses | Audio/Video Technology 403201 |
| Latin 3 H 503331 | Economics 25500B | Principles of Information Technology (Sem) 40340Q |
| Latin 4 AP 504351 | Economics AP (Macro) 25505B | Video Game Design (Sem) 40360Q |
| Spanish 1 501401 | Government 25400B | Web Design 403101 |
| Spanish 2 502401 | Government AP 25405B | ENGINEERING |
| Spanish 3 503401 | Psychology 25700B | Engineering Science 556201 |
| Spanish 3 H 503431 | Psychology AP 25705B | Aerospace Engineering 556301 |
| Spanish 4 504401 | Sociology 25800B | Engineering Design & Development 556501 |
| Spanish 4 AP 504451 | Sociology H 25803B | FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES |
| Spanish 4 IB SL 504461 | 1 credit courses | ½ credit courses |
| Spanish 5 AP 505451 | Economics IB SL 255061 | Dollars and Sense 55240B |
| Spanish 5 IB HL 505461 | European History AP 256051 | Interpersonal Studies 55245B |
| JOURNALISM | World Area Studies IB HL 253161 | Lifetime Nutrition & Wellness 55260B |
| Journalism 106001 | SPEECH | 1 credit courses |
| Photojournalism (Application) 106751 | Intro. to Radio/TV (½ credit) 45250B | Child Development (Sem) 55230Q |
| Newspaper Prod. 1 (Application) 106101 | Professional Communications (½ credit) 45350B | Fashion Design I 553101 |
| Newspaper Prod. 2 (Application) 106201 | Debate 1 451601 | Food Science (Science Credit) 552251 |
| Yearbook 1 (Application) 106401 | Debate 2 452601 | Interior Design I (Sem) 55235Q |
| Yearbook 2 (Application) 106501 | Debate 3 453601 | Introduction to Culinary Arts (Sem) 55550Q |
| Yearbook 3 (Application) 106601 | Oral Interpretation 1 451701 | 2 credit courses |
| MATHEMATICS | Oral Interpretation 2 452701 | Fashion Design II 553151 |
| Geometry 153001 | Oral Interpretation 3 453701 | Instructional Practices (Application) 553001 |
| Math Models 153501 | Independent Study/Speech 454701 | Practicum in Education & Training (Application) 553051 |
| Algebra 2 154001 | THEATER | Culinary Arts (Application) 553201 |
| Algebra 2 H 154031 | Musical Theater 451951 | Practicum in Culinary Arts (Application) 553251 |
| Math Independent Studies 156001 | Theater Arts 1 451801 | MEDICAL CAREERS |
| Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR) 157001 | Theater Arts 2 452801 | 1 credit course |
| Precalculus 155001 | Theater Arts 3 453801 | Medical Terminology (Sem) 55410Q |
| Precalculus H 155031 | Theater Arts 4 454801 | Principles of Health Science 554201 |
| Statistics 158001 | Tech Theater 1 451901 | Pharmacology (Application) 554301 |
| Statistics AP 158051 | Tech Theater 2 (Application) 452901 | World Health Research 554601 |
| Math Studies IB 158061 | Tech Theater 3 (Application) 453901 | 2 credit courses |
| Calculus AP AB 159151 | Tech Theater 4 (Application) 454901 | Health Science Theory & Clinical (Application) 554401 |
| Calculus AP BC 159251 | Theater Prod. 1 (2 hrs) (Audition) 455131 | Practicum in Health Science (Application) 554501 |
| Calculus IB SL 158161 | Theater Prod. 2 (2 hrs) (Audition) 455231 | OTHER |
| Calculus IB HL 159061 | Theater Arts IB SL 453841 | 1 credit courses |
| Multivariable Calculus 159301 | Theater Arts IB HL 454841 | Law Enforcement 1 555301 |
| MILITARY SCIENCE | UIL SPORTS | Forensic Science (Science Credit) 555401 |
| ROTC 4 953401 | Baseball Conditioning 4 304004 | Peer Assist. for Students w/ Dis (Application) 952601 |
| MUSIC | Baseball 4 304104 | 2 credit courses |
| Band 4 454101 | Basketball 4 (B) 304204 | Auto Tech I: Main. & Light Repair 557201 |
| Choir 4 454201 | Basketball 4 (G) 303004 | Auto Tech II: Auto Service 557251 |
| Orchestra 4 454301 | Cross Country 4 (B) 304304 | CO-OP PROGRAMS |
| Music Studies 453401 | | 3 credit courses |
| Music Theory AP 454451 | | Career Prep 553801 |
| | | Career Prep 2 553851 |

Senior Scheduling Options for Fall 2017

SENIOR SCHEDULE OPTION 1

- Take 7 classes

SENIOR SCHEDULE OPTION 2: A senior who meets the following criteria may be eligible to take only **6 classes**:

- Must be on the Recommended Graduation Plan or Foundation with Endorsement
- Pass all EOC exams
- Completion of **17 credits** by mid-term 11th grade
- Must have parental approval

SENIOR SCHEDULE OPTION 3: A senior who meets the following criteria may be eligible to take only **5 classes**:

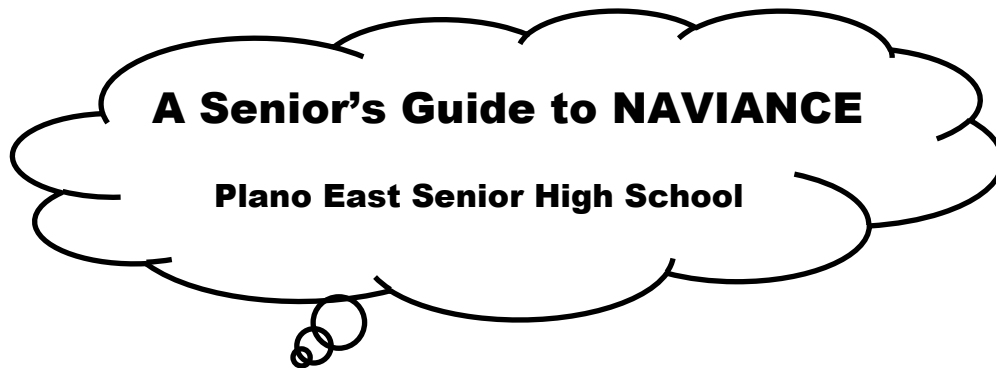
- Must be on the Recommended Graduation Plan or Foundation with Endorsement
- Pass all EOC exams
- Completion of **17.5 credits** by mid-term 11th grade
- Must have parental approval
- **AND** must be enrolled in **3 or more AP or IB** courses per semester.

