

Overview

The WHS Counseling and Career/College Readiness staff has developed this guidebook to provide support for all graduating seniors as they plan their goals for this year. Our intention is that EVERY SENIOR WILL secure options by the end of this year that will launch each of you into careers and lives that will be rewarding and fulfilling. Please read through this booklet and complete the last two pages of this document, by **no later than November 1, 2017**.

Goals

1. **Every rising senior will develop goals** (*i.e., military enlistment, college admission, workforce entry*) with their parents/guardians, counselors, and other supporters, they will pursue after graduation from WHS.
2. **Every rising senior will develop an action plan** [*secure waivers (SAT/ACT/admission application waivers); schedule SAT/ACT/TSI/ASVAB testing, complete ApplyTexas applications*], to complete required tasks that will yield admission to the college, military branch, or workplace of the student's interest.
3. **Every rising senior will** work diligently to maintain **strong academic progress** in pursuit of their completion of graduation requirements.
4. **Every rising senior will secure options** from which they can then choose the best path for success and fulfillment AFTER graduation.
5. **Every rising senior will confirm their choices** with the counseling department through a **Senior Exit Survey** at the end of the year and provide contact information that will allow our staff to connect with graduates and their families for post graduation investigation/research.

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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

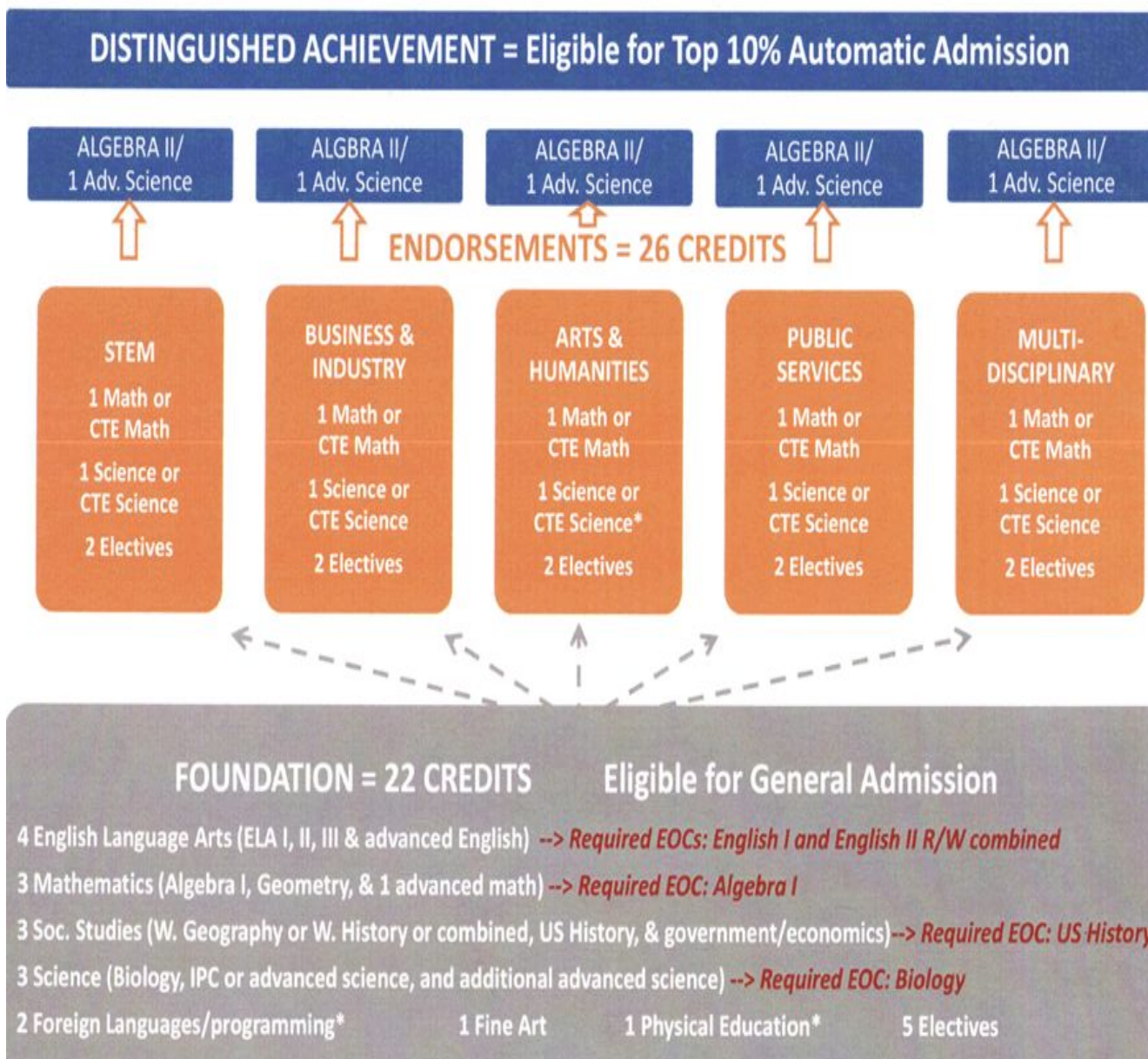
GRADUATION PLAN

	FOUNDATION PROGRAM
English	4
Math	4
Science	4
Endorsements	4
Social Studies (4 recommended) In sequence based on grade level	3
Languages Other Than English	2
Physical Education	1
Fine Art	1
Electives	3
Total Credits	26
EOC Requirement PLEASE NOTE: (Unsatisfactory EOC scores will result in mandatory enrichment coursework)	5

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

ENDORSEMENTS

Texas High School Diploma



SENIOR CHECKLIST INFORMATION

Senior year is often an extremely busy time, with schoolwork, activities, and special events. Be sure to stay on track with the college admissions process. Get organized, be aware of deadlines, and don't procrastinate. Monitor your progress by checking off completed tasks.

