



Academic, College, and Career Planning Guide

For more information, visit our website
<https://www.pisd.edu/pshs/counseling>

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Texas Graduation Requirements

English	4 credits English 1, 2, 3, 4 (EOCs: English 1 and English 2)
Math	4 credits Algebra 1, Geometry, 3 rd year choice, 4 th year choice (EOC: Algebra 1)
Science	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 (EOC: US History)
Fine Arts	1 credit Art, Music, Theater, Dance, or Floral Design
Communication	.5 credit – Professional Communications, a full year of AVID, Debate 1 or Oral Interpretation 1
Health	.5 credit of Health OR 1 credit of Health Science Theory
Foreign Language –	2 credits of same language
Physical Education	1 credit
Electives	5 credits – defined Elective/Endorsement Requirements
Total	26 Credits <i>Distinguished Level of Achievement is the Foundation with Endorsement Plan (above) including Algebra 2. These students are eligible for top 10% automatic admission to state universities.</i>

In addition to meeting coursework requirements, all students must pass STAAR End of Course (EOC) exams in the following areas:

- English 1
- English 2
- Algebra 1
- Biology
- US History



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

Graduation Plan- Foundation with Endorsements

ENDORSEMENTS

To earn an endorsement a student must successfully complete the Plano ISD curriculum requirements for the Foundation High School Program and must earn a fourth credit in mathematics, an additional credit in science, and two additional elective credits. A student may earn a **Distinguished Level of Achievement** by successfully completing the Plano ISD curriculum requirements for the Foundation High School Program and the curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement (including four credits in science and four credits in mathematics to include Algebra II). For more information on endorsement requirements, click on the icons below or contact your counselor.

STEM 

Career and Technical Education (CTE)
Computer Science
Math
Science
Combination

Business & Industry 

English
Technology Applications
Career and Technical Education (CTE)
Combination

Multidisciplinary 

Workforce
Foundation Subjects
Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate

Arts & Humanities 

Social Studies
Language Other Than English (LOTE)
Fine Arts
English

Public Service 

Career and Technical Education (CTE)
Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)

Plano Senior High School Profile

RANK IN CLASS/COURSE AVERAGING

Class rank is based on semester averages in designated high school core classes. Final rank in class and grade point average are determined at the end of the third nine weeks grading period of the senior year. A student may earn credit for a full year course by earning a grade of 70 in both semesters or by averaging the grade earned in each semester.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grade	Distinguished (AP)	Honors	On-Level	Modified	Alternate
97 ^	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	1.1
71-72	3.4	2.9	2.4	1.9	1.0
70	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0
A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 F=69v					

Class of 2021 GPA Thresholds

Valedictorian	4.734
Top 10%	4.247
Top 25%	3.909
Top 50%	3.442
Top 75%	2.800

PROFILE OF THE CLASS OF 2021

Total number of graduates: 1289

Percent attending college	95%	Attending 4-year university	66%
Technical/Work/Military/Other	5%	Attending 2-year college	29%

NATIONAL MERIT STATISTICS

- 20 Semi Finalists
- 19 Finalists
- 41 Commended
- 3 National Hispanic Scholars

2021 SCHOOL DAY SAT SCORES (given to all Juniors)

- ER&W - 535
- Math - 539
- Total - 1073

2020-2021 ADVANCED PLACEMENT

- 1955 Exams taken
- 45% of scores 4 or higher
- 70 % of scores 3 or higher

2020-2021 ACT SCORES (students take by choice)

- English- 25.3
- Math- 25.4
- Reading- 25.9
- Science- 23.3
- Composite- 25.5

Plano Senior Course Selections

ENGLISH & READING

^American Studies
English 3, 3H or 3AP
English 4, 4H or 4AP
College Prep English
Bible Literacy
Literary Genres
College Read Appl
Creative Writing
World of Ideas

MATHEMATICS

Geometry
Math Models
Algebra 2 or Algebra 2H
College Prep Math
Computer Science A AP
Adv Quant Reasoning
Statistics
Statistics AP
PreCalculus
PreCalculus H
Calculus AB AP
Calculus BC AP
Digital Electronics
Accounting II H

SCIENCE

Anatomy & Phys
^Biology AP
Chemistry 1 or Chemistry 1H
^Chemistry AP
Earth & Space Sci
Eng Design & Problem Solving
Engineering Science
Environ Systems
Environ Sci AP
Food Science
Forensic Science
Physics 1 or 1H
Physics 1/2 AP
Physics C Mechanics AP
Physics C Electricity & Mag AP
Sci Research H

SOCIAL STUDIES

World Geography
World History
^American Studies
U.S. History
U.S. History AP
Euro History AP
Afr. Amer. Studies
Mex. Amer. Studies
Economics
Economics: MAC AP
Economics: MIC AP
Government
Government AP
Comparative Govt AP
Contemporary World Issues
Psychology
Psychology AP
Sociology
Sociology Honors

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Am Sign Lang 1, 2 & 3
Chinese 2
Chinese 3 Honors
Chinese 4 AP
French 2
French 3 Honors
French 4 AP
French 5 Honors
German 3 Honors
German 4 AP
Spanish 1
Spanish 2
Spanish 3 or 3 Hon
Spanish 4 & 4 AP

Spanish 5 AP

AGRICULTURE

Ag Mechanics & Metal Tech
#^ Ag Structures Design & Fabrication
Equine Science
Floral Design (Fine Art)
Advanced Floral Design
Horticulture
Landscape Design and Management
Livestock Production
Professional Standards in Agribusiness
Turf Grass Management
Veterinary Medical Applications
Wildlife, Fisheries, & Ecology
Management
#^ Practicum in Ag, Food, & Natural Resources

ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION

Architectural Design I
#^ Architectural Design II
Interior Design I

ARTS, A/V TECH, & COMMUNICATIONS

Audio/Video Prod I
#^ Audio/Video Prod II
Digital Design and Media Production
Digital Media
Fashion Design I
#^ Fashion Design II
Graphic Design I
#^ Graphic Design II
Video Game Design

BUSINESS, MARKETING, & FINANCE

Accounting I
Accounting II H (math credit)
Bus Info Management
Business Law
Entrepreneurship
Fashion Marketing
Global Business
Principles of Business, Marketing, & Finance
Social Media Marketing
Sports & Entertainment Marketing
Virtual Business
Practicum in Marketing

CAREER/WORK PROGRAMS

(1 hr class + 2 hrs work)
Career Preparation I
Career Preparation II

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

^ Instructional Practices
#^ Practicum in Education and Training

HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

Intro to Culinary Arts
Principles of Hospitality and Tourism
^ Culinary Arts (Plano East)
Food Science (science credit)
#^ Practicum in Culinary Arts (Plano East)

HEALTH SCIENCE

Anatomy & Physiology (science credit)
Health Science Theory (meets health req.)
Medical Terminology
Pharmacology
^ Practicum in Health Science I**
#^ Practicum in Health Science II**
World Health Research

HUMAN SERVICES

Child Development
Dollars & Sense
Family & Community Services
Interpersonal Studies
Lifetime Nutrition & Wellness

Principles of Human Services

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Internetworking Technologies I
Internetworking Technologies II
Principles of Information Technology
Web Design

JOURNALISM

Journalism
Independent Study in Journalism
Newspaper **
Photojournalism **
Yearbook **

LAW & PUBLIC SERVICE

Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security
Forensic Science (science credit)
Law Enforcement I
Law Enforcement II

STEM

Aerospace Engineering
Digital Electronics (math credit)
Engineering Design & Development
Engineering Design & Problem Solving (science credit)
Engineering Design and Presentation
Engineering Science (science credit)
Computer Science I
Computer Science II
Computer Science III H
AP Computer Sci A (math credit)
Scientific Research & Design H

TRANSPORTATION

^ Automotive Technology I
#^ Automotive Technology II
^ Collision Repair
#^ Paint & Refinishing

FINE ARTS

Art 1 & 2- 2D or 3D
Art 3
Art History AP
^ AP Art: 2D
^ AP Art: 3D
^ AP Art: Drawing
Art & Media Comm
Band 3, 3H, #4, #4H
Jazz Band 3, #4
Choir 3, 3H, #4, #4H
Dance 1 - 4
Music Studies
Music Theory AP
Music Theory 2H
Musical Theater 1
Musical Theater 2
Orch 3, 3H, #4, #4H
Theater 1 - 4
Tech Theater 1 - 4
Tech Theater 2 Costume Construction
Tech Theater 3 Advanced Costume Construction
#Tech Theater 4 Advanced Costume Construction

PHYS ED / HEALTH

JROTC 3
JROTC 4
Dance 1-4 (PE Credit)
Partners PE
PE Lifetime Fitness and Wellness
PE Lifetime Recreation and Outdoor Pursuits
PE Skill-Based Lifetime Activities
Cheer
Drill Team
Off Campus PE (application/fee)
Health

UIL Athletics

(competitive sports; cuts may be made)
Baseball Condition fall (sem)
Baseball spring (sem)
Basketball (boys)
Basketball (girls)
Cross Country boys fall(sem)
Cross Country girls fall (sem)
Diving
Football
Golf
Soccer (boys)
Soccer (girls)
Softball Condition fall (sem)
Softball spring (sem)
Swimming
Tennis
Track (girls) spring (sem)
Track (boys) spring (sem)
Volleyball
Wrestling

SPEECH

Debate
Oral Interpretation
Professional Comm
Independent Study in Speech
Visual Media/ Intro TV

OTHER ELECTIVES

AP Capstone Seminar
Peer Assist**
Senior Release (must qualify)
PALS** (local Credit)
AVID 3
AVID 4
Acad Decathlon (local credit)

Dual Credit

English 3 Honors
English 4 Honors
Government Honors
Economics Honors
US History Honors
Pre-Calculus Honors
Multivariable Calculus
Statistics Honors
Biology Honors
ASL IV

COLLIN COLLEGE INDUSTRIES

ACADEMY **
Biomedical Equipment Technology
Electrical Engineering Technology
Industrial Automation
Construction Management
Computer Aided Drafting & Design
HVAC
Welding Technology
Computer Networking

All courses listed are subject to change. All prerequisites must be met before the first day of class begins.

More information regarding these courses can be found in the PISD Course Catalog at www.pisd.edu/coursecatalogs

KEY

Semester Class

Senior Course

^ 2-hour class

** Application Required

Alternative Coursework Options



Summer School: <https://www.pisd.edu/summerschool>

Students must have counselor approval prior to enrolling in Summer School. Login to Parent Portal - <http://parentportal.pisd.edu>, then go to the Program Enrollment & Payments section.

