

**Parent
Information
Packet**

CSI: Stratford
College Search Institute
For Rising Seniors

Senior Year Timeline

August/September

- If you have not done so already, complete your Recommendation Survey on Naviance. Meet with your counselor
- Athletes: Register on www.eligibilitycenter.org if you plan to compete in a Division I or Division II sport.
- Narrow your college lists down to 5 to 10. Meet with your counselor about them and download the college applications and financial aid forms. Plan to visit as many of these colleges as possible.
- Mark your calendar with your colleges' admissions, and financial aid deadlines.
- Gather all materials you will need. Personally ask your teacher, principal or counselor for a letter of recommendation if it is required by the University you are applying.
- Register for the September ACT or SAT if needed. Register online at www.actstudent.org or at collegeboard.com
- Attend the Senior/Parent College Information Night
- Begin preparing your college application. Follow the instructions and pay close attention to deadlines!
- Meet with admissions representatives who are visiting STRATFORD HS. On Naviance you will find the list of colleges visiting and you will be able to sign up to see the representative.
- Work on college admission application essays.
- Keep a log on your phone and in your personal portfolio of all your login

October & November, December

- Continue preparing your college applications.
- Finalize admission applications
- Watch your deadlines. Do NOT ask for recommendations or transcripts at the last moment. Give yourself and the educators at least a 2 week window to comply with your request. Remember, there are over 500 students at SHS applying to college.
- Prepare Early Decision, Early Action or rolling admission applications as soon as possible.
- Complete your application essays, proofread them rigorously for mistakes.
- Many colleges have November or December 1st application and/or scholarship deadline.
 - o Investigate the scholarship opportunities offered by the colleges that you are applying to. Check the due dates.
 - o Note: Many times you have to be admitted to the college to be considered for scholarships.
- Visit your top college choices.
- If your top choice college is visiting STRATFORD HS—sign up on Naviance and meet the Admissions Counselor. He/she is the first person to view your application and MANY colleges track demonstrated interest.
- Attend the financial aid seminar—Date to be determined.
- Begin to work on your FAFSA—more information about FAFSA changes will be covered at the financial aid seminar
- **Finalize admission applications.**
- Apply for outside funding or scholarships. Check your Naviance scholarship list page.
- Complete your online FAFSA application.
 - o If you have not received your Student Aid Report email within four weeks after submitting your FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 or check the status on www.fafsa.ed.gov.
 - o KEEP COPIES OF ALL FAFSA FORMS YOU SUBMIT
- Keep copies of all your applications and essays.

January- February

- Watch your housing deposit deadlines! Large universities fill up quickly!
- Watch your email for financial aid packages.
 - o Compare the financial aid awards you receive.
 - o Compare the amount of grants received to the amount of loans received. Do not just look at the 'bottom line' figure.
- Check with your college of choice about the details of signing financial aid award letters.
- Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline. (May 1 is usually the deadline) If a university has accepted you, notify them that you have accepted and will be attending their university. If you are declining their acceptance offer, let them know. Each university maintains a waiting list. Give another deserving student a chance for that university that you do not plan to attend.

March, April, May

- Watch for important deadlines at your college of choice (housing, orientation sign up etc.)
- No senioritis, please! Accepting colleges do look at second semester senior grades.
- Keep active on school. If you are wait-listed, keep in touch with that university and update your files an activities.
- As soon as acceptance letters haven been received, notify your counselor and put that information into Naviance.
- Take Advanced Placement (AP) examinations.
- Complete the Senior Survey (May 2018) on Naviance. This provides data for future students at STRATFORD HS.

The Common App

2017-2018 Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, and an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.



**Spring Branch ISD
2017-2018 College Application Season
Documents & Timelines**

Dear Parents & Students:

As your child approaches the close of the junior year, we know preparing for the post-secondary application process may have already begun. Whether your child is applying to a technical program, 2-year or 4-year college or university, the process involves many moving parts. In an effort to support each student and family in the college application process, we have updated our district-wide timelines and procedures for the Class of 2018. Though a vast majority of institutions will open Fall 2018 applications on August 1, colleges and universities typically will not begin reviewing applications until mid-September or later. We have included a few resources to help parents and students prepare for the application process.

Unofficial Transcripts

Students can print unofficial transcripts through Skyward Family Access. Many colleges and universities will accept unofficial transcripts for purposes of applying for admission; however, please carefully read each institution's policies regarding transcript submission.

Official Transcripts

All official transcript request forms must be submitted directly to the Registrar's Office. Transcript requests cannot be accepted or processed between July 3rd-14th.

Transcript requests processed between **July 17th-31st** will display a junior classification, and will not include summer school course work or class rank. During this week, Skyward is unavailable as the system is rolled over for the new school year.

Transcript requests processed beginning **August 1st** will display a senior designation and will include rank if a student has submitted a Class Rank Form and made the request to have rank displayed. Transcripts will be sent via the method utilized by the college or university (Naviance eDocs or other electronic method as soon as this method is available for the 2017-2018 application season) unless the student specifically requests to receive a paper copy in a sealed envelope.

Special Requests: Texas A&M University

Because Texas A&M has established a July 1 open date for applications, Students applying for admission to Texas A&M University, who wish to make application during July, may request an official transcript on or before June 15th. These transcripts will be official, issued to the student in a sealed envelope, and will be available for pick-up on campus beginning July 3rd. Upon receipt, students can mail the transcript or upload it once completing an application for admission and receiving log-in instructions for the **TAMU Application Information System (AIS)**. Texas A&M recommends using AIS over mailing to bypass the processing delay associated with sending mail to the university. Please keep in mind, because the application for admission will not open until July 1, and a student will not receive AIS portal login credentials until 5-7 days after an application has been submitted, having access to the official transcript on July 3rd will provide the student adequate time to upload and submit their transcript for admission.

Class Rank Forms

High school registrars send Class Rank Forms with Class Rank Letters in July. Students may submit signed forms beginning July 17th; however, students are encouraged to meet with their Counselor or Post-Secondary Counselor prior to making a decision about reporting or not reporting class rank on the transcript. Once submitted, Class Rank decisions are considered final. Signed Class Rank Forms are due no later than **October 13, 2017**. Transcripts may be requested prior to submitting the signed Class Rank Form; however, transcripts requested prior to submitting the class rank form will not show class rank unless the student is in the top 10% of their graduating class (per Texas and SBISD policy).

Letters of Recommendation & Supplemental Forms

Counselors begin writing letters of recommendation and completing supplemental documentation for seniors after **August 1st**. Students are encouraged to meet with their counselor to discuss requested letters, supplemental documentation, and submission deadlines.



Spring Branch ISD
2017-2018 College Application Season
Documents & Timelines

Registrar Office Hours

Normal Registrar Office Hours	7:30 am - 3:45 pm
July 3- July 14	Registrar Offices closed
Summer Hours	8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday through Thursday

Updated Senior class schedules and official school profiles will not be available until after September 1st.

Skyward will update student classifications by **August 1st**. At this time, student accounts will also be updated in Naviance allowing a student to begin senior level activities in their Naviance account.

Naviance is scheduled to open its systems (including features such as letters of recommendation, linking Naviance with Common Application accounts, and electronic document submission) on **August 1st** for the 2017-2018 application season. Prior to this date students will not be able to request letters of recommendation or submit eDocs.

Helpful Checklists: Students click [here](https://goo.gl/CwNBgQ) (<https://goo.gl/CwNBgQ>) | Parents click [here](https://goo.gl/fPDdmN) (<https://goo.gl/fPDdmN>)

2017-2018 Essay Prompts: [Common Application](https://goo.gl/fVLZt) (<https://goo.gl/fVLZt>) | [Apply Texas](https://goo.gl/kKfFM) (<https://goo.gl/kKfFM>)

Additional Application Methods: [Coalition Application](https://goo.gl/9457a5) (<https://goo.gl/9457a5>)

Find Your Fit: [Big Future](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/) (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>) | [CollegeMeasures](http://launchmycareertx.org/) (<http://launchmycareertx.org/>) | [College Scorecard](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/) (<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>)

Make an FSAID for the FAFSA Process: [Get an FSA ID](https://goo.gl/C0GB5Q) (<https://goo.gl/C0GB5Q>)

Learn more about the TASFA (Texas Application for State Financial Aid) [here](https://goo.gl/R4DkPI) (<https://goo.gl/R4DkPI>)

Sincerely,
Lance Stallworth
Executive Director for Student Support Services
Spring Branch ISD

“High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation.” –Charles Kettering

2) T-2-4 POSSIBILITIES & MY T-2-4 PROFILE

Now that you’ve explored your interests and possible careers, let’s think about the different types of higher education you can pursue. Not sure exactly what your T-2-4 options are? Let’s have a look at the possibilities.

Remember, in today’s world, nearly every job requires some type of training and/or higher education.

“T” (Trade Training or Technical Certificate)

Credentials in the “T” category are commonly offered at community colleges. Students electing this path of higher education are prepared for the workforce with training in a specific trade career and/or certification in a technical field of study. Credentials in this category typically require anywhere from 14 weeks to 18 months of study and/or hands-on training. With a few exceptions, credits earned in this category are not typically transferable to a 4-year college or university. **Examples of training/certificate programs include:**

<i>Heating, Ventilating, & A/C Technician</i>	<i>Computer Aided Drafting</i>	<i>Basic Firefighting</i>	<i>Certified Nurse Aide</i>
<i>Cyber Security</i>	<i>Desktop Support & Networking Specialist</i>	<i>EKG Technician</i>	<i>Electrician Technician</i>
<i>Machining</i>	<i>Paralegal</i>	<i>Truck Driving</i>	<i>Welding</i>
<i>Accounting Payroll Specialist</i>	<i>Basic Air Conditioning & Refrigeration</i>	<i>Light Automotive Maintenance Tech</i>	<i>General Drafting</i>
<i>Electrical Helper</i>	<i>Machining Technology</i>	<i>Medical Coding</i>	<i>PC Support</i>
<i>Plumbing Helper</i>	<i>Plumbing Technology</i>	<i>Infant & Toddler Teacher</i>	<i>Basic Welding Helper</i>

**You may already be taking classes at the Guthrie Center or any of the colleges listed below that are preparing you for some type(s) of certification.*



**SAN JACINTO
COLLEGE**



“2” (2-Year Associate Degree)

Degrees in the “2” category are commonly offered at community colleges. Students electing this path of higher education are prepared for careers in a wide range of industry fields or use this as a starting point for transfer to a 4-year college or university. Credentials in this category typically require at least 2 years of study. Degree seekers must meet certain academic standards to earn credit for their coursework toward degree completion and must verify the transferability of coursework if planning for a 4-year degree.

Examples of 2-year degree programs include:

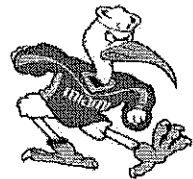
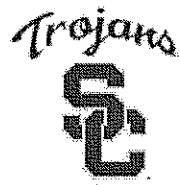
<i>Accounting</i>	<i>Automotive Technician</i>	<i>Biology</i>	<i>Business</i>
<i>Computer Programming</i>	<i>Cosmetology</i>	<i>Criminal Justice</i>	<i>Culinary Arts</i>
<i>Dental Hygiene</i>	<i>Digital Gaming</i>	<i>Engineering</i>	<i>Licensed Vocational Nurse</i>
<i>Physical Therapist Assistant</i>	<i>Respiratory Therapist</i>	<i>Surgical Technology</i>	<i>Teacher Education</i>

**You may already be taking classes at the Guthrie Center or any of the colleges listed above that are preparing you for some type(s) of certification.*

“4” (4-Year Bachelor’s Degree)

Degrees in the “4” category are commonly offered at public and private 4-year colleges and universities. Students electing this path of higher education are prepared for careers in a wide range of fields as well as for continuing study for Master’s and Doctoral degrees. Credentials in this category typically require at least 4 years of study. Prospective students seeking a 4-year degree must meet certain admission criteria before enrolling in a college or university. Admission standards vary greatly among institutions across the nation. Most colleges and universities offer hundreds of degrees with the opportunity to choose from and combine different majors and minors of study. **Examples of 4-year degree programs include:**

<i>Marketing</i>	<i>Dance</i>	<i>Languages</i>	<i>Genetics</i>
<i>International Studies</i>	<i>Kinesiology</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>Psychology</i>
<i>Sports Management</i>	<i>Leadership Studies</i>	<i>Zoology</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>
<i>Music</i>	<i>Construction Science</i>	<i>Engineering</i>	<i>Art</i>

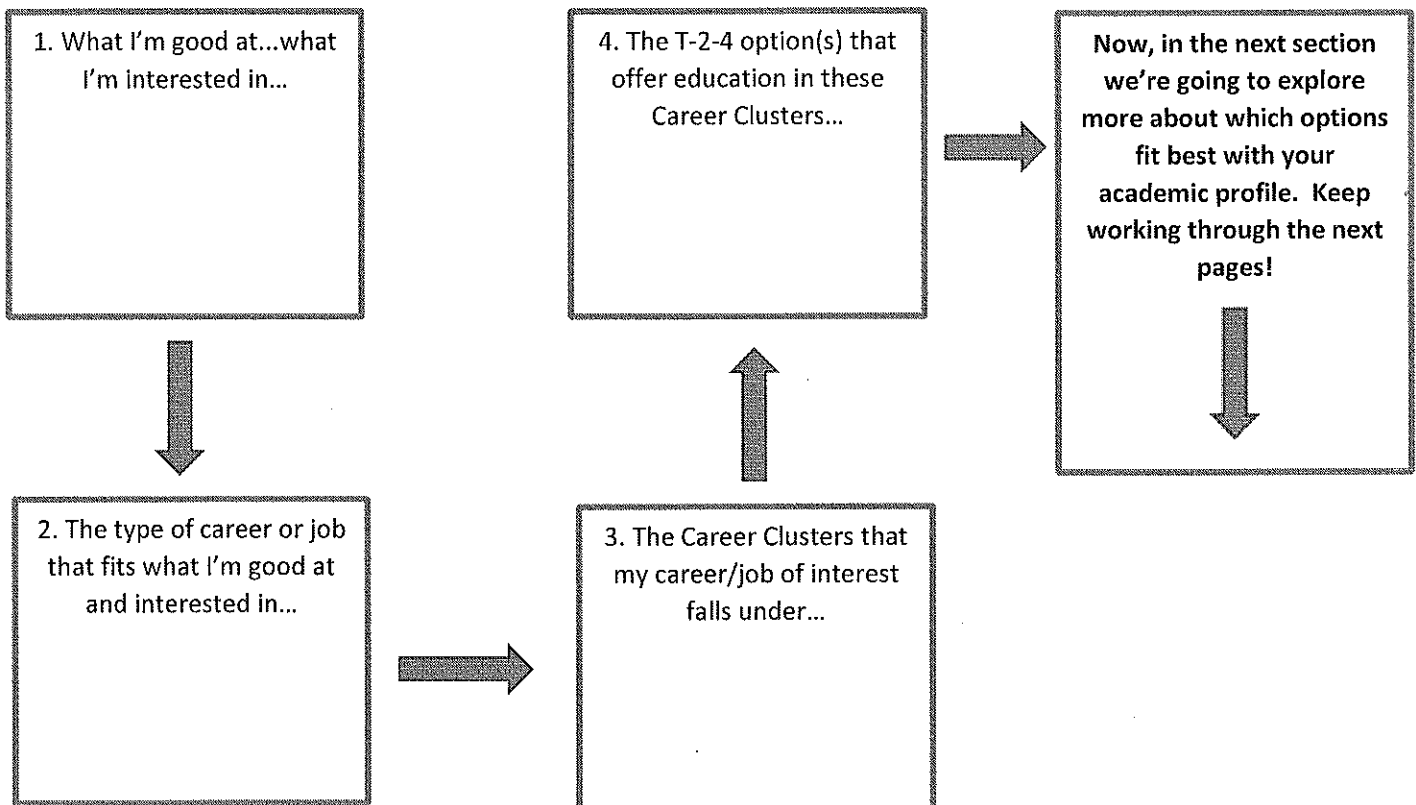


“M” (Military Training)

Included in the T-2-4 options are various pathways to military training. **Examples of military options include:**

<u>Direct Enlistment</u>	<u>Military Academies</u>	<u>ROTC Programs</u>	<u>Reserves</u>
<p>Students may enlist in the military at 17 with parental consent or at 18 years of age without consent. Branches of the military include Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps. Many branches require at least a GED for enlistment. The average service time is 4 years and most branches encourage enlisted members to continue their education while enlisted and even after being discharged from service.</p>	<p>The most competitive and rigorous route to the military. Students earn a 4-year degree upon completion. Applicants must be recommended to attend and must follow strict timelines to apply.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Federal Service Academies require students to enter military service upon graduating from an Academy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(US Air Force Academy, US Coast Guard Academy, US Merchant Marine Academy, US Military Academy- West Point, US Naval Academy)</i></p>	<p>ROTC programs provide students with tuition scholarships for the pursuit of a 2-year or 4-year degree while also taking ROTC courses. Students must be eligible for admission to the college/university in addition to being admitted to the ROTC program. Upon graduation from the college/university students will be required to enter active duty service for a minimum number of years as designated by the military branch.</p>	<p>Reserve programs offer part-time employment, training, and financial and educational benefits. A majority of those serving in the Reserves have other full-time careers or are continuing their education.</p>

LET'S PUT TOGETHER WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED SO FAR...