Fall Senior Year: Visit the schools and complete applications	
	<p><u>Continue to visit schools.</u> Fall is a great time to look at the schools on your college lists because classes are in session. You are better able to meet and talk with students and professors. You may even be able to sit in on a class or two.</p>
	<p><u>Finalize your college list.</u> Use the information you've gathered from college visits, interviews, and your own research to decide which schools you will apply to. It's okay to apply to colleges that you think will be more difficult to get into. But it's also important to put a few safety schools (where you're sure you'll get in) on your list. Talk to counselors, teachers, and parents about your final choices.</p>
	<p><u>Stay on track with your grades and extracurricular activities.</u> Colleges will look at what you've done your senior year, so stay focused on doing well in your classes and maintaining a commitment to extracurricular activities.</p>
	<p><u>Take standardized tests.</u> Register for and take the ACT, SAT, or SAT Subject Tests as necessary. Be sure you have requested (either by mail or online) that your test scores be sent to the colleges of your choice. You can send up to (4) results per test for free.</p>
	<p><u>Keep track of deadlines.</u> You'll be filling out lots of forms this year, so it's important to know what form is due when. Make a calendar showing the application deadlines for admission, financial aid, and scholarships.</p>
	<p><u>Ask for letters of recommendation.</u> Give letter of recommendation forms to the teachers you have chosen, along with stamped, addressed envelopes so your teachers can send them directly to the colleges. Be sure to fill out your name and address and the school name on each form. Discuss your goals and ambitions with your teachers so they'll be more prepared to write about you.</p>
	<p><u>Complete applications.</u> Finish the application forms for the schools you're interested in. Proofread them and make extra copies before you send them. Make sure you and your school's guidance office have sent all necessary materials, including test scores, recommendations, transcripts, and application essays. You should plan to get all this done before winter break, so you won't be rushing to make deadlines.</p>
	<p><u>Submit financial aid forms.</u> New FAFSA Guidelines will allow students and their families to complete applications for FAFSA as early as October 1st. Fill out the FAFSA, and if necessary, the PROFILE. These forms can be accessed at https://fafsa.gov/. No matter what your family's income level is, the FAFSA is your main priority for financial aid purposes because it will determine how much you're expected to pay.</p>
	<p>Continue your scholarship search. Apply for scholarships whose deadlines are approaching and keep searching for more scholarship and grant opportunities. Using online scholarship search tools is a great way to find potential aid. Ask colleges about what scholarships you may qualify for. The downtime after applications have been sent is a great time to focus on financial aid.</p>

Winter Senior Year: Follow up on applications

	<p>Act on the results of early decision applications. If you applied early decision, you'll soon find out if you were accepted. If you get in, you have to withdraw your applications from other schools. If not, keep your other applications out there and focus on those colleges.</p>
	<p>Follow up on your applications. Verify with your counselor and/or registrar that all forms are in order and have been sent out to colleges. Check with the schools to make sure they have received all your information, including test scores, transcripts, and recommendations.</p>
	<p>Send mid-year grade reports. Ask your registrar to send your mid-year grade reports to the colleges where you have applied. Remember that the schools will continue to keep track of your grades, so it's important to keep working hard throughout your senior year. Please use this link to access the Transcript Request Option: http://schools.wisd.org/default.aspx?name=whs.registrar</p>

Spring: Compare financial aid packages and make your final decision

	<p>Watch your mail for notification from colleges. If you applied under the regular application process, you should receive an admissions decision by March or April. Notifications of financial aid awards should arrive by the end of April.</p>
	<p>Check out your options if you're put on a waitlist. Being put on a waitlist is not a rejection. Keep watching your mail; you should receive a decision by May. In the meantime, keep your options open in case you don't get in. Check out schools that have late or rolling application deadlines.</p>
	<p>Compare financial aid packages. Make sure to consider each financial aid award carefully. If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact the financial aid office of the college to get more information. Financial aid is a key factor in deciding where you will attend.</p>
	<p>Prepare for any last standardized tests. You may be taking AP or CLEP tests to earn some college credit as the school year winds down.</p>
	<p>Make your final college decision. Notify all schools of your intent by May 1. If you're not sure which offer to accept, make one more campus visit to the schools you're considering. Make sure to send your deposit to your chosen school and ask your registrar to send your final transcript to the college in June.</p>
	<p>Follow up on financial aid information. Make sure you have received a FAFSA acknowledgement. If you applied for a Pell Grant, you will receive a Student Aid Report statement. Review this notice, make a copy for your records, and send the original to the college you plan to attend. If necessary, apply for loans.</p>
	<p>Complete enrollment paperwork for the college you will attend. Once you accept an offer, you should receive information from the college about course scheduling, orientation sessions, housing arrangements, and other necessary forms. Be sure to complete all required paperwork by the appropriate deadlines.</p>
	<p>Congratulations! You've finished high school and are about to embark on an exciting new phase of life. Good luck.</p>

APPLYING FOR COLLEGE

Eights Steps to Admission Success



1. Take the toughest courses you can handle.

A student whose curriculum includes a good number of advanced placement and honors courses has an edge over someone with slightly higher grades but a softer curriculum. However, be careful not to overload yourself.

2. Consider applying early.

If you are sure which school you want to attend, going the early route is likely to give you a modest advantage over students with comparable credentials to who apply later. Make sure that if you are accepted that it really is the school you want to attend. You will be allowed to complete only one early decision application—choose carefully!