CORRESPONDENCE AND E-SCHOOL: If you choose to take a course through e-school or correspondence, be sure to check with your counselor first to ensure that you are taking the correct course in the correct format. Correspondence exams may only be administered by Plano East Counseling staff on the Plano East campus.

SCHEDULE CHANGE PROCEDURES

All requests for schedule changes for 2017-2018 school year must be made by **June 2, 2017**. **No Elective Changes will be made after this date.**

No schedules will be changed during the first three days of school unless a student is misplaced. Students must attend all classes listed on their schedule, or they will have an unexcused absence for the classes missed.



To Get Started:

1. Login at: <http://succeed.Naviance.com/planoeast>
 - **Account:** planoeast
 - **Username (posted as email):** your planoisd username
 - **Password:** your Plano ID number
2. Go to the **About Me** tab. Under "Official Things", click on **Profile**. Please check your information and **add your email address (or parent email)**. Click on the pencil twice to confirm. This email address will be used to send you updates on colleges visiting Plano East.
3. Go to the **Colleges** tab and click "colleges I'm applying to". If you have started the **Common Application** application, link that information by using your *Common Application* email address to complete that request at the top of the page. This must be done **FIRST** in order to utilize all of the tools Naviance has to offer you.

Steps to Applying to College:

1. **Go to the College Website** - Go to the website of the college to which you want to apply and read all information for Freshman or Perspective Students. Follow their instructions (each school is different) for application noting which application to use **always use Common Application if offered*.
2. **Apply** - Fill out the college application. **Always use the Common Application if it is a possibility as it is the easiest to track online*. Do all essays required and pay fees.
3. **Transcripts** - Go on **Naviance** and be sure you have added each college to which you are applying, then request your transcripts be sent there (you will likely do this 3 times – when applying, mid-year, and final for the FINAL college of your choosing). Revisit Naviance to view that your transcripts were sent.
4. **Test Scores** - Go to www.Collegeboard.org or www.ACTstudent.org to send test scores to the individual colleges. This is the **ONLY** way they will see your SAT or ACT test scores and they are required for admission.

| Feature | Description | How to Access |
|--|--|---|
| <u>Resume</u> | *Record your high school activities, awards, volunteer experiences, etc. | 1. Click on the About Me tab. 2. Click on the Resume hyperlink under Interesting Things About Me section. |
| <u>College Searches</u> | *Click on various tabs of individual college profiles to learn more about financial aid, majors, degrees, and campus life. *Add colleges you are interested in to your My Colleges list. | 1. Click on the Colleges tab at the top of the page. 2. Go to any link under College Research if you are seeking ideas about colleges to consider based on your interests, locations, or funding. |
| <u>Adding Colleges to your List</u> | *After using your specific search criteria to explore colleges that may fit your needs, you may have other colleges in mind based on family history, personal preferences, or scholarship opportunities. You can always add these colleges to your list. | 1. Add more colleges to your college list by clicking the link under My Colleges called "Colleges I'm Thinking About". 2. Click the "Add colleges to this list" link and search the alphabetical directory of options to add one or several choices. |
| <u>Transcript Request</u> | *After submitting your college application, you must request any transcript through Naviance. This can be done at any point in the year. You can also check the status of those transcripts by utilizing this tool. | 1. Go to the Colleges tab. 2. Select the Transcripts link in blue on the left side. 3. Choose the appropriate option: Request transcript for my college application (including NCAA), Request transcripts for scholarships or athletics, or View status of all transcripts. 4. You can VERIFY the status of your transcript by utilizing the View Status of all Transcripts option. |
| <u>Letter of Recommendation - teacher</u> | *These are required by most highly selective colleges and those using Common Application . *You may request letters online, but every request should be followed up with a personal email/visit to the teacher to see if this is possible and can work in your time frame as well as where you want that teacher's letters to be sent. | 1. Go to the Colleges tab and click the link Colleges I'm Applying To . 2. Select Teacher Recommendations and add teachers from whom you would like to request recommendations. 3. Follow up with the teacher to inform them of where to send letters and get them any other requested information. 4. Don't forget to thank your teacher for the effort after the process is complete. |
| <u>Letter of Recommendation - counselor</u> | *These are required by most highly selective colleges and those using Common Application . *The student must obtain a packet in the counseling office or online, complete, and return to the counselor. *The student should speak to/email with counselor when submitting a packet to be sure the letter is needed and the process is thorough. | 1. Go to the counseling office or online to get the Gold Recommendation Packet . Complete as much information as possible – the more detail, the better. 2. Emphasize character and interests. 3. Speak to counselor when you return packet to verify needs/schools/necessary steps in application process. 4. **Always inform the counselor when you add a school after turning in a packet (one that was not originally listed). |
| <u>Scholarships</u> | *Once your personal information is completed in the About Me tab and your college interests are searched, you are ready to look for scholarships. *Local and national scholarship opportunities are posted to give you the maximum options. | 1. Click under the Careers tab. 2. Look in the Scholarship and Money section at the bottom. - Scholarship Match will give results the more information you include in About Me and your college preferences - Scholarship List is a list of current and upcoming local scholarships - Scholarship Applications are available for you to complete online - National Scholarship Search gives you opportunities for national scholarships |

Student Timeline for College Admissions

JUNIOR YEAR

- Begin to research colleges by going to the library or by doing research online.
- **Consider taking the SAT and/or the ACT in the spring to allow you time to review results and retake the exams in the fall of your senior year if necessary.**
- Register for May AP Exams. Information will be given through your AP teachers.
- Take the US History End of Course Exam in May.
- AP Exams will be administered at Plano East during the weeks of May 1-5 and May 8-12.
- Complete the Personality Profile and Career Interest Survey on Naviance if you have not done so and investigate colleges on the Super Match.
- Looking for opportunities to study in the summer? Check Naviance under “Enrichment Opportunities” for the latest information during the spring semester.

SUMMER 2017

- Visit colleges during the summer. Call ahead for appointments with the financial aid, admissions and academic advisors at the schools that you plan to visit.
- If you go on interviews or visits, send thank you notes.
- Go on-line to view applications and learn what information you will be asked to provide. Focus on the essay portions and decide how you would like to present yourself to the college admissions representatives.
- Decide if you are going to apply under a particular college’s early decision or early action program. See page 9 for more information. Remember to make note of all of your deadlines, including admissions, housing and scholarship applications!
- Be sure to pay the one-time \$5 fee for all transcripts sent during your senior year.