T-2-4 POSSIBILITIES & MY T-2-4 PROFILE

There are a wide range of requirements associated with every T-2-4 option. It is important to know what those are and how your work in high school has prepared you to meet those requirements. Let's take a look at general requirements:

T (Trade/Training)	2-Year (Associate)	4-Year (Bachelor's)	Military
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High school diploma or GED required ➤ No minimum TSI scores required to enroll 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High school diploma or GED required ➤ Test scores at or above TSI "College Ready" levels or exemption from TSI through SAT/ACT scores required to enroll in credit bearing courses <i>**Not meeting minimum scores requires students to take remedial courses for which students have to pay but receive no credit toward their degree plan.**</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High school diploma or GED required ➤ Test at or above TSI "College Ready" levels <i>The following can be considered in varying levels at 4-year colleges/universities:</i> ➤ Academic rigor, GPA & class rank ➤ SAT/ACT Scores ➤ Extracurricular activities & work/life experiences ➤ Recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High school diploma or GED required <i>The following can be considered in varying levels depending on preferred military path:</i> ➤ Academic performance ➤ Extracurricular activities ➤ Work & life experiences ➤ Recommendations

MORE ON THE "4"

While the "T" and "2" programs do not have minimum entrance requirements and are what we call "Open Admission" the "4" options do publicize grade and test score ranges that applicants should aim to meet. Keep in mind these are general ranges for these types of colleges/universities and you should check each institution's website for more information. The varying degrees of "competitive" refer to the academic profiles of students typically securing admission to schools in each category. *****GPAs are on a 4.0 scale*****

<u>Most to Extremely Competitive</u>	<u>Highly to Very Competitive</u>	<u>Competitive</u>	<u>Less Competitive</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Top 1-5% of graduating class ➤ GPA= 4.1-4.2+ (on 4.0) ➤ SAT=1300-1400+ ➤ ACT=30-32+ ➤ SAT Subject Test=650-700+ ➤ AP Test=3-4+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Top 6-10% of graduating class ➤ GPA= 3.8-4.09+ (on 4.0) ➤ SAT=1100-1200+ ➤ ACT=23-27+ ➤ SAT Subject Test=530-600+ ➤ AP Test=3+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GPA= 3.7-3.79+ (on 4.0) ➤ SAT=<1100 ➤ ACT=<23 ➤ SAT Subject Test=<530 ➤ AP Test= 2-3+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GPA range= <3.5 (on 4.0) ➤ SAT=<1000 ➤ ACT=<20 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Not Competitive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GPA= <3.0 (on 4.0) ➤ SAT= <900 ➤ ACT= <19
<p><i>Some colleges and universities in the Most Competitive to Competitive categories are test optional and/or flexible, meaning more emphasis is placed on other factors besides test scores.</i></p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">Mostly Competitive to Competitive schools place a stronger emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Did you take advantage of the most challenging classes offered at your school? ➤ What do your teachers say about you as a student? ➤ Were you successful over time in high school or does your transcript show fluctuations in your performance? If there are fluctuations, is there a particular reason why? ➤ Do you show academic promise (the ability to succeed in college level courses)? ➤ Did you exhibit leadership in your community and extracurricular involvement? ➤ Have you experienced some life hardship or disadvantage? 			

Important Definitions Regarding Applying to College

Data Checklist created by Peter Van Burskirk

- **Application Fee/Deadline** You don't want to be late when competing for admission. Create separate lines for the fee and the deadline. Under what conditions the application fee might be waived?
- **Application Type** Does the college have its own application? Is it a member of the Common Application or Universal Application groups?
- **Selectivity** Also known as admit ratio and acceptance rate, the relationship between applications and acceptances provides a quick shorthand regarding the intensity of competition you are likely to encounter. If you are considering universities, track the selectivity of the college or degree program within the university that interests you as well as the overall selectivity for the school.
- **Interview** Is it offered and where (on campus or off-campus with a staff member or alumnus)? Take advantage of an interview if it is offered.
- **Test Requirements** Know which tests you need to be prepared to take (SAT/ACT and others). Create at least three lines on which you can list the dates for the tests that are required.
- **Test Scores** Make note of the range of test scores reported for admitted students. In particular, record the values for the 75th and 25th percentiles as these represent the competitive margins within which you want to fall in order to have hope in the admission process.
- **Test Optional** More than 850 colleges and universities now welcome applications without testing. Go to www.FairTest.org to find out if any of the schools you are considering have a test-optional admission policy.
- **Location {city/state}** This will be helpful when you sort on preferred regions of the country.
- **Placement of School (urban-suburban-rural)** There are advantages and disadvantages to each. Make sure you know the type of community in which the school is located.
- **Size** This may not seem important initially, but it is often a determining factor after the data is collected and processed. Styles of instruction vary dramatically with size of institution.
- **Type of Support {public, private}** This is another factor that is often underestimated as it often speaks to institutional mission
- **Structure (college, university)** Schools vary in their complexity-and can offer programs that are similar in name only, but feature styles of instruction as different as night and day. Again, there are advantages to each.
- **Student/Professor Ratio** These are important numbers that tell a lot about the accessibility of faculty. Make sure the ratio reflects undergraduates only as well as the professors who teach them.
- **Program** Record the availability of key majors or programs in which you are interested. You may choose to add a notation that reflects the relative strength of program.

- **Ratio of Operating Budget to Student** If you can get it (check with the President's Office or the Office of Institutional Research}, this ratio reveals a lot about the institution's ability to support the undergraduate educational experience.
- **Total Cost of Attendance** Sooner or later, you need to deal with issues of cost and affordability.
- **Availability of Financial Assistance** Know what you might expect in terms of need and merit based assistance. What percentage of students received need-based financial aid? Merit based? What is the average student debt upon graduation?
- **Distance from Home (travel time)** Some want to get away, others want to stay close to home. Travel time is more relevant than "Miles to be traveled" if considering great distances.
- **Travel Costs** Estimate round-trip expenses. Make sure you know what it will cost to make the trip several times a year.

Tips for undertaking the application process

Getting started

- Set up a folder for each application. Keep all material relevant to each college in its own folder.
- Request letters of recommendations at least two weeks (a month is better) before the deadlines.
- Review all application requirements. Set up a schedule for completing them. You might want to put off this task as long as you can, but procrastination is risky. There is a lot to do, especially if you have several essays to write. You may not do the application (and yourself) justice if you leave it until the last minute. Remember: Leave enough time for correcting and revising.

Completing the application process

- Review each page of the application and its directions completely before you start to work on it.
- Be accurate, honest and neat. Spell correctly and use correct grammar.
- Don't type your essay directly into the application. Draft it separately, then upload the final, proof-read version.
- Request the testing organization to send your official test scores directly to the colleges. Do not send a photocopy of your own test score report unless requested to do so. Sometimes, a college accepts a photocopy as a means of obtaining preliminary information, but it will need the official report to make an offer of admission.
- When you have completed your application, ask someone to review it and check it for errors.
- Print and save to your hard drive the completed application before you send it.
- If you file an online application, be sure to tell your counselor when you have submitted the application and which materials the school needs to send to the college (such as recommendations or the transcript).

Tips for undertaking the application process

(page 2)

Tips for online applicants

- Make sure a person whose opinion you trust reviews the application for errors before you send it.
- Use standard spelling and grammar — not email-ese: Treat this like a paper application.
- Spell your name the same way on the online application and on other components that are sent via mail; this will help the colleges match the components of your application in a timely way.
- Have your test scores sent to the colleges to which you are applying, if you haven't already.
- Print out a paper copy for your records.
- Do not apply electronically and send a paper copy in the mail: Wait for confirmation that the electronic copy was received (you should get that within three or four days, if not sooner).
- Tell your counselor of every online application you send, so he or she can send transcripts and letters of recommendation.

Source: Susan Staggers, Cary Academy, North Carolina

College application FAQs: Students ask, counselors answer

Do I have a better chance of getting in if I apply early?

This can vary from school to school and year to year and may depend on the applicant pool at the school to which you are applying. Check to see what percentage of students in the previous graduating classes at your high school were admitted as Early Decision to a specific college. Are you qualified to apply for Early Decision? If you are, and this is a school you really wish to attend, then apply for Early Decision.

How much time should I give my teachers to write letters of recommendation for me?

Teachers should always receive a minimum of two weeks' notice before the postmark date. Be sure to ask in a way that allows a teacher to decline comfortably if he or she does not have time to do an adequate job. For example: "Do you feel you know me well enough, and do you have enough time, to write a supportive letter of recommendation for me?" Give the teacher a stamped envelope addressed to the college, along with any recommendation form provided by the college.

How many times should I take the SAT®?

Some students are satisfied with their SAT scores the first time they take the test. Others believe they will benefit from taking it a second time. Most students will take the SAT in the spring of their junior year and the fall of their senior year. There is no evidence that taking the test more than twice results in significant score gains for most students.

My SAT scores are very low, and my grades are very high. Will this affect my chances of admission?

While SAT scores are an indicator of success in college, admissions staff look at many different factors when making a decision about whether to admit a student. One of the main things they are looking for is to see if your high school academic profile indicates that you have the potential for academic success on their campus. What kind of courses have you taken? Have you taken rigorous courses such as honors or AP® courses? Have you taken AP Exams so that there are scores to indicate how you may perform in a college-level course? That said, you should always check with the college or university you are applying to if you have questions on their score use policies.

My parents don't make a lot of money — will colleges hold this against me?

Colleges should tell you whether they have a "need-blind" admission policy. Those that do never consider ability to pay as an admission requirement. Other schools, which are "need conscious,"

College application FAQs: Students ask, counselors answer (page 2)

may consider ability to pay, but only for a very small proportion of the admitted group. My advice is always: Don't worry about this.

How can I improve my chances of getting in from the wait list?

If a college is your first choice, let the college know that — although the college may not ask for this information. Write a letter to the director of admission expressing your continuing strong interest and updating the admission office with any new information that enhances you. In addition, you may wish to ask your counselor to make a call on your behalf. Many colleges keep track of these kinds of contacts, and students who are enthusiastic and persistent will get looked at first. Colleges want to admit students off the wait list who will accept the offer of admission.

Do colleges really care about your senior-year grades?

Absolutely! Many colleges will not make a decision until receiving seventh-semester grades. They expect to see a performance that indicates you are ready for college-level work. The college at which you make your enrollment deposit will ask for a final transcript at the end of the senior year. (Admission letters often say something like, "Your admissions is contingent upon your continued successful performance.") It is not at all rare for a college to withdraw an offer of admission when grades drop significantly over the course of the senior year. (I have a folder full of copies of these letters.)

Answers provided by Mary Lee Hoganson, a former counselor at Homewood-Flossmoor High School, Illinois, and Nadine K. Maxwell, a former coordinator of guidance services for Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia.

Source: *The College Board*

Some typical admission policies

Early Action

Students who apply under a college's Early Action plan receive a decision before the standard response date but are not required to accept an offer of admission or to make a deposit prior to May 1. Most Early Action deadlines are in November, December or January, with notification some weeks later. Approximately 200 colleges have Early Action plans. Students should be sure to read the college policy carefully. Some colleges have "single choice Early Action" plans. In these plans, colleges place some restrictions on the applicant's right to make applications to other Early Decision or Early Action plans.

Early Decision

Students who apply under Early Decision commit to enroll at the college if they are admitted and offered a satisfactory financial aid package. Application deadlines are usually in mid-November, with a mid- to late-December notification date. Approximately 230 colleges have an Early Decision plan. Some colleges have both an Early Decision and an Early Action plan.

Open Admission

Under this policy, a college admits students without regard to conventional academic qualifications, such as taking appropriate high school subjects and receiving suitable high school grades and admission-test scores. Virtually all applicants with high school diplomas or the equivalent are accepted. Most community colleges practice open admission, although many have requirements for certain programs — for example, nursing.

Rolling Admission

In this frequently used procedure, a college considers each student's application as soon as all the required credentials, such as school record and test scores, have been received. The college usually notifies an applicant of its decision without delay. At many colleges, rolling admission allow for early notification and work much like nonbinding Early Action programs.

Candidates Reply Date Agreement

A college subscribing to this agreement does not require applicants offered admission as first-year students to notify the college of their decision to attend (or to accept an offer of financial aid) before May 1 of the year the applicants apply. The purpose of the agreement is to give students time to hear from all the colleges to which they have applied before having to make a commitment to any of them.

Source: The College Board

Handout 4D

Application ethics: What students need to consider

In recent years, college admissions officers and college counselors have seen a growing number of students and parents who, in an attempt to manipulate the system in their favor, are crossing the boundary between helping ensure a desired outcome and taking inappropriate actions.

The admission process is not a game to be won at any cost. It is a complex process that demands a great deal of integrity on everyone's part, especially the school's. Here are some examples of what we consider crossing the boundary:

- Applying to binding Early Decision programs at more than one college or university. The whole point of a binding ED program is to make a contract: "If you accept me, I will withdraw all my other applications and attend your university." Many colleges now require that the college adviser sign the application along with the student and parents. The school will not send transcripts to more than one ED school or to any other schools once a student has been admitted under a binding ED program.
- Failing to withdraw your applications to other colleges when you have been admitted under a binding ED program. It isn't fair to those colleges or to the students who have applied to them for you to continue in the process just to see what happens.
- Attempting to gain release from an ED decision because you have changed your mind. The only acceptable reason for requesting release from your contract with your ED college is the inability to work out appropriate financial aid. You and your parents should discuss the cost factor when you are deciding whether to apply for ED in the first place.
- Having someone else write or heavily edit your essays. When you sign an application, you are indicating it is your work. If it is not, then you may be subject to the school's honor code.
- Submitting deposits to more than one college. If you are admitted to a college that requires a deposit by May 1 and wait-listed at your favorite college, call the college that admitted you and discuss the matter before you send your check. Your counselor can advise you how to conduct this conversation and what the appropriate behavior is.
- Stating an intended major that you have no intention of pursuing, because you think it might help your admission chances.
- Inaccurately describing your activities and accomplishments. Putting things in the best light is one thing; fabrication is something else.
- Stating to more than one college that it is your first choice.

Source: Adapted from material provided by Cary Academy, North Carolina

Should you apply under an Early Decision program?

What is Early Decision?

Some colleges have an Early Decision (ED) plan. Under this plan, a student submits his or her credentials early (usually by Nov. 1 or Nov. 15) and signs a statement (binding) that he or she will accept the college's offer of admission.

Who should apply for Early Decision?

Ideal candidates for ED should fit both of these profiles:

- You have researched colleges extensively (visited at least three or four) and are absolutely sure that College X is your first choice. If you are accepted under an Early Decision program, you have committed yourself to attending that college and must withdraw all other applications.
- You meet or exceed the admission profile of students at College X (i.e., your SAT[®] scores, GPA and class rank should be comparable to students at College X). You should have completed one round of the SAT and SAT Subject Tests™ by October of your senior year. Some colleges, however, will accept November test scores if the scores are rushed to the admission office. You have an academic record that has been consistently solid over time.

If you know that your senior-year grades will be much better than your grades in previous years, you may wish to apply under the regular admission program and allow the college to evaluate your improvement.

What are the advantages of Early Decision programs?

Your application is reviewed early and you receive notification of your admission status by Dec. 15. If you are accepted, you avoid having to complete other applications. Your application is reviewed against a smaller applicant pool. (However, it is usually a much stronger pool than the group of candidates for regular admission.)

What are the disadvantages of Early Decision programs?

Obviously, you could be rejected early. And next April, when other students receive their acceptances, you may end up wondering, "Could I have been accepted to Y University?" You might change your mind, but you are bound by contract to attend College X. Additionally, ED leaves applicants without leverage to negotiate better financial aid packages.

College questionnaire for parents or guardians

Name of Student: _____

1. Do you have a preference for how far from home your child's college is located?
2. Do you have a preference for an urban, suburban or small-town campus?
3. Indicate any preferences you have for the location of your child's college:
 - Southeast Midwest
 - Southwest Northeast
 - West Coast No preference
 - Northwest
4. Do you have a specific preference for: a public college/university?
 - a private college/university?
 - a college with a religious affiliation?
 - no preference
5. Please list specific colleges/universities you would like your child to learn about.

6. What particular area of study interests your child?

College questionnaire for parents or guardians (page 2)

7. How do you view your child's actual academic progress so far?

8. What do you believe are your child's strengths in applying for college?
 - a. Academic strengths:

 - b. Other strengths:

9. You are invited to write a letter to the college counselor describing your child, specifically narrating events or anecdotes that characterize or illustrate your child's personality. What would you like us to know about your son or daughter? What experiences have shaped his or her personality? What makes your child special? Are there special circumstances you would like the college adviser to know about that would help with the college search? What do you hope your child will gain from the college experience?

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Source: *Susan Stagers, Cary Academy, North Carolina*

Tips for parents on finding a college match

How can your child find colleges that match specific needs? First, identify priorities. Next, carefully research the characteristics of a range of schools. Finally, match the two. Here are some college characteristics to consider.

Size of student body

Size will affect many of your child's opportunities and experiences:

- range of academic majors offered
- extracurricular possibilities
- amount of personal attention your child will receive
- number of academic resources (e.g., books in the library)

In considering size, your child should look beyond the raw number of students attending. For example, perhaps your child's considering a small department within a large school. Your child should investigate not just the number of faculty members, but also their accessibility to students.

Location

Does your child want to visit home frequently, or is this a time to experience a new part of the country? Perhaps an urban environment is preferred, with access to museums, ethnic food or major league ball games. Or maybe it's easy access to the outdoors or the serenity of a small town.

Academic programs

If your child has decided on a field of study, your child can research the reputations of academic departments by talking to people in the field of interest. If your child is undecided, as many students are, your child may want to choose an academically balanced institution that offers a range of majors and programs. Students normally don't pick a major until their sophomore year, and those students who know their major before they go to college are very likely to change their minds. Most colleges offer counseling to help students find a focus.

In considering academic programs, your child should look for special opportunities and pick a school that offers a number of possibilities.