Dates, locations and fees for Summer 2021 will be posted on the above site at the end of March.

eSchool: <https://www.pisd.edu/eschool>

eSchool is Plano ISD's online learning program offering students the flexibility to meet their academic goals. Students in grades 9-12 can earn credits toward graduation in a variety of courses working at their own pace and in their own space. Courses are designed to be completed in a minimum of 6 weeks and a maximum of 18 weeks. Our dedicated teachers are specifically trained to work with students in an online setting and are committed to providing a personalized and enriching learning experience for each student.

Credit By Exam: <https://www.pisd.edu/cbe>

For credit advancement with no prior instruction:

- Students must complete and earn credit for all prerequisite courses before attempting Credit by Exam for the next course in sequence.
- Students may only attempt acceleration two times for the same course.
- The student must score 80% or above on the Credit-by-Exam assessment administered to receive credit.

For credit recovery with prior instruction:

- Students must have evidence of prior instruction on their transcript
- The student must score 70% or above on the Credit-by-Exam assessment administered to receive credit.

Texas Tech Correspondence: <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/k12/programs/supplemental/>

TTU-ISDs individual course program allows students to:

- Graduate early or on time
- Make up failed credits
- Take courses not offered at a traditional school
- Stay out of summer school
- Supplement traditional school or homeschool curriculum

Advanced Coursework Options

HONORS

Honors courses are available in several academic areas and offer a wider range and greater depth of subject matter than that of the regular course. Emphasis is placed on higher level and critical thinking skills, on creative, productive thinking and on independent guided research.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

The Advanced Placement Program of the College Board® enables students to complete college-level studies in high school. The primary goal of the AP Program is to extend the challenges of the secondary school experience and to prepare students for a wide variety of post-secondary experiences including, but not limited to, attendance at colleges and universities. Students with satisfactory AP® test scores may earn college credit. For more information on the Advanced Placement Program® please visit their website at:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/what-it-takes/student-voices>

AP EXAM PAYMENTS

The College Board now requires full payment for AP exams in October. Exams that are paid for late or are cancelled after the payment deadline will incur an additional late fee and/or cancellation fee. Exact dates and fees will be communicated at the start of the school year.

(<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/exam-policies-guidelines/exam-fees>)

AP TEST DATES MAY 2022

Day/Date	8 AM	12 PM
Mon. May 2	US Government & Politics	Chemistry Spanish Literature
Tues. May 3	Environmental Science	Psychology
Wed. May 4	English Literature	Comparative Government Computer Science
Thurs. May 5	Macroeconomics	Statistics
Fri. May 6	US History European History	Microeconomics Art History, Art 2&3D Portfolios due by 3pm
Mon. May 9	Calculus AB, Calculus BC	
Tues. May 10	English Language & Comp	Physics C: Mechanics Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
Wed. May 11	Chinese Language, Spanish Language	Biology
Thurs. May 12	French Language	Physics 1
Fri. May 13	German Language Music Theory	Physics 2

Collin College Dual Credit



The Dual Credit program at Collin College is a cooperative partnership between school districts and Collin College enabling high school students to earn college credits while completing the requirements for high school graduation.

STEPS TO ENROLL

- Complete the “Plano ISD Dual Enrollment Information Form.”
- Complete the Collin College application online at <https://apply.collin.edu> (returning students may skip this step).
- Bring your Cougar Web ID# to the counselor to get your course registration numbers (CRNs).
- Return the signed “High School Registration Permission Form” to the counseling office.
- Take the TSI or provide proof of exemption/waiver.
- Complete Mandatory Campus Safety Training via CougarWeb.
- Register for your classes online via CougarWeb. Please reference the “High School Registration Permission Form” for course registration numbers (CRNs).
- Make payment either in person at the Collin College Cashier's Office or online via CougarWeb.

Please note, registration and payment deadlines for PISD Dual Enrollment differ from Collin College’s regular payment deadline. ALL ABOVE STEPS MUST BE COMPLETED BY MAY 3, 2022

APPROXIMATE COST PER SEMESTER COURSE *(subject to change per Collin College)*

Texas Success Initiative Exam	\$40
Tuition and Fees - Collin County Resident	\$180 per class/ per semester
Textbooks (approximate, course dependent)	\$50 - \$150

Schedule Options & Changes

Students may begin their school day at 8am (0 Hour) or 9am (1st period.) 0 Hour classes are limited and may not fit the student's course request. Bus transportation is not available for 8am

JUNIOR & SENIOR SCHEDULE OPTION 1

- Take 7 classes

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

- Must be on the Foundation with Endorsement Graduation Plan
- Must have passed all EOC exams
- Must have completed **17 credits** by mid-term 11th grade
- Must have parental approval

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

- Must be on the Foundation with Endorsement Graduation Plan
- Must have passed all EOC exams
- Must have completed **17.5 credits** by mid-term 11th grade
- Must have parental approval
- **AND** must be enrolled in **3 or more College Level (AP or Dual)** 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. These classes are in addition to your school day schedule.

Schedule and Course Changes

- Changes made after the course selection dates may affect the graduation plan and/or college admission options. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to check with the counselor to make appropriate course selections.
- Any adjustments to the course selections must be received in writing by **May 27, 2022**. After that, only level changes will be considered.
- Level changes will be considered after the 4th week of the semester based on input from the student, parent, teacher and principal.
- Keep in mind that some advanced courses do not have a corresponding course at a lower level and therefore cannot be dropped.
- We cannot grant specific class period, lunch period or teacher requests.

Naviance- Navigate Your Future!

WHAT CAN NAVIANCE DO FOR ME?

