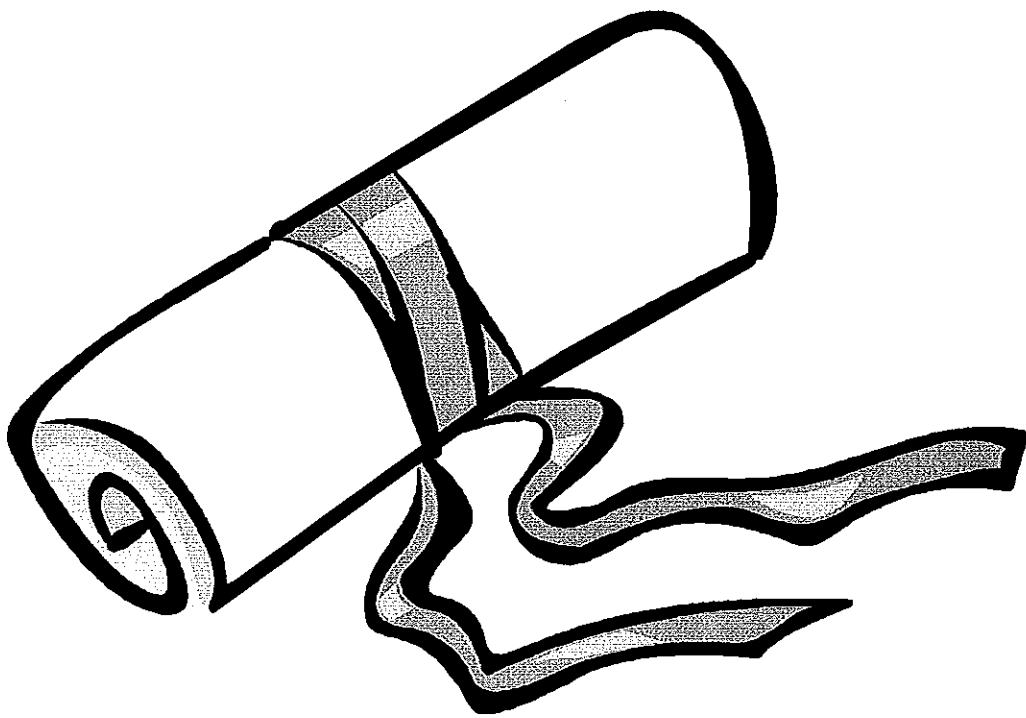


Sophomores



Class of 2017

SOPHOMORE

Plan Ahead & Always Be Prepared!

August—September:

Update your 4-year graduation plan. Continue to study and make good grades; join and stay active in extracurricular activities. Active participation & leadership roles in the activity will help you qualify for scholarships and university admissions when you are a senior. Document everything and keep it in a portfolio for future reference (update it throughout your high school career). Utilize Naviance to help you organize everything you do during high school.

October:

Take the PSAT/NMSQT to gain an understanding of the SAT test and testing procedure. Keep researching careers and colleges. Add colleges to your “Colleges I’m thinking About” list in Naviance. Continue to research scholarships.

November—December:

Visit colleges and talk to college students. This will give you insights of what to expect and helpful hints straight from the source. If you haven’t already decided, keep using the resources in Naviance to help you make wise career and college decisions.

January—May:

Visit colleges, review college admission requirements and update your 4-year graduation plan if needed. Plan to take classes that you need to fulfill your high school requirements. Challenge yourself in the coursework you take.

Summer:

Work a summer job and/or volunteer. Continue to save your money for college. Continue searching for scholarships. Do the summer reading that is recommended for any PreAP or AP courses you have selected. You will find the summer reading lists at www.fortbendisd.com.

It's always a
Great Day...



...to be a
Hurricane

Naviance Family Connection can help you organize all of your high school activities, research careers, majors, and colleges—and keep it all in one place for you. Begin using it frequently now; by the time you reach your senior year, you will be ready to begin your college applications with ease, and much less stress.

