

**Senior Handbook
2016 - 2017**

Paving the Path for Your Future



HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

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INTRODUCTION

The Counseling Department of Heritage High School has compiled helpful resources and information regarding postsecondary options to ensure that our students have achieved college and career readiness.

Whether a student is interested in entering a two- or four-year college after graduation or plans to pursue a technical degree, military, or the workforce, the information in this handbook along with the information provided each year during fall guidance will help lead toward personal pursuits. This handbook includes what colleges look for, how to find college information, how to decide which admissions testing is the best fit, what is considered as admissions requirements, how to determine college costs, and how to pursue technical, military, and workforce opportunities.

The first step for all of our Heritage students is to research careers and college information by logging in to Family Connection (Naviance®). We also encourage students to complete the Career Interest Profiler and Do What You Are® to assist with narrowing career pathways. Students may also watch Roadtrip Nation interviews of leaders who have built their lives around their interests.

Students, please spend time reading this handbook and sharing the information with your family as you consider your postsecondary plans.



The goal is not necessarily to have students pick occupations, but to have them begin to make stronger connections between what they are learning and what they are interested in doing with their lives.
David T. Conley
Author

Class of 2017 Graduation Plan FISD Options
26 Credits Required

RECOMMENDED PLAN

4 credits	English	English 1, 2, 3, 4
4 credits	Math	Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, 4 th year -or- Algebra 1, Geometry, Math Models, Algebra 2
4 credits	Science	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, 4 th year -or- Biology, IPC, Chemistry, Physics
4 credits	Social Studies	W. Geog, W. History, US History, Govt/Economics
2 credits	Foreign Lang	2 Years Same Language
1 credit	Technology	BIM, DIM, DGA, Computer Science, Computer Maintenance, Journalism, Photojournalism, TV Broadcast, Intro to Eng Design
1 credit	Fine Art	Art, Theater Arts, Choir, Band, Dance, Orchestra, DGA, Elements of Floral Design
.5 credit	Speech	Professional Communications
.5 credit	Health	Health or Health Science I
1 credit	P.E.	P.E., Athletics/Training, Fall Band, Fall Color Guard, Drill Team, Cheer, Dance (not an option for athletes)
4 credits	Electives	

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PLAN

4 credits	English	English 1, 2, 3, 4
4 credits	Math	Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, 4 th year -or- Algebra 1, Geometry, Math Models, Algebra 2
4 credits	Science	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, 4 th year -or- Biology, IPC, Chemistry, Physics
4 credits	Social Studies	W. Geog, W. History, US History, Govt/Economics
3 credits	Foreign Lang	3 Years Same Language
1 credit	Technology	BIM, DIM, DGA, Computer Science, Computer Maintenance, Journalism, Photojournalism, TV Broadcast, Intro to Eng Design
1 credit	Fine Art	Art, Theater Arts, Choir, Band, Dance, Orchestra, DGA, Elements of Floral Design
.5 credit	Speech	Professional Communications
.5 credit	Health	Health or Health Science I
1 credit	P.E.	P.E., Athletics/Training, Fall Band, Fall Color Guard, Drill Team, Cheer, Dance (not an option for athletes)
3 credits	Electives	

Distinguished also requires 4 Advanced Measures (combination of the following):

- *AP exam score of 3 or better*
- *PSAT commended or higher*
- *Dual credit with B or better*
- *Advanced technical courses with B or better*
- *Original research project (ISM)*

Making Decisions

Assessing your interests and goals is an important step to choosing a career path. Family Connection (Naviance®) and BigFuture by The College Board are available for you to explore your interests and abilities.

Family Connection (Naviance®) – FISD provides our students free online access to a career profiler and multimedia interviews, an interest assessment tool, personality assessment which provides career match possibilities, college and university searches, scholarship searches and a personal planning tool for setting goals. This site is also where GPA, rank, and test scores can be located.

BigFuture by The College Board – College Board provides students with an online opportunity to create a step-by-step college plan, find out about financial aid opportunities, explore careers, and search for college information.