3. Choose your schools well.

The applications most easily dismissed are from those who have not thought at all about why they are a good match for a certain school and have trouble making a plausible case in their essays. Do your research and choose the school rather than applying to the masses in the hopes that at least one will accept you.

4. Ask for letters from teachers who are enthusiastic about you.

A lukewarm recommendation can detract from an application. Ask teachers whether they can write strong letters. Most will be honest if they feel they can't give you a good recommendation. If teachers turn you down, don't take it personally.

5. Get to know your counselor.

A tepid, boilerplate recommendation is not helpful. Make sure you give your counselor plenty of time to write your letter. *A minimum of three weeks' lead-time is a good idea.*

6. Craft essays to the question.

Admissions officers can easily spot "one size fits all" essays. Turn in a clean copy that is carefully proofread. Don't rely on your spell-check program, which won't tell you that Duke appears in the essay you intended for Princeton.

7. If an alumni interview is an option, do it.

It is a signal that you're serious about the school. Dress appropriately, be on time, don't slouch, and get rid of the gum. Shake hands firmly and look your interviewer in the eye. Don't forget to write a follow-up thank you note!

8. Don't slack off your senior year.

Admissions committees do look at senior grades and have been known to reject students who take it easy. As late as your final semester, your grades can prevent your admission to a college.

College Application Checklist

Use this checklist to help you stay on top of your application tasks, paperwork and deadlines. Copy sheet to monitor your applications for more than three colleges is needed.

	College 1	College 2	College 3
Application deadlines			
Regular application deadline			
Early application deadline			
Grades			
Request high school transcript			
Request midyear grade reports			
Test Scores			
Send test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT)			
Send AP [®] scores			
Letters of Recommendation			
Number required			
Request recommendations			
Send thank-you notes			
Essays			
Number required			
Proof essay(s) for spelling/grammar			
Have two people read essay(s)			
Final copy in application			
Interviews			
Interview date			
Send thank-you note(s) to interviewer(s)			

	College 1	College 2	College 3
Send and Track Your Application			
Save/copy all application materials			
Sign application and Include application fee			
Confirm receipt of application materials			
Send supplemental material, if needed			
Financial Aid Forms			
Priority financial aid deadline			
Submit FAFSA			
Submit institutional aid form, if needed			
Submit state aid form, if needed			
After You Send Your Application			
Receive admission letter			
Receive financial aid award letter			
Accept financial aid package			
Housing forms completed and deposit submitted			
Notify other colleges you will not attend			

Source: *Get it Together for College, 2nd ed. (College Board, 2011)*

Handout 4A page 2 of 2 College Counseling Sourcebook, 7th edition.

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10 Most Common Application Errors

1. Applicants fail to meet the deadline.
2. SAT and/or ACT scores are not sent directly from the testing agency.
3. Unofficial transcripts are mailed with the application.
4. Official transcripts are not sent until after the deadline.
5. Transcripts are sent without a designated class rank.
6. Freshmen who rank in the top 10% of their class do not complete the application or send in all required documents.
7. Questions on the application are left blank.
8. Failure to hit “submit” when applicants finish their electronic application.
9. Students use acronyms when describing extracurricular activities.
10. Students mark the wrong college code on their SAT/ACT tests.

The Texas Common Application

The Common Application for Freshman Admission can be used to apply to any Texas public university. The counseling center at Waxahachie High School has the paper version; however, it is available online at www.applytexas.org where it can be completed and submitted electronically. The electronic application is the preferred method if you have access to it.

The application booklet has a page showing the admission requirements, application procedures, and major codes. The information outlines the parts you must complete, the application deadline, the application fee, and the documents you must submit. You will also find helpful telephone numbers, the email address, mailing address, and other information, such as scholarship and financial aid application deadlines, and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) code for the university.

If you plan to apply to more than one university, you need the codes for each school. On the paper version, type the application once, leaving the university and major

codes blank. Then copy it and fill in the name of the university and the major you plan to pursue. Keep your original to use to apply to other universities. If you have any questions about your application, please contact the university.

The Universal Common Application

The Common Application is the recommended form of 195 selective, independent colleges and universities for admission to undergraduate programs. Many of these institutions use the form exclusively. All colleges give equal consideration to the Common Application and their own forms. Online, you can download the application at www.commonapp.org.

Experience with the Common Application over a period of more than 20 years has demonstrated its advantages to student, counselors, and teachers. The procedure simplifies the college application process and eliminates duplication of effort.



SAT DATES AND INFORMATION

Please use this guide sheet to confirm the date(s) you will complete your SAT. To register and access information regarding the SAT go to: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>.



2017-2018 SAT Administration Dates and Deadlines

Test Date	Normal Registration	Late Registration	Score Release
Aug 26, 2017	Jul 28, 2017	Aug 11, 2017	Sept 14, 2017
Oct 7, 2017	Sep 8, 2017	Sep 22, 2017	Oct 27, 2017
Nov 4, 2017	Oct 6, 2017	Oct 20, 2017	Nov 23, 2017
Dec 2, 2017	Nov 3, 2017	Nov 17, 2017	Dec 21, 2017
Mar 10, 2018	Feb 9, 2018	Feb 23, 2018	Mar 29, 2017
May 5, 2018	Apr 6, 2018	Apr 20, 2018	May 24, 2018
Jun 2, 2018	May 4, 2018	May 18, 2018	Jun 21, 2018

Date(s) I plan to take my SAT : 1. _____ 2. _____

Confirmed dates for my SAT: 1. _____ 2. _____

ACT DATES AND INFORMATION

Please use this guide sheet to register and confirm the date(s) you will complete your ACT.



Please use this link

(<http://www.act.org/content/act/en.html>) to connect with information regarding the test, dates, and fees.