Log in at <https://connection.naviance.com/hightowerhs>. Your username and password is the same as for the computers at school.

See your CCR Advisor, Ms. Hidalgo, in room P-2 if you have any questions about college, careers, military, etc...

RESOURCES

College Readiness:

Naviance Family Connection
www.bigfuture.collegeboard.com
www.texascollegeandcareer.org
www.collegeforalltexas.com
www.mappingyourfuture.org
www.aie.org

Scholarship Searches:

Naviance Family Connection
www.fastweb.com
www.zinch.com
www.scholarships.com

College Entrance Exams:

SAT: www.collegeboard.com
ACT: www.act.org

Volunteer work:

www.volunteermatch.org

TERMINOLOGY

GPA: grade point average; all of your high school grades count in calculating your GPA. Study & earn good grades! They count!

SAT: Scholastic Aptitude Test. College entrance exam

ACT: college entrance exam.

Rank: your placement among the students in your grade level; it is based on GPA.

CBE: credit-by-exam; speak with your counselor about taking a test to earn credit.

Correspondence: a course taken online for credit; speak to your counselor about this option.

PreAP: preparatory course for future AP coursework. Weighted on a 6.0 scale.

AP: Advanced Placement. Rigorous level of coursework preparing the student to take an AP exam in May in attempt to earn college credit.

Weight of Course: this refers to the points earned for a course. Regular courses are weighted on the 5.0 scale and Honor/AP courses are weighted on the 6.0 scale. Refer to the district course selection guide for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EOC Testing—December 1-5

FINDING THE RIGHT SCHOOL

C O L L E G E A N D C A R E E R C E N T E R

CREATING A COLLEGE CONSIDERATIONS LIST

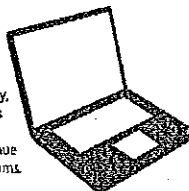
A lot of factors go into choose a college. It is important that you select a school that is right for YOU! Here are a few things you should take into consideration when creating your college list:

1. Location - How far is the school from your home or family? In addition to distance from your home, consider how the college's location will affect your education.
2. Enrollment / Campus size - How many students attend the college?
3. Admission Selectivity - it is key that you chose a school that you are academically matched with.
4. Academic Options - Do they have your major?
5. Cost - How much will you have to pay?

DIFFERENT TYPES OF COLLEGES

FOR PROFIT Online Institution

Online college is an institution where classes and instruction are done via the internet. Schools like these include Kaplan University, Strayer University, and University of Phoenix. For-Profit colleges in general are more career-focused. They receive only a portion of their revenue through student tuition payments, and other revenue through fees paid by government and state education aid programs.

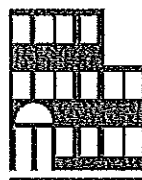


FOR PROFIT Campus Institution

Schools which offer both online and campus locations for students to study or take classes like University of Phoenix, DeVry University, Grand Canyon University, Colorado Technical Institute, and Virginia College.

NON-PROFIT Community College

A smaller, local campus college offering Associate's and possible Bachelor's degrees which is funded by tax revenues from the state or locality in which it is located like Salt Lake Community College. State College Non-profit - A state-funded institution with a campus location which is funded by tax revenues from the state in which it is located like Palm Beach State College, Polk State College, Seminole State College, and Santa Fe College.



NON-PROFIT State College

A state-funded institution with a campus location which is funded by tax revenues from the state in which it is located like Palm Beach State College, Polk State College, Seminole State College, and Santa Fe College.

NON-PROFIT State University

A state-funded institution with a campus location which is funded by tax revenues from the state in which it is located like The Ohio State University, University of Utah, and the University of California at Los Angeles.



NON-PROFIT Private

A privately funded institution with a campus location which does not accept state tax funds, but is funded by private donations, endowments, and student tuition like Harvard University, Yale University, Stanford University and Northwestern University.

RURAL TOWNS VS. BIG CITY

Rural Town Pros

1. Fewer distractions
2. Campus is central focus
3. School usually offers a wide variety of out-of-class activities on campus.