Naviance is a college and career readiness platform that will assist you as you set goals, assess your strengths, explore career options based on your interests, and search for colleges and scholarships. Naviance also allows your counselor to send all of your college application materials electronically, the preferred method of delivery for most colleges.

HOW DO I ACCESS NAVIANCE?

<https://student.naviance.com/pshs>

Select “Student”

Select “Continue with Clever”

Enter “Plano Senior High School”

Select “Log in with Google”

Use your firstname.lastname.1@mypisd.net email

Use your PISD Network Password

Naviance | Student

TASKS TO COMPLETE IN NAVIANCE

11th Grade

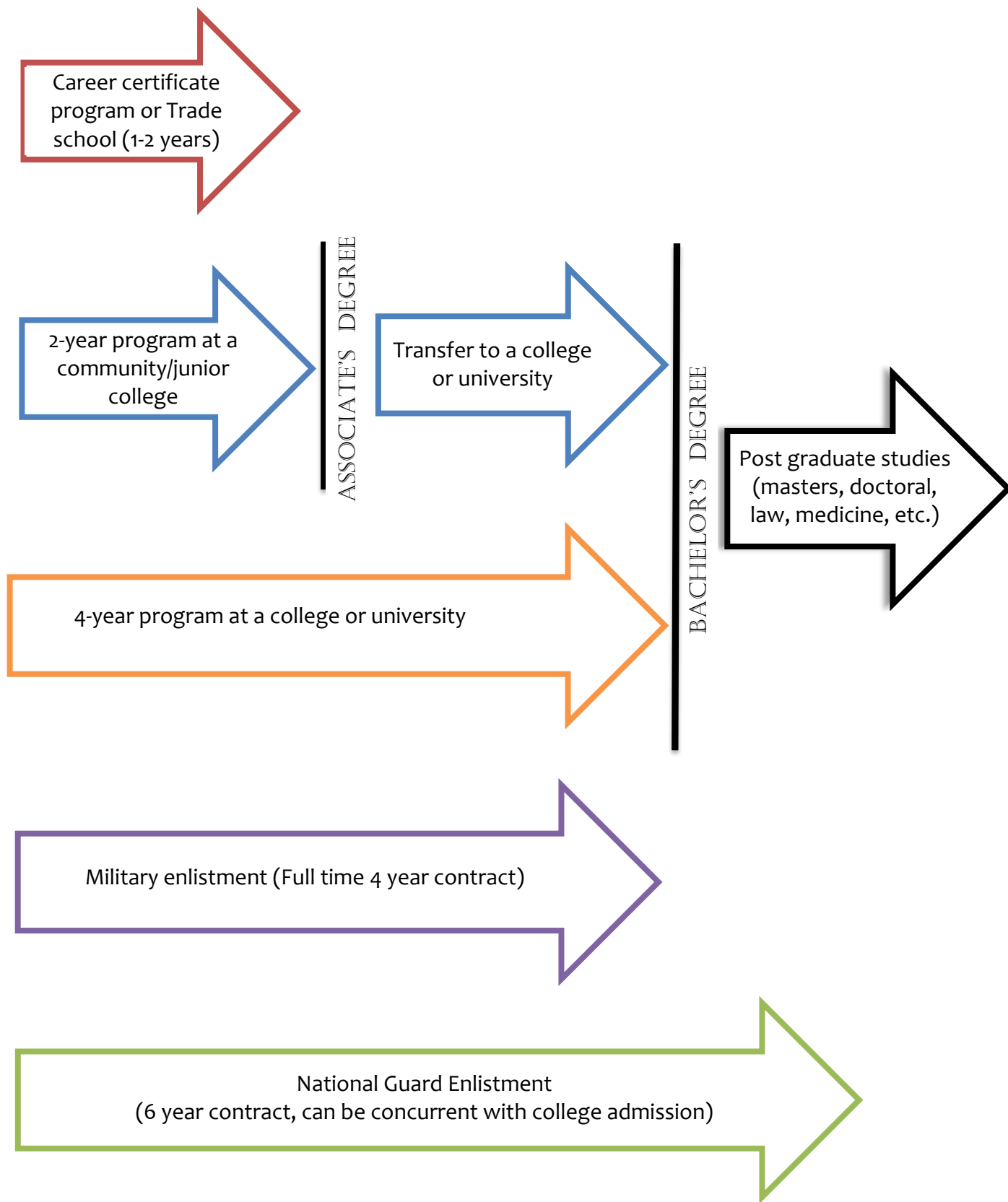
- Research career and major options
 - Careers → Careers I’m Thinking About
- Use SuperMatch to research colleges
 - Colleges → Find Your Fit → SuperMatch
- Add schools to your “Colleges I’m Thinking About” list
 - Colleges → Colleges I’m Thinking About
- Work on your Student Activities Resume
 - About Me → My Stuff → Resume

12th Grade

- Update your email (*should be the same one used for your college applications*)
 - About Me → My Account → Edit Contact
- Add schools to your “Colleges I’m Applying To” List
 - Colleges → Colleges I’m Applying To
- Match your Common App account to Naviance (if needed)
- Request Transcripts
 - Colleges → Apply to College → Manage Transcripts
- Request Recommendation Letters (if needed)
 - Colleges → Apply to College → Letters of Recommendation

Certain 12th grade tasks (such as Transcripts Request) will not be available until July after 11th grade

Educational & Career Pathways



College Admissions Roadmap



Admission Testing

Take the SAT, ACT, TSI and/or ASVAB starting spring of Junior year. Schedule retakes if needed.