Tips for parents on finding a college match (page 2)

Campus life

Before choosing a college, your child should learn the answers to these questions:

- What extracurricular activities, athletics, clubs and organizations are available?
- Does the community around the college offer interesting outlets for students?
- How do fraternities and sororities influence campus life?
- Is housing guaranteed?
- How are dorms assigned?

Cost

In considering cost, look beyond the price tag. Because of financial aid, most students pay less than the "sticker price," so don't rule out a college that would be a good fit for your child before you find out how much financial aid it will offer. Most colleges work to ensure that academically qualified students from every economic circumstance can find financial aid that allows them to attend.

Diversity

Your child should explore what can be gained from a diverse student body. The geographic, ethnic, racial and religious diversity of the students can help students learn more about the world. Investigate which student organizations or other groups with ethnic or religious foundations are active and visible on campus.

Retention and graduation rates

One of the best ways to measure a school's quality and the satisfaction of its students is to learn the percentage of students who return after the first year and the percentage of entering students who go on to graduate. Comparatively good retention and graduation rates indicate that responsible academic, social and financial support systems exist for most students.

Source: www.collegeboard.org

ACT Test Dates & Deadlines		
ACT Test Date	ACT Registration Deadline	ACT Scores Available
June 10, 2017	May 5, 2017	Jun. 20, 2017
September 9, 2017	Aug. 4, 2017	Sept. 19, 2017*
October 28, 2017	Sept. 22, 2017	Nov. 7, 2017*
December 9, 2017	Nov. 3, 2017	Dec. 19, 2017*
February 10, 2018	Jan. 12, 2018	Feb. 20, 2018*
April 14, 2018	Mar. 9, 2018	Apr. 24, 2018*
June 9, 2018	May 4, 2018	Jun. 19, 2018*
July 14, 2018	Jun. 15, 2018	Jul. 24, 2018*
SAT Test Dates & Deadlines		
Test Date	Normal Registration	Test Scores Available
June 3, 2017	May 9, 2017	Jul. 12, 2017
August 26, 2017	Jul. 28, 2017	Sept. 28, 2017*
October 7, 2017	Sept. 8, 2017	Nov. 9, 2017*
November 4, 2017	Oct. 5, 2017	Dec. 7, 2017*
December 2, 2017	Nov. 2, 2017	Jan. 10, 2018*
March 10, 2018	Feb. 9, 2018	Apr. 12, 2018*
May 5, 2018	Apr. 6, 2018	Jun. 7, 2018*
June 2, 2018	May 3, 2018	Jul. 11, 2018*
*estimated		



They've Got This

Your students have been prepping to take the ACT® test for years, but they may not know it. The ACT has always been about what students learn in high school.

Why your students should take the ACT

The ACT test . . .

- Is accepted by *all* US colleges and universities
- Has an optional writing test
- Is the nation's most-taken college entrance exam
- Includes an educational and career planning component
- Provides four free score reports for each student*

*If ordered at time of registration

The **ACT**®



Curriculum based

Every day your students attend class they're preparing for the ACT. ACT test questions are directly related to what students learn in most of their high school courses. Because the ACT is based on high school curriculum, students may feel more comfortable taking the ACT.

Accepted by all US colleges

The ACT is accepted for admission to **all** four-year colleges and universities in the United States, including Ivy League schools.

Optional writing test

Since not all colleges and universities require a writing test for admission, ACT allows students to choose whether to take the writing test. Students can check if schools they are interested in require the ACT writing test by visiting www.actstudent.org/writing.

Major and career exploration information

The ACT gives students valuable information to help them plan for life after high school. Students receive a list of majors and occupations to look into based on their interests or careers they are considering. Through exploration, students find occupations they might otherwise have missed. Visit www.actstudent.org/career for more information about using these results.

No penalty for guessing

ACT scores are based on the correct number of answers, with no deduction for incorrect answers. Tell your students to do their best, and to answer every question.

Many ways to prepare

Doing well on the ACT doesn't require students to spend a lot on test preparation. The best way to prepare for the test is to take challenging courses in high school and study hard. Encourage your students to become familiar with the test before they take it. ACT provides many free resources, including practice questions, testing tips, complete practice tests, and more at www.actstudent.org.

Standards based

The ACT aligns with the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards, which help students understand what their scores mean. Students can see how prepared they are for college by comparing their scores to the ACT College Readiness Benchmark scores. The Benchmarks, based on ACT test scores and actual college performance of students, are measures that show the likelihood of college success in a subject if students score at or above the Benchmark.

For more information about the ACT and to access additional resources designed for educational professionals visit www.act.org/aap/resources.



Responsibility to Get Things Done:

(Adapted from BestCollegeFit.com by Peter Van Buskirk)

Complete Prior to your Senior Year	Student	Parent
Complete an Interest Inventory	X	
Do What You are	X	
Complete the Career Cluster Finder	X	
Add 3 Possible Careers to Naviance	X	
Use Road Trip Nation to Explore Various Careers	X	
Investigate Career Opportunities	X	
Complete College Super Match	X	
Add 5 to 8 Colleges that you are interested	X	
Begin a log on community service activities	X	
Actions that Need to be Complete Prior to applying to College	Student	Parent
Get on mailing list of colleges you are interested	X	
Attend local college fairs	X	X
Visit with local college recruiters	X	
Schedule a college campus visit	X	
Make arrangements for overnight visits	X	X
Make hotel arrangements		X
Drive/fly to college campuses		X
Continue proper communications to college reps	X	
Actions that Need to be Complete When applying to College	Student	Parent
Learn SHS transcript procedures	X	X
Understand College Application Procedures	X	X
Begin Test Preparations for ACT/SAT	X	
Sign UP for SAT/ACT	X	
Decide Where to Apply to College	X	X
Complete the Applications for each College	X	
Pay the Application Fee	X	X
Using common app prompts, choose an essay topic	X	
Write your essay	X	
Keep a spreadsheet of timelines and deadlines	X	
Complete your Brag Sheet and Survey	X	
Complete Parent Brag Sheet		X

Related Actions that Need to be Complete When applying to College	Student	Parent
Personally ask teachers and counselor for a recommendation letter when needed <i>(Give them at least a 2 to 3 week window to complete the letter)</i>	X	
Make sure the teacher/counselor who is writing a letter knows you personally	X	
Submit your application before the deadline	X	
Complete the FAFSA along with financial details for the CSS Profile and Scholarship Applications	X	X
Complete Financial Aid Forms	X	X
Keep track of Log-ins and Password Information for applications and FAFSA	X	X
Provide parental and moral support for student		X
Apply for Scholarships	X	
Actions Needed After a Student Has Been Accepted	Student	Parent
Take a second look at colleges that have accepted you	X	
If possible, spend the night in a residence hall	X	
Eat at least 2 meals on campus during a second visit	X	
Attend 2 classes in your major field	X	
Talk with the financial Aid office in person with parent	X	X
Evaluate each college that has accepted you	X	
Is the college a good fit for you	X	
Notify College you have accepted to attend	X	
Notify Colleges that you have declined their acceptance to attend	X	
Prepare for your move to College	X	X

Financial Aid Checklist

College is usually more affordable than many families think, thanks to financial aid. The checklists below offer a step-by-step guide to help you navigate the financial aid process and get the most money possible for college.

FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Find out how financial aid can help you afford college.** You might be surprised by how affordable a college education can be. Check out [7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid](#).
- Learn the basics of college costs.** Besides tuition, what expenses do college students have to cover? Find out by reading [Quick Guide: College Costs](#).
- Get an idea of what college might really cost you.** Check out [9 Things You Need to Know About Net Price](#) to learn why you may not have to pay the full published price of a college. Then pick a college you're interested in and go to [College Search](#) to find its profile. Click the Calculate Your Net Price button to see that college's estimated net price for you — the cost of attending a college minus grants and scholarships you might receive. Save the data you enter, when possible, so you can recompute the net price as college gets closer.
- Talk to your family about ways to pay for college.** Discuss the options and share ideas about how your family might pay for it.
- Save money for college.** Bank part of your birthday money, your allowance, or your earnings from chores or an after-school job for future college expenses. Even a small amount can be a big help when you're buying textbooks and school supplies later on.
- Challenge yourself inside the classroom.** Good grades not only expand your college opportunities but also can help you pay for college. Some grants and scholarships — money you don't have to pay back — are awarded based on academic performance.
- Get involved in activities you like.** Your activities outside the classroom — like playing sports, volunteering, and participating in clubs — can lead to scholarships that will help you afford college.

Notes:

JUNIOR YEAR: SUMMER/FALL

- Take an inventory of your interests and passions.** Scholarships are not only based on academic achievement. Many scholarships award money for college based on a student's activities, talents, background, and intended major.
- Research the various types of financial aid.** Find out the difference between a grant and a loan, the way work-study can help with college costs, and more. Read **Financial Aid Can Help You Afford College**.
- Continue talking with your family about paying for college.** Start planning your financial strategy. Most families use a combination of savings, current income, and loans to pay their share of tuition and other costs.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT®.** Juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT, which is given in October, are automatically entered into the National Merit Scholarship Program. Organizations such as the American Indian Graduate Center, Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation,

and United Negro College Fund use the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT™ 10 to identify students for scholarships.

- Learn the difference between sticker price and net price.** A college's sticker price is its full published cost, while the net price is the cost of attending a college minus grants and scholarships you receive. Knowing the difference will help you understand why most students pay less than full price for college. Read **Focus on Net Price, Not Sticker Price** to learn more.
- Get perspective and tips from people who know.** Visit the **Video Gallery** to watch short videos of college students and education professionals talking about paying for college.
- Think about getting college credit while you're still in high school.** Consider taking Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) classes and exams, which can count for college credit, placement, or both, and may help you save money. Read **Getting College Credit Before College** to learn more about AP and other college-level courses.

Notes:

JUNIOR YEAR: WINTER/SPRING

- Keep looking up colleges' estimated net prices** — net price calculators get updated every year. Pick a college you're interested in and go to **College Search** to find its profile. Click Calculate Your Net Price to see that college's estimated net price for you — the cost of attending a college minus the grants and scholarships you might receive.
- Start researching scholarship opportunities.** Scholarships are free money; that is, unlike student loans, they don't have to be paid back. Use the College Board's **Scholarship Search** tool to find scholarships for which you might qualify.
- Get to know the FAFSA.** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the key to having access to federal financial aid. You can find out more about the form at fafsa.ed.gov. You can't fill out the FAFSA until after Oct. 1 of your senior

year, but you can create your account and get a FSA ID to get a head start.

- Go to a financial aid event.** Many schools host financial aid nights so students and their families can get information and ask questions.
- Set aside money from a summer job.** Even a little extra money will help you pay for books and living expenses while in college or enable you to buy some of the things you need to make a smooth transition to college.
- Gather the documents you'll need to fill out your financial aid applications.** You and your parents will need to gather tax returns, income statements, and lists of assets to prepare to fill out the FAFSA, the PROFILE, and other applications. Read **How to Complete the FAFSA**.

Notes:

SENIOR YEAR: SUMMER/FALL

- Research local scholarship opportunities.** Talk to your school counselor, teachers, or other adults in your community about scholarships offered by local organizations. Go to your local library and ask for help. Ask your parents to see if their employers grant scholarships. And don't forget to check the College Board's Scholarship Search.
- Look up deadlines.** Don't miss the priority deadlines for your colleges' financial aid applications — meeting these will help you get as much money as possible. You can compare deadlines for different colleges by using the [College Search](#) tool. And be sure to find out the application deadlines of any private scholarships or loans for which you plan to apply.
- Get an estimate of what the colleges on your final list will actually cost.** Get a better idea of what you'll pay to attend a college by looking at its estimated net price — the cost of attending a college minus grants and scholarships you receive. You can get this figure by going to the net price calculator on the college's website or, for some colleges, by using the College Board's [Net Price Calculator](#).
- Find out about different kinds of student loans.** Not all student loans are equal. Loans come from different sources, and some kinds are more expensive than others. Read [Types of College Loans](#) to learn more.
- Find out if you need to file a CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®.** A college may require students to complete this application — or the college's own forms — to apply for financial aid awarded by the institution.
- Complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE, if required.** If you need to submit the PROFILE to a college or scholarship program, be sure to find out the priority deadline and submit it by that date. Read [How to Complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE](#).
- Complete your FAFSA.** You can submit the FAFSA after Oct. 1 — sooner is better to qualify for as much financial aid as possible. Filling out the form online at [fafsa.gov](#) is the fastest way to do it.

Notes:

SENIOR YEAR: WINTER/SPRING

- Apply for any private scholarships you've found.** Make sure you understand and follow the application requirements and apply by the deadline.
- Compare your financial aid awards.** The colleges you apply to will send financial aid award letters to tell you how much and which kinds of aid they're offering you. Use the [Compare Your Aid Awards](#) calculator to make side-by-side comparisons of each college's aid package.
- Contact a college's financial aid office, if necessary.** Financial aid officers are there to help you if you have questions. If your financial aid award is not enough, don't be afraid to ask about other options.
- Select a financial aid package by the deadline.** Once you've compared the offers, you and your family should discuss which package best meets your needs. Financial aid is limited, so if you don't accept your award on time, it may go to another student. You can, however, ask for an extension if you are waiting to hear from other schools. Each college will decide if it's able to give you an extension.
- Complete financial aid paperwork.** If loans are part of your financial aid package, you'll have to complete and submit paperwork to get the money.
- Get ready to pay the first college tuition bill.** This usually covers the first semester and is due before you enroll.

Notes:

Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org for more information.

6) FINANCIAL AID & BEYOND

Continuing your education after high school is an important part of you achieving your goals and dreams. Cost is not a reason to not pursue higher education or training. Here is an introduction to basic financial aid and scholarship info. Financial aid describes any funding you receive to pay for educational expenses.

Federal
Student
Aid

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

The Department of Education through the Federal Student Aid FAFSA awards billions of dollars to students every year in the form of grants, scholarships, and low-interest loans. U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents, and eligible Non-Citizens can submit a FAFSA using their 2015 taxes beginning on October 1, 2016 to compete for funding for the 2017-2018 academic year. The FAFSA does not require a minimum income nor does it have an income maximum to apply and compete for aid. The application is FREE and can be submitted electronically.

TAFSA

TAFSA (Texas Application for State Aid)

The State of Texas through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board awards eligible Non-Citizens and DACA students state financial aid through the TASFA application. Students must have lived in Texas for 36 consecutive months leading up to graduating from a Texas high school and must live in Texas for 12 months prior to attending a Texas college or university. The TASFA requires submission of a notarized Residency Affidavit (which can be notarized on campus), a tax transcript, proof of registration for selective service (males only), and a statement of cash earnings if taxes are not filed. The application is FREE and cannot be submitted electronically but must be delivered to each institution via their preferred method of delivery.



CSS/Financial Aid Profile

The College Board, in cooperation with colleges and universities across the nation, utilizes the CSS/Financial Aid Profile to award students institutional aid using similar information as is required on the FAFSA. This form is not used to award federal financial aid. There is a fee to submit the application. Students qualifying for a submission fee waiver will be notified once they have entered all necessary information and arrive at the payment page for the application.

Federal Student Aid

FAFSA4caster



Net Price
Calculator

FAFSA4caster & Net Price Calculator

These tools are designed to assist students and families with determining the potential cost of higher education. The FAFSA main page contains a link for the 4caster and every college and university is now required to have a Net Price Calculator on their financial aid webpage.

uaspire
PREPARE * AFFORD * SUCCEED

uAspire

In partnership with this college affordability organization, SBISD students have access to cutting edge financial aid information and with their families can receive assistance with interpreting financial aid award letters and making the best financially fit decision for continuing their education.

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

**The following resources require students to create an account/profile for each site. Please read Terms of Use and Privacy Policies on each site before completing sign up.*



Naviance Family Connection

Family Connection includes a scholarship directory that students can browse to find scholarships and also includes a "scholarship match" link on the College tab to will assist students with finding scholarships that match their profile. *Please keep in mind, scholarships on the "scholarship list" are updated by SBISD and may not reflect the most recent information or due dates for each scholarship. Students are encouraged to visit company/organization websites for the most updated information.*



Raise.me

As early as freshman year students can begin earning "micro-scholarships" to pay for their higher education. Students earn scholarship dollars from colleges & universities across the nation for their high school accomplishments like taking certain classes, earning certain grades, and participating in certain activities. Raise.me is completely free to students.



redkite

Red Kite Matching Engine searches through \$20 billion in scholarships to find the opportunities that best fit a student's profile. The site also allows students to compare costs between college and universities and track their scholarship and loan applications.

*****As you apply for and receive scholarship awards please see your Counselor or Academic Advisor for instructions on how to update you campuses scholarships registry. *****

Financial aid checklist for students and parents

Use this sheet as a personal record and as a reminder of the steps to take to obtain financial aid. Check off each step as you complete it.

For you and your parents or guardian

- If you are in doubt as to whether or not to apply for aid, apply!
- Obtain a social security number if you do not have one.
- Do not wait for college acceptance letters before filing for aid. File in January or February — the earlier the better. You do not have to have completed your tax returns prior to filling out the FAFSA or the PROFILE. An estimate of income is adequate. You cannot file the FAFSA until after January 1, but complete it before February 1 if at all possible.
- Fill the FAFSA out online. Get worksheets to fill out prior to filing the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Filing online is much faster than by mail, and the website has prompts that help you avoid making mistakes. You will need a PIN, or electronic password, before completing the form — available at www.pin.ed.gov. Get your PIN well in advance of your deadline because it must be assigned and emailed back to you before you can begin.
- If you are applying to colleges that require PROFILE, try to file that form in late November or early December — as soon as you know the colleges to which you plan to apply. If you are applying under an Early Decision plan, complete your PROFILE in October or early November.
- Income tax forms should be filed as soon as possible (preferably in January) in order to provide accurate data on financial aid forms. Some colleges have early February deadlines.
- Inform each college about your interest in applying for aid. Make a list of the financial aid priority dates and deadlines at the colleges to which you are applying. Ask each college if it requires supplemental forms, and obtain them as needed.
- Apply for federal and state funds by completing the appropriate questions of the FAFSA.
- Check for scholarships for which you might be eligible:
 - each college/postsecondary institution (your best source)
 - those posted in the counseling office
 - local and state scholarships
- Begin your Stafford student loan application by checking appropriate boxes on the FAFSA.