Rural Town Cons

1. Hard time finding off-campus activities.

Texas Schools in small towns:

Sam Houston State
Stephen F. Austin
Prairie View A&M

City Pros

1. More job opportunities
2. Offers a broad range of culture.

City Cons

1. More expensive housing
2. Higher crime rate

Texas schools in a large city:

University of Houston
Rice University
North Texas
University of Texas Austin

Advisor: Jackie Hidalgo
 Email: jackie.hidalgo@fortbendisd.com
 Office: 281.634.3728

Top Questions to ask:

1. Do I want to attend a college in another state?
2. Do they have my major?
3. Are there opportunities for internship near the college?
4. What types of financial aid does the university offer? Are there jobs available on campus?
5. Are any faculty members nationally recognized by professional organizations?
6. Is the college accredited? Is the academic program I'm considering accredited?
7. Does the college have health services, computer labs and other support services?
8. How important is nightlife to me?

Admission Selectivity

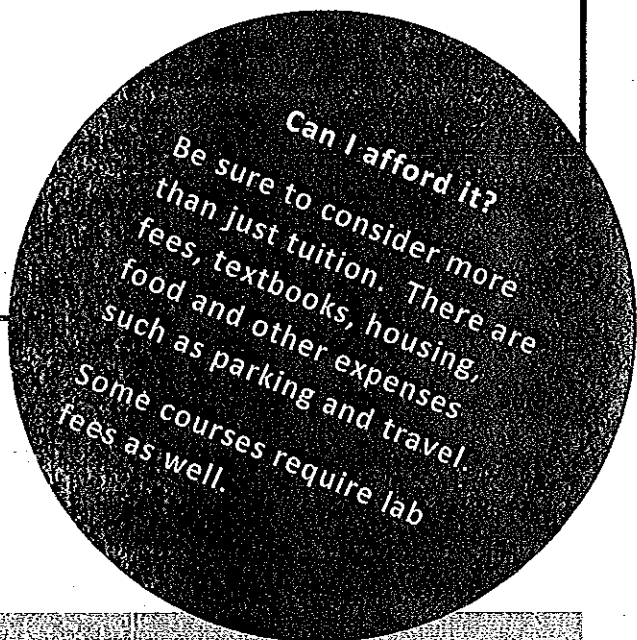
- ◆ Open - all high school graduates are accepted, limit of capacity.
- ◆ Liberal - accepts many freshman with C+ GPA or higher.
- ◆ Traditional - accepts freshman with B average GPA or higher.
- ◆ Selective - majority of accepted freshmen with B+ to A average GPA, some honor and AP courses
- ◆ Highly Selective - majority of accepted freshmen have A to A+ GPA, majority of honors and AP courses

Students have a better chance of graduating in four years; when they attend a College or University that they are academically matched.

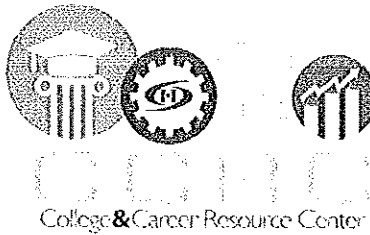
A+ Schools for B+ students:

- Texas Woman's University
- Lamar University
- University of Texas - Arlington
- University of Houston - Victoria

**COLLEGE AND
 CAREER CENTER
 HIGHTOWER HS**



Large Schools	Mid-Size schools	Small schools
Over 10,000 students. Larger class size for general education classes in first two years. More diverse curriculum and more options in specialized study areas. Greater variety of extracurricular activities and organizations.	Enrollment is between 3,00 and 10,000 More personalized approach than larger school. More options than small schools.	Enrollment below 3,000 students Smaller classes throughout the four years of college. Greater chance for participation in athletics and leadership positions. Greater chance of you getting to know the people on campus and professors.



Sophomore Year: Your Guide to Life Beyond High School

Get prepared for life after high school

Some people know from an early age exactly what they want to be when they are adults – and how they can get there. Others aren't sure of their plans, and that's okay too.

