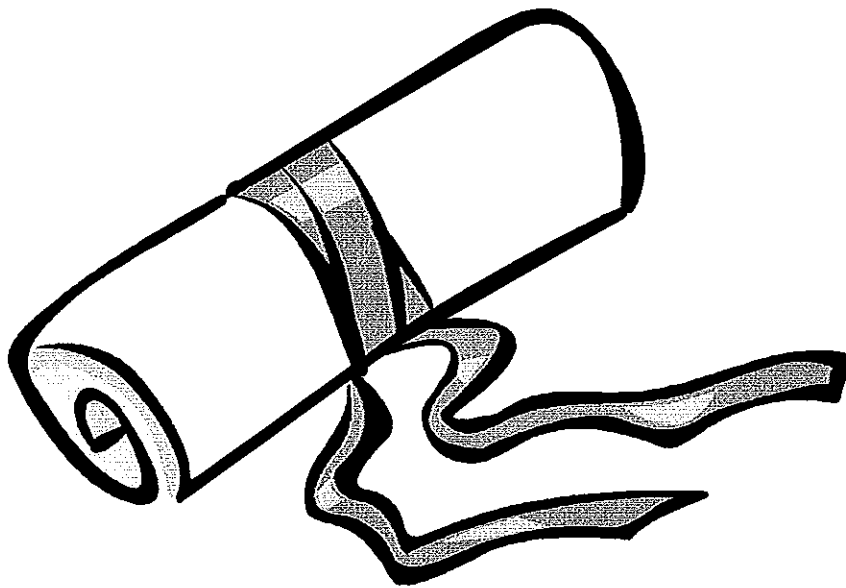


Juniors Class of 2016



College & Career Readiness

JUNIORS

Plan Ahead & Always Be Prepared!

August—September:

You are now halfway through your high school career! It is very important to make sure you are taking the correct classes to meet your graduation plan as well as to meet college entrance requirements. Review your plan and update it as needed. Continue your extracurricular activities including volunteer work. By now you've made a strong commitment to one or more activities and you should be working towards leadership roles. Keep your information organized in Naviance.

October:

Take the PSAT/NMSQT. Your performance on PSAT may qualify you for National merit Scholarship awards in your senior year. Continue working on the list of all the colleges that interest you and make sure you understand the admission requirements. Research the career that interests you and determine what college majors will help you reach your goal. Continue to research scholarships. Register to take either the SAT or ACT (or both) in the Spring.

November—December:

Visit colleges and talk to college students. This will continue to give you an insight of what to expect and helpful hints straight from the source. Start finalizing your college list and decide which universities are the best choices and a match for you. Choose your top five and make sure they are on your "Colleges I'm Applying to" list in Naviance. Use your PSAT scores to help start preparing for your SAT exam. There are some scholarships you can apply for this year, make sure you meet all the deadlines—and keep a photocopy of everything you submit.

January—May:

Update your graduation plan and plan your senior year courses very carefully. Make sure you are meeting all of the graduation requirements. Register for any AP exams you will take in May. Take the SAT or ACT, and register for another one before the school year ends if you feel you can do better. Visit several college campuses and ask questions while you are there. Check your GPA and Rank.

Summer:

Research and apply for scholarships. Gather information for your college applications and know your deadlines! 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. Now is also a good time to start researching the FAFSA.

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.

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.collegeforalltexans.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

UPCOMING EVENTS

EOC Testing—December 1-5

Financial Aid Parent Night—Dec. 9, 2014; 6-8pm

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.

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

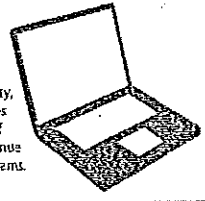
A lot of factors go into choose a college. It is important that you select a school that is right for YOU! Here are a few things you should take into consideration when creating your college list:

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

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.