SENIOR YEAR

August/September

- Register to take the SAT and/or ACT tests if you have not done so or if you wish to retake the tests in hopes of making a higher score.
- Attend the College Night program in September to visit with college representatives. College nights will be held at Plano Senior High on September 11 and at Plano East Senior High on September 12.
- Double check the deadlines for college admissions/housing and scholarships and begin your applications. There may be separate applications and deadlines for housing and scholarships!
- Get a Letter of Recommendation packet from the counseling office or from our Plano East website **if the college requires a letter from your counselor**. Remember to allow **10 school days** for your counselor to write your letter. If you need a teacher recommendation letter, provide them with a resume.
- Create or update your resume. The Resume builder on Naviance is a great tool to use!

October

- Most early action and early decision applications are due between October 1 and November 1.
- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available this month. Complete it online as soon as possible. The CSS Financial Profile will also be available this month if your college required it. Young men who are 18 years or older must prove selective service registration in order to receive federal financial aid.

November/December

- The last day to submit a Letter of Recommendation Packet to your counselor is **December 1st**.
- Watch the Panther Pause for the December deadline to order transcripts through Naviance.
- Take the EOC test if you did not pass all exams previously.

February/March

- Check Naviance for scholarship information and to access applications.
- Remember that grades through the **third nine weeks** will be used to calculate your final class rank, and you will send your final transcript to the universities at the *conclusion of the spring semester*.

April/May

- Watch deposit deadlines for colleges. Most colleges have a May 1 deadline for the deposit.
- Complete the Senior Survey in Naviance, which will include any scholarships that you have received.
- Colleges in Texas require that you have had a Bacterial Meningitis vaccine before you enroll. Be sure that you have taken care of this requirement!

Eight Steps to Admissions Success

1. **Consider applying early.** College admissions deadlines are earlier every year! Getting an application in early often gives you an advantage.
2. **Take the toughest courses you can handle.** A student whose curriculum includes a good number of advanced placement and honors courses has an edge over someone with slightly higher grades with a less rigorous curriculum.
3. **Choose your schools well.** The applications most easily dismissed are from those who have not thought at all about why they are a good match for a certain school and, therefore, have trouble making a plausible case in their essays. It is much easier if you do your research and choose the school rather than applying to numerous universities/colleges in the hopes that at least one will accept you. Be sure to ask questions about housing, meal plans and campus life!
4. **Ask for letters from teachers who will be enthusiastic about you.** A lukewarm recommendation can damage an application.
5. **Get to know your counselor.** Make sure you give your counselor plenty of time to write your letter for you. Four weeks lead-time is a good rule of thumb, but ten school days are required.
6. **Craft essays to the question.** Admissions officers can easily spot "one size fits all" essays, so turn in a clean copy that is carefully proofread. Don't rely on your spell check program, which won't tell you that *Duke* appears in the essay you intended for *Princeton*. Be sure that your essay gives the committee an idea of who you are as a person and as a student.
7. **Do an alumni interview, if it is an option.** This will signal that you are serious about the school.
8. **Don't let up on academics your senior year. *Admissions committees do look at first semester grades and have been known to reject students who take it easy.*** Also remember that you will submit a final transcript to your college showing all of your senior year grades.
9. **Keep accurate records of your application materials.** Maintain a separate file for each school.

While most schools look for similar qualities in applicants, there is no sure-fire formula for getting into a particular college. With that in mind, parents and students should study college websites and quiz recent alumni, current students and admissions officials to learn which school would be the best "fit."

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN COLLEGE?

- **Budget your time and stay organized!**
- **Prepare and study for your classes. Typical study time is 2 – 3 hours for every hour that is spent in class.**
- **Go to class and ask questions!**
- **Connect with your professors and with other students through student organizations and study groups.**

College Admissions Options

Early Action, Early Notification – These are very similar. High school students apply in the fall of their senior year and the colleges notify them of acceptance generally by January without requiring them to commit financially. Students have until early May to accept or decline an offer of admission.

Early Decision – Early Decision is a **binding** agreement between you and the college, so it's essential that you be certain about wanting to enroll at that college.

By applying under an early decision plan, you are making a commitment to attend that college and surrender the right to wait until May 1 to make a decision. With this application method, a student is saying “if I am accepted, I am going – no exceptions”. High school counselors and admission officers take this commitment very seriously. It is important to know that you may apply for early decision to only one college. You may apply for regular admission to other colleges during the fall, but once you are admitted under an Early Decision plan, you must withdraw all applications to other colleges immediately.

When is Early Decision the right choice?

Advice from the experts: Don't opt for Early Decision unless you've spent time on the campus in classes and dorms, and you have a true sense of the academic and social climate of the college. Advocates of Early Decision feel that students who know exactly where they want to go and know that they have the funds to go to the school should take advantage of what Early Decision offers, but again, only if they have meticulously researched their options.

In general the Early Decision applicant pool is more competitive, but fewer in number. More competitive schools are drawing more applicants from their early decision applicants than ever before.

Be sure to investigate what happens if you are denied admission under Early Decision. Questions to ask are:

- Are you automatically placed in the regular decision category if denied early decision acceptance?
- Is the denial final?
- Is it possible to reapply?

Be Aware!!!

Colleges and universities use the terms “Early Decision”, “Early Action” or “Early Application” differently and/or interchangeably – make sure you know what the college you are applying to means!

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING

Should I take the ACT or the SAT?

Most colleges will accept either test for admission. However, you should check the admission requirements for each college to be sure. Colleges also vary as to the parts of each exam that they require or which parts that they consider for admission. Please see the chart on the following page for more in depth information.

When do I need to take the SAT or ACT?

We recommend that juniors consider taking the April, May or June SAT and/or ACT. The preferred method of registration is on-line, however registration booklets for these tests are in the Counseling Office. If registration is completed by mail, watch your POSTMARK deadlines carefully. For a quick and easy registration, you may go to the website, where you can also find information on test dates for the 2017-2018 school year. You will need to **upload a photo** when registering and **present photo id** when you arrive at the testing site.

Spring 2017 SAT Dates

| Test Date | Registration Deadline |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| March 11, 2017 | February 10, 2017 |
| May 6, 2017 | April 7, 2017 |
| June 3, 2017 | May 9, 2017 |

Spring 2017 ACT Dates

| Test Date | Registration Deadline |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| February 11, 2017 | January 13, 2017 |
| April 8, 2017 | March 3, 2017 |
| June 10, 2017 | May 5, 2017 |

Note: There are **two** types of **SAT** exams; the Reasoning and a variety of Subject Tests. **The basic test is the Reasoning test.** Only certain colleges and programs require Subject Tests.

How do I prepare for the SAT or ACT?

The best preparation for college entrance exams is to do well in your courses in high school and take on as much challenge as you can. There are also many websites and books that can help you prepare. The College Board will soon be offering free online SAT preparation in partnership with the **Khan Academy**. See their website for details.