Regardless of what you want to be, you most likely will be heading toward higher education of some kind. This guide can help you prepare.

Think about your future

Your sophomore year is the perfect time for you to be thinking about your future and what you want that future to be like.

Start thinking more seriously about what careers make the best use of your skills and incorporate your interests. When you find a career path that involves work you love, you will set yourself up for success. The earlier you can find the career area that is right for you, the easier it will be to make the best decision when choosing the right college, studying the correct subjects, and earning the degree that will get you the job you want.

Ask yourself:

What is my favorite subject and why?

What is my least favorite subject and why?

What kind of assignments do I enjoy?

What are my hobbies, and what is my favorite part about those hobbies?

What activities am I involved in and why?



There is help available as you plan your career:

- Ask your school counselor or CCR Advisor about taking a career assessment test.
- “Shadow” someone in a field that interests you, especially if you aren't sure if that career is right for you. By observing that kind of work in action, you'll be able to see what your life might be like on a day-to-day basis if you chose that career field.
- Check out free website that offer career information. Mapping Your Future has information, including its CareerShip® tool (mappingyourfuture.org/PlanYourCareer/careership/). Another good resource is www.bls.gov/oco, the federal government's Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook, which tells you which fields are growing.

If you still aren't sure, that's okay! You may not have yet discovered your passion, and that's one of the great things about college. Plan to take interesting elective classes, read a lot of books, and talk to people. The right career for you is just waiting to be discovered!

Education

Continuing your education beyond high school is a smart investment. It will pay you back in many ways over the course of your lifetime. Completing a college degree will help you:

- Increase your knowledge and better your skills. The more you know about the world around you, the better decisions you will make, not just about your career, but about many aspects of your life.
- Earn the degree that will get you the job you want. Most careers will require some training beyond high school, whether it is a technical school degree to become a mechanic or a medical degree to become a doctor.
- Make more money. According to Postsecondary Education Opportunity (www.postsecondary.org), college graduates earn about \$19,000 more per year than high school graduates.

Prepare academically

Practice good study habits

It's worth your time to develop good study skills because having them will help you get the best grades that you can. Those skills will also help you be better prepared to succeed at college.

Tips to improve your study skills:

- Stay organized by making a "to do" list. Stick to it.
- Set goals for yourself.
- Prioritize! A test tomorrow is more important than an assignment due next week.
- Take good notes, and review them carefully later.
- Experiment a little. Where and when do you work best? Alone or in a group, bright or dim lighting, quiet or noisy. Then study that way!



Improve your writing skills

Effective writing conveys your thoughts into words. It's a skill you use throughout your life, and no matter what career you pursue, the ability to communicate in writing will help you succeed.

Quick tips for effective writing:

- Think about your audience. For example, you would use a different tone in an essay than you would in a note to a friend.
- Plan ahead. List important points in the order you wish to make them.
- Use a strong opening sentence to catch the reader's attention.
- Be clear and to the point. Edit out unnecessary words and information.
- Know and use proper grammar and punctuation!!

Challenge Yourself

Challenge yourself to get the best grades possible, and to explore challenging classes and activities. Doing so will set you up to succeed academically in college, and will look great on your record. Scholarship committees and college admissions offices will notice that you've taken upper level classes and see that you're a dedicated student.

Attend a college fair

Did you know that you can go to one place and learn about dozens of colleges? Attending a college fair is an opportunity for you to speak with dozens of admissions officers, ask questions, and pick up materials so that you start to become more informed about the right college for you.

FBISD hosts college nights at two separate high school campuses every year – where over 100 colleges and universities from all over the United States are in attendance. Many times your campus will host a mini-college fair with maybe 15-20 colleges attending your school during the school day.

Research standardized tests

In addition to grades and extra-curricular activities, most colleges require that you take either the ACT, SAT or both. The purpose of these standardized assessment test and college entrance exams is to help college admissions officers predict your academic performance during your first year in college. Depending on the college, your scores could help you to qualify for financial aid. Talk to your counselor or CCR Advisor about which test you should take, when the tests can be taken, and how much they cost.

