

# College Parent Night



Graduation is right around the corner...

What should I be doing to get ready for life after high school??



# Post High School Options

- Technical or Trade School
- Junior/Community College
- Military Service, Military Academies, ROTC Programs
- 4 Year Colleges and Universities

# If you plan to attend a 2 year college.....

- Application opens in early fall.  
([www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org))
- Visit the college website for admission details.
- Plan a college visit.



# If you plan on attending a 4 year college or university...

Admissions deadlines are usually December 1.

If applying to a Texas Public School, complete the application on [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)

\*\*Opens July 1<sup>st</sup> for the upcoming school year\*\*

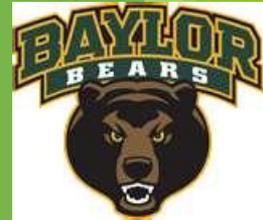
If applying to a U.S. Private School, complete the application on [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).

Check college websites for specific admissions information, applications, and deadlines.



# College Visitations

- ▶ Check with your counselor on your school's policy for college visitations.
- ▶ If you visit a school during the school day, you must provide the required proof of your visitation the day you return to school.



# College Admission

## Automatic:

- Based on rank/test scores.
- You still need to apply by deadline.
- UT Austin – top 6% this year's current juniors
  - All other Texas public schools-top 10%.
- Some Texas schools have automatic admission for top 25% - TAMUCC (check college websites for admission guidelines)

## If you are Under Review:

- Submit letters of recommendation.
  - Submit optional essays.
    - Make a phone call!

# Simplify the College Planning Process

College opportunities exist for everyone. These four steps can help simplify the planning process:

1. Understand admission factors
2. Learn about the SAT, ACT, TSI
3. Explore college options
4. Develop a financial plan

# What Colleges Consider

The first part of planning for college is understanding what factors colleges consider when looking at a student profile.

- Primary Factors

- Quality/Rigor of Academic Courses
- Academic Performance/ Grades
- Test Scores (SAT, ACT, TSI, etc.)

- Additional Factors

- Extracurricular Activities
- Essay(s)
- Letters of Recommendation
- Demonstrated Interest

# Get Organized and Apply

- Narrow and categorize your choices:
  - “More than likely” schools (1 or 2)
  - “Good match” schools (2 to 4)
  - “Reach” schools (1 or 2)
- Review scholarship and financial aid requirements.
- Revise application essays and share drafts with a trusted teacher, adviser or family member.
- Ask for recommendations and set firm dates for their completion.
- Request transcripts and schedule interviews, if needed.

# Resume Tips



- **Make your resume easy to read.**
- **Use a chronological format (12th-9<sup>th</sup> grade).**
- **List school- related activities and leadership positions:**
  - community service and activities;
  - volunteer work /work experience /internships;
  - summer activities & special programs.
  - List the most significant leadership roles first.
- **Include awards, honors, GPA, class rank, SAT/ACT scores.**

# AP Exams

- AP Exams are administered between the end of April and the beginning of May.
- The score range on an AP exam is 1-5 with 5 the highest. **New Legislature passed that colleges must accept a 3 on AP exams for credit.**
- Colleges **may** award credit based on your AP score.
- To check AP scores / College credit awarded:
  1. Go to [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  2. Click “For Students” at top of site;
  3. Click on AP in “College Tests”;
  4. Click on “AP Credit Policy Info” (on the left);
  5. Enter the college name;
  6. Click there for the institution’s AP credit and placement policy.
- ▶ You will be able to see what score is required on an AP exam to receive credit. You will also be able to see the course for which the credit will substitute.

# Dual Credit Courses

- ▶ **Dual Credit (DC)** allows eligible high school juniors and seniors to earn college credit for certain high school courses in which they are enrolled while completing their high school requirements.
- ▶ **DC grades count!** Grades earned in DC course affect both the high school and college GPA. Students who do not pass DC courses carry that grade to college. **If you fall below a 2.0 GPA in Dual Credit, you may be placed on Financial aid probation.**
- ▶ DC classes are often time recorded on your high school transcript as a “weighted” class. Check with your counselor for more information.

