

Class of 2015

**COLLEGE
INFORMATION NIGHT**

Why Go To College

To fulfill your potential

Increase your knowledge of the world

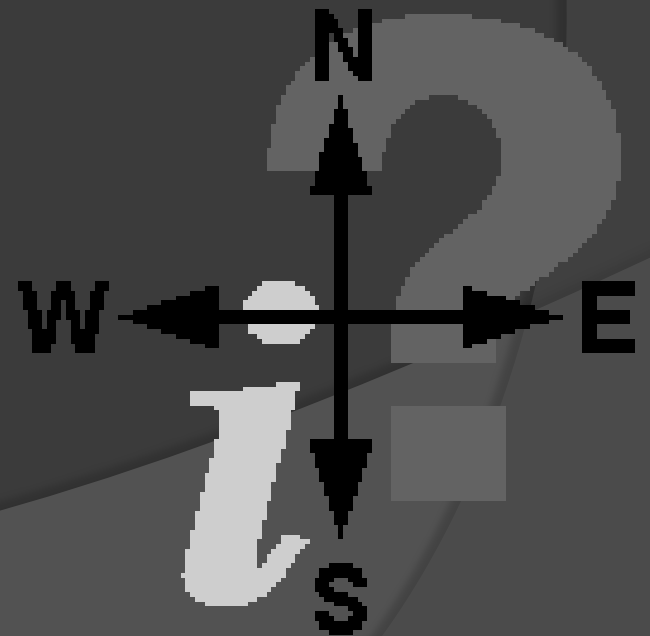
More job opportunities

More money

Benefits Of Completing College

- College graduates, on average, make a whopping one million dollars more in lifetime earnings than those with a high school diploma.
- Health and Happiness
- More opportunities
- Fulfill your potential

WHERE DO I BEGIN?



Set Yourself up for Success!

- Focus on your school work
- Realize grades are important
- Manage your time
- Be informed
- Start your college search now
- Schedule Entrance Testing
- Prepare for testing
- Investigate financial aid

PSAT

- When: October 16
- What: Measures the critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills students need to succeed in college
- Why: Benefits to students
 - Personal Academic Achievement
 - College Planning Tools
(www.collegeboard.org/quickstart)
 - Scholarship Opportunities
 - SAT Preparation
 - Information from Colleges

College Admissions Tests: SAT

- SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)
 - Consists of three tests: Verbal, Math, and Writing
 - Each test is scored on a scale of 200-800
 - Test registration: www.collegeboard.com

College Admissions Tests: SAT Subject Tests

⦿ SAT –Subject Tests

- Required by selective Colleges
- Some colleges and universities use these tests for course placement
- Taken on the same day as SAT
- Register: www.collegeboard.com

College Admissions Test: ACT

- ACT (American College Tests)
 - Consists of four tests: English, Math, Reading, Science and Writing
 - Writing component is optional
 - Test Registration: www.act.org

College Admissions Test: THEA

- ◎ THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment)
 - Used by Junior Colleges
 - Exemptions: SAT Score: 1070, ACT Score: 23

Test Registration

- Take at least one SAT/ACT by the Spring of Junior Year
- Register online
- School Code or CEEB: **446026**

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

Know Your Self

- Values
- Ambitions
- Achievements
- Academic Strengths
- Interests
- Standout talents

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

College Visits

- Purpose
- Scheduling Visits
- Interview
- Questions to Ask

College Visits: Purpose

- See facilities firsthand
- Conduct an interview
- Visit surrounding community
- Speak with students

College Visits: Scheduling the Visit

- Junior year
- Open house dates
- When a college is in session
- Schedule campus tour and possible interview

College Visits: Interview

- Schedule ahead of visit
- Only opportunity in process to present yourself as in person
- Information session
- Be prepared with questions
- Mock interview for practice
- Present yourself well
- Post Interview-Write a thank you note

College Visit: Questions to Ask

- What is distinctive about the college?
- Academic programs available?
- Class Size? Teacher-Student Ratio?
- Support services? Career development?
- Extra-Curricular activities? Student life?
- Residence life?
- Campus employment?