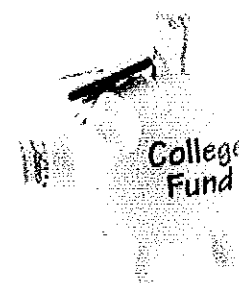
Learn about paying for college

How are you going to pay for college? Most students are concerned about the cost of college, but it's important to know that most college students receive some type of financial aid to help them afford the cost of their education. You can make your college dream come true, but it helps if you understand a little about how to pay for college.

Savings

Maybe your parents have a college fund for you. If so, that's great! But it's also important that you save what you can for the costs of your education. Below are some ideas for sources of money for college:

- Part-time or summer job. By working on nights and weekends, you not only earn money for college, you can get valuable experience in how to balance different responsibilities.
- Gift money.
- Sell stuff. Money you earn from selling items you no longer need (like at a garage sale) can help increase your college savings.



Every dollar that you can save for your own college fund will help you afford the costs of college.

Types of financial aid

Also be aware that financial aid may be available to you, and there are several types.

- Scholarships – money you do not have to pay back. Scholarships are awarded based on qualities the applicant has. Each is different and may be awarded based on athletic ability, musical accomplishments, academic achievement, your heritage, place or worship, or your parents' workplace.
- Grants – money you do not have to pay back. Eligibility for grants is usually based on your financial need for them.
- Work-study – money you earn that does not have to be paid back. This type allows you to earn money for your education, usually by working on your college campus.
- After you've exhausted every other type of financial aid, then look at student loans, which is money you have to repay, even if you don't finish college or can't find a job afterwards. Be careful to only borrow the amount of student loans that you really need.

FAFSA4caster

One great way to get a "sneak peek" into the financial aid process is to check out the FAFSA4caster at www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov. This program takes your current financial situation and gives you an estimate of what kinds and how much federal financial aid you might receive.

College and Career Readiness

Free Online Career Assessments

- www.kerisey.com (personality indicator)
- www.texascaresonline.com
- www.9types.com (personal style quiz)
- <http://www.careerkey.org/> (career interest assessment)
- <http://www.doleta.gov/jobseekers/>
- <http://www.careercolleges.com/career-assessment-test>

Right Brain or Left Brain Quizzes

- <http://testyourself.psychtests.com/testid/3178>
- http://homeworktips.about.com/library/brainquiz/bl_leftrightbrain_quiz.htm

For Career/Major Exploration

- These websites provide extensive information on careers, colleges, and financial aid. They include links to Texas colleges and browsers can also search for colleges by major.
- www.jobweb.com
- www.collegefortexans.com
- www.uncw.edu/career/whatcanidowithamajorin.html

Financial Aid Websites

- www.fafsa.ed.gov (free application for financial aid)—Complete this as soon as you can beginning Jan. 1st
- <http://www.nasfaa.org/Home.asp> (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administration)
- www.staffordloan.com
- www.privateloans.com
- <http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/>
- www.tuition.com/
- <http://hccs.financialaidtv.com/>

Scholarship Websites

- www.fastweb.com
- www.zinc.com
- www.schoolsoup.com
- www.scholarships.com

College Information Websites

- www.applytexas.org (Texas Common Application online)
- www.commonapp.org (out of state & Private schools)
- www.collegeweeklive.com
- <http://www.knowhow2go.org>
- <http://www.petersons.com>
- <http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/>
- www.campustours.com
- www.anycollege.com
- www.careersandcollege.com
- www.mymajors.com
- www.careerkey.org

Test Prep

- SAT www.collegeboard.org
- ACT www.actstudent.org
- www.number2.com
- www.4tests.com
- <http://www.studypoint.com/ed/act-vs-sat/>
- <http://inlikeme.com/sat-vs-act-comparison-chart/>