What about the redesigned SAT?

A redesigned SAT will be implemented in March of 2016. We believe that the majority of colleges will accept either the current SAT or the redesigned SAT. Please refer to the chart on page 11 and the website listed below for more detailed information.



www.collegeboard.com

www.act.org

<https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/redesign>

SAT vs. ACT

| | (NEW) SAT | ACT |
|--|---|---|
| When is it administered? | Seven times per year | Six times per year |
| How much does it cost? | \$45.00 (no essay) \$57.00 (plus essay) | \$42.50 (no writing) \$58.50 (plus writing) |
| What is the test structure? | Three section exam: One Evidence based Reading section, one Writing and Language section, one Math section and an optional Writing section. Total Time: 3 hrs Additional 50 minutes for writing | Four section exam: English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. An Experimental section is added to tests on certain dates only, and is clearly experimental. Total Time: 2 hrs 55 min Additional 30 mins w/ writing |
| What is the test content? | Math: Focuses on math that research shows is used most in college and career. Evidence-Based Reading & Writing: Questions are passage based. Students are asked to support answers with evidence from a passage. | Math: up to trigonometry. Science: charts, experiments. Reading: four passages, one each of Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities, and Natural Science. English: stresses grammar |
| Is there a penalty for wrong answers? | No | No |
| How is the test scored? | 200 – 800 per section, added together for a combined score of 1600. The writing section is scored separately on a scale of 2-8. | 1-36 for each subject, averaged for a composite score. A 36 is the highest possible composite score. |
| Are all scores sent to schools? | No. There is a "Score Choice" option. Students can choose which schools will receive their scores AND which scores the schools will see. | No. There is a "Score Choice" option. Students can choose which schools will receive their scores AND which scores the schools will see. |
| Are there other uses for the exams? | Scholarship purposes Texas Success Initiative | Scholarship purposes Texas Success Initiative |
| Best time to register? | At least six weeks before the test date | At least six weeks before the test date |



www.Khanacademy.org

- Free personalized SAT test prep
- College essay help
- College admissions resources
- Free tutorial help in every subject

Khan Academy is a free education website that offers, “a free, world-class, education for anyone anywhere”. It offers tutorials and short- lectures in the form of You-Tube videos. In addition, College Board has teamed up with Khan Academy to offer FREE personalized SAT test prep for all students.

THE TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE

The purpose of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is to assess the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering freshman-level students should have if they are to perform effectively in Texas public colleges or universities. The test consists of three sections: Reading, Mathematics, and Writing.

Who should take the TSI?

Any student that is planning to enter a Texas community college or four year public college in Texas is required by law to take the test.

When should I take the TSI?

It is required that you take the test at the college that you are attending and your scores must be in place before you register for classes. Although it is not used for admission, public colleges in Texas use your results to determine course placement.

How do I register?

You will be asked to complete a Pre-Assessment activity, which is required before you take the actual TSI. Contact your admissions representative or view the website in the spring for information about where and when you can take the test and how to register. You may be required to take the test on the college campus that you are attending or another affiliate campus.

Can I be exempt from taking the TSI?

You can be exempt by attaining the following scores on standardized tests:

ACT: A composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on both the English and mathematics tests.

OR

SAT: A combined score of 1070 with 500 minimum on both the verbal and mathematics tests.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Apply Texas

The Texas Common Application for freshman admission can be used to apply to any Texas public university and some private Texas colleges. It can be completed and submitted electronically.

The website provides information about admission requirements, application procedures and major codes. The information outlines the parts you must complete, the application deadline, the application fee and the documents you must submit for each school. You will also find helpful telephone numbers, e-mail and mailing addresses and other information, such as scholarship and financial aid application deadlines, and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) code for the university.



www.applytexas.org

The Common Application

The Common Application is the recommended form of over 500 colleges and universities for admission to undergraduate programs. Many of these institutions use the form exclusively. All Common Application schools require a counselor recommendation and 2 – 3 teacher recommendations.

The concept is simple: Students create an account and complete one Common Application and submit the form electronically to every Common Application school to which they are applying. It is important to link your Common Application account to your Naviance account before requesting transcripts or recommendations. Teacher and Counselor recommendations must be requested through Naviance.



www.commonapp.org

TRANSCRIPTS

All transcripts must be requested through Naviance.

This means all!

Transcripts for college:

APPLY TEXAS

COMMON APP

SCHOOL SPECIFIC APP

ALL APPLICATION TYPES!

Transcripts for scholarships

Personal Copies of transcripts

Transcripts for NCAA

- This option will be made available to you in the summer before your Senior year and counselors will be visiting with you about the specifics of the procedure.
- **You must pay a one-time \$5 fee before your transcript will be uploaded to Naviance.**
- Personal copies of transcripts must be picked-up in person from the registrar's office.
- **Transcripts do not include SAT or ACT scores;** these must be sent directly to the college from the testing organization.

Please Note:

Once a student requests a transcript, it will be sent regardless of whether or not the student completes the college application.