What Information Do I Need When I Fill Out the FAFSASM?

Here's a checklist!

You should have the following information and documents with you as you fill out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*:

- Your Social Security number
- Your parents' Social Security numbers if you are providing parent information*
- Your driver's license number if you have one
- Your Alien Registration Number if you are not a U.S. citizen
- Federal tax information or tax returns** including IRS W-2 information, for you (and your spouse, if you are married), and for your parents if you are providing parent information
 - If you have not yet filed an income tax return, complete and submit the FAFSA using estimated tax information
 - Use income records for the year prior to the academic year for which you are applying; for instance, if you are filling out the 2012-13 FAFSA, you will need 2011 tax information
- Records of your untaxed income, such as child support received, interest income, and veterans noneducation benefits, for you, and for your parents if you are providing parent information
- Information on cash; savings and checking account balances; investments, including real estate but not including the home in which you live; and business and farm assets for you, and for your parents if you are providing parent information

* Not sure whether you will need to put your parents' information on the FAFSA? Check out "Am I Dependent or Independent?" at www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs or call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

** If you file your taxes before filling out your FAFSA online, you might be able to have your tax information automatically retrieved from the Internal Revenue Service and inserted in your FAFSA. The FAFSA will walk you through the process.



DO NOT MAIL THIS WORKSHEET.

The *FAFSA on the Web Worksheet* provides a preview of the questions that you may be asked while completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* online at www.fafsa.gov.

You must complete and submit a FAFSA to apply for federal student aid and for most state and college aid. Write down notes to help you easily complete your FAFSA anytime on or after October 1, 2016.

See the table to the right for state deadlines. Your application must be submitted by midnight Central time. Also pay attention to the symbols that may be listed after your state deadline. Check with your high school counselor or your college's financial aid administrator about other deadlines. The Federal deadline is June 30, 2018.

- **This Worksheet is optional and should only be completed if you plan to use FAFSA on the Web.**
- **Sections in purple are for parent information.**
- **This Worksheet does not include all the questions from the FAFSA. The questions that are included are ordered as they appear on FAFSA on the Web. When you are online, you may be able to skip some questions based on your answers to earlier questions.**

Applying is easier with the IRS Data Retrieval Tool!

Students and parents who have completed their 2015 IRS tax return may be able to use *FAFSA on the Web* to electronically view their tax information. With just a few simple steps, the tax information can also be securely transferred into *FAFSA on the Web*.

Sign your FAFSA with an FSA ID!

For information about the FSA ID, including how to apply, go to StudentAid.gov/fsaid.

Your FSA ID allows you to electronically sign your FAFSA. If you are providing parent information, one parent must also sign your FAFSA. To sign electronically, your parent should also apply for an FSA ID.

Free help is available!

You do not have to pay to get help or submit your FAFSA. Submit your FAFSA **free** online at www.fafsa.gov. Federal Student Aid provides **free** help online at www.fafsa.gov or you can call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). TTY users (hearing impaired) can call 1-800-730-8913.

NOTES:

Check with your financial aid administrator for these states and territories:
 AL, AS*, AZ, CO, FM*, GA, GU*, HI*, MH*, MP*, MT*, NE, NH*, NM, PR, PW*, RI*, SD*, UT, VA*, VI*, WI and WY*.

Pay attention to any symbols listed after your state deadline.

State	Deadline
AK	Alaska Performance Scholarship – June 30, 2017 # \$ Alaska Education Grant – As soon as possible after October 1, 2016 \$
AR	Academic Challenge – June 1, 2017 (date received) Workforce Grant – Check with your financial aid administrator. Higher Education Opportunity Grant – June 1, 2017 (date received)
CA	For many state financial aid programs – March 2, 2017 (date postmarked) + * For additional community college Cal Grants – September 2, 2017 (date postmarked) + * Contact the California Student Aid Commission or your financial aid administrator for more information.
CT	February 15, 2017 (date received) # *
DC	FAFSA completed by May 1, 2017 For DCTAG, complete the DC OneApp and submit supporting documents by May 31, 2017.
DE	April 15, 2017 (date received)
FL	May 15, 2017 (date processed)
IA	July 1, 2017 (date received) – Earlier priority deadlines may exist for certain programs. *
ID	Opportunity Grant – March 1, 2017 (date received) # *
IL	As soon as possible after October 1, 2016 \$
IN	March 10, 2017 (date received)
KS	April 1, 2017 (date received) # *
KY	As soon as possible after October 1, 2016 \$
LA	July 1, 2018 (July 1, 2017 recommended)
MA	May 1, 2017 (date received) #
MD	March 1, 2017 (date received)
ME	May 1, 2017 (date received)
MI	March 1, 2017 (date received)
MN	30 days after term starts (date received)
MO	February 1, 2017 # Applications received through April 1, 2017 \$ (date received)
MS	MTAG and MESG Grants – September 15, 2017 (date received) HELP Scholarship – March 31, 2017 (date received)
NC	As soon as possible after October 1, 2016 \$
ND	As soon as possible after October 1, 2016 \$
NJ	2016-2017 Tuition Aid Grant recipients – April 15, 2017 (date received) All other applicants - September 15, 2017, fall & spring terms (date received) - February 15, 2018, spring term only (date received)
NV	Silver State Opportunity Grant – As soon as possible after October 1, 2016 \$ All other aid – Check with your financial aid administrator. *
NY	June 30, 2018 (date received) *
OH	October 1, 2017 (date received)
OK	As soon as possible after October 1, 2016 \$ OSAC Private Scholarships – March 1, 2017 * Oregon Promise Grant – Fall term, April 1, 2017 (date received); other terms, contact state agency \$ *
OR	Oregon Opportunity Grant – As soon as possible after October 1, 2016 \$
PA	All first-time applicants enrolled in a: community college; business/trade/technical school; hospital school of nursing; designated Pennsylvania Open-Admission institution; or non-transferable two-year program – August 1, 2017 (date received) All other applicants – May 1, 2017 (date received) *
SC	Tuition Grants – June 30, 2017 (date received) SC Commission on Higher Education Need-based Grants – As soon as possible after October 1, 2016 \$
TN	State Grant – January 17, 2017. Eligible prior-year recipients receive priority, and all other awards made to neediest applicants until funds are depleted. Tennessee Promise – January 17, 2017 State Lottery – Fall term, September 1, 2017 (date received); spring & summer terms, February 1, 2018 (date received)
TX	As soon as possible after October 1, 2016. Texas public colleges – March 15, 2017 # Texas private colleges – Check with your financial aid administrator. *
VT	As soon as possible after October 1, 2016 \$ *
WA	As soon as possible after October 1, 2016 \$
WV	PROMISE Scholarship – March 1, 2017. New applicants must submit additional application. Contact your financial aid administrator or state agency. WV Higher Education Grant Program – April 15, 2017

STATE AID DEADLINES

For priority consideration, submit application by date specified.
 + Applicants encouraged to obtain proof of mailing.
 \$ Awards made until funds are depleted.
 * Additional forms may be required.

SECTION 1 - STUDENT INFORMATION

After you are online, you can add up to ten colleges on your FAFSA. The colleges will receive the information from your processed FAFSA.

Student's Last Name

First Name

Social Security Number

Student Citizenship Status (check one of the following)

- U.S. citizen (U.S. national) Neither citizen nor eligible noncitizen
- Eligible noncitizen (Enter your Alien Registration Number in the box to the right.)

Your Alien Registration Number

A									
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Generally, you are an eligible noncitizen if you are:

- A permanent U.S. resident with a Permanent Resident Card (I-551);
- A conditional permanent resident with a Conditional Green Card (I-551C);
- The holder of an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any of the following designations: "Refugee," "Asylum Granted," "Parolee" (I-94 confirms paroled for a minimum of one year and status has not expired), T-Visa holder (T-1, T-2, T-3, etc.) or "Cuban-Haitian Entrant;" or
- The holder of a valid certification or eligibility letter from the Department of Health and Human Services showing a designation of "Victim of human trafficking."

Student Marital Status (check one of the following)

- Single Married or remarried Separated Divorced or widowed

You will be asked to provide information about your spouse if you are married or remarried.

Selective Service Registration

If you are male and 25 or younger, you can use the FAFSA to register with the Selective Service System.

What is the highest school parent 1 completed?

- Middle school/Jr. high College or beyond
- High school Other/unknown

What is the highest school parent 2 completed?

- Middle school/Jr. high College or beyond
- High school Other/unknown

SECTION 2 - STUDENT DEPENDENCY STATUS

If you can check ANY of the following boxes, you will not have to provide parental information. Skip to page 4.

If you check NONE of the following boxes, you will be asked to provide parental information. Go to the next page.

<input type="checkbox"/> I was born before January 1, 1994	<input type="checkbox"/> I am married	<input type="checkbox"/> I will be working on a master's or doctorate program (e.g., MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, graduate certificate)
<input type="checkbox"/> I am serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces	<input type="checkbox"/> I am a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces	<input type="checkbox"/> I now have or will have children for whom I will provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> Since I turned age 13, both of my parents were deceased	<input type="checkbox"/> I was in foster care since turning age 13	<input type="checkbox"/> I have dependents (other than children or my spouse) who live with me and I provide more than half of their support
<input type="checkbox"/> I was a dependent or ward of the court since turning age 13	<input type="checkbox"/> I am currently or I was an emancipated minor	<input type="checkbox"/> I am currently or I was in legal guardianship
		<input type="checkbox"/> I am homeless or I am at risk of being homeless

NOTES:

SECTION 3 - PARENT INFORMATION

Who is considered a parent? "Parent" refers to a biological or adoptive parent or a person determined by the state to be a parent (for example, if the parent is listed on the birth certificate). Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, older siblings, and uncles or aunts are **not** considered parents on this form unless they have legally adopted you. If your legal parents are living and married to each other, answer the questions about both of them. If your legal parents are not married and **live together**, answer the questions about both of them. In case of divorce or separation, give information about the parent you lived with most in the last 12 months. If you did not live with one parent more than the other, give information about the parent who provided you the most financial support during the last 12 months or during the most recent year you received support. If your divorced or widowed parent has remarried, also provide information about your stepparent.

Providing parent 1 information? You will need:

Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent) Social Security Number
 Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent) name
 Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent) date of birth
 Check here if parent 1 is a dislocated worker

Providing parent 2 information? You will need:

Parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent) Social Security Number
 Parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent) name
 Parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent) date of birth
 Check here if parent 2 is a dislocated worker

Did you know?

If your parents file a tax return with the IRS, they may be eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, which is the easiest way to provide accurate tax information. With just a few simple steps, they may be able to view their tax return information and securely transfer it into *FAFSA on the Web*.

Did your parents file or will they file a 2015 income tax return?

- My parents have already completed a tax return
 My parents will file, but have not yet completed a tax return
 My parents are not going to file an income tax return

What was your parents' adjusted gross income for 2015?

Skip this question if your parents did not file taxes. Adjusted gross income is on IRS Form 1040—line 37; 1040A—line 21; or 1040EZ—line 4.

\$

The following questions ask about earnings (wages, salaries, tips, etc.) in 2015. Answer the questions whether or not a tax return was filed. This information may be on the W-2 forms or on the IRS Form 1040—lines 7 + 12 + 18 + Box 14 (Code A) of IRS Schedule K-1 (Form 1065); 1040A—line 7; or 1040EZ—line 1.

How much did parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent) earn from working in 2015?

\$

How much did parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent) earn from working in 2015?

\$

In 2015 or 2016, did anyone in your parents' household receive: (Check all that apply.)

- Medicaid Free or Reduced Price School Lunch
 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Note: TANF may have a different name in your parents' state. Call 1-800-433-3243 to find out the name of the state's program.

Did your parents have any of the following items in 2015?

Check all that apply. Once online, you may be asked to report amounts paid or received by your parents.

Additional Financial Information

- American Opportunity Tax Credit or Lifetime Learning Tax Credit
 Child support paid
 Taxable earnings from work-study, assistantships or fellowships
 Taxable college grant and scholarship aid reported to the IRS
 Combat pay or special combat pay
 Cooperative education program earnings

Untaxed Income

- Payments to tax-deferred pension and retirement savings plans
 Child support received
 IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE and Keogh
 Tax exempt interest income
 Untaxed portions of IRA distributions
 Untaxed portions of pension distributions
 Housing, food and other living allowances paid to members of the military, clergy and others
 Veterans noneducation benefits
 Other untaxed income not reported, such as workers' compensation or disability benefits

Your parents may be asked to provide more information about their assets.

Your parents may need to report the net worth of their current businesses and/or investment farms.

NOTES:

SECTION 4 - STUDENT INFORMATION

Did you know?

If you file a tax return with the IRS, you may be eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, which is the easiest way to provide accurate tax information. With just a few simple steps, you may be able to view your tax return information and securely transfer it into *FAFSA on the Web*.

Did you file or will you file a 2015 income tax return?

- I have already completed my tax return
- I will file, but I have not completed my tax return
- I'm not going to file an income tax return

What was your (and spouse's) adjusted gross income for 2015?

Skip this question if you or your spouse did not file taxes. Adjusted gross income is on IRS Form 1040—line 37;

\$

1040A—line 21; or 1040EZ—line 4.

The following questions ask about earnings (wages, salaries, tips, etc.) in 2015. Answer the questions whether or not a tax return was filed. This information may be on the W-2 forms or on the IRS Form 1040—lines 7 + 12 + 18 + Box 14 (Code A) of IRS Schedule K-1 (Form 1065); 1040A—line 7; or 1040EZ—line 1.

How much did you earn from working in 2015?

- Check here if you are a dislocated worker

\$

How much did your spouse earn from working in 2015?

- Check here if your spouse is a dislocated worker

\$

In 2015 or 2016, did anyone in your household receive: (Check all that apply.)

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Free or Reduced Price School Lunch
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Note: TANF may have a different name in your state. Call 1-800-433-3243 to find out the name of the state's program.

Did you or your spouse have any of the following items in 2015?

Check all that apply. Once online, you may be asked to report amounts paid or received.

Additional Financial Information

- American Opportunity Tax Credit or Lifetime Learning Tax Credit
- Child support paid
- Taxable earnings from work-study, assistantships or fellowships
- Taxable college grant and scholarship aid reported to the IRS
- Combat pay or special combat pay
- Cooperative education program earnings

Untaxed Income

- Payments to tax-deferred pension and retirement savings plans
- Child support received
- IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE and Keogh
- Tax exempt interest income
- Untaxed portions of IRA distributions
- Untaxed portions of pension distributions
- Housing, food and other living allowances paid to members of the military, clergy and others
- Veterans noneducation benefits
- Other untaxed income not reported, such as workers' compensation or disability benefits
- Money received or paid on your behalf

You may be asked to provide more information about your (and your spouse's) assets. You may need to report the net worth of current businesses and/or investment farms.

NOTES:

Do not mail this Worksheet. Go to www.fafsa.gov to complete and submit your application.

For more information on federal student aid, visit StudentAid.gov.

You can also talk with your college's financial aid office about other types of student aid that may be available.

2017-18 TASFA

Texas Application for State Financial Aid

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

The Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) is used to collect information to help determine eligibility for state financial aid programs that are administered by institutions of higher education in the state of Texas. Students that are classified as a Texas Resident who cannot apply for federal financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are encouraged to complete the TASFA. To review the FAFSA filing requirements, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov or visit the financial aid office at the institution you plan to attend for the 2017-18 award year. Please note that Texas Residency can only be determined by the institution that you plan to attend. This application cannot be used to determine your state residency status or final eligibility for state aid.

To complete this application, each item within the applicable sections should be answered. For clarification on specific items and for a list of schools that accept the TASFA, please reference the **Notes** section. If you have further questions, contact the financial aid office at your institution.

Texas state priority deadline for many institutions of higher education is March 15, 2017 for the 2017-18 award year. It is recommended that applicants complete and submit this application and any other required documentation to the financial aid office prior to the state priority deadline date.

STEP ONE: STUDENT INFORMATION (See Notes for question 5-6)

1. Last Name		2. First Name		3. M.I.	
4. Date of Birth		5. Social Security Number or DACA # (If applicable)		6. College Student ID	
7. Permanent Mailing Address					
8. City		9. State	10. Zip Code	11. Phone Number	
12. Email Address					
13. What will your high school completion status be when you begin college in the 2017-2018 school year?		<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma <input type="checkbox"/> Homeschooled		<input type="checkbox"/> General Educational Development (GED) certificate <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above	
14. High School Name (If applicable)					
15. High School City (If applicable)			16. State (If applicable)	17. Date of Graduation (If applicable)	
18. Will you have your first bachelor's degree before you begin the 2017-2018 school year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
19. What will your grade level be when you begin the 2017-18 school year?			20. What degree or certificate will you be working on when you begin the 2017-18 school year?		
Never attended college <input type="checkbox"/> (No college credits)			1st bachelor's degree <input type="checkbox"/>		
1st year undergraduate <input type="checkbox"/> (Up to 30 college credits towards degree)			2nd bachelor's degree <input type="checkbox"/>		
2nd year undergraduate/sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> (30-60 college credits towards degree)			Associate degree <input type="checkbox"/> (occupational, technical program, general education or transfer program)		
3rd year undergraduate/junior <input type="checkbox"/> (60-90 college credits towards degree)			Certificate or diploma <input type="checkbox"/>		
4th year undergraduate/senior <input type="checkbox"/> (90-120 college credits towards degree)			Teaching credential <input type="checkbox"/> (non-degree program)		
5th year/other undergraduate <input type="checkbox"/> (120 or more college credits towards degree)			Graduate or professional degree <input type="checkbox"/>		
1st year graduate/professional <input type="checkbox"/>			Other/undecided <input type="checkbox"/>		
Continuing graduate/professional or beyond <input type="checkbox"/>					

STEP ONE: STUDENT INFORMATION (See Notes for question 24-29)

21. Where do you plan to live during the 2017-18 school year?

- On campus Off campus With parent or relative

22. At the start of the 2017-18 school year, how many credits/hours will you be enrolled in?

- Full-time (12 hours or more) Three-quarter time (9-11 hours)
 Half-time (6-8 hours) Less than half-time (5 hours or less)
 Not sure

23. If you are transferring schools, have you earned an Associate Degree?

- Yes
 (Enter the date you earned an Associate Degree _____)
 No

24. Are you male or female?

- Male
 Female

If you are male, age 18-25, you must register for Selective Service and provide a copy of the registration acknowledgement card to the financial aid office. (See Notes)

25. Have you been convicted of a felony or a crime involving a controlled substance? Yes No

26. Have you previously received state Financial Aid?

- Yes No

27. (A) Are you interested in being considered for the Texas College Work-Study program?