Helpful Hints

- Review interest inventories and take advantage of all resources available.
- Make an appointment with your counselor for you and your parents to discuss postsecondary plans.
- Request applications from colleges and trade and technical schools. Set up a file system to document your findings.
- Register for ACT, SAT, and/or SAT Subject Tests, as appropriate.
- Stay abreast of all scholarship opportunities. Seek out scholarship information and apply, as appropriate.
- Review high school records, including all graduation requirements.
- Visit colleges and/or trade and technical schools.
- Talk to admissions representatives who visit your school.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



Eligibility Center

NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Requirements

Core Courses: (16)

- **Initial full-time collegiate enrollment *before* August 1, 2016:**
 - **Sixteen (16) core courses** are required (see chart below for subject-area requirements).
- **Initial full-time collegiate enrollment *on or after* August 1, 2016:**
 - **Sixteen (16) core courses** are required (see chart below for subject-area requirements).
 - Ten (10) core courses completed before the seventh semester; seven (7) of the 10 must be in English, math or natural/physical science.
 - These courses/grades are "locked in" at start of the seventh semester (cannot be repeated for grade-point average [GPA] improvement to meet initial-eligibility requirements for competition).
 - *Students who do not meet core-course progression requirements may still be eligible to receive athletics aid and practice in the initial year of enrollment by meeting academic redshirt requirements (see below).*

Test Scores: (ACT/SAT)

- Students must present a corresponding test score and core-course GPA on the sliding scale (see Page No. 2).
 - **SAT:** critical reading and math sections.
 - Best subscore from each section is used to determine the SAT combined score for initial eligibility.
 - **ACT:** English, math, reading and science sections.
 - Best subscore from each section is used to determine the ACT sum score for initial eligibility.
- All ACT and SAT attempts *before* initial full-time collegiate enrollment may be used for initial eligibility.
- **Enter 9999 during ACT or SAT registration to ensure the testing agency reports your score directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center. Test scores on transcripts will not be used.**

Core Grade-Point Average:

- Only core courses that appear on the high school's List of NCAA Courses on the NCAA Eligibility Center's website (www.eligibilitycenter.org) will be used to calculate your core-course GPA. Use this list as a guide.
- **Initial full-time collegiate enrollment *before* August 1, 2016:**
 - Students must present a corresponding test score (ACT sum score or SAT combined score) and core-course GPA (minimum 2.000) on Sliding Scale A (see Page No. 2).
 - Core-course GPA is calculated using the **best 16 core courses** that meet subject-area requirements.
- **Initial full-time collegiate enrollment *on or after* August 1, 2016:**
 - Students must present a corresponding test score (ACT sum score or SAT combined score) and core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on Sliding Scale B (see Page No. 2).
 - Core-course GPA is calculated using the **best 16 core courses** that meet both progression (10 before seventh semester; seven in English, math or science; "locked in") and subject-area requirements.

DIVISION I Core-Course Requirement (16)	
4	years of English
3	years of math (Algebra I or higher)
2	years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered)
1	year of additional English, math or natural/physical science
2	years of social science
4	years of additional courses (any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)

DIVISION I – 2016 Qualifier Requirements	
<i>*Athletics aid, practice, and competition</i>	
•	16 core courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Ten (10) core courses completed before the start of seventh semester. Seven (7) of the 10 must be in English, math or natural/physical science. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Locked in" for core-course GPA calculation.
•	Corresponding test score (ACT sum score or SAT combined score) and core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on Sliding Scale B (see Page No. 2).
•	Graduate from high school.

DIVISION I – 2016 Academic Redshirt Requirements	
<i>*Athletics aid and practice (no competition)</i>	
•	16 core courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ No grades/credits "locked in" (repeated courses after the seventh semester begins may be used for initial eligibility).
•	Corresponding test score (ACT sum score or SAT combined score) and core-course GPA (minimum 2.000) on Sliding Scale B (see Page No. 2).
•	Graduate from high school.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



Eligibility Center

Division II Initial-Eligibility Requirements

Core Courses

- **Division II currently requires 16 core courses.** See the chart below.
- **Beginning August 1, 2018,** to become a full or partial qualifier for Division II, all college-bound student-athletes must complete the 16 core-course requirement.