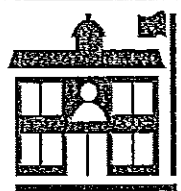
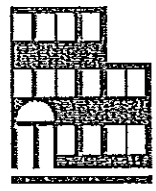


Campus Institution

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.

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.

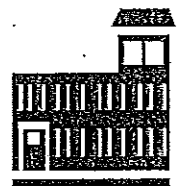


State College

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.

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.



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

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

Top Questions to ask:

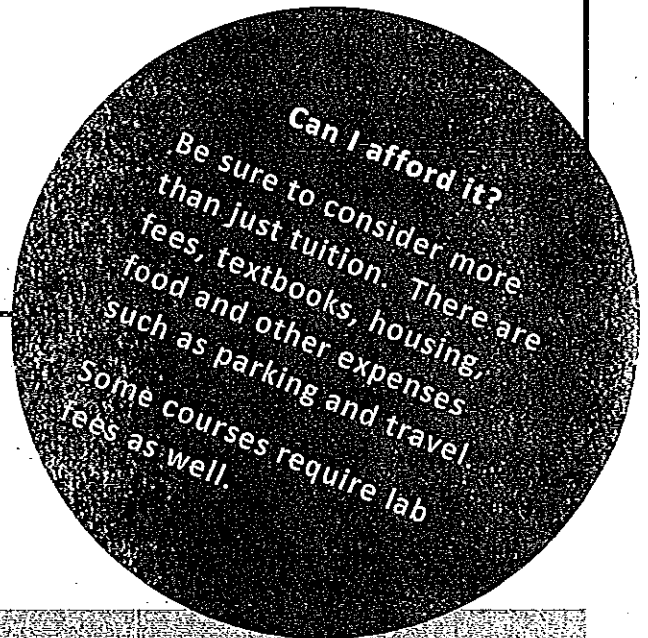
1. Do I want to attend a college in another state?
2. Do they have my major?
3. Are there opportunities for internship near the college?
4. What types of financial aid does the university offer? Are there jobs available on campus?
5. Are any faculty members nationally recognized by professional organizations?
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?

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

ACT vs SAT: Key differences between the ACT and SAT

From <http://www.studydrive.com/ed/act-vs-sat/>

ACT vs SAT: which test is a better fit for your student? Students may take whichever test they prefer (assuming there are available testing locations for both tests). If you're not sure which test your child would prefer, consider the key differences between the ACT and SAT. Some students find that the ACT caters to their strengths more so than the SAT, and vice versa.

Need a quick side-by-side comparison of the tests? Check out our ACT vs SAT Comparison Chart.

SAT	vs.	ACT
reasoning test	Type of Test	content-based test
Critical Reading: 2, 25-min sections and 1, 20-min section; Math: 2, 25-min sections and 1, 20-min section; Writing: 1, 25-min essay, 1, 25-min section, and 1, 10-min section	Test Format	English: 1, 45-min section; Math: 1, 60-min section; Reading: 1, 35-min section; Science: 1, 35-min section; Writing: 1, 30-min essay (optional)
reading, vocabulary, grammar & usage, writing, and math	Content Covered	grammar & usage, math, reading, science reasoning, and writing (optional)
tricky, questions can be phrased in ways that make them difficult to decipher	Test Style	straightforward, questions may be long but are usually less difficult to decipher
Math, Critical Reading, and Writing scores will each range between a 200-800; total SAT score ranges between 600-2400	Scoring	English, Math, Reading, and Science scores will each range between 1-36. Composite ACT score is the average of your scores on the four sections; ranges between 1-36
yes – you lose ¼ of a point for incorrect answers (except on the grid-in math questions)	Penalty for Wrong Answers?	no – you do not lose points for incorrect answers
yes – you can choose which set(s) of SAT scores to submit to colleges	Score Choice?	yes – you can choose which set(s) of ACT scores to submit to colleges
questions increase in difficulty level as you move through that question type in a section (except reading passage questions, which progress chronologically through the passage)	Difficulty Levels	difficulty level of the questions is random
arithmetic, data analysis, algebra I and II, functions, geometry; formulas are provided in the test booklet	Math Levels	arithmetic, algebra I and II, functions, geometry, trigonometry; no formulas are provided
with private schools and schools on the east and west coasts; however, every four-year college in the US accepts SAT scores	Tends to be more popular?	with public schools and schools in the Midwest and south; however, every four-year college in the US accepts ACT scores
seven times per year: January, March or April, May, June, October, November, December	Offered when?	six times per year: February, April, June, September, October, December (note that some states offer the ACT as part of their state testing requirements; these tests are not administered on the national test dates)
typically about four weeks before the test date	Registration deadline?	typically about five to six weeks before the test date
www.collegeboard.com	More Information	www.act.org