- Yes No Don't know

(B) If yes, do you have authorization to work in the U.S.?

- Yes No Don't know Not applicable

28. As of today, what is your marital status?

- I am single I am separated
 I am married/remarried I am divorced or widowed

29. Month and year you were married, remarried, separated, divorced or widowed.

Month: _____ Year: _____ Not applicable

STEP TWO: STUDENT DEPENDENCY STATUS DETERMINATION (See Notes for questions 30 and 35-40)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 30. Were you born before January 1, 1994? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 31. As of today, are you married? (Also answer yes if you are separated but not divorced) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 32. At the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program? (e.g. MBA, JD PhD, EdD, MD, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 33. Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018?..... | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 34. Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2018?..... | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 35. At any time since you turned age 13, were you in foster care, were you a dependent or ward of the court or were both your parent(s) deceased? (You do not have to currently be a ward of the court)..... | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 36. As determined by the state's court, are you or were you an emancipated minor? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 37. As determined by the state's court, does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you?..... | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 38. At any time on or after July 1, 2016, did your high school or school district's homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting at risk of being homeless?..... | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 39. At any time on or after July 1, 2016, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?..... | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 40. At any time on or after July 1, 2016, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?..... | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

STEP THREE: PARENT INFORMATION (See Notes for questions 41-56)

If you answered "No" to all the questions in **STEP TWO**, you must include parental information, even if you do not live with your legal parents (biological, adoptive, or as determined by the state [for example, if the parent is listed on the birth certificate]). Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, widowed stepparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings are **not** considered parents on this form, unless they have legally adopted you.

If your legal parents are married to each other, or are not married to each other and **live together**, answer the questions about both of them. If your parent was never married or is remarried, divorced, separated or widowed, review the TASFA Notes for further clarification.

PARENT'S MARITAL STATUS

41. As of today, what is the marital status of your legal parents?

- Married or Remarried Never Married
 Divorced or Separated Widowed
 Unmarried and both parents living together

42. Month and year your parents were married, remarried, separated, divorced or widowed:

Month: _____ Year: _____ Not applicable []

PARENT 1 (Mother/Father/Stepparent)

43. Last Name

44. First Name

45. Date of Birth

46. Social Security Number or DACA# (If applicable)

47. Phone Number

48. Email Address

49. Highest level of education completed? Middle School/Jr. High High School College or Beyond Other/Unknown

PARENT 2 (Mother/Father/Stepparent)

50. Last Name

51. First Name

52. Date of Birth

53. Social Security Number or DACA# (If applicable)

54. Phone Number

55. Email Address

56. Highest level of education completed? Middle School/Jr. High High School College or Beyond Other/Unknown

STEP FOUR: INCOME INFORMATION - Documentation will need to be submitted to the financial aid office. (e.g. W-2's, tax transcripts, tax returns, etc.)

If you answered "No" to all of the questions in **STEP TWO**, you must include parental information, defined in **STEP THREE**. If you answered "Yes" to any of the questions in **STEP TWO**, you are only required to enter income information for yourself (and your spouse).

PART A. EARNINGS (See Notes for question 57-64)

Student Earnings

57. Did you file a tax return for 2015 (federal or foreign)?

- Student Yes No
 Spouse Yes No

58. How much did you (and your spouse) earn from working in 2015?

Student: _____ Spouse: _____

59. Are you or your spouse self-employed (e.g. own a business)?

- Student Yes No
 Spouse Yes No

60. As of today, are you a dislocated worker?

- Student Yes No Don't know
 Spouse Yes No Don't know

Parent Earnings

61. Did your parents file a tax return for 2015 (federal or foreign)?

- Parent 1 Yes No
 Parent 2 Yes No

62. How much did your parent(s) earn from working in 2015?

Parent 1: _____ Parent 2: _____

63. Are your parents self-employed (e.g. own a business)?

- Parent 1 Yes No
 Parent 2 Yes No

64. As of today, is either of your parents a dislocated worker?

- Parent 1 Yes No Don't know
 Parent 2 Yes No Don't know

For questions 65-75, if the answer is zero or the question does not apply to you, enter "0" Do not leave any blanks. Report whole dollar yearly amounts with no cents.

STUDENT	SPOUSE (If applicable)	PARENT 1	PARENT 2
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PART B. UNTAXED INCOME (See Notes for question 65-69)

65. Child support received for any of your children.				
66. Housing, food, and other living allowances paid on your behalf.				
67. Other untaxed income not reported. (Such as worker's compensation, disability, etc.)				
68. Cash earnings (Wages not listed on taxes or W-2 forms)				
69. TOTAL UNTAXED INCOME	0.00		0.00	

PART C. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION (See Notes for question 70-72)

70. Child support paid.				
71. Taxable earnings from work-study or other need-based work programs.				
72. Earnings from work under a cooperative education program offered by a college.				

PART D. ASSETS (See Notes for question 73-75)

73. As of today, what is the total current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts?				
74. As of today, what is the net worth of investments, including real-estate? (Do not include the home you live in or the balance of retirement plans)				
75. As of today, net worth of current businesses and/or investment farms?				

PART E. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

76. At any time during 2015 or 2016, did you (your spouse) or anyone in your household receive benefits from any of the federal programs listed? Mark all that apply.

- Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 Free or Reduced Price School Lunch
 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

PART F. NON-TAX FILERS - Only complete if you (and your spouse) did not file taxes for 2015, or your parent(s) did not file taxes for 2015, if parental information is required.

77. Explain what sources of income or public assistance you and/or your family used to pay for living expenses. Your financial aid office may request additional information. (If you (your spouse) and/or your parents did not meet either of the IRS income filing thresholds from earnings or self-employment, and did not file taxes, please provide a breakdown of your living expenses (e.g. rent, food, utilities, bills, etc.).

Living Expenses	Cost for the year	To pay for living expenses listed, the following sources of income were used:
Rent	\$	
Food	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
Total	\$ 0.00	



CSS/PROFILE Checklist

The CSS/Profile is required by some private colleges as listed on www.collegeboard.org. This form gives colleges an in-depth knowledge of you and your family's financial situation to help them determine how to distribute institutional aid to you. Go here to begin: <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>

College Board Username: _____ Password: _____

MOST RECENT FEDERAL TAX RETURNS AND W-2(S) FOR STUDENT AND PARENTS(S)

PARENT INFO

	Mother/Stepmother/Guardian 1	Father/Stepfather/Guardian 2
Date of birth	____/____/____	____/____/____
Job Title	_____	_____
Place of Employment	_____	_____
# of years working there	_____	_____
Type of retirement account	_____	_____
Amount in a retirement account	_____	_____
Annual amount withheld for medical flexible spending	_____	_____
Annual amount withheld for dependent care flex spending	_____	_____

How much money do your parent(s) (custodial only) think they will be able to contribute for college expenses for the upcoming year? _____

INCOME AND BENEFITS

	Yes	No	Monthly Amount
Untaxed social security benefits (SSI, SSDI, untaxed social security retirement)			
Welfare benefits (TANF)			
Child support received			
Unemployment			
Veteran's benefits			
Worker's compensation			

PARENT(S) ASSETS

- ★ Amount in cash/checking/savings _____
- ★ Value of investments (stocks, CDs, 529 plans, etc) _____
- ★ *If you own a home:*
 - Current market value _____
 - Amount owed _____
 - Year Purchased _____
 - Purchase Price _____
- ★ *If you own real estate that you do NOT live in:*
 - Current market value _____
 - Amount owed _____
 - Year Purchased _____
 - Purchase Price _____
- ★ Do you have any rental property? Y N



PARENT(S) EXPENSES

- ★ Monthly child support paid: _____
- ★ Monthly amount paid on parent(s) current educational loans: _____
- ★ Annual medical/dental expenses not covered by insurance: _____
- ★ If you rent a home:
 - Monthly rental payment _____
- ★ If you own a home:
 - Monthly mortgage payment _____

INFO ABOUT SIBLINGS

Sibling name	Current school	Grants/Scholarships received	Amount parents pay

INFO ABOUT NONCUSTODIAL PARENT

If biological parents are living separately, please provide the following information about the parent you do NOT live with (if known)

- Name: _____
- Address: _____
- City/State/Zip: _____
- Occupation/Employer: _____
- ★ Year of separation or divorce: _____
- ★ Amount this parent will contribute to student's college education for 2013-2014: _____

**You may be required to provide additional information about this parent on the Non-Custodial Profile.*

INFO ABOUT FAMILY VEHICLES

- ★ If your family owns a car, please answer the following (For ALL Vehicles):
 - Make: _____ ; _____
 - Model: _____ ; _____
 - Year: _____ ; _____
 - Value: _____ ; _____
 - Owned or Leased: _____ ; _____

Are there any special financial circumstances you would like the financial aid offices at your colleges to know about? (e.g. loss of job, disability, sending money to family in another country, the passing away of a family member)



Before You Begin

If you are an international applicant, please see the special instructions towards the end of this document.

The PROFILE Process - Step-By-Step

1. **Register for PROFILE**, verifying that you are filling out the application for the correct school year.
 - Make sure that only one person on one computer is signed in to your application. You may get locked out of your PROFILE Application and it will not be processed correctly if more than one person is signed in to your application at the same time.
 - You may wish to print or save the Registration Instructions from the Home Page. Customized Application Instructions will be provided after you register.
 - If your parents are divorced or separated, your custodial parent(s) should complete the application. The custodial parent(s) are the parent or parents with whom the student has lived the most during the 12 months prior to filing the application. If the applicant has spent an equal amount of time in both parents' households during the past year, then the custodial parent is the parent who provided the most financial support during this period.
2. **Print or save your customized Pre-Application Worksheet and Application Instructions** available at the end of Registration. (If you miss them, they are available from the Home Page.) Most applicants find that completing the Pre-Application Worksheet speeds up the online process considerably.
3. **Complete the PROFILE Application** using your completed Pre-Application Worksheet and the navigation and completion tips below.
 - Help for specific questions can be found by clicking each question's "?" button or Help Code, by using the Search Help feature, and by reviewing information in the Help Desk.
 - If you submitted a 2016-17 PROFILE Application and used the same user name this year some information may have been pre-filled from last year's application. **Please review this information carefully.**
4. **Submit your completed application.** The submit process will prompt you to complete any required fields that you have left blank, will note any possible discrepancies in information, and provide a final opportunity to review and correct the information you have entered.

5. Once you have submitted your application, you cannot change any of the data online you have provided for the colleges and programs you selected. Please carefully review your data before submitting it. **Complete the payment process.** A valid credit or debit card is required. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. When you click submit at the end of this process, you are submitting your payment and application information for processing.
6. **Save your PROFILE Acknowledgment** for your records. A copy of your Acknowledgment can be used to provide updates directly to your colleges and programs if updates are necessary.

Navigating the Application

- **Saving** - Your registration information is not saved until the registration step is completed. Once you have registered, you can save the information you provide as you complete the application. You do not need to complete the entire application at one time. Your information is saved each time you click "Save," "Save & Continue," or click on another section. If you want to sign out of your application in the middle of a section and return to your application later, click "Save & Exit" to leave.
- **Navigating** - At the top of each application screen you will see "GO TO SECTION." Using that drop down list box you can navigate to any section of your application.
 - Do not use your browser's "Back" and "Forward" buttons to move through your application. Only use the buttons within the application such as "Previous" and "Continue," or "Save & Continue." The application's buttons will save your information as you move through the application, but your browser's buttons will not.
 - Parent sections have a green and white background. All other sections are blue and white.
- **Printing/Saving** - At any time, you can print or save a copy of the information that you have entered by clicking "Print/Review Application" at the top or bottom of any application screen.

Completing the Application

Number format - When a question asks for a number - an amount of money, a telephone number, etc. - enter numbers only. Do not enter currency symbols, commas (,), periods (.), or cents (decimals) in a financial field. Round to the nearest dollar or whole number. In non-financial fields (e.g. telephone number), do not enter hyphens, parentheses, or spaces.

Does not apply - If a financial question (**income, assets, or expenses**) does not apply, **enter a zero (0)**. Do not leave it blank unless specifically instructed otherwise. Non-financial questions (e.g. a year, a name) should be left blank if they do not apply.

Pre-filled information - If you submitted a 2016-17 PROFILE Application some information may be pre-filled from last year's application. Please review your information carefully.

On-Time - Your application will be considered on time if you **submit** your PROFILE by midnight **Eastern Time** of your earliest priority filing date. The College Board will begin processing your application immediately after submission.

User name - Put your user name and password in a safe and accessible place. You will need it to return to your PROFILE Application. You may use the same user name from year-to-year.

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Using the same user name and password next year will pre-fill some of your information. You cannot use the same user name and password for other family members, even in a different processing year.

If your parent filed the application for you last year using his or her password, you can reuse that user name and password. It does not matter whether the student or the parent owns the username. If the parent would like to keep PROFILE information from the student, he or she should create a separate user name and password.

Pop-up blocker - Help text and important edits will often be blocked if you have a pop-up blocker on. We suggest you turn it off while completing this application.

Gather the information below before filling out the Application:

- 2015 federal income tax return(s)
- W-2 forms and other records of money earned in 2015 and 2016
- Records of untaxed income and benefits for 2015 and 2016
- Current bank statements
- Current mortgage information
- Records of savings, stocks, bonds, trusts, and other investments
- Your noncustodial parent's email address, if applicable.

If a tax return was not filed: Even if you did not file an income tax return for 2015, it will be necessary to report any earnings for the year. Also, records documenting the income reported on the PROFILE will very likely be needed by your colleges and programs.

Independent Students

Please note, some colleges and programs require financial aid applicants to report parents' information even if you meet the conditions for "independent" student status. This is because they have limited institutional grant aid, and may take the parents' resources into account in deciding how much aid to award an independent student. If the parents' sections are displayed on your application, that information is required by your college or program; you must provide information about your parents in those sections. Questions regarding a college's application policies should be directed to that college's financial aid office.

International Applicants

If your country's tax year follows the calendar year (January 1 – December 31), follow the instructions as given throughout the application. If your country's tax year does not follow the calendar year, determine the appropriate base tax year by identifying the last tax year that ended or will end before April 1, 2016. This will be the tax year that you will use for all questions on the application that reference "2015." You'll then use the subsequent two years for questions about 2016 and 2017.

You will also be asked questions about your household expenses. You should gather those records as well.

You must complete the application in English using standard American keyboard characters: letters (A-Z), numbers (0-9) and punctuation (.,:;-'?!\$@%#=#). Umlauts, tildes, or similar characters not found on a standard American keyboard may cause processing problems.

Additional Requirements

You may be notified as part of your Registration Confirmation or Submittal Acknowledgement for the following requirement:

Noncustodial PROFILE (NCP) - If your biological or adoptive parents are divorced or separated and your college or program requires it, your Registration Confirmation or Acknowledgement will contain information you will need to provide to your noncustodial parent so he or she can complete the NCP. **NOTE:** You will be given an opportunity at that time to have the College Board notify your noncustodial parent directly via email. Please have your parent's email address available at that time, as this is your only opportunity to have the College Board notify your parent on your behalf.

What is the Best Post-Secondary Decision for Me?

Knowing the right step past graduation from high school can be a daunting decision.

- Should I take a gap year to travel and student abroad?
- Should I consider going into the military?
- Should I go to a technical school to earn certification in a field of interest?
- Should I enroll in a 2 year community college?
- Should I enroll in a 4 year college or university?
- Should I just get a job?

Ask yourself these questions:

- How well do you know yourself?
- What are my passions in life?
- What are my gifts?
- How do others see me?

Take a moment to reflect. Answer this question if you are thinking about going to college.

Why do I want to go to college?

What ways do you learn best? Describe your ideal classroom environment?

How well do you handle rigor (AP Classes)? Do you want your next level of experiences to be low keyed or challenging?

Good Decisions Can Lead to Finding the Right Pathway for Post-secondary Life

When considering what steps your student to take past high school graduation, making quality decisions will increase their options for the future. Pathways available to students are:

- Gap year
- Employment
- Military
- Technical College
- Community College (2 Year Associate Degree)
- University/College (4 Year Bachelors Degree)

Parents should help their student establish priorities for the future.

1. List at least 3 things you want your student to have achieved when they have completed their post-secondary pathway.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. List 3 major decisions that you must make during the next Academic School Year to help them achieve their goals.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. What do you believe is your highest priority for your student during the next year?