# Requesting Official Transcripts

- ▶ Plan ahead. Transcripts are usually sent electronically, however; some private schools and out of state schools may still require a mailed copy.
- ▶ Anticipate technology problems and/or weather delays for mail.
- ▶ Many of your big universities have a December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline

# Requesting Recommendation Letters

- ▶ Students - Be sure you have a resume to share with people that you are requesting to write you a letter of recommendation.
- ▶ When you request a recommendation letter from your counselor and/or teacher, be sure to indicate the purpose and destination of the letter.
- ▶ **Allow at least 2 weeks for recommendation letters to be written.**

# Financial Aid

## Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- You must complete and submit a FAFSA to apply for federal student financial aid.
- Apply on-line for a Federal Student Aid ID Number (FSA ID# – <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>)
- Apply online with FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) starting October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Every college/university bound student must complete the FAFSA to determine eligibility for federal college money. **Complete the FAFSA even if you do not think you qualify.**



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# Get help paying for college

Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



## New to the FAFSA?

**Start A New  
FAFSA**

## Returning User?

- Make a correction
- Add a school
- View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...

**Login**

### Deadlines

Information about your deadlines.

### School Code Search

Find your college's school code. Also find detailed information about your college.

### FAFSA Filing Options

Learn about the other options for filing your FAFSA.

### Announcements

- The Department of Education is reviewing the recent Supreme Court decision on DOMA and its impact on the federal student aid programs. We will provide information and guidance on this matter as soon as it is available.

### Thinking About College?

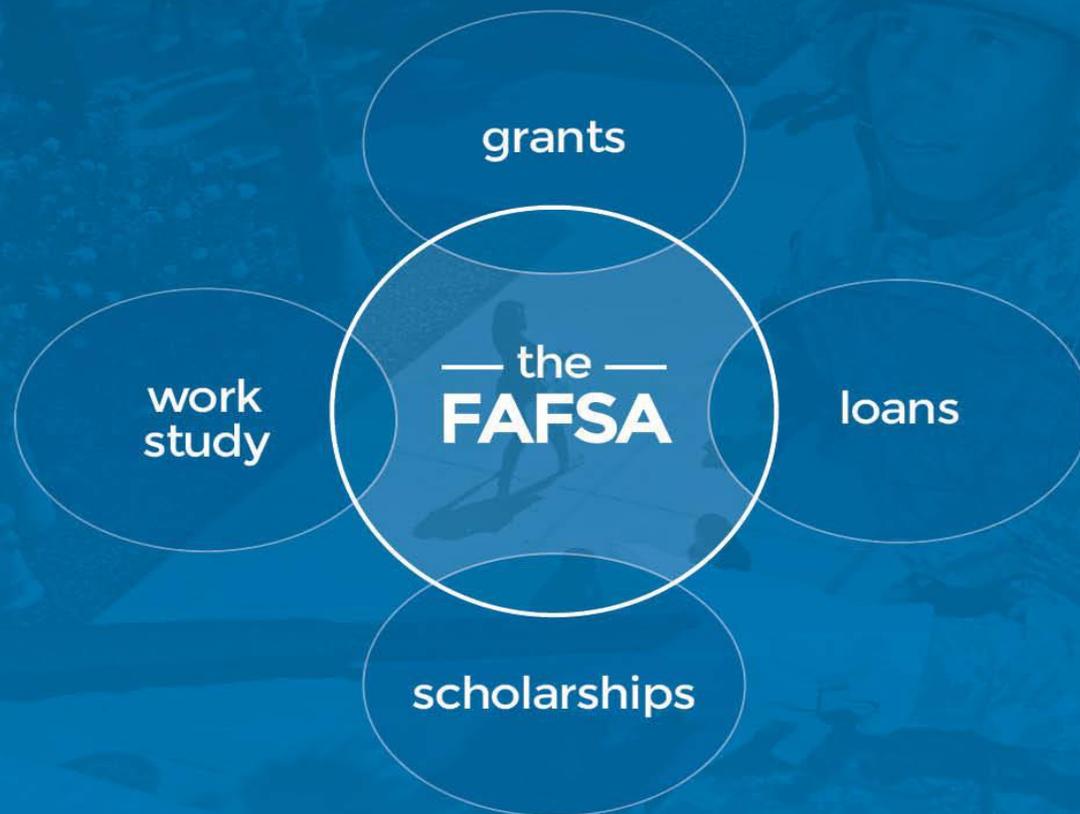


Use *FAFSA4caster* to see how federal student aid can help you pay for college!