Texas Colleges & Universities

| NAME | LOCATION | TELEPHONE | WEB ADDRESS |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Abilene Christian University | Abilene | 325/674-2650 | www.acu.edu |
| Angelo State University | San Angelo | 325/942-2073 | www.angelo.edu/ |
| Austin College | Sherman | 903/813-2000 | www.austincollege.edu/ |
| Baylor College of Medicine | Houston | 713/789-4951 | www.bcm.tmc.edu/ |
| Baylor University | Waco | 800/Baylor-U | www.baylor.edu/ |
| Concordia University | Austin | 800/865-4282 | www.concordia.edu/ |
| Dallas Baptist University | Dallas | 214/333-5360 | www.dbu.edu/ |
| Dallas Theological Seminary | Dallas | 800/992-0998 | www.dts.edu/ |
| East Texas Baptist University | Marshall | 800/804-ETBU | www.etbu.edu/ |
| Hardin Simmons University | Abilene | 800/GO-HSUTX | www.hsutx.edu/ |
| Houston Baptist University | Houston | 281/649-3211 | www.hbu.edu/ |
| Howard Payne University | Brownwood | 800/880-4478 | www.hputx.edu/ |
| Lamar University | Beaumont | 409/880-7011 | www.lamar.edu/ |
| LaTourneau University | Longview | 903/233-3400 | www.letu.edu/ |
| McMurry University | Abilene | 800/460-2392 | www.mcm.edu/ |
| Midwestern State University | Wichita Falls | 940/397-4000 | www.mwsu.edu/ |
| Our Lady of the Lake University | San Antonio | 210/434-6711 | www.ollusa.edu/ |
| Paul Quinn College | Dallas | 214/376-1000 | www.pqc.edu/ |
| Rice University | Houston | 713/348-0000 | www.rice.edu/ |
| Saint Edward's University | Austin | 512/448-1050 | www.stedwards.edu/ |
| Saint Mary's University | San Antonio | 800/FOR-STMU | www.stmarytx.edu/ |
| Sam Houston State University | Huntsville | 936/294-1111 | www.shsu.edu/ |
| Schreiner College | Kerville | 830/896-5411 | www.schreiner.edu/ |
| South Texas College of Law | Houston | 713/659-8040 | www.stcl.edu/ |
| Southern Methodist University | Dallas | 214/768-2550 | www.smu.edu/ |
| Southwestern Assemblies of God University | Waxahachie | 888/YES-SAGU | www.sagu.edu/ |
| Southwestern University | Georgetown | 512/863-5788 | www.southwestern.edu/ |
| Stephen F. Austin State University | Nacogdoches | 936/468-2504 | www.sfasu.edu/ |
| Sul Ross State University | Alpine | 432/837-8011 | www.sulross.edu/ |
| Tarleton State University | Tarleton | 254/968-9100 | www.tarleton.edu/ |
| Texas A&M | College Station | 979/845-3741 | www.tamu.edu/ |
| Texas A&M | Commerce | 903/886-5081 | www.tamu-commerce.edu/ |
| Texas A&M | Corpus Christi | 361/825-5700 | www.tamucc.edu/ |
| Texas A&M | Galveston | 409/740-4400 | www.tamug.tamu.edu/ |
| Texas A&M | Prairie View | 936/857-2626 | www.pvamu.edu/ |
| Texas A&M International University | Laredo | 956/326-2001 | www.tamiu.edu/ |
| Texas Christian University | Fort Worth | 800/TCU-FROG | www.tcu.edu/ |
| Texas Lutheran University | Seguin | 830/372-8020 | www.tlu.edu/ |
| Texas Southern University | Houston | 713/313-7071 | www.tsu.edu/ |
| Texas State University | San Marcos | 512/245-22364 | www.tsu.edu/ |
| Texas Tech University | Lubbock | 806/742-1480 | www.ttu.edu/ |
| Texas Wesleyan University | Fort Worth | 817/531-4444 | www.txwesleyan.edu/ |
| Texas Woman's University | Denton | 866/809-6130 | www.twu.edu/ |
| Trinity University | San Antonio | 210/999-7011 | www.trinity.edu/ |
| University of Central Texas | Killeen | 245/526-7161 | www.ctcd.cc.tx.us/ |
| University of Dallas | Irving | 972/721-5000 | www.udallas.edu/ |
| University of Houston-Clear Lake | Houston | 281/283-7600 | www.cl.uh.edu/ |
| University of Houston-Downtown | Houston | 713/221-8000 | www.dt.uh.edu/ |
| University of Houston-Main Campus | Houston | 713/743-9595 | www.uh.edu/ |
| University of Houston-Victoria | Victoria | 877/970/4848 | www.vic.uh.edu/ |
| University of Mary Hardin-Baylor | Belton | 254/295-8642 | www.umhb.edu/ |
| University of North Texas | Denton | 940-565-2000 | www.unt.edu/ |
| University of St. Thomas | Houston | 800/328-6819 | www.stthom.edu/ |
| University of Texas | Arlington | 817/272-6287 | www.uta.edu/ |
| University of Texas | Austin | 512/475-7440 | www.utexas.edu/ |
| University of Texas | Brownsville | 956/544-8200 | www.utb.edu/ |
| University of Texas | Edinburg | 956/381-2011 | www.panam.edu/ |
| University of Texas | Dallas | 972/883-2342 | www.utdallas.edu/ |
| University of Texas | El Paso | 915/747-5000 | www.utep.edu/ |
| University of Texas | Odessa | 432/552-2000 | www.utpb.edu/ |
| University of Texas | San Antonio | 210/458-4101 | www.utsa.edu/ |
| University of Texas | Tyler | 903-566-7000 | www.uttyler.edu/ |
| University of the Incarnate Word | San Antonio | 800/749-WORD | www.uiw.edu/ |
| Wayland Baptist University | Plainview | 806/291-1000 | www.wbu.edu/ |
| West Texas A&M University | Canyon | 806-651-2020 | www.wtamu.edu/ |

Admission Standards for Selected Texas Public Colleges and Universities

TOP 10% RULE: Students ranked in top 10% of their graduating class who meet deadline requirements are granted automatic admission to any Texas Public University, provided that they have completed the Recommended or Distinguished Achievement Graduation Programs or the Foundation with Endorsement/Distinguished Level of Achievement. The University of Texas at Austin will accept the top 7% for automatic admission.

UNIFORM ADMISSION POLICY: Texas Education Code (TEC) 51.803-51.809 requires that all students meet one of the following college readiness standards in order to be eligible to be considered for admission at a Texas Four-Year Public Institution:

- Successfully complete the recommended or advanced high school program or
- Satisfy the College Readiness Benchmarks on the SAT or ACT assessment:
 - SAT – 1500 out of 2400 (Verbal + Math + Writing)
 - ACT – 18 English, 21 Reading, 22 Mathematics and 24 Science

| College and contact information | | Class Rank | SAT | ACT | Other Information |
|--|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|------------|---|
| Angelo State | 1-800-946-8627 | Top 10% | No minimum | No minimum | |
| San Angelo | www.angelo.edu | Next 40% | 820 | 17 | |
| | | 3 rd Quarter | Review | Review | |
| | | 4 th Quarter | Review | Review | |
| Midwestern | 1-800-842-1922 | Top 10% | No Minimum | No Minimum | |
| Wichita Falls | www.mwsu.edu | Next 40% | 990 | 21 | |
| | | 3 rd Quarter | 1070 | 23 | |
| | | 4 th Quarter | 1110 | 24 | |
| Prairie View A&M | 936-857-2626 | Unconditional | 820 | 17 | |
| Prairie View | www.pvamu.edu | Conditional | 710 | 15-16 | |
| Sam Houston State | 936-294-1111 | Top 25% | No Minimum | No Minimum | |
| Huntsville | www.shsu.edu | 2 nd Quarter | 960 | 20 | |
| | | 3 rd Quarter | 1060 | 23 | |
| | | 4 th Quarter | Review | Review | |
| Stephen F. Austin | 936-468-2504 | Top 10% | No minimum | No minimum | |
| Nacogdoches | www.sfasu.edu | Top 11 – 25% | 850 | 17 | |
| | | 2 nd Quarter | 950 | 20 | |
| | | 3 rd Quarter | 1100 | 24 | |
| | | 4 th Quarter | Review | Review | |
| Tarleton State Univ | 1-800-687-8236 | 1st Quarter | No Minimum | No Minimum | |
| Stephenville | www.tarleton.edu | 2 nd Quarter | 800 | 16 | |
| | | 3 rd /4 th | Review | Review | |
| Texas A & M | 979-845-3741 | Top 10% | No Minimum | No Minimum | |
| College Station | www.tamu.edu | Top 11-25% | 1300(old SAT) 1360 (new SAT) | 30 | |
| | | 2 nd – 4 th Quarter | Review | Review | |
| Texas A & M | 903-886-5081 | Top 10% | No Minimum | No Minimum | |
| Commerce | www.tamu-commerce.edu | Top 11 - 25% | 950 | 20 | May have either Top 25% standing OR 950 SAT OR 20 ACT |
| | | 2 nd – 4 th Quarter | Review | Review | |
| Texas Southern | 713-313-7071 | All Students | 820 | 17 | |
| Houston | www.tsu.edu | | | | |
| Texas State | 512-245-2364 | Top 10% | No Minimum | No Minimum | |
| San Marcos | www.txstate.edu | 11 – 25% | 920 | 20 | |
| | | 2 nd Quarter | 1010 | 22 | |
| | | 3 rd Quarter | 1180 | 26 | |