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
August 26, 2017	August 11, 2017
October 7, 2017	September 22, 2017
November 4, 2017	October 20, 2017
December 2, 2017	November 17, 2017
March 5, 2018	February 23, 2018
May 5, 2018	April 20, 2018
June 2, 2018	May 18, 2018

Date(s) I when plan to take my ACT : 1. _____ 2. _____

Confirmed dates for my ACT: 1. _____ 2. _____

TEXAS STUDENT INITIATIVE (TSI) INFORMATION

What Is the TSI Assessment?

The TSI Assessment is a program designed to help your institution determine if you are ready for college-level coursework in the general areas of reading, writing and mathematics. This program also will help determine what type of course or intervention will best meet your needs to help you become better prepared for college-level course work if you are not ready.

Do I Have to Take the TSI Assessment?

Not all incoming students need to take the TSI Assessment. There are many ways you can be exempt. Qualifying for a TSI Assessment exemption means that you can enroll in any entry level college course without restrictions. In other words, there are no prerequisites for enrollment in college-level courses.

You may be exempt if:

- Have met the minimum college readiness standard on SAT®, ACT, or a statewide high school test;
- Have successfully completed college-level English and math courses;
- Have enrolled in a Level-One certificate program (fewer than 43 semester credit hours);
- Are not seeking a degree; or
- Have been, or currently are, in the military.

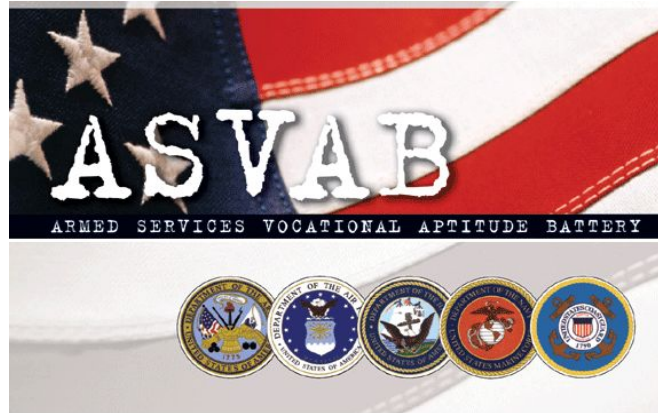
If you think you may be exempt, please contact an advisor at your institution. For more information visit our website at www.theccb.state.tx.us/DE/TSI

How can I take my TSI?

Navarro College offers the TSI to area students for the cost of \$30 dollars, payable at the time of testing. Please note, the TSI can only be attempted (3) times to qualify for dual credit classes through Navarro. During the spring semester, one free testing opportunity is offered through the Career and Technical Education Department for seniors. Please contact Ms. DeNicola at 972-923-4600 ext. 202 regarding the CTE department's testing opportunities.

ASVAB Dates and Information

The ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. It is administered annually to more than one million military applicants, high school, and post-secondary students.



During the spring semester testing opportunities are offered through the Career and Technical Education Department for seniors. Please contact Ms. DeNicola regarding the CTE department's testing opportunities.

For additional information go to: <http://official-asvab.com/> for general test information and <http://www.asvabpracticetests.com/> for practice test assistance.

How is College Different from High School?

Following the Rules in High School	Choosing Responsibly in College
High School is _____ and usually _____.	College is _____ and _____.
Your time is structured by others.	You manage your own time.
You need permission to participate in extracurricular activities.	You must decide whether to participate in co-curricular activities.
You can count on your parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in setting priorities.	_____ must balance your responsibilities and set priorities. You will face moral and ethical decisions you have never faced before.
Each day you proceed from one class directly to another, spending 6 hours a day—30 hours a week—in class.	You often have hours between classes; class times vary throughout the day and evening and you spend typically only 12 to 16 hours a week in class.
Most of your classes are arranged for you.	You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your advisor. Schedules tend to look lighter than they really are.
Knowing your graduation requirements is a shared responsibility.	Graduation requirements are complex, and differ from year to year. You are expected to know those that apply to you.
You will usually be told what to do and corrected if your behavior is out of line.	You are expected to take responsibility for what you do and don't do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.

Going to High School Classes	Succeeding in College Classes
The school year is 36 weeks long; some classes extend over both semesters and some don't.	The academic year is divided into two separate 15-week semesters, plus a week after each semester for exams.
Classes generally have no more than 35 students.	Classes may number 100 students or more.
You may study outside class as little as 0-2 hours a week and this may be mostly last minute preparation.	You need to study at least 2-3 hours outside of class for each hour in class.
You seldom need to read anything more than once, and sometimes listening in class is enough.	You need to review class notes and text material more regularly.
You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed, and often re-taught, in class.	You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class.
You will usually be told in class what you need to learn from assigned readings.	It's up to you to read and understand the assigned material; lectures and assignments proceed from the assumption that you've already done so.

How is College Different from High School? (Continued)

High School Teachers	College Professors
Teachers check your completed homework.	Professors may not always check completed homework, but they will assume you can perform the same tasks on tests.
Teachers remind you of your incomplete work.	Professors will not remind you of incomplete work.
Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.	Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.
Teachers are often available for conversation before, during, or after class.	Professors expect you to attend their scheduled office hours.
Teachers have been trained in teaching methods to assist in imparting knowledge to students.	Professors have been trained as experts in their particular areas of research.
Teachers provide you with information you missed when you were absent.	Professors expect you to connect with classmates to secure any notes from classes you missed.
Teachers present material to help you understand the material in the textbook.	Professors may not follow the textbook. Instead, to amplify the text, they may give illustrations, provide background information, or discuss research about the topic you are studying. Or they may expect you to relate the classes to the textbook readings.
Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes.	Professors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes. When professors write on the board, it may be to amplify the lecture, not to summarize it. Good notes are a must.
Teachers impart knowledge and facts, sometimes drawing direct connections and leading you through the thinking process.	Professors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.
Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.	Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.
Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.	Professors may not formally take roll, but they are still likely to know whether or not you attended.
High school is a teaching environment in which you acquire facts and skills.	College is a learning environment in which you take responsibility for thinking through and applying what you have learned.