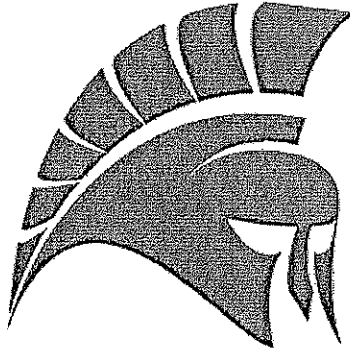
Parent

What are your passions or issues that you care intensely about? Do you want to continue your pursuit for these issues in college? Will the choice for your future support these passions?

What are your priorities for your next step in life?

Some people like things to be low keyed without any fanfare. Some people like pomp and circumstance. Some people like change, some hate change. As you ponder your decisions, what academic and social environment do you want to immerse yourself?

What are your next steps during this academic year?



Letters of Recommendation

(LOR's)

TEACHERS

- As you determine the need for letters of recommendation, ask two of your teachers to write a recommendation for you.
- Give each teacher a copy of the completed Teacher Letter of Recommendation (LOR) Form.
- Provide the teachers with your current resume.
- The teacher's recommendation will be completed online unless otherwise specified by the school.
- Provide a list of the colleges and their deadlines. Indicate on this list if they should be online or mail, along with email addresses.
- If your schools require letters be sent by mail, provide a stamped, addressed envelope for each college.
- If mail, provide the teacher recommendation form, with the student section completed and signed. The teacher will send the letter directly to the school.
- Teachers are not required to write recommendation letters! Ask politely, allow plenty of time, and be sure to share your admissions results with them!

COUNSELORS

- State Universities in Texas do not have a Counselor Form. They do not require a counselor recommendation.
- Every student must submit a folder to the counselor containing a list of colleges needing a letter and their deadlines, and updated resumes.
- If the letter needs to be mailed, the folder must also contain a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Take this counselor folder to the counselors' office by the Mailing Schedule deadline.
- Your alpha counselor must have your Naviance Survey and resume on file in order to write a recommendation.

Schedule for Counselor and Teacher Recommendation Letters

- A **minimum of 10 school days** must be allowed for SHS administration & faculty to complete their recommendations for you. *If you turn in your folders/requests after the deadline below, the counselor and teachers are NOT required to meet the college deadlines and will submit recommendations in the order received.*
- Carefully note application deadlines.
- Note deadlines on this chart for counselors and teachers.
- **Transcripts** are not processed on demand. The registrar requires a 48-hour turn-around, and it takes longer during peak deadlines. Holiday breaks and semester exams require **EARLIER DEADLINES** and are underlined and noted with an *.
- Remember that **SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST DEADLINES** follow this same mailing schedule.
- Folders are filed by the order in which they are received and according to the **actual College Deadline Date**.
- The counselor will meet all deadlines if your folder is turned in according to this submission schedule. This is our guarantee to you!
- If your materials are submitted late, your forms will be prepared and sent ASAP.

DEADLINE DESIGNATED REQUEST DUE TO WILL SUBMIT/MAIL BY: BY THE COLLEGE: COUNSELOR/TEACHER:

<u>College Deadline:</u>	<u>Request due to Counselor/Teacher</u>	<u>Will submit/mail by:</u>
October 1	September 4	September 18
October 15	September 18	October 2
November 1	October 4	October 18
November 1	October 18	November 1
December 1	November 3 *	November 17
December 15	November 17	December 1
*January 1	December 1	December 15
January 15	December 15	January 5
February 1	January 4	January 18
February 15	January 18	February 1
March 1	February 1	February 15
March 15	February 15	March 1
April 1	March 5	March 19
April 15	March 19	April 2

*Extra



REQUEST FOR TEACHER LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

(To be given to a teacher following their acceptance of your verbal request for a letter of recommendation)

Thank you for agreeing to write me a letter of recommendation. I am providing the following information to assist you in the writing of the letter.

NAME _____ DATE _____

Earliest college admission deadline: _____

I had you for the following course: _____ Grade: _____

My grade in your class was: _____ I am ___ am not ___ including a copy of my resume

STUDENT QUESTIONS:

Special achievements in your class: (What did you do in class that made you stand out? What do you feel was your strongest contribution to the class?) _____

Topics I would like you to mention in my letter of recommendation: (Is there something you want the colleges to know about you that your teacher may not know? Special interest in this subject; Awards; Honors; Hobbies; obstacles you've overcome) _____

My career/ major goals are: _____

Adjectives that best describe me are: _____, _____, _____.

Colleges to which I am applying & method of sending:

COLLEGE	METHOD OF DELIVERY			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)

Check this box if more institutions are listed on the backside of this form

Thank you very much for your time!

COLLEGE	METHOD OF DELIVERY			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upload & Submit in Naviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Send in attached envelope	<input type="checkbox"/> Await link for submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (see notes below)



Spring Branch Independent School District
Transcript Request for Currently Enrolled Students
Allow three school days for processing
 Transcripts will be processed within three to five days.

 Print: Student's Full Legal Name

 Current Grade

 Date Submitted

 Student ID #

 Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

 Student Email Address

Complete ONE Transcript Request form for each receiving College/University/Scholarship.

Name of College/ University/ Scholarship: _____

Step 1: Request your transcript through Naviance. Look at the Delivery Type column. Click the icon in the Delivery Type column. Check the Delivery Type noted for your listed college:

Step 2: Delivery Type

- Naviance (Including Common Application)
- Printed and sealed for student pick-up
- Unofficial for student pick-up

Step 3: Submit this Transcript Request form with all information complete, including signatures, to the Registrar's Office.

 Signature of Parent

 Signature of Student



Spring Branch Independent School District
Transcript Request for Currently Enrolled Students
Allow three school days for processing
 Transcripts will be processed within three to five days.

 Print: Student's Full Legal Name

 Current Grade

 Date Submitted

 Student ID #

 Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

 Student Email Address

Complete ONE Transcript Request form for each receiving College/University/Scholarship.

Name of College/ University/ Scholarship: _____

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Step 2: Delivery Type

- Naviance (Including Common Application)
- Printed and sealed for student pick-up
- Unofficial for student pick-up

Step 3: Submit this Transcript Request form with all information complete, including signatures, to the Registrar's Office.

 Signature of Parent

 Signature of Student



TRANSCRIPT RELEASE TO NAVIANCE AND CLASS RANK ON TRANSCRIPT

Time Sensitive Information

Due by 3:30 PM on Friday, October 14, 2016

TRANSCRIPT RELEASE TO NAVIANCE

PRINT Student's Full Legal Name

Student ID

In order for the Registrar to release your transcript, you must return this signed form to Mr. Rutland after Monday, July 25, 2016. Transcripts will be processed starting Monday, August 1, 2016.

SBISD students must request transcripts to be released to any colleges, universities, scholarship programs, athletic recruiters, and military.

Part 1: Naviance

- Students must log into their Naviance accounts to request electronic transcripts before they will be uploaded.

Part 2: Paper Transcript Request Form

- Students must request all transcripts (including Naviance) on a paper transcript request form that is available in the Registrar's office or on Stratford's website.

Both parts are required. The use of Naviance facilitates electronic submissions of transcripts as preferred by the majority of post-secondary institutions. Signatures below indicate permission to upload the student's transcripts to Naviance.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

CLASS RANK ON TRANSCRIPT REQUEST

SBISD is a non-ranking district. Student transcripts are printed without class rank unless the student specifically requests to have rank reported on their transcripts. The deadline for requesting rank on transcripts is October 14, 2016. Once a student submits a request to report rank, that decision is final and all subsequent transcripts will be printed with rank showing.

Student Initials

I request my class rank TO BE REPORTED on my transcript.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date



REQUEST FOR TEACHER LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

(To be given to a teacher following their acceptance of your verbal request)

Thank you for agreeing to write me a letter of recommendation. I am providing the following information to assist you in the writing of the letter.

NAME _____ **DATE** _____

Earliest college deadline: _____

I had you for the course: _____ Year _____

My grade in your class was: _____. I am ___ am not ___ including a copy of my resume.

Special achievements in your class: (What did you do in class to make you stand out? What do you feel was your strongest contribution to the class?) _____

Topics I would like you to mention in my letter of recommendation: (What do you want the colleges to know about you that your teacher may not know? Awards; Honors; Hobbies & Interests outside of school; Summer or after-school jobs, obstacles overcome) _____

My career/ major goals are: _____

Adjectives that best describe me are: _____, _____, _____.

Colleges to which I am applying:

Method of sending: Please upload this letter into Naviance when it is available. I will provide you with a stamped envelope in the event the letter needs to be mailed. For non-Naviance schools, you may also be provided with a portal through which to send this letter to certain schools at a later date.

Thank you very much for your time!

AUTO ADMIT - TOP 10 %

Students who are in the top 10% of their high school graduating class are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas.

To meet the requirements for automatic admission, you must:

- Graduate in the top 10% of your class at a public or private high school in Texas, or
- Graduate in the top 10% of your class from a high school operated by the U.S. Department of Defense and be a Texas resident or eligible to pay resident tuition;
- Enroll in college no more than two years after graduating from high school; and
- Submit an application to a Texas public university for admission before the application deadline. (Check with the university for specific deadlines).

The university may review the admitted student's high school records to determine if the student is prepared for college-level work. If additional preparation is needed, a developmental, enrichment or orientation course prior to the first semester of college may be required.

Admission to a university does not guarantee acceptance into a particular program of study or academic department.

Modifications to UT Austin Automatic Admission

- The University of Texas Austin is to automatically admit enough students to fill 75% of available Texas resident spaces.
- Each fall by September 15 the university will notify Texas school officials of the class rank that current high school juniors need to attain by the end of their junior year in order to be automatically admitted two years out.
- Current class rank to be automatically admitted: Top 7%

Top 25% Admissions

Not in the Top 10% of your graduating class? Don't give up! You might still qualify for automatic admission. Some universities in Texas have automatic admission for students that graduate in the top quarter (25%) of their graduation class. You will probably need higher ACT or SAT scores to qualify. Go to Texas Institutions of Higher Education to find the schools you need to contact to learn more about automatic admissions and Top 25% requirements.

ORDERING TRANSCRIPTS

SUMMER 2017 TRANSCRIPT PROCEDURES

Click [HERE](#) to view a letter from the district regarding summer transcript requests.

ORDERING OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

An official transcript must be requested from our registrar's office to each college or university to which you apply.

Transcripts being sent electronically through Naviance:

- A Transcript Release form must be signed by student and parent/guardian (if student is under 18) and returned to the Registrar's office. One form is needed for each college. These are available on the website, in the college room (224), and the Registrar's office.
- Students must log in to their Naviance accounts and request transcripts for each school to which they are applying.
- In Naviance, each school needing a transcript must be added to the 'Colleges I'm Applying To' section.
- If you are applying to any colleges using Common App, you must also match your Common App account to Naviance in order to have your transcripts sent.

Paper transcripts sent via regular mail OR sent through a school's portal:

- A Transcript Release Form must be signed by student and parent/guardian and returned to the Registrar's office. One form is needed for each college. These are available on the website, in the college room (224), and the Registrar's office.
- Some schools, such as UT and A&M, have a portal through which a student may upload their transcript. Check your website for details.
- Students must log in to their Naviance accounts and request transcripts.
- It is a good idea to provide your university ID number on any correspondence or paperwork sent to colleges, including transcripts.

ORDERING UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

- A Transcript Release Form must be signed by student and parent/guardian and returned to the Registrar's office. One form is needed for each request. These are available on the website, in the college room (224), and the Registrar's office.
- Students must pick up unofficial paper transcripts from the Registrar's office.
- Unofficial transcripts are open and do not have a signature. They are used for personal information, some scholarships, and self-reporting.
- All information regarding classes, grades and credits is the same as on an official transcript.

Due to high volume of requests, transcripts are not processed on demand. You must allow a minimum of 48 hours for processing, and more during peak deadline dates.

CLASS RANK ON TRANSCRIPTS

SBISD students have a choice to report class rank on their transcripts. This is a ONE-TIME binding decision which cannot be changed. Decisions must be made and reported to the Registrar by October 15 of each school year. The official class rank selection form will be mailed to the homes of all rising seniors in July, along with the exact rank placement in their senior class. No transcripts will be processed containing class rank before October 15th without this signed form on file in the Registrar's office. If the completed form is not received by October 15th of your senior year, your class rank will NOT be reported on your transcript.

Campus Visit Checklist

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college — and life at that college — is like. This can help you decide whether the college is right for you.

GATHER INFORMATION

Find out what you need to do to apply, and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want:

- Take part in a group information session at the admission office.
- Interview with an admission officer.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Sit in on a class that interests you. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classrooms are like.
- Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you.
- Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors.
- Get the names and business cards of the people you meet so you can contact them later if you have questions.

EXPLORE THE CAMPUS

Get a feel for student life, and see if this college is a place where you will do well:

- Take a campus tour.
- Talk to current students about the college and life on campus.
- Check out the freshman dorms, and stay overnight with a student, if possible.
- Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore, and other campus facilities.
- Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

CHECK OUT CAMPUS MEDIA

Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds:

- Listen to the college radio station.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.
- Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.
- Browse the school's website and any campus blogs.
- Read other student publications, such as department newsletters, alternative newspapers, and literary reviews.

GET THE MOST OUT OF A CAMPUS VISIT IN **6 STEPS**

1 DECIDE WHERE AND HOW

See if your school arranges group trips to colleges or if you could get a group of friends together and visit the campus. A family trip is another option and allows you to involve your family in the process.

2 PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT

Before you set out, get a map of the college campus and pick out places of interest. Call the college's admission office to schedule a guided tour of the campus.

3 TAKE YOUR OWN TOUR

Just wandering around the campus on your own or with friends can be the best way to get a feel for what a college is like.

4 EXPLORE THE FACILITIES

Find the spots on campus where students gather or ask a student where the best place to eat is to get a feel for the character of the college. Visit the library and check out the gym or theater. Ask an admission officer if you can tour a dorm and a classroom.

5 MAKE CONNECTIONS

Talk to current students. Ask the students at the next table or sitting nearby what they like best about the college.

6 TAKE NOTES

During your visit, write down some notes about your experience. What did you see that excited you? Are there aspects of the college that you don't like? If so, what are they?

Questions to Ask During Your Visit:

ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What's it like to go from high school to college?
- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do you wish you could change about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to live here?
- What does the college do to promote student involvement in campus groups, extracurricular activities, or volunteerism?

ASK PROFESSORS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- Can a student be mentored by professors, graduate students, or upperclassmen?
- How are professors rated by the college? Does the college think mentoring and meetings for project guidance are important?
- How does the college help students have access to professors outside class? Do professors join students for lunch, help with community service groups, or guide student organizations?
- How many students do research or other kinds of projects for a semester or more?

ASK THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

- How much has your total college cost for each student risen in the past year?
- How much do your students usually end up owing when they graduate?
- What is the average income of graduates who had the same major that interests me?
- Will my costs go up when your tuition goes up, or can we use the same tuition rate I started with so I'll know the costs for four years?
- How many students usually graduate in the major that interests me? How long do these students usually take to get their degree? In what ways does the college help students graduate in four years?

APPENDIX B: ESSAY PROMPTS

APPLY TEXAS ESSAY PROMPTS

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: Some students have an identity, an interest, or a talent that defines them in an essential way. If you are one of these students, then 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?

COMMON APPLICATION ESSAY PROMPTS

Essay 1: Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

Essay 2: The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

Essay 3: Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?

Essay 4: Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

Essay 5: Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, which marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

What is a Financial Aid Award Letter?

The financial aid award letter provides prospective and current college students with information about the student's college costs and the financial aid available to help the student pay for these costs. The award letter may also include details on the college's calculation of the student's demonstrated financial need. The letter will provide a determination of financial aid eligibility and, if the student is eligible for financial aid, a detailed breakdown of the financial aid package according to the type, amount and source of financial aid. The award letter may also include information about the terms and conditions for the financial aid.

Financial aid award letters for prospective students typically arrive with or soon after the offer of admission. (For most students this is late March or early April.) Financial aid award letters for continuing students may arrive later. Some financial aid award letters will be provided online, through a secure web site.

Some colleges require students to accept or reject each source of financial aid. Others do not. If you reject one form of financial aid, such as loans or student employment, they will not increase other types of financial aid to compensate.

Compare College Financial Aid Award Letters Based on the Bottom Line Cost

To compare financial aid award letters from different colleges, compare them based on the out-of-pocket cost.

The out-of-pocket cost is the difference between the total cost of attendance and the total gift aid (grants and scholarships). The cost of attendance includes tuition and required fees, room and board, books, supplies, transportation, personal expenses, dependent care and possibly student health insurance and the cost of a computer. Gift aid does not need to be repaid and includes grants, scholarships, tuition waivers and housing waivers. The out-of-pocket cost is the bottom line cost of college, the amount the family must pay, earn or borrow to cover college costs. The out-of-pocket cost is sometimes called the net price. Since each college awards different amounts of gift aid, the out-of-pocket cost may vary from college to college.

This is in contrast with the net cost, which is the difference between the cost of attendance and the need-based financial aid package. But the financial aid package includes loans, which have to be repaid (often with interest). This means the actual bottom line cost to the family will be higher than the net cost.

The net cost is a measure of cash flow requirements, not the bottom-line cost of college. The net cost will correspond to the expected family contribution (EFC) and will be similar at most colleges. If there are significant differences in net cost, it may be a sign of unusual circumstances that were taken into account at one college but not the others.

Thus, families should compare college financial aid award letters based on the out-of-pocket cost and not the net cost.

If the difference in out-of-pocket cost is less than \$500, the difference is not significant enough to affect the choice of college. But if the difference is greater, especially if it is more than

\$5,000, the family should consider the out-of-pocket cost along with other criteria when choosing a college. Higher out-of-pocket costs lead to a greater debt and work burden, potentially affecting college success and potentially increasing the chances of graduating with excessive debt. The amount of education debt has an impact on further education, career choices and lifestyle after graduation.