Admission Standards for Selected Texas Public Colleges and Universities

Continued

| College and contact information | | Class Rank | SAT | ACT | Other Information |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Texas Tech | 806-742-1480 | Top 10% | No Minimum | No Minimum | |
| Lubbock | www.ttu.edu | 11 – 25% | 1140 | 25 | |
| | | 2 nd Quarter | 1230 | 28 | |
| | | 3 rd Quarter | 1270 | 29 | |
| | | 4 th Quarter | Review | Review | |
| Texas Woman's | 866-809-6130 | 1st Quarter | No minimum | No minimum | |
| Denton | www.twu.edu | 2 nd Quarter | 1000 | 21 | |
| | | 2 nd Half | Review | Review | |
| University of Houston | 713-743-1010 | Top 10% | No Minimum | No Minimum | |
| Houston | www.uh.edu | 11 – 25% | 1000 | 21 | |
| | | 2nd Quarter | 1100 | 24 | |
| | | Next 50% | Review | Review | |
| University of North Texas | 1-800-868-8211 | Top 10% | No Minimum | No Minimum | |
| Denton | www.unt.edu | 11 – 25% | 950 | 20 | |
| | | 2 nd Quarter | 1050 | 23 | |
| | | 3 rd Quarter | 1180 | 26 | |
| | | 4 th Quarter | Review | Review | |
| University of Texas | 817-272-6287 | 1st Quarter | No Minimum | No Minimum | |
| Arlington | www.uta.edu | 2 nd Quarter | 1050 | 22 | |
| | | 3rd Quarter | Review | Review | |
| | | 4 th Quarter | Review | Review | |
| University of Texas | 512-475-7440 | Top 7% | No Minimum | No Minimum | |
| Austin | www.utexas.edu | Remainder | Review | Review | |
| University of Texas | 972-883-2342 | Top 10% | No Minimum | No Minimum | |
| Dallas | www.utdallas.edu | 11 – 15% | 1200 | 26 | |
| | | Next 85% | Review | Review | |

Selected Two-Year Junior and Community Colleges

| College and contact information | | Class Rank | General Information |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Austin Community College Austin | 512-223-7000 www.austin.cc.tx.us | Open Admission | High School Diploma |
| Blinn Junior College Brenham | 979-830-4000 www.blinn.edu | Open Admission | High School Diploma |
| Collin County Community College Plano | 972-881-5790 www.ccccd.edu | Open Admission | High School Diploma |
| Dallas County Community Colleges Dallas County | 214-378-1824 www.dcccd.edu | Open Admission | High School Diploma |
| Tyler Junior College Tyler | 1-800-687-5680 x2523 www.tjc.edu | Open Admission | High School Diploma |

- SAT Scores based on Critical Reasoning and Math portions only. ACT Scores based on composite score.
- “Review” indicates that the college will look at all parts of your admission file in order to determine eligibility to enroll.
- Many Colleges recalculate your GPA based only on courses that they consider for admission or without weighting Honors, AP or IB courses. Be sure to read each college’s admissions requirements carefully!

- Remember that you must submit all test scores and other required admission documents even if you are under the assured admission category! You must also meet the college's deadlines to submit this information!

Community College: First Steps to Your Future

Community Colleges offer a number of advantages, including much lower costs than four year universities and a smooth transition to college. They also offer a variety of programs and opportunities that will help you to reach your career goals. Following are some examples:

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM – If you are excited about learning a real skill like audio engineering, networking or graphic design, one of the many certificate programs at a Community College would be perfect for you. Depending on the number of courses required to complete the certificate, you may be exempt from the TSI requirement (Texas College Admissions Test). Courses in a certificate program tend to concentrate on hands-on skill development. Upon completion of the certificate, you would have the credentials to get an entry-level position in the industry.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE (AA) – An Associate Degree may be earned by taking related course work beyond the basic certificate program. With an Associate Degree, you gain the skills for a job in the field of your study. An Associate Degree typically takes two years to complete if you are a full time student and includes several core classes in addition to the classes in your field of study.

TRANSFER PROGRAM – Community College offers open enrollment and can serve as a bridge from high school to the college or university of your choice. Texas has adopted a “Core Curriculum” which includes a number of basic courses that will automatically transfer to a four year public college in Texas. A student may transfer to a four year university at any time. The conditions of the transfer vary with each college, but grade point average is important when transferring! See the “Transfer U” page on the Collin College website for much more information on how to transfer to a four year school from a community college.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS – Several of the major universities in Texas have a partnership program with the Community College in their area. Austin Community College is a pipeline school for UT-Austin, Blinn College is a link to Texas A&M in College Station, and South Plains is a bridge to Texas Tech in Lubbock. Each partner school has slightly different arrangements specifying the requirements for transferring from the community college to the four year school. Collin College has agreements with the following schools:

Austin College
Baylor
Dallas Baptist University
Southern Methodist University
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Texas Tech University
Texas Woman’s University
Texas Wesleyan University
University of Texas at Dallas
University of North Texas



Four More Years NOT For You? Check Out These Schools!