How is College Different from High School? (Continued)

Tests in High School	Tests in College
Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material.	Testing is usually infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material. You, not the professor, need to organize the material to prepare for the test. A particular course may have only 2-3 tests in a semester.
Makeup tests are often available.	Makeup tests are seldom an option; if they are, you need to request them.
Teachers frequently arrange test dates to avoid conflict with school events.	Professors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.
Teachers frequently conduct review sessions, pointing out the most important concepts.	Professors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant, one who comes prepared with questions.
Mastery is usually seen as the ability to reproduce what you were taught in the form in which it was presented to you, or to solve the kinds of problems you were shown how to solve.	Mastery is often seen as the ability to apply what you've learned to new situations or to solve new situations or to solve new kinds of problems.

Grades in High School	Grades in College
Grades are given for most assigned work.	Grades will not be provided for all assigned work.
Consistently good homework grades may raise your overall grade when test grades are low.	Grades on tests and major papers usually provide majority of the course grade.
Extra credit projects are often available to help you raise your grade.	Extra credit projects cannot, generally speaking, be used to raise a grade in a college course.
Initial test grades, especially when they are low, may not have an adverse effect on your final grade.	Watch out for your tests. These are usually “wake-up calls” to let you know what is expected—but they also may account for a substantial part of your course grade.
You may graduate as long as you have passed all required courses with a grade of “D” or higher.	You may graduate only if your average in classes meets the departmental standard—typically a 2.0 or “C.”
Effort counts. Courses are usually structured to reward “good effort.”	Results count. Though good effort is important in regard to the professor’s willingness to help you good results, it will not for results in the grading process.

How to Make the Transition to College

1. **Take control of your own education. Think of yourself of a scholar.**
2. **Get to know your professors; they are your single greatest resource.**
3. **Be assertive! Create your own support systems and seek help when you realize you may need it.**
4. **Take control of your time. Plan ahead to satisfy academic obligations and make room for everything else.**
5. **Stretch yourself: Enroll in at least one course that challenges you.**
6. **Make thoughtful decisions. Don't take a course just to satisfy a requirement and don't drop any course too quickly.**
7. **Think beyond the moment. Set goals for the semester, the year, and your college career.**



Admission Standards for Selected 4-Year Texas Schools

College Contact Information		Undergrad Enrollment	Class Rank	SAT	ACT	Popular Majors	Accept. Rate
ABILENE CHR Abilene	www.acu.edu 325-674-2000	3,906	No minimum, but students who do not meet certain scores may be required to take a remediation course.			Education Performing Arts	64%
ANGELO STATE San Angelo	www.angelo.edu 325-942-2185	6,888	Top 10% Next 40% 3 rd Qtr. 4 th Qtr.	No Minimum 820 File Review File Review	No Minimum 17 File Review File Review	Psychology Education Business	93%
BAYLOR UNIV Waco	www.baylor.edu 254-710-1011 800-229-5678	12,162	Average	1140-1320	24-29	Business Health Sci.	40%
DALLAS BAPT Dallas	www.dbu.edu 214-333-7100	3,575	Minimum	1020	21	Business Psychology	44%
HARDIN-SIMM Abilene	www.hsutx.edu 325-670-1000 877-464-7889	1,934	Top 25% Level I Level II	1390 1650 1390	20 23 20	Music Business Education	57%
LAMAR Beaumont	www.lamar.edu 409-880-8888	8,801	Top 10% 11-25% 2 nd Qtr. 3 rd /4 th Qtr.	No Minimum 850 930 1000	No Minimum 18 20 21	Education Liberal Arts Engineering	46%
LETOURNEAU Longview	www.letu.edu 903-233-3000	3,371	Average	1160-1170	25	Aviation Engineering	56%
MIDWESTERN Wichita Falls	www.mwsu.edu 800-842-1922 940-397-4334	5,361	Top 10% Next 40% 3 rd Qtr. 4 th Qtr.	No Minimum 990 1070 1110	No Minimum 21 23 24	Nursing Education Business	52%
NORTHWOOD Cedar Hill	www.northwood.edu 972-291-1541	461	No Minimum	No Minimum	No Minimum	Business Comp. Sci.	45%
PRAIRIE VIEW Prairie View	www.pvamu.edu 936-261-1000	6,278	All Students	820 (Auto)	17 (Auto) 15 (Review)	Engineering Health Sci.	40%