Complete Applications

Create your Apply Texas and Common App accounts (starting in July), complete the application and pay the fees.

Submit Academic Information

Request Transcripts in Naviance (starting August 1st) and talk to teachers and counselors about letters of recommendation.

Financial Aid

Complete the FAFSA (starting October 1st) and apply for grants, loans and scholarships.

Make your Decision!

Review acceptance and financial award letters and make your decision.

College Admissions Timeline & Checklist



Spring of 11th Grade

- Use College Super Match in Naviance to make a list of schools you're interested in and add them to your "Colleges I'm Thinking About" list
- Schedule college campus visits
- Take the School Day SAT in March
- Sign up for additional SAT and/or ACT tests

Summer Between 11th and 12th Grades

- Finalize your list of schools in Naviance and move them to your "Colleges I'm Applying To" list
- Start working on your Apply Texas and Common App college applications
- Schedule college campus visits
- Determine what documents are needed for each of the schools you're applying to and when they are due
 - Application, transcripts, test scores, fees, recommendation letters, resume, interview, portfolio, etc.
- Schedule a final ACT and/or SAT during the fall of 12th grade (if needed)

Fall of 12th Grade

- Attend College Night and the College 101 information session at PSHS
- Request letters of recommendation from your teachers (if needed)
- Complete the "Blue Packet" and request a letter of recommendation from your counselor (if needed)
- Request transcripts through Naviance
- Schedule college campus visits (bring proof of the visit to the Student Center for attendance purposes)
- Start working on the FAFSA beginning October 1st
- Submit your finalized applications for admission before the due dates

Spring of 12th Grade

- Submit the FAFSA (if you did not submit in the fall) and any other financial aid and scholarship applications before the due dates
- Check the Scholarship List on Naviance and our website for additional scholarship opportunities
- Submit any additional applications for admission that have spring due dates
- Make your final decision and submit appropriate deposits
- In Naviance, complete the Senior Survey and request your final transcript be sent to the college you will be attending
- Graduate!

Admissions & Applications

Admission Types

Regular Decision – The application process in which a student submits an application to an institution by a specified date and receives a decision after a pre-determined period of time.

Rolling Admissions – The application process in which an institution reviews applications as they are completed and renders admission decisions to students throughout the admission cycle.

Early Decision – A student may apply to a single college by the early deadline date to be considered for admission. If admission is granted, the student is obligated to attend that college under a binding contract and withdraw all other applications. Should a student who applies for financial aid not be offered an award that makes attendance possible, the student may decline the offer of admission and be released from the Early Decision commitment.

Early Action – The application process in which students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. Students are not obligated to accept the offer of admission.

Open Admission – Some colleges do not practice selective admission and offer admission to nearly all students who apply.

Application Types

Apply Texas: <https://goapplytexas.org/> – Texas public universities, including some community colleges and private Texas universities accept this application. On the Apply Texas site, you can apply for admission to one or more colleges, apply for scholarships from participating colleges and search for and view both general and college specific information. You can review the essays and questions any time, but will not be able to submit your application until the summer before your senior year.

Common Application: <https://www.commonapp.org/> – The Common Application also allows a student to complete one application and submit it to any of the over 900 member schools. Often requires teacher and counselor recommendation letters as part of the application.

Coalition Application: <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/> - Over 130 colleges accept this application. You can complete the application one time and submit it to any of the member colleges in the coalition.



College Admissions Testing

Which exam should I take?

The ACT and SAT are accepted by nearly all colleges and universities as part of the admission process. The TSI is used by Texas institutions to determine college readiness and the ASVAB is used by the US military to place enlistees.

When do I need to take the SAT or ACT?

We recommend that juniors consider taking the SAT and/or ACT during April, May or June. All juniors will have the opportunity to take the SAT once a year during the school day.

SAT Test Dates		ACT Test Dates	
https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/		https://www.act.org/	
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Test Date	Registration Deadline
March 12, 2022	February 11, 2022	February 12, 2022	January 7, 2022
March 23, 2022	School Day SAT, All Juniors	April 2, 2022	Feb 25, 2022
May 7, 2022	April 8, 2022	June 11, 2022	May 6, 2022
June 4, 2022	May 5, 2022	July 16, 2022	June 16, 2022
(TBD, Late August)	(TBD, Late July)	(TBD, Mid September)	(TBD, Mid August)

Texas Success Initiative (TSI): <https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/testing/availabletesting/tsi.html>

The purpose of the (TSI) is to assess the reading, mathematics, and writing skills. Although it is not used for admission, public colleges in Texas use the results to determine course placement.

Plano Senior will give the TSI in the Spring to interested students, see your counselor for dates.

You can be exempted from TSI testing 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.

SAT: A minimum score of 480 on Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing for an exemption in English and a minimum score of 530 on Mathematics for an exemption in Math.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude & Battery (ASVAB):

<https://www.todaysmilitary.com/how-to-join/asvab-test>

The enlistment version of the ASVAB is given at a Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) and is used for recruiting purposes only.

The student testing program, also known as the ASVAB Career Exploration Program (CEP), is used for career exploration and is given here at Plano Senior High School. It can be used as part of the military enlistment process but is also a great career exploration tool that will assess a student's strengths and provide information on careers that utilize those strengths.

The ASVAB CEP will be given at Plano Senior High the Spring. See your counselor for sign up information.

SAT & ACT



SAT vs. ACT



Do you know which test is right for you?