Check out how Federal Student Aid can put you on a path to success. [View Videos on YouTube](#) or [Download the Accessible Videos](#)

# WHAT MAKES UP FINANCIAL AID



# FAFSA Application Completion Requirements

Complete demographic information of the parent and student.

Provide income information of the parent and student.

Recommend to use IRS Data Retrieval to import tax information.

Parents who do not have a social security number cannot electronically sign the FAFSA, a signature sheet needs to be printed, signed and mailed to the FAFSA site. NOTE: Please allow 4-8 weeks for Department of Ed. to process mailed documents.

# Scholarships



**Some websites you can check out:**

[www.tuitionfundingsources.com](http://www.tuitionfundingsources.com)

[www.everychanceeverytexan.org](http://www.everychanceeverytexan.org)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com)

**\*\*Also check the colleges you are applying to for institutional scholarships\*\***

# 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Checklist

- ▶ Understand the college admission process and all the things you will need to send to colleges in order to apply.
- ▶ Have taken the SAT and/or ACT at least once and reported my scores to my top school choices.
- ▶ Understand the admission requirements for my top school choices.
- ▶ Research scholarships, grants, and other types of financial assistance you may qualify for.
- ▶ Inform any teachers, counselor, community service personnel, etc. of your wishes for them to write you a letter of recommendation.
- ▶ Start planning out your college application essay.
- ▶ Make plans to visit colleges you are interested in if you have not done so already.

# 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Checklist

- Determine the types of college to which you want to apply.
- Choose at least 5 colleges. Always include at least one “safety” school on your list. A “safety” school is a college at which you know you will meet the requirements for admission.
- Take SAT and ACT exams during the fall semester. Retake if you want to improve your scores.
- Research and apply for scholarships.
- Earn strong grades.
- Take advantage of opportunities for leadership and responsibility to help round out your college applications.
- Submit the FAFSA in October.
- Obtain letters of recommendation.
- Write your essay(s).
- Submit college applications and scholarship applications on time.
- Send your transcripts.

# Essay Questions

- ▶ **Essay A:** What was the environment in which you were raised? Describe your family, home, neighborhood, or community, and explain how it has shaped you as a person.
- ▶ **Essay B:** Most students have an identity, and interest, or talent that defines them in an essential way. Tell us about yourself.
- ▶ **Essay C:** You've got a ticket in your hand- Where will you go? What will you do? What will happen when you get there?

# Questions

- ▶ How many cheerleaders are accepted into the cheer program each semester/year?
- ▶ What kind of cost is associated with the cheer program?
- ▶ Is it considered a physical education class with a dedicated coach?
- ▶ Does the college pay for the travel expenses for cheerleaders to attend away games?
- ▶ How many students are accepted into the theater program/club each year?
- ▶ How is your advisor assigned?
- ▶ Can I request a different advisor if we are not a good match?
- ▶ How long do I have to drop a class if I feel I am not ready for it?
- ▶ What kind of extracurricular clubs/programs are available in the school?

# Questions Continued

- ▶ How do I apply for on campus housing?
- ▶ Is there a limited number of applications allowed each semester?
- ▶ Is there any on campus transportation?
- ▶ Are there jobs available on campus?
- ▶ If so, are they open to all students or only certain grades?
- ▶ What kind of financial aid is available to me? I.e., grants, loans, scholarships?
- ▶ How does my parents' income affect my ability to qualify for financial aid?
- ▶ Can I change my major? How does it affect my studies if I do change it?
- ▶ How does the meal program/cafeteria work?

# QUESTIONS?