				710 (Review)			
RICE UNIV Houston	www.rice.edu 713-348-0000	3,154	Average	2140-231 0	31-35	Biology Economics	19%
SAM HOUSTON Huntsville	www.shsu.edu 936-294-1828 866-232-7528	14,303	Top 25% 2 nd Qtr. 3 rd Qtr. 4 th Qtr.	No Minimum 960 1060 File Review	No Minimum 20 23 File Review	Elem. Ed. Crim. Justice	87%
SMU Dallas	www.smu.edu 214-768-2000	6,240	Average	1760-205 0	27-31	Comm. Economics	55%
S.F. AUSTIN Nacogdoches	www.sfasu.edu 936-468-3849	10,404	Top 10% 11-25% 2 nd Qtr. 3 rd Qtr. 4 th Qtr.	No Minimum 850 950 1100 File Review	No Minimum 17 20 24 File Review	Education Comm. Business	63%
TARLETON Stephenville	www.tarleton.edu 254-968-9125 800-687-8236	7,886	Top 25% 2 nd Qtr. 3 rd Qtr. 4 th Qtr.	No Minimum 800 950 Entry Denied	No Minimum 16 20 Entry Denied	Ag. Science Business	63%
TEXAS A&M College Station	www.tamu.edu 979-845-1060	39,148	Top 10% Average	No Minimum 1214	No Minimum 27	Biomedical Engineering Business	63%
Minimum Standards: 4 years English, 4 years Math, 4 years Science, 2 years Foreign Language Automatic Admission: Rank in top 25% with a 1300 SAT or 30 ACT, meeting all deadline requirements							
TEXAS A&M Commerce	<a href="http://www.tamu-comm
erce.edu">www.tamu-comm erce.edu 903-886-5081	5,437	Auto Admission	950	20	Education Parks & Rec.	44%
TEXAS A&M Corpus Christi	www.tamucc.edu 361-825-5700 800-482-6822	7,249	Top 10% Next 15% 2 nd Qtr. 3 rd Qtr. 4 th Qtr.	No Minimum 900 1000 1100 1200	No Minimum 19 21 23 27	Env. Sci. Cartography Accounting Med. Tech.	85%

TX SOUTHERN Houston	www.tsu.edu 713-313-7011	7,132	All Students	820	17	Pharmacy Public Adm.	39%
TEXAS STATE San Marcos	www.txstate.edu 512-245-2111	24,810	Top 10% 11-25% 2 nd Qtr. 3 rd Qtr. 4 th Qtr.	No Minimum 920 1010 1180 1270	No Minimum 20 22 26 29	Business Social Sci. Education History	77%
TEXAS TECH Lubbock	www.ttu.edu 806-742-2011	23,107	Top 10% 11-25% 2 nd Qtr. 3 rd Qtr. 4 th Qtr.	No Minimum 1140 1230 1270 File Review	No Minimum 25 28 29 File Review	Engineering Business Ag. Science Music	65%
Minimum Standards: 4 years English, 4 years Math, 4 years Science, 2 years Foreign Language							
TX WOMAN'S Denton	www.twu.edu 940-898-3188 866-809-6130	7,420	Top 50%	1000	21	Nursing Oc. Therapy	88%
UNIV HOUSTON Houston	www.uh.edu 713-743-1000	28,800	Top 15% 16-25% 2 nd Qtr. 3 rd Qtr. 4 th Qtr.	No Minimum 1000 1100 File Review File Review	No Minimum 21 24 File Review File Review	Engineering Business	63%
UNIV N. TEXAS Denton	www.unt.edu 940-565-2000	27,779	Top 10% Next 15% 2 nd Qtr. 3 rd Qtr.	No Minimum 950 1050 1180	No Minimum 20 23 26	Education Business Fine Arts Crim. Justice	65%
UNIV TEXAS Arlington	www.uta.edu 817-272-2011	18,985	Top 25% 2 nd Qtr. 3 rd Qtr. 4 th Qtr.	No Minimum 1050 File Review File Review	No Minimum 22 File Review File Review	Journalism Business	69%
UNIV TEXAS Austin	www.utexas.edu 512-471-3434	37,389	No specific rank in class, test core, or GPA will guarantee admission. Individual evaluation required to determine admission status.			Health Sci. Engineering Architecture	47%

UNIV TEXAS Dallas	www.utdallas.edu 972-883-2111	9,393	Top 10% Next 5% All Others	No Minimum 1200 File Review	No Minimum 26 File Review	Comp. Sci. Education	53%
UNIV TEXAS San Antonio	www.utsa.edu 210-458-4011	26,648	Top 25% 2 nd Qtr. 3 rd Qtr. 4 th Qtr.	No Minimum 900 1000 1100	No Minimum 19 21 24	Business English Law Enfor. Psychology	83%
UNIV TEXAS Tyler	www.uttyler.edu 903-566-7000 800-888-9537	4,977	Top 25% 2 nd Qtr. 3 rd Qtr. 4 th Qtr.	1410 1500 1530 1590	20 21 22 23	Crim. Justice Nursing Business	46%
WEST TX A&M Canyon	www.wtamu.edu 806-651-2000 800-999-8268	6,096	Top 10% 11-25% 2 nd Qtr. 3 rd Qtr. 4 th Qtr.	No Minimum 860 900 940 980	No Minimum 18 19 20 21	Nursing Business Music	99%

The State of Texas Common Application is available on the web at www.applytexas.org. This application is accepted by Texas public schools. For private schools, please refer to the school's website for their application and requirements. This information is up to date as of Fall 2013. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this form. However, it is up to you to contact your college or university to make sure there have been no changes to the admission criteria.

How To Request a Transcript



Submitting your transcript to prospective colleges is one of the most important tasks you must complete in applying for colleges/universities. Please make sure you complete these steps.

1. Complete an online Transcript Request by going to www.wisd.org.
 - a. Select “Our Schools”
 - b. Click on the Waxahachie High School link.
 - c. On left side of the home page, scroll over “Student Services” to find the “Office of the Registrar”
 - d. Click on the “Transcript Request” link in the middle of the page.
 - e. Fill out all of the required information on the form.
2. The information you provide on the request will let us know where you need the transcript(s) sent, or if you are requesting to pick up your transcript. There is a 5 business day turnaround for sending transcripts, so please plan accordingly and pay attention to any deadlines you are trying to make.
3. As a current student, you can request as many transcripts as you need at no cost. After graduation, you will be charged a \$5 fee per transcript.
4. It is your responsibility to come pick up your requested transcript(s) in the Registrar’s office. If you asked us to mail the transcript(s), then we will mail your transcript(s) to the requested colleges or universities. There will be no home mailing for current students.
5. After graduation, one unofficial and two official copies of your transcript will be placed in the envelope for you to pick with your diploma. If you are 18 or older, you must provide a note for someone other than yourself to pick up your transcripts or diploma. It will be your responsibility to mail or request your final official high school transcript to be sent to your college or university.
6. Those students who have taken Dual Credit classes must request an official final transcript to be sent to Navarro. You will then need to request a transcript from Navarro to be sent to WHS. WHS CANNOT award you college credit from your high school transcript; you must send the Navarro transcript to be awarded college credit.