Auto Technology/Auto Body

- Brookhaven College - DCCCD
- Cedar Valley College - DCCCD
- Eastfield College - DCCCD

Aviation/Flight School

- Mountain View College – DCCCD

Computer Applications Programmers

- Texas State Technical College/Waco
- Brian Institute of Texas

Computer Service Technicians

- Texas State Technical College/Waco
- Eastfield College – DCCCD
- El Centro College – DCCCD
- Richland Junior College – DCCCD

Cosmetologists

- Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School
- Aveda Institute
- Cosmetology Career Center
- ITS Beauty College
- Dallas Barber & Stylist College

Criminal Justice/Corrections Officer

- Cedar Valley College
- Collin College
- Eastfield College – DCCCD
- El Centro College – DCCCD
- Grayson County College
- McLennan Community College

Culinary Arts

- El Centro – DCCCD
- Collin College

Dental Assistants/Dental Hygienists

- ATI Health Education Center
- Collin College
- Concorde Career Center
- Navarro College
- Tarrant County Junior College, NE

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)

- Cedar Valley College
- El Centro College – DCCCD
- Grayson County College
- McLennan Community College

Fire Science

- Collin College
- Eastfield College

Fashion/Interior Design

- El Centro College – DCCCD
- The Art Institute of Dallas
- Wade College

Graphic Design

- Collin College
- Texas State Technical College/Waco

Hospitality and Food Service Mgt

- Collin College

Medical Assistants

- Eastfield College – DCCCD
- ATI Health Education Center
- Bryan Institute of Texas
- PCI Health Training Center

Nurses, Licensed Practical

- El Centro College – DCCCD
- Collin College
- Grayson County College

Nurses, Registered

- Brookhaven College – DCCCD
- El Centro College – DCCCD
- Grayson County College
- Navarro College
- Tarrant County Junior College, NE

Real Estate Agents/Brokers

- Cedar Valley College
- North Lake College
- Richland Junior College – DCCCD
- Navarro College
- Tarrant County Junior College, NE

Surgical Technology

- Collin College
- Eastfield College

Veterinary Technology

- Cedar Valley College

Wireless Communication Technician

- Richland College

This list is only a sample of all of the opportunities available. Turn to page 27 to explore much more!

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AWARDS

- Need- Based: Based only on financial need
- Merit- Based: Based on accomplishments of the student, as in grade point average, extra-curricular or community service involvement and much more!

SOURCES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Federal and State Financial Aid
- College or University Scholarships.
- Scholarships from Businesses and Organizations

Federal and State Financial Aid

THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

Federal and State Governments use the FAFSA form to determine a family's ability to pay for college. After the form is submitted, a Student Aid Report (SAR) is sent to each college listed on the form. You will also receive a copy of this form, which will tell you the amount of your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Each college will then send you an award letter outlining how much and which types of aid that you will be eligible for at their school. It is recommended that you apply as soon as possible in order to have priority consideration for aid.

NEW!

The Federal Government recently announced that beginning in 2016 for the 2017-18 academic year, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available earlier – in **October** rather than January – and will use tax information from two years ago (prior-prior year, or PPY) rather than from the previous year.

The change to PPY has great potential to benefit students, including:

- The ability to file the FAFSA earlier and get information about federal financial aid eligibility faster.
- The ability to use the IRS's Data Retrieval Tool to populate several questions on the FAFSA, making the filing process much easier.

Many experts believe that these changes will increase the number of eligible students who apply for and receive financial aid, and the earlier availability of financial aid information will help students and families make more informed decisions.

Be sure to check the deadline for your college; most deadlines are on or before March 15. Families are recommended to apply online, but a paper application may be downloaded. Eligibility is for one year only; the FAFSA must be submitted every year! The FAFSA website provides excellent information and an estimator of how much aid a family may be eligible to receive.



TYPES OF FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID

- Loans
- Grants
- Federal Work Study

The FAFSA determines eligibility for all types of federal and state financial aid. It is not necessary to apply for each grant or loan separately. All Federal and State Financial Aid is solely need-based.

Federal Financial Aid Toll Free Number: 1-800-4 Fed Aid

FEDERAL AND STATE LOANS

There are many types of loans offered, but all require repayment with interest. Some are subsidized by the government, meaning that the interest on the loan is paid until after the student's graduation. Unsubsidized loans may require payment of interest during college. Most loans do not require repayment until after graduation from college. Typically, federal and state loans offer very competitive interest rates. Some types of loans are:

- PERKINS LOANS: The college is the lender.
- HINSON-HAZELWOOD COLLEGE STUDENT LOANS: Loans for legal residents of Texas.
- PLUS LOANS: PLUS loans are for parent borrowers and provide additional funds for educational expenses. They are made by a lender such as a bank, savings and loan association or credit union.
- STAFFORD LOANS: May be subsidized or unsubsidized.

Private loans may also be sought by individual families.

FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS

Grants do not require repayment by parents or students. Some types of federal and state grants include:

- PELL Grant: Based on exceptional family need.
- ACADEMIC COMPETITIVENESS GRANT: Must be eligible for a Pell Grant and obtain a minimum grade point average.
- FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY GRANT (SEOG): Eligibility is based on exceptional need.
- TEACHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOR COLLEGE AND HIGHER EDUCATION (TEACH) GRANT: Provides funds for future teachers. Includes a four year commitment to teach in a high-need field in a low income school.
- TEXAS EQUALIZATION GRANT (TEG): If you are applying to a private college in Texas, you may apply for a T.E.G. by completing the financial aid form and the TEG application form, which can be obtained from the Financial Aid Office of the private college.
- TEACH FOR TEXAS GRANT: Offers assistance to those desiring to teach in identified fields or geographical areas experiencing a critical shortage of teachers. Student must complete the Recommended or Distinguished Achievement program graduation requirements. *Financial need is NOT a criteria.*

FEDERAL WORK STUDY PROGRAM

The program provides part-time jobs on campus for students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses.

College or University Scholarships

- Can be need-based or merit-based and do not require repayment.
- Check the college's website to see if the school has its own financial aid form, which must be completed in addition to the FAFSA. Find out about general scholarship information and applications that the college offers.
- Check with the department that houses your major at the college to ask about the application procedures for departmental scholarships.
- Find out the college's priority application deadline for financial aid applications. You must submit the FAFSA and any other required documents by the deadline in order to be considered for aid.
- Some colleges and universities also require the CSS/Financial Aid Profile, which is available on the College Board website.
- Plano East receives a great deal of information on scholarships offered by individual colleges and universities and their departments. All scholarships are posted on Naviance under the "Colleges" tab. Keep in mind that the applicant pool for local scholarships tends to be much smaller, giving you a greater chance of winning the scholarship.

Scholarships from Businesses and Organizations

- Can be need-based or merit-based and do not require repayment.
- Scholarship information that the Plano East counseling department receives is updated on a regular basis on Naviance.
- All scholarship applications are available online and the links are provided
- Please read requirements for scholarships carefully to be sure that you meet all requirements.