HHS TESTING DATES

SAT

Saturday, October 11, 2014

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Saturday, May 2, 2015

ACT

Saturday, September 13, 2014

Saturday, December 13, 2014

Saturday, April 18, 2015

All School Test Date (registration
details coming soon)

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

9th Graders - PLAN

10th Graders - PSAT

11th Graders - PSAT

12th Graders - ASVAB

Credit by Exams (2nd Saturday of every
Month)

After you have ordered your exam, sign up
with your Counselor. **Last day to take a
CBE is April 10, 2015. ** Note - Honor
Graduates must have taken their CBE by
March 6, 2015.

2014-15

SAT[®] and SAT Subject Tests[™] Calendar

Register at sat.org/register

Test Dates*	2014			2015			
	Oct 11	Nov 8	Dec 6	Jan 24	Mar 14	May 2	Jun 6
SAT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SAT Subject Tests					SAT Subject Tests are not offered on this date		
Literature	•	•	•	•		•	•
Biology E/M, Chemistry, Physics	•	•	•	•		•	•
Mathematics Levels I and II	•	•	•	•		•	•
United States (U.S.) History	•	•	•	•		•	•
World History			•				•
Languages: Reading Only							
French, Spanish	•		•	•		•	•
German, Modern Hebrew							•
Latin			•				•
Italian			•				•
Languages with Listening <i>You may take only one listening test on this date.</i>							
Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish		•					

* Sunday tests are given the next day, except for Oct. 19, which has been moved a week later to avoid conflict with a religious holiday. Please visit sat.org/register for the most up-to-date information.

Be sure to review the test calendar carefully as not all subjects are offered on every test date. The SAT Subject Tests offered on each test date are subject to change. Please check online for the latest test schedule.

Registration Deadlines	2014			2015			
	Oct 11	Nov 8	Dec 6	Jan 24	Mar 14	May 2	Jun 6
Regular Registration Deadline	Sep 12	Oct 9	Nov 6	Dec 29	Feb 13	Apr 6	May 8
Late Registration Deadline, Paper	Sep 26	Oct 24	Nov 21	Jan 9	Feb 27	Apr 17	May 22
Late Registration Deadline, Online and Phone	Sep 30	Oct 28	Nov 24	Jan 13	Mar 3	Apr 21	May 27

Deadlines expire at 11:59 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time.



The ACT[®]



**You've
got
this.**

Every time you go to class you're preparing for the ACT.

Based on actual high school curriculum

Accepted by all four-year colleges and universities in the US

Access to free and affordable test preparation materials

Writing Test is optional

2014|2015 ACT test dates

Test Date Registration Deadline** Late Registration Period** Photo Upload Deadline
(Late Fee Required)

September 13, 2014	August 8	August 9–22	September 5
October 25, 2014	September 19	Sept. 20–Oct. 3	October 17
December 13, 2014	November 7	November 8–21	December 5
February 7, 2015*	January 9	January 10–16	January 30
April 18, 2015	March 13	March 14–27	April 10
June 13, 2015	May 8	May 9–22	June 5

* No test centers are scheduled in New York for the February test date.