Applying to College

- You will be working with three offices
 1. Admissions
 2. Scholarships/Financial Aid
 3. Housing

ADMISSIONS

Applying to College: Admissions

◎ Terminology

- **Open Admissions**- College accepts all students with a high school diploma and qualifying entrance exam.
- **Regular Admissions**- Applications accepted by a specific deadline, reviewed by college admissions, and applicant receives notification in April.

Applying to College: Admissions

◎ Terminology

- **Early Decision**- Earlier application deadline than regular pool, students are notified in December/January and if accepted you are required to withdraw all other applications. Do not apply for early decision at more than one college.
- **Early Action**- Similar to Early Decision but it is non-binding, thus you can apply to multiple colleges and compare financial aid

Applying to College: Admissions

◎ Application Process

- Follow Directions carefully
- Each school will specify which parts of the application they require
- Application fees vary by college
- Do not leave anything blank
- Spend considerable times on the essays
- Always be truthful
- Transcript requests with Parchment
- Request recommendation letters two weeks prior to deadline

Applying to College: Admissions

- ① www.applytexas.org
- ① www.commonapp.org
- ① Download from college website

Applying to College: Admissions

- ◎ Tips for Completing Applications
 - Consistently use your full legal name and social security or ID#
 - Make copies of application for “rough draft” purposes
 - Be sure to mail/submit online all forms by deadlines
 - Colleges don’t accept “late work”!

Applying to College: Admissions

- ◎ What information do college admissions review?
 - Grades/Overall GPA
 - Strength in high school course selections
 - Admission test score
 - Essay
 - Teacher and counselor recommendations
 - Class rank
 - Student demonstrated interest
 - Personal accomplishments
 - Personality characteristics
 - Courses in progress Junior and Senior year

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS



Applying to College: Types of Financial Aid

- Grants/Scholarships
- Institutional Aid
- Federal Aid
- State Aid
- Loans
- Employment Opportunities

Applying to College: Financial Aid Forms

- FAFSA- Begin completing FAFSA form on January 1 of senior year-the sooner the better! (www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- College Specific Forms
- CSS Profile at www.collegeboard.com

Financial Aid forms have their own deadlines. Be careful not to miss them!

Applying to College: Scholarships

⦿ Resources

- College Specific Scholarship
- Organization or Employer Sponsored
- Internet Resources

Your best source of Scholarships is the College you are accepted to. Apply early and pay attention to deadlines

WARNING!!



*I'll give you a
scholarship for a price*

Applying for College: Housing

- Some colleges require on campus living for freshman
- An application and deposit are usually required
- Some colleges only accept housing applications from admitted students
- Many colleges have housing shortages
- Apply early!!

Applying to Colleges: Athletes

⦿ NCAA Clearinghouse

- Must register to play Division I or Division II athletics
- www.ncaaclaringhouse.net
- Cost is approximately \$70
- Spring of Junior Year

⦿ NAIA Clearinghouse

- Must register to play at an NAIA school
- www.playnaia.org
- Cost is approximately \$70

Feeling Overwhelmed



Timeline: Juniors

- Take the SAT and or ACT by the Spring
- Research colleges
- Narrow your College choices to 3-5
- Take College Visits
- Start scholarship searches
- Stay focused on academics
- Stay involved in school activities
- Senior year course selection

Timeline: Seniors

- Narrow down list
- Make any final campus visits
- Complete FAFSA
- Complete all required materials for colleges
- Continue to apply for scholarships
- Campus-Based Aid

Useful websites

- www.collegeboard.com – plethora of college information
- Fastweb.com- private scholarships
- Studentaid.ed.gov-the federal government's website about paying for college
- Finaid.org- free student resource for learning about all types of financial aid

College Fairs

- ◎ National College Fair
 - Tuesday, February 11, 2014
 - Austin Convention Center
- ◎ RRISD College Fair
 - Thursday, September 26, 6:00-8:00
 - 1100 Bldg

Final Words of Encouragement

- Do your research
- Talk to your parents
- Seek God

You Can't Go Wrong If You Do!