<http://succeed.Naviance.com/planoeast>

You are not advised to pay a fee for any financial aid or scholarship information.

There is no financial aid or scholarship information that you cannot find on your own or with the help of your counselor.

US Military Academies Application Process

WHERE DO I START?

Spring, Junior Year

Write your Congressman and 2 Senators

U.S. Senators

| | |
|---|--|
| Ted Cruz B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5922 Cruz.senate.gov | John Cornyn 517 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 202-224-2934 Cornyn.senate.gov |
|---|--|

U.S. Congressman

| |
|---|
| Sam Johnson - R District 3 1211 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 224-4201 Samjohnson.house.gov |
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Request and fill out the PCQ card for the academy of choice
 Mid April ACT (register by mid-March)
 Early May SAT (register by late March)
 Begin nomination process in June

Summer Junior/Senior Year

Request Presidential nomination, if eligible
 Request Vice-Presidential nomination, if eligible

Fall/Winter Senior Year

Follow-up on Congressional/Senate nomination
 Meet with Liaison Officer for academy of choice
 Complete application process with academy of choice

Summer, Junior/Senior Year

Complete academy process for appointment (medical, physical, etc.)
 Attend reception/press conference for appointees

| | |
|--|--|
| US MILITARY ACADEMY (West Point) Major Bo Friesen H - 972-769-0455 O - 469-467-1100 | US NAVAL ACADEMY Commander Sandy Ray H - 972-599-2139 |
| US MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY Lt. Commander John Knight H - 972-233-1328 O - 214-340-0265 | US AIR FORCE ACADEMY Major Joe Barkate O -214-641-53631 |

NCAA Eligibility Center
General Information for College Bound Athletes

If you are planning to attend college and participate in Division I or Division II athletics, you must be certified as eligible by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

To get certified:

1. At the beginning of your senior year go online to complete an application.
2. The fee can be waived for students who have already received a waiver of the ACT or SAT fee. See your counselor if you have questions regarding fee waivers.
3. Send ACT or SAT score reports to the Eligibility Center by filling in their code (9999) as one of your four choices when you take the test or by filling out an additional score report form later.
4. Use Naviance to order a transcript from the registrar's office to be sent to the Eligibility Center.

You cannot play any sport at an NCAA college or accept a scholarship to do so, without clearance from the Eligibility Center. Be sure you complete this important information if college sports are part of your future plans.

Minimum scores for NCAA full eligibility:

| Division I | Division II |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16 core courses• Ten (10) core courses completed before the start of seventh semester. Seven (7) of the 10 must be in English, math or natural/physical science.• "Locked in" for core-course GPA calculation.• Corresponding test score (ACT sum score or SAT combined score and core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on Sliding Scale) See website for scales.• Graduate from high school. | <p style="text-align: center;">16 Core Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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). |



Directory of Websites

NAVIANCE

Access Naviance at <http://succeed.Naviance.com/planoeast>

You can research and compare careers, colleges and college majors (courses of study) on Naviance. This is also the site that you will use to complete college applications, request letters of recommendation and find summer opportunities and scholarship information.

Save this one to your favorites!

Plano ISD University Ready Website

<http://ur.pisd.edu>

This comprehensive site will walk you through graduation and on to college. This is another great site to save to your favorites!

APPLICATIONS

Texas Common Application

www.applytexas.org

Universal Common Application

www.commonapp.org

TEST PREPARATION

SAT

www.collegeboard.org

ACT

www.actstudent.org

COLLEGE SEARCH

www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/explore/destinationcollege/

www.ycg.org

www.GenTX.org

www.admissions.com

www.college.gov

www.myplan.com

www.adventuresineducation.org

www.collegeboard.com

www.collegenet.com

www.collegeview.com

www.collegeexpress.com

www.collegefortexans.com

www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo

www.petersons.com

www.review.com/

www.thecb.state.tx.us

www.usnews.com (Click Education)

www.collegeportraits.org

www.texascollegeandcareer.org

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

FAFSA

www.fafsa.ed.gov

CSS Financial Profile

www.collegeboard.com

www.studentaid.ed.gov

www.edpubs.gov

www.scholarships.com

www.adventuresineducation.org

www.collegefortexans.com

www.fastweb.com

www.finaid.org

www.nasfaa.org

www.petersons.com

www.salliemae.com

www.students.gov

www.mapping-your-future.org

www.latinocollegedollars.org

consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college

CAREER

www.part-time-jobs-for-students.net

www.myfuture.com

www.acinet.org

www.achievetexas.org

www.careers.org

www.careervoyages.gov

www.twc.state.tx.us

www.usajobs.com

COLLEGE MAJORS

www.mymajors.com

Who to contact at Plano East

469-752-9000

SUB SCHOOLS

| | |
|-------|---------|
| ALPHA | A – E |
| BETA | F -Li |
| GAMMA | LI – Re |
| DELTA | Rh – Z |

PRINCIPALS

| |
|-----------------------------|
| Tim Johnston |
| Secretary: Abigail Escobedo |
| Faith Newhouse |
| Secretary: Sandra Pugh |
| Al Gallo |
| Secretary: Margaret Acton |
| Tyesha Glover |
| Secretary: Gloria Morales |

EXTENSIONS

| |
|-------|
| 29022 |
| 29021 |
| 29123 |
| 29114 |
| 29111 |
| 29124 |
| 29113 |
| 29112 |

COUNSELING CENTER

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Director of Guidance | Carah Marquez | 29147 |
| A – Bi | Rona Amora | 29013 |
| Bl – Dav | Crystal Wilson | 29017 |
| Daw – Garr | Crystal Levingston | 29118 |
| Garv – I | Jennifer Spring | 29117 |
| J – Li | Michael Kaprelian | 29029 |
| LI – Mun | Sherri Newman | 29015 |
| Mur – Ph | Jenny McConaughy | 29016 |
| Pi – Sanc | Tuan Pham | 29014 |
| Sand – Tj | Craig Loveland | 29116 |
| To – Z | Courtney Harker | 29018 |
| Counseling Secretary | Cathy Dahlquist | 29045 |
| Counseling Receptionist | Ana Talbot | 29019 |
| Registrar | Donna Garcia | 29024 |

STAY UP TO DATE ON YOUR STUDENT’S PROGRESS AND ATTENDANCE!

How to Log in to the PISD Parent Portal

1. Go to parent.mypisd.net
2. Click on “Create New Registration”
3. Complete information for your student (it is only necessary to create one account- all of your PISD students will automatically be accessible).
4. Click “Submit Request” Look for an automated message in your e-mail with instructions on completing the process.