** If you miss the regular deadline, you can register during the late period but must pay the additional nonrefundable late fee.

Note that all materials sent by mail must be RECEIVED by the last date of the late period, regardless of when they are postmarked.

TEST FEES

ACT No Writing \$38.00

ACT Plus Writing \$54.50

Check our website to see if the colleges you are considering require or recommend the ACT Writing Test.

If you cannot afford the test fee, ask your counselor if you are eligible for a fee waiver.

If you miss the late registration deadline for a test date, you can still try to test standby.

Sign up today.

www.actstudent.org/start



Scholarship Guide

Master the Basics

Where to start

- **Go online** and take advantage of free scholarship matching services such as www.fastweb.com for local, regional, state, national awards and college-specific scholarships.
- **Ask** your school guidance counselor about local, private and corporate sponsorships.
- **Search** your community. There are many philanthropic and non-profit organizations that may offer awards. Visit your school or local public library to research scholarships. Ask your parents' employers and unions if they sponsor scholarships for children of employees.

How to prepare

- **Get organized** and keep the scholarships you are working on separate from those you have not started. Use a calendar to keep track of dates and deadlines or the status tool available on Fastweb.
- **Know your time frame to apply.** Complete and submit the easiest scholarships first. Then focus on the scholarships with earlier deadlines and ones that may require more time. Allow plenty of time when requesting letters of recommendation.

Submit your application

- **Remember** to check your spelling and grammar.
- **Proofread your materials** and have a teacher, parent or friend review your application and essay if submitting online or by mail. They can provide feedback and catch mistakes.
- **Keep a copy** of your application, if you submitted paper or electronic copy.

The Scholarship Essay/Application

Before you begin:

- Develop a theme that fits the scholarship. Learn about the scholarship provider's mission and goals. Tailor your essay/application to complement the sponsor's expectations. For example, if the provider is interested in community service, highlight ways you impact your campus community and your community at large within your essay. Here are a few topic ideas:

Personal achievements

- Talk about specific interactions you had with others. Sponsors want to know the impact you had on others and what this says about "you". Do you still keep in touch with anyone you've helped? How did you influence their lives?
- How did your achievements reflect your values? Why are your achievements important to you? Did you do something that received high praise or recognition?
- Personalize your experience. For example, what makes the volunteer and community service you've performed unique? What made you stand out?

Academic plans and possible major

- Instead of saying, "Science is my favorite subject," discuss a *specific* assignment or project that you worked on that sparked your interest. Give examples.
- Avoid saying that you selected a major or career path to "help people." What specific actions can you take to improve the lives of others? Discuss how your values are relevant to what you will be studying in college.

Social issues and current events

- Think about current issues or events in the news that you feel strongly about.
- Do you know a lot about a controversial topic?
- Do you know of someone who is directly involved in an issue who might be able to provide insight?

Mentors, admirers and influences

- Think about your friends and family, community and the things you've learned outside of the classroom. Pick specific people, incidents and learning experiences to write about that will let your personality come through.
- Is there a person you aspire to be like within your chosen academic major or career path? Someone who encouraged you to succeed?
- Focus on specific qualities or actions that the person has inspired in you.

What Do Judges or Evaluators Look For?

Do you qualify? Every year, students waste time by applying for awards they aren't eligible to win. If you don't meet the eligibility criteria, don't enter!

Is your application presented well? Type your essay and check for grammar and spelling errors. Place the application, essay and other contents in a large folder for mailing. Do not fold any of the materials.

Did you include all required documents? Make sure you include all required academic transcripts, references and letters of recommendation. When selecting individuals to provide you a letter of recommendation, be sure you know them very well and give them ample time to provide you a letter and provide them a self addressed stamped envelope, if it will be mailed.

Did you answer all of the questions? Double-check that you haven't forgotten any required information.

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 _____