	SAT	ACT
Test Structure	Math Reading Writing and Language Essay (Optional)	Math Reading English Science Essay (Optional)
Length	3 hours (without essay) 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)	2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay) 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)
Reading	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
Science	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge)
Math	Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis	Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry and Trigonometry
Tools	Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator	You can use a calculator on all math questions
Essays	Optional. The essay will test your comprehension of a source text.	Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues.
How It's Scored	Scored on a scale of 400-1600	Scored on a scale of 1-36
Cost	\$55.00 (with writing TBD)	\$60.00 (\$85 with writing)

Only certain colleges require the SAT Subject Tests. Check the college websites to determine if they are required.

How do I prepare?

The best preparation for college entrance exams is to do well in your courses in high school. There are also many websites and books that can help you prepare. The College Board offers free online SAT preparation in partnership with the Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

General Admissions Information

TRANSCRIPTS

This is a record of all the classes you've taken for high school credit and the grades earned. All post-high school institutions require a transcript for admission, as well as some scholarships. Students must request transcripts through Naviance. **It is best to have your application completed and submitted BEFORE you request transcripts.**

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

Plano ISD now provides students with two calculations of their GPA:

Ranking GPA- Designated courses in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies are included in the ranking GPA. This GPA is used to determine students in the top 10% of the class.

Cumulative GPA- Includes all courses earned in high school and will be printed on your transcript for colleges to use in their admission decisions.

Many colleges recalculate GPA based on courses that they consider for admission or without weighting Honors, AP or IB courses. They may also include courses that Plano ISD did not. Be sure to read each college's admissions requirements carefully!

TOP 10% RULE

Students ranked in top 10% of their graduating class are granted automatic admission to any Texas Public University, provided that they have completed the Foundation with Endorsement/ Graduation Program with Distinguished Level of Achievement. **The University of Texas at Austin will accept the top 6% for automatic admission for the class of 2021.**

Remember that you must submit your application, test scores, and other required admission documents on time, even if you are under the automatic admission category! You must also meet all submission deadlines!

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

Request teacher and/or counselor letters of recommendation at least 3 weeks prior to any deadlines. Pay close attention to what is required- not all institutions require recommendation letters, whereas others are very specific about how many are needed and how they should be submitted. An institution's website is usually the best place to find these requirements.

For a counselor letter of recommendation (or counselor report), students must complete a request using the following form: <https://tinyurl.com/pshscounselorletter>. See the counseling office for more details.

ESSAYS, RESUMES and INTERVIEWS

These elements of the application are designed to "humanize" you- taking the applicant from just a set of classes, grades and test scores and showing who you are as a whole.

- Who are you as an individual? What unique characteristics will you bring to the campus?
- What do you want to do/contribute/learn?
- What do you care about?
- Have you overcome hardship? (not mandatory, don't overplay or manufacture something)
- Depth of demonstrated talent in an area?
- Essay questions are designed to screen for certain criteria. Answer what is asked! Don't be too casual or "creative."
- Self-advocacy is key- Can you tell your own story?

Higher Education Terms



College – An institution at which students study toward two or four year degrees after completion of high school.

University – An institution that combines multiple colleges or areas of study under one umbrella. For example, a university may house a college of business and a college of education along with other courses of study leading to a four-year or baccalaureate degree.

Private College – An academic institution financed primarily by tuition and endowments.

Public College – An academic institution financed primarily by tuition, endowments and state or local taxes. Tuition for in-state students is reduced and programs and policies are state-regulated.

Transfer Program – A two-year program which results in an associate degree. It is designed for students who intend to continue their studies at a four-year college.

Partner Program – Several of the major universities in Texas have a partnership program with the Community Colleges in their area. Each partner school has slightly different arrangements specifying the requirements for transferring from the Community College to the big campus classes. The common characteristic is that you need to plan ahead with the counselor at the college and university and that the university expects a good GPA from your coursework at the Community College.

Dual Enrollment – A plan that allows students to earn high school and college credit for a course. In Plano ISD, students may take multiple courses through Collin College for both high school and college credit. The counselor will have detailed information about dual credit.

Certificate Program – Courses in a certificate program tend to concentrate on hands-on skill development and do not have the academic general education core requirements that a degree does. Upon completion of the certificate, students have the credentials to get an entry-level position in the industry.

Associate Degree (A.A., A.S.) – A two-year degree that generally prepares the student for further study. Some associate degree programs are sufficient training for particular careers.

Bachelor's Degree (B.A., B.S., B.F.A.) – A four-year degree in a specified subject.

Graduate Degree – A degree completed by study after the bachelor's degree.

Master's Degree (M.A., M.S., M.F.A.) – One or two years of study in a specific subject after completion of the bachelor's degree.

Doctoral Degree (Ph.D., J.D., M.D.) – Three or four years of study in a very specific subject after completion of a bachelor's and/or master's degree.

Select 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/
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/
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/
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.tamiau.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.utbp.edu/
University of Texas	San Antonio	210/458-4101	www.utsa.edu/
University of Texas	Tyler	903-566-7000	www.utylr.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/

Career Training & Workforce Programs

Collin College offers a wide variety of programs, whether students would like to earn an associate's degree or complete a workforce certification. Classes are right here in Collin County, are affordable and convenient, and offer transferability to Texas universities.