Recommendation Letter Request Form:

Name of Principal, Counselor, Teacher, or Professional

Instructions for Students: Print/write all information neatly. Give your letter writer at least two weeks' notice for recommendation letters to be composed and ready for pick up. Complete all the information on this form. Be specific on what the recommendation letter is for (name of college, name of scholarship, etc.). Don't forget to write down the date the letter is needed!

The information on this form is vital in order to create an accurate college recommendation letter or answer questions on the college application. This is your opportunity to share information about yourself!

Student Name as it Appears on the Application:

Please provide contact information in case your letter writer has any questions while writing.

Phone Number: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Reason for Request (Name of College or Scholarship):

DATE NEEDED (allow two weeks for completion): _____

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

DATE RECEIVED (VERIFIED BY COUNSELOR): _____

When completed, the letter should be: (Circle One)

- (a) Returned to Student
(b) Sent to the following address:

List your club and organization memberships, both in and out of school: including school, community and church activities. Please include dates involved.

**Name of Organization
(Do not use abbreviations)**

Office Held or Activity Performed

List UIL competition events awards and Academic Honors including dates.

List school leadership roles. Please include classification.

Describe in detail how you have developed and used leadership skills?

List your employment history, beginning with your most recent employer and working backward. List location, job title, and briefly describe responsibilities.

Employer

Duties and Responsibilities

Dates: _____ to _____

Employer

Duties and Responsibilities

Dates: _____ to _____

Record your community service/volunteer work. List the location, tasks performed, dates and hours accumulated. (If more than five items, please attach an additional document.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

If this letter is for a college application, why do you want to attend this college? What do you think you would study there and why? What makes you suited for this college?

What contributions will you make to the college of your choice?

List 3 words that describe you and why these words are appropriate?

If this recommendation is for a scholarship, why do you think you are an ideal recipient for this award? How could you benefit from this financial award?

What is your favorite quote and why?

Describe yourself. What are your strengths? How did you develop them?

What personal difficulties have you overcome?

How do you balance time commitments?

What is the most important thing I should say about you?

Is there anything else you would like to say about yourself that I should about you that has not been addressed?

Date Submitted: _____

Student Signature: _____

*******Please remember to attach a RESUME with this letter of recommendation form.*******

*******Please allow two weeks for your letter of recommendation to be completed.*******

How Will I Pay For College?

Scholarships

This is the best way to pay for college! Scholarships are gifts that don't have to be paid back. They can be based on character, academic merit, or even personal talents (athletic scholarships, music scholarships, etc.). Scholarships are available from many different sources, but most require you to fill out an application. You can find many scholarships online. Work on your applications in advance to make sure you don't miss any deadlines. Scholarships are awarded throughout your senior year. For more information, see the WHS Scholarship Website or the handout, "Where Do Scholarships Come From?"



Grants

Grants are need-based funds distributed to students with the confidence that the students will adequately complete a degree. Many grants have stipulations that if you drop out of school or don't register for enough hours, the funds can be retracted and have to be paid back. When you receive a grant, pay attention to the guidelines that go along with it. Grants are usually distributed based on your Student Aid Report (SAR) generated by your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).



Work Study Program

The Work Study Program is a federal program that supports students with financial need by providing jobs on college campuses. Students in the Work Study Program do not work more than 20 hours a week, but their income is considered financial aid and is treated differently than normal income for tax purposes. Your FAFSA results will let your school know if you are eligible to participate in the Work Study



Program. The Work Study Program is not working a part-time job during college, which is a great way to pay tuition and fees but will be considered standard income.

Loans

Your FAFSA results will determine your eligibility for federal student loans. There are two types: subsidized and unsubsidized. Subsidized loans do not accumulate interest while you are in school, but unsubsidized do. You will have a grace period of 6 months after you graduate before you will begin paying back federal student loans. If you do not qualify for federal student loans, many banks offer private student loans. Shop around to find the lowest interest rate and most reasonable repayment options. Loans are not free money; they must be paid back and should be used sparingly.



Tax Deductions

Your university will provide you with IRS form 1098-T each year that you pay tuition and fees towards your school. If you are claimed as a dependent by your parents, they will use the form when filing their taxes. If you are independent, you can use the form for your own taxes. The form will allow a tax deduction based on the tuition and fees you have paid that year.

There are conditions that apply, so see www.irs.gov for details.



Scholarships

- ❑ All Scholarship applications are available online. Students must download information about individual scholarships. Students who do not have access to computers at home may use computers in the Library.
- ❑ Once you have printed the scholarship application please check for the deadline date and where to turn in or mail the completed application.
- ❑ Due to confidential information, all completed applications **MUST BE** sealed in an envelope with student name and the name of the scholarship on the outside. Students: It is your responsibility to supply the envelope.
- ❑ All deadline dates must be met as stated on the application forms. There will be no exceptions.



