

# COLLEGE

## 10<sup>TH</sup> Coffee with the Counselors

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# TYPES OF COLLEGES



Public Universities

Private Universities

Community Colleges

Technical Colleges

United States Military Academies

# SELECTIVITY SPECIFICS

- Highly Selective Colleges (ie. Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, Rice)  
Admit fewer than 10% of applicants...in addition to strong academics, may also require additional testing and interviews.
- Selective Colleges (ie. SMU, A&M, UT, OU, UTD)  
Accept 40-50% of applicants; Mostly students ranked in the top 10 -25% with strong test scores (at least 1100 or 24).
- Somewhat Selective Colleges (ie. SFA, Texas Tech, Texas State)  
Accept 60-75% of applicants; mostly students in the top 50% with average test scores (at least 1020 or 21).
- Non-Selective Colleges (ie. Collin College, technical/trade schools)  
Accept 100% of applicants; \*\*no SAT/ACT needed

*Schools are selective because they receive more applications than they have seats in their freshman class, not necessarily because they have higher standards or better professors.*

# ADMISSIONS APPROACHES

- ❑ Open Admissions – no GPA or test score requirements
- ❑ Texas Top 10% Automatic Admission (UT Austin exception)
- ❑ Assured Admissions – sliding scale of rank and test score criteria
- ❑ Holistic Review – academic record, test scores, essays, extracurriculars, leadership, letters of recommendation, (possible) interviews, etc. are considered
- ❑ Transfer Admissions – detour, but end at the same place

# Assured Admissions

## Texas Tech example:

Class Rank	Test Scores*	
	ACT	SAT
Top 10%	No minimum	
First Quarter (excluding top 10%)	24	1180
Second Quarter	26	1260
Third Quarter	27	1290
Fourth Quarter	Application Review	



# Top Factors in College Admissions

taken from [collegedata.com](http://collegedata.com)

## Considerable Importance

- Grades in College Prep Courses
- Strength of Curriculum
- ACT/SAT Test Scores
- Grades in All Courses

## Moderate Importance

- Extracurricular *commitment/leadership*
- Letters of Rec
- Essay
- Demonstrated Interest
- Class Rank

\*Fewer than 50% of American high schools rank.

\*School districts vary in how GPA is calculated.

\*For holistic reviews, colleges often recalculate GPA based on which courses they feel are most important.

# Things to Consider...

- Admissions priorities vary by college
  - Essay & demonstrated interest may carry more weight at liberal arts colleges
  - Highly selective/prestigious universities attract thousands of outstanding students, making the “moderately important” factors critical in distinguishing between them
- Uncontrollable factors: institutional needs
  - Balance (diversity in gender, race, origin)
  - Programs (growth, limitations)
  - Specialized vacancies (athletics, fine arts, etc.)

Deciding which 14 % [now 6.3%] of the applicants would get the golden ticket was really tough work. Once the children of alumni, recruited athletes, underrepresented minorities or regions and students interested in underenrolled majors were considered, there wasn't much room for your generic genius. -- Former Yale Admissions Officer

**Brain Break**

**GPA Game**

# COLLEGE APPLICATION OVERVIEW

- ✓ Take college exams; send in scores (directly from those agencies)
- ✓ College visits
- ✓ Apply on-line
- ✓ Pay application fee (~\$20-\$90)
- ✓ Request transcript at [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com)
- ✓ Apply for FSA ID [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- ✓ Apply FAFSA on-line after Oct 1<sup>st</sup>
- ✓ Apply for housing
- ✓ Compare offers in Spring (May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline)
- ✓ Notify schools of your decision
- ✓ Take TSI if needed

With the exception of taking SAT/ACT, and visiting colleges, these steps are completed SENIOR year.

# TESTING, TESTING, TESTING!

- College Admissions Tests – ACT/SAT
  - Universities require either; many students take both.
  - Use school code **442- 633**
  - Register online
  - Name on registration must match legal name on photo ID student will bring to the test (DL, passport, current year school ID)
  - Unless very ahead in math, recommend take during Spring of Jr. year for the first time, repeated Fall of Senior year if needed

- Placement Exam – TSI (Texas Success Initiative)
  - No impact on admissions
  - Only for Texas public schools (both 2- and 4-year)
  - Can be exempt with strong SAT or ACT scores
  - Taken after applying to college and before orientation (Senior year)



# PSAT/NMSQT – Sophomores & Juniors

- Given to predict success on the SAT Test and to qualify for National Merit scholarships (11<sup>th</sup> Grade)

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- Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>
  - No registration required
  - A calculator will be provided to Juniors; Sophomores may bring one from home or test without
  - Practice books were distributed earlier this week.

***Freshman and Seniors are not testing, and should report to the cafeteria at 12:30.***

# PREPARING FOR ACT & SAT

- Link on the homepage of Family Connection directs you to free and inexpensive test prep resources for SAT & ACT.

**\*\*KHAN ACADEMY\*\***

- Face to face classes available on FISD campuses through partnership with Princeton Review.