<https://www.collin.edu/academics/index.html>

Accounting	Engineering	Pastry Arts
Air Force ROTC	Engineering Technology	Philosophy
Animation	English	Phlebotomy
Anthropology	Environmental Science	Photography
Arabic	ESL Skills Development	Physical Education
Army ROTC	Fire Technology	Physical Science / Physics
Arts/Photography	Firefighter	Polysomnographic Technology
Athletic Program Planning	French	Psychology
Biology	Game Art	Real Estate
Biotechnology	Geographic Information Systems	Respiratory Care
Business Administration	Geography	Robotics
Business Management	Geology	Russian
Chemistry	German	Semiconductor Manufacturing
Child Development	Government	Sign Language
Child Development / Teaching	Graphic Design	Social Work
Chinese	Health Info Management	Sociology
Comm Design - Video	Heating, Ventilation & Air Con	Sonography
Computer Applications	History	Spanish
Computer - Aided Drafting	Hotel - Management	Speech
Computer / Web Programming	Hotel - Tourism	Sport and Fitness
Computer Information Systems	Hotel/Restaurant Management	Supply Chain Management
Computer Maintenance Tech	Human Resources	Surgical Assisting
Computer Media	Humanities	Surgical Technology
Computer Networking	Insurance Management	Technical Algebra and Trigonometry
Computer Networking Tech	Integrated Read/Writing	Theatre / Drama
Computer Programming	Interior Design	Therapeutic Recreation
Computer Science	International Marketing	Welding
Computer Systems Security	Interpreter Prep / Deaf	
Construction Management	Japanese	Collin Technical Campus:
Construction Management	Journalism	Biomedical Equipment Technology
Criminal Justice	Kinesiology / Physical Education	Electronic Engineering Technology
Culinary - Nutrition	Law Enforcement/Police	Industrial Automation
Culinary Arts	Marketing	Computer-Aided Drafting and Design (CADD)
Cybersecurity	Marketing	Construction Management
Dance	Mathematics	Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
Dental Hygiene	Mathematics - NCBM	Welding Technology
Desktop Publishing Word	Music Ensemble	Health Professions (CNA, EKG, PHLEB)
Diagnostic Electrocardiography	Music, Applied	Computer Networking
Diagnostic Medical Sonography	Music, Business	Automotive Service Technician
Economics	Music, Commercial	Collision Repair
Education	Music, Commercial Performance	
Electrical - Circuits	Nurse Assistant / Aide	
Electrocardiography	Nursing	
Electronic Engineering/Equip	Nursing	
Electronic Engineering	Office Admin	
Electronic Technology	Office Systems Tech	
Emergency Medical Service	Paralegal / Legal Assistant	

Military Enlistment & Academies

United States Military Enlistment

The United States military includes the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, National Guard and the Coast Guard. Active military personnel are eligible for many benefits, including housing, advanced and specialty training, health and dental care, educational benefits and more. For more information, you can visit with the military recruiters that visit your campus or read more at <https://www.usa.gov/join-military>.

Reserve Officer Training Corps Programs (ROTC)

The Reserve Officer Training Corps is a college program offered at more than 1700 colleges and universities across the United States that prepares young adults to become officers in the US Military. In exchange for a paid college education and guaranteed post-college career, participants commit to serve in the Military after graduation.

U.S. Military Service Academies

The service academies are federal institutions that provide an undergraduate education and train future commissioned officers for service in the United States Armed Forces. Applying to a Military Service Academy is a rigorous, highly competitive, and lengthy process. Service academies routinely rank amongst the top universities in the nation. Students pay no tuition or room and board while at a service academy, but they are required to serve in the military upon graduation. You must have a nomination in order to gain admission to a military academy. Members of Congress and the Vice-President of the United States may make nominations. **You must start the application process in your 11th grade year in order to complete all required steps.**

1. Open Applicant File

Request Pre-Candidate Questionnaire from the Admissions Office of the applicable Academy.

- United States Military Academy – <https://www.westpoint.edu/>
- United States Air Force Academy – <http://www.academyadmissions.com>
- United States Naval Academy – <http://www.usna.edu/Admissions>
- United States Coast Guard Academy – <http://www.uscga.edu/admissions>
- United States Merchant Marines Academy – <http://www.usmma.edu>

2. Request Nominations

Write to Congressional Representatives, (i.e. Congressmen/women, Senators) or office of the Vice-President of the United States for a nomination.

3. Complete Testing

Take ACT or SAT tests, schedule Physical Aptitude Exam & Medical Exam.

4. Visit Service Academies

Tour the academy that you are interested in, if possible and explore summer programs offered.

NOMINATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Senator Ted Cruz www.Cruz.senate.gov	Senator John Cornyn www.Cornyn.senate.gov
Representative Van Taylor https://vantaylor.house.gov/	Vice-Presidential Nominations https://www.whitehouse.gov/service-academy-nominations/

Paying for College

Types of Financial Awards:	Sources of Financial Assistance:
<p data-bbox="305 262 693 289">https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types</p> <ul data-bbox="203 296 792 562" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="203 296 792 365">• Need- Based: Based on financial need as demonstrated on the FAFSA<li data-bbox="203 371 792 562">• Merit- Based: Based on the accomplishments of the student such as grade point average, test scores, extra-curricular or community service involvement and much more.	<ul data-bbox="824 262 1463 457" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="824 262 1463 296">• Federal and State Financial Aid<li data-bbox="824 302 1463 336">• College or University Scholarships<li data-bbox="824 342 1463 411">• Scholarships from Businesses and Organizations<li data-bbox="824 417 1463 457">• Educational Assistance for Military Veterans

FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL AID

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): www.fafsa.ed.gov

Federal and State Governments use the FAFSA form to determine a family's ability to pay for college. 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. Students may apply beginning on October 1 of their 12th grade year. **Completion of the FAFSA or submission of an opt-out form is now required by the State of Texas as a Graduation Requirement.**

Many colleges and universities require that a FAFSA be completed for students to be considered for any type of financial assistance, including scholarships.