WHS Scholarship Website

To access the WHS Scholarship Website and download applications, follow these steps:

1. Go to www.wisd.org
2. Click “Our Schools” under Quicklinks on the left side of the screen, then “Waxahachie High School”
3. Go to the Counselor’s Corner on the left side of the screen
4. Click on Scholarships

Scholarships are listed in order of application due date. This website will be updated as often as scholarships come in. Please check it often for updates.

Popular College Websites

Common Applications

www.applytexas.org
www.commonapp.org

Texas Common Application
 Universal Common Application

Financial Aid and Scholarships

www.adventuresineducation.org
www.blackexcel.org/link4.htm
www.collegefortexans.com
www.ed.gov/finaid.html
www.fastweb.com
www.finaid.org
www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.fastap.org
www.hsf.net
www.nasfaa.org
www.salliemae.com
www.scholarships.com
www.scholarshipquesthelper.com
www.srnexpress.com
www.students.gov
www.texasscholars.org
www.tgslc.org
www.wiredscholar.com

Financial Aid and Scholarship Search
 Minority Scholarship Resources
 Financial Aid and Scholarship Search
 U.S. Department of Education Financial Aid Info
 Financial Aid and Scholarship Search
 Financial Aid and Scholarship Search
 Free Application for Federal Student Aid
 Financial Aid and Scholarship Search
 Hispanic Scholarship Fund
 National Association of Student Financial Aid
 Financial Aid and Loan Information
 Scholarship Search
 Scholarship Tips and Suggestions
 Scholarship Resource Network
 Financial Aid and Scholarship Search
 Financial Aid and Scholarship Search
 Student Loan Information
 Financial Aid

Test Preparation and Registration

www.collegeboard.com
www.actstudent.org
www.thea.nesinc.com

SAT
 ACT
 THEA

Searching for the Right College

www.anycollege.net
www.campustours.com
www.collegenet.com
www.collegeispossible.org
www.collegeexpress.com
www.collegeview.com
www.ctcl.com
www.edonline.com/cg/hbcu
www.mycollegeguide.org
www.nacacnet.org
www.petersons.com
www.review.com
www.texasmentor.org
www.theccb.state.tx.us

College Search
 Online tours of colleges and scholarship search
 College Search
 Guide to College Admissions
 College Search
 College Search
 Colleges that Change Lives
 Historically Black Colleges & Universities Search
 College Search
 National Assoc. of College Admissions Counselors
 Peterson's College Search Program
 College and Financial Aid Search
 College Search
 College and Degree Search

Request for Prior Approval for College Visit

Student's Name: _____

Student's ID#: _____

Visitation Date: _____

College/University to Visit: _____

I understand that signed official documentation of my visit to the campus designated above must be returned to the WHS Attendance Office (located in the main office) in order for my absence to be documented. You may need to ask your College Admissions Office for documentation of your visit. SENIORS ONLY are allowed two (2) College visits.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Teacher Signatures Acknowledging Your Plans: I am aware that any exams or work missed is my responsibility to complete according to school policy.

A1/B1: _____

A2/B2: _____

A3/B3: _____

A4/B4: _____

Seniors only are allowed **two** college visits with prior approval. These are **NOT** considered absences if the Request for Prior Approval for College Visitation Form is completed **BEFORE** the visits. Everything over the two days will be counted as **excused absences** with proper documentation. Juniors may take two college days but they will be considered excused absences with proper documentation.

WHS Counseling Department
Senior Career and College Declaration Sheet

2017-18

To assist in planning and achieving each student's goals for college admission and securing financial aid, graduating seniors are required to complete this form and submit it to your counselor. Please meet with your counselor if you have questions about your planning process.

Student Information

Student's name (Last Name First) _____

E-mail Address (Please print Clearly) _____

Mailing Address _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Phone Number for Parent(s)/Guardian _____

ACT/SAT Application Information

Are you scheduled to take the ACT/SAT? (Please circle) ACT SAT Yes No

Indicate scheduled Date(s)

(Please meet with your counselor to confirm dates if needed). _____

Career Interest(s) Please indicate your top 5 career interests (Job title only).

Name of the College	Application Deadline
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5 _____	_____

2016-17 (Page 2)

Use this page to indicate your “college” plans for the fall of 2016.

College Admissions goals Use this section to indicate the “colleges” where you will submit applications for admission. (Please see your counselor for assistance in planning for submitting your admissions applications ASAP!)

Name of the College	Application Deadline
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

College Acceptance Tasks use this section to indicate the colleges where you have been accepted and the required tasks that you must complete.

Name of the College	Required Task(s)
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

Your Name

Address City, State, ZIP Phone Email

Objective

(What purpose/position are you seeking to achieve?)

Part-time position detailing cars for growing local car dealership.

Education

Student at Waxahachie High School- Class of 20__

5.235 GPA- Ranked 52 in class of 515

High School

- **course of study (Endorsement)**
- **special projects**

Community College

- **courses taken (if applicable)**

Academic Honors or Leadership Activities

- **German Honor Society**
- **Senior Class Breakfast Chairperson**

Experience

Summer Job Title

Company Name City State Dates of employment

- **Job responsibility/achievement**

Community Service Involvement:

Company Name City State Dates of employment

- **Job responsibility/achievement**

Significant Volunteer Work

Company Name City State Dates of volunteering

- **Job responsibility/achievement**

Skills

Skillset 1 (Computer Literate)

- **Microsoft word, Photoshop, excel, etc.**
- **description**

Skillset 2

- **description**
- **description**

RESOURCES

- **ACT Information -**
- **ASVAB Information -**
- **SAT Information - College Board -**
- **Peterson College Planning Guidelines -**

- **Texas Student Initiative (TSI) Brochure -**

- **Texas College and Career Readiness Resource Center -**
<http://txccrsc.esc13.net/occrc>