[www.princetonreview.com/partner/frisco-isd](http://www.princetonreview.com/partner/frisco-isd)

# APPLICATIONS

*Links to the applications are available on the individual university or college's website.*

- Apply Texas – all Texas public schools (2- & 4-year). [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)
- Common Application – Single application for 500 private schools and some public like OU. [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- Individual School Application – Used only at a particular school. Available on the school's website.

# TERMS TO KNOW

Early Decision – binding agreement; students should only do this for the school they will absolutely attend if accepted

Early Action – submit applications for early consideration; not binding

Waitlist – admission still possible if space becomes available

Deferred – permission granted by a college to postpone enrollment

*See glossary of college terminology link on Family Connection.*

# TRANSCRIPTS

- Parchment.com - all transcript requests!!
- The first 3 electronic transcripts are free. Beyond that, \$3 each. For colleges not accepting electronic transcripts from Parchment, the first 3 paper transcripts are \$2.50; beyond that, \$5.50 each
- Transcripts are requested after applications are submitted
- Rank will be updated beginning mid-September

# LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Public schools typically don't require letters of rec.
- Counselor letters of rec are required by Common App (private) schools.
- Counselors require additional information from students to write a letter (yellow form)
- Teacher letters of rec may be required by some highly selective schools.
- Teacher letters of rec are done through Family Connection.
- Allow 10 school days for a letter of rec request once the yellow form has been turned in.
- Letters are confidential and are **NEVER** released to a student or parent. They are sent directly to the college/scholarship committee.

## Apply to 3-5 “Good Fit” Colleges by Thanksgiving!

### Senior Year

- Reach** – admissions criteria are somewhat beyond the student’s credentials (all highly selective schools fall into this category)
- Match** – admissions criteria match your credentials fairly closely (easiest to identify with Assured Admissions)
- Safety** – admissions criteria are below your credentials

**BEAT, DON'T MEET DEADLINES!**

# COLLEGE VISITS

- Call the college for an appointment
- Check web for Preview Days
- Go when students are in session, if at all possible.  
FISD student holidays.
- Bring a list of questions (see FC for ideas)
- Get paper documentation from Admissions Office
- Two excused absences are allowed in 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades for documented college visits

# \$\$\$ PAYING FOR COLLEGE \$\$\$

- Scholarships, Loans, Grants
- Go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and request a FSA ID. You and your child will each need one as your electronic signature. FAFSA is the starting point for financial aid from your college! Use 2016 tax info.
- Don't think you'll qualify? Check out the FAFSA Forecaster link on Family Connection. You might be surprised!
- FEF Scholarship Application opens Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> and closes Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Financial Aid Info – search for “financial aid” at [www.friscoisd.org](http://www.friscoisd.org)

## On Free or Reduced Lunch?

- Two free fee waivers for SAT Test (11-12)
- Two free fee waivers for the SAT Subject Test (11-12)
- Four SAT score report credits to send scores to colleges (12)
- Two free fee waivers for ACT (11-12)
- Four free College Application Fee waivers (12)
- Reduced fees for AP testing (9-12)
- Fee waiver for NCAA Eligibility Center (11-12)
- Free Collin College tuition for all dual credit courses taken (12)

# POTENTIAL COLLEGE ATHLETES

Athletes wanting to play D1/D2 sports in college need to complete their NCAA paperwork at the close of Junior year or beginning of Senior year.

Go to [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) for forms and information.

## CAREER INVENTORY TEST- ASVAB

- Could be useful in deciding on a major
- Can be used for military enlistment purposes, but open to anyone as a career test.
- CTE Center after school on October 17th or April 17th
- Students will receive an **email** from the CTE Counselor when it is time to sign up.

# ACTION ITEMS

## *Sophomores*

- Make good grades
- Take PSAT on Oct. 11
- Use FC to research colleges & careers
- Join clubs & organizations
- Volunteer
- Use FC to take personality tests & career inventories
- Attend College Fair in January

## *Juniors*

- Make good grades
- Take PSAT on Oct. 11
- Use FC to research colleges & careers
- Remain active in clubs & organizations
- Volunteer
- Visit colleges
- Take SAT and/or ACT
- Register with NCAA (athletes)
- Attend College Fair in January, if not in September

## *Seniors*

- Make good grades
- Apply to 3-5 schools (more if all highly selective)
- Retake SAT/ACT if needed
- Remain active in clubs & organizations
- Volunteer
- Visit colleges
- Complete FAFSA
- Apply for scholarships
- Graduate!!

# Helping vs. Doing

## HELPING

- making a schedule for the application process, in conjunction with your student
- proofreading/editing the college essay
- collaborating with your student to generate questions for him/her to ask the Admissions Office

## DOING

- making a schedule for the application process without input from your student
- writing or changing the college essay
- contacting the Admissions Office yourself to ask questions

# Why Your Child Should be in the Driver's Seat

- They are capable and prepared.
- They are in training.
- Your relationship is evolving.
- It makes an impression to the college.
- It will build confidence.
- You're still in the car, but as a support.



# Family Connection -- One Stop Shop

\*Log in with Student ID and 8 digit birthdate

- Links (different by grade level)
- College Search
- Scattergrams
- Do What You Are

Learn Something Useful Today?

**Tweet about it  
and mention  
@Cen10Titans**