Students not eligible to complete the FAFSA may be able to complete the TAFSA. (Only specific students qualify to complete TAFSA, see your counselor for more information.)

Federal and State Loans: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans>

There are many types of loans offered, but all require repayment with interest. Most loans do not require repayment until after a student is no longer attending college. Typically, federal and state loans offer very competitive interest rates. Some of those loans include:

- **FEDERAL DIRECT LOANS:** <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized> Federally backed loans that FAFSA eligible students qualify for regardless of credit history. Loan borrowing limits apply.
- **THECB LOANS:** <http://www.hhloans.com/> Loans for residents of Texas.
- **PARENT PLUS LOANS:** <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/plus> 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 and have credit requirements. *Students and families may also apply for private loans from the financial institute of their choice.*

Federal and State Grants

Grants do not require repayment by parents or students and are often awarded based on financial need. Some types of federal and state grants include:

- **PELL GRANT:** <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/pell> Based on financial need.
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant:** The FSEOG is a grant for undergraduate students with exceptional financial need.

Paying for College

- **Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program:** <http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/apps/financialaid/tofa.cfm>
Provides grant aid to students with financial need that are enrolled in Texas public two-year colleges.
- **TEXAS EQUALIZATION GRANT (TEG):** Provides grant aid to students with financial need to enable them to attend private, non-profit colleges or universities in Texas.
- **TEACH FOR TEXAS GRANT:** Offers assistance to those desiring to teach in identified fields or geographical areas experiencing a critical shortage of teachers.

Federal Work Study Program: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/work-study>

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

Tuition Exemptions

Exemptions are a type of financial assistance allowing some Texas residents to attend a public college or university in Texas without paying tuition or in some cases, tuition and fees. There are a number of exemptions that include students in the foster care system, children of military personnel and many more. Visit www.collegeforalltexas.com for more information.

OTHER SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID

Fee Waivers

Students who qualify for Free and/or Reduced lunch may also qualify for SAT & ACT fee waivers and college application fee waivers. See your counselor for more information.

College or University Scholarships

Most colleges and universities offer both need based and merit based scholarships. Particular departments or majors may also offer scholarships. Check with each college that you are applying to in order to ensure that you are meeting the requirements for their general or departmental scholarships.

Scholarships from Organizations and Businesses

Some organizations/businesses offer need-based or merit-based scholarships which do not require repayment. Scholarship information is updated on a regular basis and can be accessed on Naviance and on the Plano Senior Counseling website. Please read scholarship information carefully to be sure that you meet all requirements. Most scholarships are available to seniors only.

Educational Assistance for Military Veterans

Students that enlist in any branch of the military after high school are eligible to receive financial assistance to attend college or technical school. For more information, visit www.benefits.va.gov

Your counselor is available to help you navigate the financial aid process, including finding scholarships. Please consider working with your counselor before paying fees to a business for these services.

NCAA Athletic Eligibility

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

1. Go to the website and create an account:
<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>
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 credits for NCAA eligibility:

Division I	Division II
16 Core Courses	16 Core Courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 years of English • 3 years of Math (Algebra 1 or higher). • 2 years of Natural/Physical Science (1 year lab) • 1 additional year of English, Math or Natural /Physical Science • 2 years of Social Science • 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, Foreign Language or Comparative Religion/Philosophy) • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 years of English • 2 years of Math (Algebra 1 or higher) • 2 years of Natural/Physical Science (1 year of lab if offered by high school) • 3 years of additional English, Math or Natural/Physical Science • 2 years of Social Science • 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, Foreign Language or Comparative Religion/Philosophy) • Graduate from high school

Plano Senior High Contacts

<u>STUDENT CENTER</u>		<u>PRINCIPALS</u>	<u>EXTENSIONS</u>
ALPHA	A – Dun	Marjorie Hall Secretary: Julie Pancake	469-752-9445 469-752-9444
DELTA	Duo – Leo	Kevin Lyons Secretary: Patrice Reneau	469-752-9408 469-752-9407
BETA	Lep – Rio	Tracy Ryerson Secretary: April Bragg	469-752-9412 469-752-9411
GAMMA	Rip – Z	Bryan Spiritus Secretary: Maria Diez-Ramos	469-752-9410 469-752-9409

COUNSELING STAFF

A – Brou	Wendy Rupp	496-752-9417
Brov – Dun	Joel Brzezinski	496-752-9317
Duo – Hen	Jennifer Medina	496-752-9320
Heo – Leo	Quincy Ham	496-752-9416
Lep – Mun	Lance Davis	496-752-9322
Muo – Rio	Grace Delgado	496-752-9442
Rip – S	Mark Hundley	496-752-9319
T – Z	Becky Heslep	496-752-9318
Lead Counselor/ Avid Students	Giovanna James	496-752-9316
Testing Coordinator	Keith Walls	496-752-9321
Counseling Secretary	Andrea Cangelose	496-752-9420
Counseling Clerk	Latresha Murphy	496-752-9315
Registrar	Debbie Weiss	496-752-9323
Assistant Registrar	Marie Young	496-752-9324

Staff email addresses are:

First name followed by a period, then last name @pisd.edu
 EXAMPLE: john.doe@pisd.edu