Tools for Comparing Financial Aid Award Letters from FinAid.org

Simple Award Letter Comparison Tool: The tool compares the financial aid packages from three colleges, highlighting any significant differences. It also calculates the net cost and out-of-pocket cost figures, and estimates the lifetime cost of any education loans.
www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletter.phtml

The Advanced Award Letter Comparison Tool: This tool compares financial aid packages and includes non-financial criteria. The financial and non-financial differences are displayed visually in a matrix format.
www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletteradvanced.phtml

Problems and Pitfalls with Financial Aid Award Letters

No standard for financial aid award letters. There is no standard format for financial aid award letters, making them difficult to interpret and to compare and contrast.

Actual costs may be higher than the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is not the price you pay. Financial aid packages usually include loans, which have to be repaid, and there may also be unmet need. Some colleges use two different EFCs, one for federal and state aid and another for the college's own funds. Often the price you pay is much higher than the expected family contribution. On the other hand, the amount you pay will probably be lower than the overall cost of attendance

Inconsistent cost of attendance information. Colleges may use different definitions of the cost of attendance. Some colleges only report direct costs, which are usually billed by the college, while some report both direct and indirect costs. You can find detailed cost information in the college's catalog or on its web site. Make sure you have current figures for each of the major costs, including tuition, required fees, room and board, textbooks, supplies, travel and transportation, personal expenses such as student health insurance and dependent care, and technology such as a computer.

Cost allowances may be underestimates and unrealistic. There may be significant differences in the various cost allowances, such as textbooks, travel and transportation, personal expenses and off-campus housing. Some colleges will underestimate these figures to make their costs look less expensive, so make sure the costs are reasonable. You may wish to use the same estimate of textbook costs for all colleges, say \$1,000 to \$1,200 a year, to ensure that the costs are comparable. Transportation costs may vary based on distance of the college from the student's home, number of trips home per year and whether you reside on campus or commute home per year and whether you reside on campus or commute. Make sure the transportation costs are reasonable. If you will be commuting, the transportation figures should be based on the round-trip distance from home to school, the IRS mileage rate, the number of days on campus and the cost of parking on campus. If you will be living on campus, assume the cost of four round-trip tickets home per year, one for fall break, one for winter break, one for spring break and one for summer break

Discretionary costs are under your control. Some of the indirect costs are discretionary. You can control how much you spend on housing or textbooks. Living off campus with a roommate can reduce your housing costs. Buying only required textbooks, buying textbooks online, buying used textbooks (or older editions or re-imported international editions), renting textbooks, buying textbooks through a co-op, buying ebooks or reselling textbooks to the bookstore at the end of the semester can save you as much as half the cost of the textbooks. You can also borrow textbooks from the college library (or the preview copies from the faculty) or share textbooks with your roommate.

Packaging of non-need based loans. Some colleges include non-need-based loans such as the unsubsidized Stafford and PLUS loans on the financial aid award letter in order to increase awareness of lower-cost federal loans. Families are eligible for these loans at every college, regardless of financial need. You are under no obligation to accept the loans and can request a lower loan amount. (Refusing these loans, however, will not increase your grants.) Try to avoid borrowing the maximum allowable amounts if you don't need to, as every dollar you borrow will cost you about two dollars by the time you've repaid the debt. Live like a student while you are in school so you don't have to live like a student, after you graduate.

Gapping. Some colleges do not provide enough financial aid to meet the full demonstrated financial need. This leaves the student with unmet need, also referred to as a gap. This is more likely at colleges with limited financial aid resources. Some colleges may try to mask the existence of a gap by including loans in the financial aid package, by increasing work expectations or by underestimating costs

<p>Cost of Attendance Check List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Direct Costs (Required)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Tuition and Required Fees<input type="checkbox"/> Room and Board<input type="checkbox"/> Textbooks and Supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect Costs (Discretionary)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Travel and Transportation<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Expenses<input type="checkbox"/> Computer<input type="checkbox"/> Student Health Insurance<input type="checkbox"/> Dependent Care
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It may be difficult to determine the type of each award.

Financial aid award letters sometimes use cryptic acronyms or abbreviations for awards or fail to identify the type of an award, making it difficult to distinguish loans, (which have to be repaid) and student employment from gift aid such as grants and scholarships (which do not have to be repaid). Most financial aid award letters do not mention interest rates, fees, monthly payments and total payments next to the loan amounts. A loan might be identified as a "LN" or just by name. Loans include the Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan, Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, Federal PLUS Loan and private or alternative student loans. The Federal TEACH Grant is actually a forgivable loan. Federal Work-Study and College Work-Study are forms of student employment. Even when awards are identified as loans, it may be difficult to determine which are less expensive and which are more expensive in the long term.

Student employment is not guaranteed. Federal work-study funding is paid as it is earned. If students work fewer hours, they will not earn the full amount of their awards. It may also be difficult to find a desirable work-study job.

Front-loading of grants. Some colleges award more grants during the freshman year and fewer grants in subsequent years. The intention is partly to ensure that students who drop out have fewer loans to repay, since students who drop out are three times as likely to default as students who graduate.

Financial aid award letters provide information for just one year. For one year, the financial aid award letter provides cost and financial aid information. The cost of attendance will probably increase every year, and may be higher by the senior year in college. Cumulative debt at graduation will typically be about four to five times freshman year debt for Bachelor's degree recipients.

Types of Financial Aid

- Gift Aid**
 - o Grants
 - o Scholarships
 - o Tuition Waivers
 - o Housing Waivers

- Self-Help Aid**
 - o Student Employment
 - o Student Loans
 - o Installment/Payment Plans

10 Questions to Ask College Financial Aid Administrators

1. Does the college meet the full demonstrated financial need for all four years, or is there unmet need (a gap)?
2. How much on average do the college costs increase per year?
3. Does the college practice front-loading of grants? Can students expect to receive a similar amount of grants in subsequent years, assuming their financial circumstances are similar? If the college practices front-loading of grants, how much will the grants change each year?
4. What is the college's outside scholarship policy? How does the college reduce the need-based financial aid package when a student wins a private scholarship? Does the scholarship reduce the loan and work burden (and unmet need, if any) or does it replace the college's grants and scholarships?
5. What are the residency requirements for in-state public college tuition?
6. How many hours will I need to work to earn the full work-study award I've been offered? How much will I be paid per hour? Are work-study jobs readily available, or are they hard to get?
7. What are the requirements for keeping my grants and scholarships in future years? Do I need to maintain a minimum grade point average? Do I need to take a particular number of units? Do I need to participate in any special activities such as community service?
8. How does one appeal for more financial aid if the financial aid award is insufficient or the family's financial circumstances have changed?
9. What percentage of first-time, full-time students graduate within a normal timeframe? How many years, on average, does it take to earn the degree?
10. What percentage of students graduate with debt and what is the average cumulative debt at graduation?

Glossary of Terms

Adverse Credit History. To be eligible for a Federal PLUS loan, the borrower may not have an adverse credit history, which is defined as having a bankruptcy, foreclosure, repossession, tax lien, wage garnishment or default determination in the last five years or a current delinquency of 90 or more days.

Alternative Student Loan. See Private Student Loan.

Asset. An asset is property with a financial value, such as bank and brokerage accounts, cash, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, money market accounts, certificates of deposit, trusts, tax shelters, college savings plans (529 plans, prepaid tuition plans, Coverdell education savings accounts), real estate (house, land, farm), businesses, retirement plans (401(k), 403(b), Traditional IRA, Roth IRA, Keogh, SEP, SIMPLE, pension plans), life insurance policies and income-producing property.

Capitalization of Interest. Interest capitalization occurs when unpaid interest is added to the loan balance. This causes the loan to grow larger, increasing the cost. Interest can be capitalized monthly, quarterly, annually or when the loan enters repayment. Capitalization causes interest to be charged on top of interest.

Co-signer. A co-signer is a co-borrower, equally as obligated to repay the debt as the primary borrower.

Cost of Attendance (COA). The cost of attendance is the full one-year cost of enrolling in college. It includes direct (required) costs, such as tuition and required fees, room and board, textbooks and supplies, as well as indirect (discretionary) costs, such as travel and transportation, personal expenses, computer, student health insurance and dependent care.

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. The PROFILE form is used to apply for financial aid at about 250 colleges, to apply for the college's own financial aid funds and does not affect eligibility for government aid. It calculates the student's expected family contribution (EFC) under the Institutional Methodology (IM).

Deferment. Deferment is the temporary suspension of the obligation to repay a debt. Interest on subsidized loans is paid by the federal government during a deferment. Interest on unsubsidized loans continues to accrue and remains the responsibility of the borrower and is capitalized if unpaid. Federal education loans may be deferred while the borrower is enrolled at least half-time, during the grace period and during periods of economic hardship. The economic hardship deferment has a three-year limit. See also Forbearance.

Demonstrated Financial Need. Demonstrated financial need is the difference between the cost of attendance and the expected family contribution. (Financial Need = COA – EFC)

Dependency Status. Students may be considered dependent or independent. Dependent students must provide financial information for their parents on the FAFSA. Independent students must provide financial information for their spouse, if any, on the FAFSA, but do not provide parental information. Independent students include students who are over age 24 as of December 31 of the award year, married students, graduate students, orphans, veterans, active duty members of the Armed Forces and students with dependents other than a spouse. Students who are not independent are considered dependent. If there are unusual circumstances, such as the incarceration or institutionalization of both parents, the student can appeal for a dependency override, which is granted at the discretion of the college financial aid administrator. The definition of dependency for federal student aid purposes differs from the definition used by the IRS for federal income tax purposes

Education Tax Benefit. An education tax benefit is a form of student aid obtained by filing a federal income tax return. Examples include the Hope Scholarship (American Opportunity Tax Credit) and Lifetime Learning tax credits, the Tuition and Fees Deduction and the Student Loan Interest Deduction.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The expected family contribution is a measure of the family's financial strength. It is based on the income and assets of the student. For dependent students, it is also based on the income and assets of the student's parents and the age of the older parent. For independent students, it is also based on the income and assets of the student's spouse, if any. The EFC is also based on family size and the number of children in college. The EFC does not consider certain forms of unsecured consumer debt, such as credit cards and auto loans. There are two main formulas for calculating an EFC, the federal methodology (FM) and the institutional methodology (IM). The two formulas differ in the types of assets that are included (e.g., family home, assets of siblings), the assumption of a minimum student contribution, the treatment of paper losses, regional differences in cost of living, allowances for educational savings and emergency funds, the treatment of children of divorced parents and adjustments for more than one child in college at the same time. The FM EFC is used for determining eligibility for federal and state aid and financial aid at most colleges. About 250 colleges use the IM EFC instead for awarding their own financial aid funds.

Federal Education Loan. Federal education loans are cheaper, more available and have better repayment terms than private student loans. The interest rates on federal loans are fixed, while most private student loans have variable rates. Examples of federal education loans include the Perkins, Stafford and PLUS Loans. Since July 1, 2010, all new federal education loans have been made through the US Department of Education's Direct Loan program.

Federal Methodology (FM). See Expected Family Contribution.

Financial Aid. Financial aid is money to help families bridge the gap between the expected family contribution and the cost of attendance. It includes gift aid and self-help aid.

Financial Aid Appeal. See Professional Judgment.

Financial Aid Award. A financial aid award is a component of the financial aid package. Awards come in many types, such as grants, scholarships, loans and student employment.

Financial Aid Package. A financial aid package is a combination of multiple types and sources of financial aid. It may include money from the federal government, state government, the college itself and private sources.

Financial Need. See Demonstrated Financial Need.

Forbearance. A forbearance is a temporary suspension of the obligation to repay a debt. Interest continues to accrue during a forbearance and will be capitalized if unpaid. Unlike a deferment, the borrower is responsible for the interest on both subsidized and unsubsidized loans during a forbearance. Forbearances on federal education loans have a five-year limit.

Forgiveness. Forgiveness is cancellation of a debt, usually for working in a particular occupation, such as a public service job, teaching in a national shortage area or serving in the military.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is a financial aid application form used to apply for federal and state student financial aid, as well as financial aid at most colleges. It is filed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The student will receive a Student Aid Report containing his or her expected family contribution about a week after filing the FAFSA.

Gift Aid. Gift aid is financial aid that does not need to be repaid, such as grants, scholarships, and tuition and housing waivers. Gift aid will vary by college, depending on available funds.

Grace Period. The grace period is the time after the student graduates, withdraws or drops below half-time enrollment and before repayment begins. The grace period is 6 months for the Federal Stafford and PLUS loans and for most private student loans, and 9 months for the Federal Perkins loan.

Grant. A grant is a form of gift aid, usually based on financial need. The Federal Pell Grant is the largest need-based college grant program.

Institutional Methodology (IM). See Expected Family Contribution.

Interest. Interest is a periodic fee charged for the use of borrowed money. The interest rate is expressed as a percentage of the loan balance and may be fixed or variable.

Loan. A loan is borrowed money that must be repaid usually with interest. See also Federal Education Loan and Private Student Loan.

Master Promissory Note (MPN). A promissory note is a legal contract in which the borrower agrees to repay the loan. It specifies the terms of the loan, such as the interest rates and fees. The Master Promissory Note is a promissory note that is effective for a continuous period of enrollment up to 10 years.

Merit-Based Aid. Merit-based aid is based on academic, artistic or athletic talent or other student attributes or activities.

Need Analysis. Need analysis is a process of evaluating the family's financial strength by considering income, assets, family size, the number of children in college and the age of the older parent. See Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Need-Based Aid. Need-based aid is based on demonstrated financial need.

Net Cost. The net cost is the difference between the cost of attendance and the need-based financial aid package. (Net Cost = COA – Financial Aid)

Net Price. The net price is the same as the out-of-pocket cost, the amount the family pays, earns or borrows to cover college costs.

Out-of-Pocket Cost. The out-of-pocket cost is the difference between the total cost of attendance and total gift aid. (Out-of-Pocket Cost = COA – Gift Aid)

Principal. The principal is the amount of money borrowed or still owed on a loan, not including interest and other charges.

Private Student Loan. A private student loan is made and funded by a private lender, such as a bank or other financial institution. Private student loans tend to be more expensive than federal loans and have less flexible repayment terms.

Professional Judgment (PJ). (Special Circumstances Review) Professional judgment is a process by which the college financial aid administrator reviews unusual circumstances to determine a possible adjustment to the need-based financial aid package. Unusual circumstances include changes in the family's financial situation from the previous year, such as job loss, salary reductions and death of a wage earner, as well as non-typical situations such as high unreimbursed medical expenses, childcare or eldercare costs or private K-12 tuition. The review is driven by independent third party documentation of the unusual circumstances. If the financial aid administrator decides that the unusual circumstances are worthy of consideration, the adjustments to the data elements on the FAFSA or cost of attendance will be based on the financial impact of the unusual circumstances on the family. This may then yield a new EFC which will lead to a new or revised financial aid package.

Promissory Note. See Master Promissory Note.

Room and Board. Housing and meal plan costs.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Satisfactory academic progress is required for continued receipt of student financial aid. It usually involves a requirement that the student maintain a particular grade point average (e.g., 2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and that the student be passing classes at a rate consistent with the requirements for graduation within no more than 150% of the normal timeframe (e.g., within 6 years for a Bachelor's degree).

Scholarship. A scholarship is a form of gift aid, usually based on merit and funded by private foundations, philanthropists, corporations, and colleges and universities.

Self-Help Aid. Self-help aid is financial aid that depends on the family's resources. It includes student loans (which have to be repaid, usually with interest) and student employment.

Sticker Price / Sticker Shock. The sticker price is the total cost of attendance. Sticker shock refers to a family's dismay when they learn about a college's sticker price. Sticker shock may cause some families to not consider a college, even if the financial aid package reduces the costs to an affordable level.

Student Aid Report (SAR). The Student Aid Report lists the data elements submitted on the FAFSA, some intermediate calculations and the student's expected family contribution, along with other information such as the graduation rates of the colleges the student is considering.

Student Employment. Student employment usually involves a part-time job of 10-15 hours per week during the academic year. Jobs may include on-campus employment, such as working in the library or cafeteria, or off-campus employment, such as inner city math and reading tutoring programs. Federal Work-Study is the largest student employment program.

Subsidized Loan. The federal government pays the interest on subsidized loans during the in-school deferment, during the grace period before repayment begins and during an economic hardship deferment. The Federal Perkins Loan and Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan are examples of subsidized loans. Eligibility is based on demonstrated financial need.

Tuition. Tuition is a fee charged for the cost of instruction.

Tuition Installment Plan. A tuition installment plan or tuition payment plan spreads out college costs into 9-12 equal monthly installments. Tuition installment plans usually charge an up-front fee without separate interest charges. This is in contrast with loans which are typically repaid over a much longer term and which usually charge interest.

Unmet Need. The unmet need, sometimes called a gap, is the difference between the full demonstrated financial need and the student's need-based financial aid package. (Unmet Need = Financial Need – Financial Aid)

Unsubsidized Loan. Interest on unsubsidized loans continues to accrue during the in-school deferment, during the grace period before repayment begins and during an economic hardship deferment. If the borrower does not pay the interest as it accrues, the interest is capitalized (added to the loan balance). The Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and the Federal PLUS Loan are examples of unsubsidized loans. Eligibility is not based on financial need, so even wealthy families will qualify.

Verification. The US Department of Education and the college financial aid office will select some FAFSAs for verification to ensure their accuracy. The family will be required to supply documentation corresponding to the data elements on the FAFSA, such as a copy of the most recent year's federal income tax return, W-2 and 1099 statements, and the most recent bank and brokerage account statements prior to the date the financial aid application was filed, etc.