Test Scores

- **Division II** currently requires a minimum SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68. **Beginning August 1, 2018,** Division II will use a sliding scale to match test scores and core-course grade-point averages (GPA). The sliding scale for those requirements is shown on Page No. 2 of this sheet.
- The SAT score used for NCAA purposes includes **only** the critical reading and math sections. The writing section of the SAT is not used.
- The ACT score used for NCAA purposes is a **sum** of the following four sections: English, mathematics, reading and science.
- **When you register for the SAT or ACT, use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of 9999 to ensure all SAT and ACT scores are reported directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores that appear on transcripts will not be used.**

Grade-Point Average

- Be sure to look at your high school's List of NCAA Courses on the NCAA Eligibility Center's website (www.eligibilitycenter.org). Only courses that appear on your school's approved List of NCAA Courses will be used in the calculation of the core GPA. Use the list as a guide.
- The current **Division II** core GPA requirement is a minimum of 2.000. **Division II** core GPA required to be eligible for competition on or after August 1, 2018, is 2.200 (corresponding test-score requirements are listed on the Sliding Scale on Page No. 2 of this sheet).
- The minimum **Division II** core GPA required to receive athletics aid and practice as a partial qualifier on or after August 1, 2018, is 2.000 (corresponding test-score requirements are listed on the Sliding Scale on Page No. 2 of this sheet).
- Remember, the NCAA core GPA is calculated using NCAA core courses only.

DIVISION II 16 Core Courses

- 3 years of English.
- 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher).
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
- 3 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science.
- 2 years of social science.
- 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy).

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received by: _____

Date received: _____

Approved by: _____

Organization ID: _____

Summer: _____

Entered by: _____



Y.E.S. PROGRAM

Community Service Documentation Form

Student name:(print neatly) _____

Student ID: _____ Graduating year: _____

Date service performed: _____ Number of hours of service: _____

Name of non-profit organization: _____

Email contact for organization: _____

Organization street address: _____

Organization city, state, ZIP: _____

Organization phone number: _____

Brief description of community service (what exactly did you do?): _____

Were you paid, rewarded or required to do this service? _____

Are you a member of the organization that benefited from the service? _____

Are these hours being submitted for credit anywhere besides the HHS YES program? _____

***Signature of organizational representative:** _____

****Before signing this form, please verify that the name, date and number of hours worked have all been filled in. If there are multiple dates, the student must attach a log with dates and number of hours worked on each date.***

Signature of student: _____ Date: _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____

Please make a copy of this for your records

Student Name: _____ ID # _____

Class	Sem 1	Sem 2	Yr	Class	Sem 1	Sem 2
English				Other		
English 1 (EOC)	_____	_____	___	Speech (.5)	_____	_____
4 English 2 (EOC)	_____	_____	___	Fine Arts (1.0)	_____	_____
English 3	_____	_____	___			
English 4	_____	_____	___	***** **		
*****Math*****						Yr
Algebra 1 (EOC)	_____	_____	___	Foreign Lang 1	_____	_____
4 Geometry	_____	_____	___	Foreign Lang 2	_____	_____
Math Models	_____	_____	___			
Algebra 2	_____	_____	___	*****		
AMDM \ Pre-Calculus	_____	_____	___			
Calculus \ Statistics	_____	_____	___	PE (1.0)	_____	_____
				(up to 4credits)	_____	_____
*****Science*****				Health	_____	_____
IPC – (DAP?)	_____	_____	___	*****		
Biology (EOC)	_____	_____	___			
4 Chemistry	_____	_____	___	Electives (5.0)	_____	_____
Physics	_____	_____	___			
_____	_____	_____	___			
_____	_____	_____	___			
*****Social Studies*****						
W. Geo	_____	_____	___			
4 W. History	_____	_____	___			
US History (EOC)	_____	_____	___			
Govt \ Econ	_____	_____	___			

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Review Dates and Initials _____