FAFSA: Step-by-Step

What is it? FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The federal government uses this form to determine your eligibility for federal financial aid for college, which may include grants, scholarships, work-study and loans.

Why fill it out? The FAFSA is used to apply for financial aid from the federal and state government(s) and from most public and private colleges. Private colleges may have their own supplemental forms in addition to the FAFSA for awarding their own aid funds. For example, about 250 private colleges require an additional form called the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. The FAFSA is a prerequisite for the unsubsidized Stafford and Parent PLUS loans, which do not depend on financial need.

EFC stands for Expected Family Contribution.

According to the government's calculation, you and your family should be able to contribute this amount in the coming academic year to your college costs. The EFC is a harsh assessment of you and your family's ability to pay for college. It does not consider the impact of consumer debt on a family's financial strength.

How does it work? The college you plan to attend will try to meet your demonstrated financial need with a package of different types of aid from multiple sources, including federal, state, school and private sources.

You can do the following on www.fafsa.ed.gov:

- Electronically sign your FAFSA
- Check the status
- Make corrections
- Add additional colleges and universities
- Fill out an online renewal FAFSA next year
- To obtain a FSA ID, eligible students should visit <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas>.
- Fill out the form to create a FSA ID and follow all instructions.
- Keep your FSA ID confidential. It allows you to electronically sign federal student aid and loan documents and access your confidential FAFSA information.

Step 1: Assemble forms needed to complete FAFSA

You and your parents (if you are dependent) need the following to fill out the form:

- Social Security Number
- Current bank and brokerage account statements
- Driver's license (if any)
- Current mortgage and investment records (if any)
- Alien registration card (if not a U.S. citizen)
- Current federal tax return (estimates are OK on tax questions, if you or your parents haven't filed yet)
- Current untaxed income records (if any)
- Current W2 and 1099 forms and other record of money earned
- Parents' current income tax return (if dependent)

Step 2: Complete the FAFSA

- Download, print and complete the FAFSA on the Web worksheet.
- Complete FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The online version is used by over 99% of the applicants since it includes skip logic to avoid asking you unnecessary and redundant questions. Processing is quicker and more efficient with built-in edit-checks to reduce errors on the form.
- In order to maximize the amount of aid, fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1.
- Once finished, print the FAFSA summary as well as the "Submission Confirmation" page (or write down your confirmation number and date). If you complete the paper version, make a copy for your records.

Step 3: Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)

The SAR is proof that your FAFSA was received. You should receive your electronic SAR in 1-3 days if you filed electronically (paper filing: 2-3 weeks).

What if I find errors on my Student Aid Report (SAR)?

- Report errors immediately to your financial aid office. You can also make corrections online using your FSA ID at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- If you don't receive your SAR in 3-4 weeks, call 1-800-433-3243 (1-800-4-FED-AID) or visit www.studentaid.ed.gov.

Quick Tip: New in 2016, the FAFSA application will now be accepted as early as October 1st. Early submission maximizes your chances of receiving aid.

Student Aid Report (SAR) and Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

What is the Student Aid Report (SAR)?

The SAR is a summary of the information you entered on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It tells you how much federal student aid you might be eligible to receive, and how much the government thinks you can reasonably pay for your school expenses. The SAR also notifies you if you are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant. You will receive a SAR in 1-3 days after you filed an Electronic FAFSA or 2-3 weeks after you filed a paper version. Check immediately for your EFC and any mistakes or errors.

What is the Expected Family Contribution (EFC)?

The EFC is the amount you and your family will be expected to pay for the coming academic year based on your financial situation. Some colleges do not satisfy the student's full demonstrated financial need, leaving the family with unmet need (a gap). Some need may be met with loans, which need to be repaid, usually with interest.

How is the EFC calculated?

The U.S. Department of Education uses the Federal Methodology (FM) to calculate your aid eligibility. The FM takes into account your family's income, the number of family members, in college, net value of assets and your enrollment status, among other factors. To estimate your EFC, utilize the Expected Family Contribution Calculator: www.finaid.org/efc.

What happens after I receive my SAR?

Look for mistakes or errors. Any colleges you listed on your FAFSA will also receive an electronic copy of your SAR. If you find an error notify your school's financial aid office immediately to let them know. Errors can also be corrected online using your FSA ID at www.fasfa.gov.

What if I find mistakes on my SAR?

Let your college know and go to www.fafsa.ed.gov. Under "FAFSA Follow Up," click "Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA." Check the items you want to change and make corrections. On paper, on the last pages of the SAR, find your original FAFSA info. Make changes and only fill in the areas that need to be changed and/or corrected. You and your parents must sign and mail the corrected FAFSA to the central processor or send to each school to which you are applying to for admission and financial aid.

Highlights of each page in your SAR:

- Page 1 Intro: Tracks the aid process for you. If there is an asterisk next to your EFC, you have been selected for verification (see below)*.
- Page 2 Confidentiality information; reminders.
- Page 3 EFC, other info: EFC is listed at the top, along with other information, such as any issues with aid eligibility.
- Page 4 Summary of loans: Refer to your records and make sure your totals are accurate.
- Pages 5-8 FAFSA summary: Review the summary. Make corrections or changes in the spaces provided. You can also make changes online at: www.fafsa.gov.

SAR Information Acknowledgement: Correct any wrong information on pages 5 through 8 of the SAR or online.

When do I receive my financial aid?

Once your college reviews your SAR and verifies your eligibility, it will create and notify you of your aid eligibility and send an award letter. You do not need to accept all of the aid that's offered to you; accept only the aid you want. Rejecting one form of aid, however, will not result in increases in the other forms of aid. Federal aid will first be applied to certain school charges, such as tuition, fees, room and board. Excess may then be disbursed to the student or credited to his or her student account.

*Why is there an asterisk next to my EFC?

An asterisk (*) means you have been selected for verification and you must provide documents to your college to verify that information submitted on the FAFSA is correct. If your college asks verification documents, send as soon as possible to avoid a delay in the aid process. The US Department of Education has switched to a targeted verification process. About a third to half of all FAFSAs will be selected for verification. Some colleges verify 100% of their aid applicants, they find that this increases the accuracy of the information used to award financial aid. This helps ensure that the most deserving/needy students receive financial aid.

Glossary of Key Terms

Award Letter: The financial aid award letter is a notification telling you about the financial aid offered to you by your college (including estimated costs, financing information, types of aid, amounts offered, specific program information, etc.). You may choose to accept some or all of what is offered. Unfortunately, colleges do not increase the grants in the financial aid package if you turn down student employment and/or loans.

Credit/Unit (or Credit Hour): A credit hour is a unit of measurement for fulfilling course requirements. Most colleges require that you complete a certain number of credits/units in order to graduate.

Cost of Attendance: The cost of attendance includes all costs associated with attending college: tuition & fees, room/board, books, supplies, transportation, personal expenses and a personal computer. Ask the school about increasing your cost of attendance if you have dependent care or disability-related expenses.

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE: The PROFILE form is used to apply for financial aid at about 250 colleges. It calculates the student's expected family contribution (EFC) under the Institutional Methodology (IM). It is used to apply for the college's own financial aid funds and does not affect eligibility for government aid. It is filed online at profileonline.collegeboard.com.

Demonstrated Financial Need: Demonstrated financial need is the difference between the cost of attendance and the expected family contribution.
(Financial Need = COA – EFC)

Enrollment Status: Indicates you attend school full-time or part-time. In general, you must attend at least half-time to qualify for financial aid.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): Amount toward the cost of attendance each year a student; and his or her family are expected to contribute from their own financial resources.

Financial Aid Package: A financial aid package is a combination of multiple types and sources of financial aid. It may include money from the federal government, state government, the college itself and private sources.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA is a national form used to collect demographic and financial information from applicants for Federal, state, and some institutional financial aid programs. The form collects information from the student (and family, if applicable) such as prior year income, current net value of assets, family size and the number of children who will be enrolled in college on at least a half-time basis in the coming academic year.

Net Cost: The net cost is the difference between the cost of attendance and the need-based financial aid package. (Net Cost = COA – Financial Aid)

Net Price: The net price is the same as the out-of-pocket cost, the difference between the cost of attendance and just grants. The net price is the amount the family pays, earns or borrows to cover college costs.
(Net Price = COA – Grants)

Open Admissions: Students are admitted regardless of their academic qualifications. Most community colleges and for-profit colleges have an open admissions policy.

Out-of-State Students: Generally applies to students attending a public university outside of their home state. Out of-state students usually pay a higher tuition rate unless they establish legal residency for the state where they attend school or a reciprocity agreement is in place between the student's state and the state of the school.

Rolling Admissions: There is no set admissions deadline date; qualified students are accepted until classes are filled.

Student Aid Report (SAR): The Student Aid Report lists the data elements submitted on the FAFSA, some intermediate calculations, the student's expected family contribution along with other information such as the graduation rates of the colleges being considered.

Unmet Need: The unmet need, sometimes called a gap, is the difference between the full demonstrated financial need and the student's need-based financial aid package. (Unmet Need = Financial Need – Financial Aid)



PREPARE ★ AFFORD ★ SUCCEED

Covering the Bill: A Resource for Students, Families & Counselors

STEP 1: College Expenses

Item	Amount
Estimated Bill:	
Books:	
Transportation:	
Total	\$

STEP 2: Additional Expenses

Item	Amount
Rent & Utilities <i>(if not living on campus)</i>	
Cell phone	
Laundry	
Hair cuts	
Clothing	
Entertainment/Food	
Total	\$

STEP 3: Student & Family Resources

Estimated Resource	Amount
Student Savings	
Family Savings	
Potential Student Summer Work Contributions	
Tuition/Installment Payment Plan	
Additional Loan: PLUS/CAL	
Other:	
Total	\$

STEP 4: Can I close my gap and pay for additional expenses ?

Item	Amount
College Expenses (STEP 1) + Personal Expenses (STEP 2)	\$
— Student & Family Resources (STEP 3)	\$
Difference	\$

NEXT STEPS: _____



Outside Loan Information and Lenders

What is the Parent PLUS Loan?

- ★ The federal **Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)** lets parents borrow money to cover costs not already covered by the student's financial aid package, up to the full cost of attendance.
- ★ Responsibility for loan falls on parents only, even if students agree to help pay.
- ★ If your parent gets denied the Parent PLUS Loan you will automatically be eligible for an additional \$4,000 Unsubsidized Stafford Loan.
- ★ Loan can be deferred but interest will accrue!
- ★ Recent Rates:
 - Direct Parent PLUS: fixed interest rate of **7.21%** (new rates to be released 7/1/15)
- ★ How to apply:
 - For a Direct PLUS Loan, parents must complete a Direct PLUS Loan application and promissory note, which they can obtain from the student's intended college.
 - Or visit, www.studentloans.gov

What are some other reputable lenders?

- ★ **Lender:** Sallie Mae
 - **Loan Name:** Sallie Mae Smart Option Student Loan
 - **Contact:** www.salliemae.com or (888) 2-SALLIE (888-272-5543)
- ★ **Lender:** Citizen's Bank
 - **Loan Name:** TruFit Student Loan
 - **Contact:** Apply on-line at www.citizensbank.com or 1-800-340-5626.
- ★ **Lender:** Discover Card Student Loan
 - **Loan Name:** Discover Undergraduate Loan
 - **Contact:** 1-877-728-3030 or apply at <http://www.discoverstudentloans.com/CompareApply>

What are some other things to keep in mind?

- ★ The best rates will always go to borrowers with great credit scores who also have co-signers with great credit scores. **READ THE FINE PRINT!**
- ★ Lenders may also advertise their lowest rates which are based upon the best credit scores.
- ★ Most lenders will wait to give the complete loan details until after the student/family has filled out an application.
- ★ Simple Tuition on www.finaid.org helps you find student loans that are a right fit for you and your family.
- ★ www.mappingyourfuture.org has a student loan calculator which can help you compare loan offers.

uaspire Award Letter Analyzer

Created for:



A HIGH IMPACT PARTNER

Name:		High School:	
College name			
On/Off Campus			
Tuition & Fees			
Room & Board			
Total Direct Costs			
Direct Cost Year			
Gift Aid			
Pell Grant			
SEOG Grant			
TEG Grant			
TEXAS Grant			
Institutional Grants/Scholarships			
Other Grants/Scholarships			
Total Gift Aid: (Money that does NOT need to be repaid)			
Loans			
Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan			
Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan			
Perkins Loan			
"B" On Time Loan			
Other Loan(s) Do not include the Parent Plus loan.			
Total Loans: (Borrowed money that needs to be repaid with interest)			
Estimated Bill (Amount you pay) (Total Direct Costs - Gift Aid - Loans = Estimated Bill)			
Net Costs (Estimated Bill + Loans)			
Amount of Parent Plus Loan/College Access Loan (CAL) Offered On Award Letter (not included in total)			
<i>You will also incur additional unbilled expenses when going to college. On average these are between \$2,000 and \$3,000 per year.</i>			
My College Expenses (Books + Cell Phone + Travel...)			
<i>One way to cover some of your college expenses (cell phone, travel, books...) is work-study if you were offered it. This money must be earned.</i>			
Total Work-Study (Earned money that does not go toward your college bill.)			
<i>Please attach a copy of all financial aid award letters and review them with your postsecondary counselor or advisor</i>			

Here are 5 of the most common mistakes that make college more expensive.

Jocelyn Paonita Paying for College, December 21, 2015

1. Not submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).

Many parents and students assume they are out of the income range to benefit from FAFSA. Families decide not to apply because they believe they won't receive anything. This is throwing money out the window for many students.

According to Sallie Mae, the typical family earning more than \$100,000 received an average \$9,304 in grants and scholarships last academic year, yet, only 30% of higher-income families filled out the FAFSA.

For those that do not meet the requirements for free money, FAFSA can still offer low-interest loans for students. You can (and should) shop around for the best rate but you could potentially be leaving money (or signing up for higher interest payments) if you don't fill out the FAFSA.

2. Not applying for scholarships both within the University and externally.

"I am not a genius. I don't have a perfect GPA and my test scores are average. Why would anyone give me a scholarship?"

This statement is used more often than not; however, there are scholarships out there for almost every student. You just have to know where to find them.

If you're unsure of how to start the scholarship process, check out our free webinar at <http://www.thescholarshipssystem.com/free-webinar>.

Try looking into smaller, local scholarships that have less competition. Your child can also search for scholarships that aren't based on scores but more on expertise - for example, perhaps they don't have the best grades but your child is entrepreneurial. Look for a scholarship for entrepreneurs. It may have a minimum GPA but it will typically be lower than an academic scholarship.

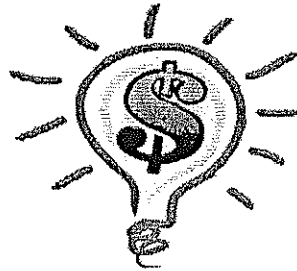
3. Eating Out.

Many universities require meal plans for students living on campus. The first step to avoid eating out is using this meal plan. The second is cooking at home. Though most dorms don't come with a fully-equipped kitchen, you'd be amazed at what can be accomplished in a microwave. Does your student eat eggs? Two minutes in the microwave and they make a perfect patty for a sandwich. You can also look up college recipes for more ideas on how your student can save money by eating in.

4. Bringing a car to campus.

Gas, insurance, parking, dare I say it again? PARKING. University parking is such a nightmare that some charge hundreds of dollars a semester just for a parking pass. Even with the pass, the parking garage or lot is typically too far from class to make it if running late. What does that lead to? Parking tickets and more money out the door. And let's not even get into drinking and driving or other vehicle-related accidents and, consequently, expenses. Keep the car at home if at all possible, at least for freshman year, and reduce the college bill by hundreds, or even thousands of dollars.

Looking for Scholarships?



1. *Be sure to check in Naviance for updated comprehensive listings of scholarships!*
2. *Check each of your college websites carefully to ensure that you are applying for all grants and scholarships available at the time you are completing your application.*
3. *Check with your parents' employers, as many companies have scholarships for employees' children.*
4. *Religious organizations or other organizations to which you or your parents belong often offer scholarships to members' children.*
5. *Choose one or two FREE Scholarship Search Engines and make a plan to work on collecting names of scholarships to which you want to apply. Here are some examples of search engines:*

CollegeNet.com

BigFuture.org

Scholarships.com

Scholarshipmonkey.com

Niche.com

Fastweb.com

Cappex.com

WeirdScholarships.com

Other important resources-Data is your Friend!

- www.collegedata.com
- www.collegexpress.com
- www.collegeresults.org
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>
- *Net price calculators*

MY T-2-4 TARGET INTERESTS & REQUIREMENTS

List your programs and/or colleges/universities of interest & make note of their admission requirements. You can find this information on their admission websites.

<i>Program/College or University</i>	<i>Admission Requirements</i>
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	

5) MY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WEBSITES, PORTALS & LOG-INS

Sites with a * can be accessed by navigating to your high school webpage, clicking the Naviance icon and logging in to your Naviance Family Access account.

Make note of the email address you plan to use for all your T-2-4 applications and communications. Make sure it's professional. Using your first and last name and a number is always a good idea.

My Email:		My Email Password:	
Naviance	Access link through HS site	Username:	Password:
*Skyward	Family Access	Login ID:	Password:
*SAT (College Board & Big Future)	student.collegeboard.org	Username:	Password:
*ACT	www.act.org	User ID:	Password:
*Apply Texas	applytexas.org	Username:	Password:
*Common App	commonapp.org	Email:	Password:
FAFSA	fafsa.ed.gov	<i>FAFSA FSA Username and Password should be kept in a safe place. This is your official signature for the FAFSA application. We recommend saving it somewhere safe.</i>	
TASFA	collegeforalltexas.com	No log-in required	No password required
If you apply to a college or university they will likely assign you a Student Portal account. Keep track of all your portal accounts here. Make sure you keep this page safe!			