Other Helpful Sites – Many internet sites provide self-assessment and career exploration. Some of those include:

College for Texans	http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/
College Majors 101	http://www.collegemajors101.com/
Destination College	http://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/explore/destinationcollege/
eCampusTours.com	http://www.ecampustours.com/
Reality Check	http://www.texasrealitycheck.com/
Texas Work Force	http://www.twc.state.tx.us/
U. S. Department of Labor	http://www.bls.gov/oco/



College Admission Requirements

The *best preparation* for attending **ANY** college or university *lies in planning ahead*. Reviewing admissions standards can help you select the courses you need to meet your educational goals. By learning as much as possible in high school, you'll give yourself the best chance for success in college. Take the college-preparatory curriculum, which is called the "Recommended Program" or "Distinguished Achievement Program," as your foundation and add additional rigorous courses as your schedule permits. Although these courses may be more challenging than other courses, they will put you well on your way to success.

College admissions requirements include an application submitted by the college's deadline along with a fee, transcript, college admissions scores (SAT or ACT), essays, and possibly letters of recommendation from teachers and/or your counselor. Most colleges do not require letters of recommendation; however, you should consider who might write you the best letter of recommendation in case a letter is needed. Check with the admissions office at a particular college to find out about other, more specific requirements. Go to Family Connection® to link to specific colleges.

Three types of applications:

- Two- or Four-Year Texas Public School Application: www.applytexas.org
- Common Application (used by private and selective colleges): www.commonapp.org
 - Students are encouraged to use the Common App if available
- Individual College Application (private or out of state not using Common App)

Requesting Transcripts:

Sign up at Parchment.com by entering your basic information. Click the + sign to search and add Heritage High School as your school. Confirm your enrollment information (expected graduation year is 2017). Complete the FERPA Privacy Rights and choose whether or not you want a viewable version of your transcript in your Parchment account (recommended). Click "Order" and search for a destination college to place a transcript request. Most requests are free. This is the only way that you can request a transcript (transcripts are not mailed from Heritage).

Requesting College Admissions Scores (SAT or ACT):

You must request ACT or SAT scores to be sent to colleges directly from the testing agency. If you did not send test scores to a college when you registered for the ACT or SAT, then go to act.org or sat.org to request scores. Unofficial scores are available in Family Connection (Naviance®). Click on the College Tab and click on "Test Scores."

Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Exemption for Texas Public Colleges:

If a student plans to attend a Texas Public College, the student must meet TSI criteria as part of the college admissions process. You can meet TSI criteria by taking the SAT and scoring a combined score of 1070 on critical reading and math with a 500 or better on both the critical reading and math or by taking the ACT and scoring a composite score of 23 with a 19 on the English and math sections. You will be required to take a TSI exam at the college campus if you do not meet TSI criteria. Your college will provide you with further information.

Texas Meningitis Vaccination Law: As of Jan. 1, 2012, State law mandates that first-time college students, students transferring from another institution and students who are re-entering following an absence of at least one fall or spring who are under 30 years old must submit documentation of immunization against bacterial meningitis. (SB 1107 passed during the 82nd Legislative Session).

What Do Colleges Look For?

Academic Record. The most important credential for your college application is your academic record (or transcript). It is important that students challenge themselves. **Grades are important**, and the **level of difficulty** of course curriculum (including Pre-AP and AP) taken during the four years of high school receives close scrutiny by admissions officers. Many colleges use GPA and rank in class as major factors in determining admissions acceptance. **Don't slack off your senior year!**

College Entrance Examination Scores. The SAT and/or ACT college entrance examinations are important because, when considered together with grades and class rank, they constitute a reliable predictor of academic achievement. These tests can be taken more than once, but be sure to check if the institution power scores (uses the best scores from multiple sittings) OR uses only scores from one sitting. Two-year colleges do not require the SAT or ACT for admissions.

Essays. Many colleges require an essay or personal statement as part of the application. The essay can help colleges assess a student's critical thinking and writing abilities, special interests or experiences as well as values, attitudes, life experiences, etc. Your application may designate a specific topic or allow you to choose whatever you want to write about. If an essay is optional, ALWAYS write one – it is your chance to shine. Write about your true passions and interests, and always have others proofread and edit before the essay is submitted.

Extracurricular Activities. Extracurricular activities both at the high school and in the community play an important role in the admissions process. Increasingly, colleges look for students who will make a significant contribution to the college community. Commitment to a club, organization, or program and participating in service opportunities demonstrate passion and persistence.

Recommendations. For some colleges, recommendations are a required part of the college application. Recommendations describe not only achievements and skills but also character, integrity, and patterns of growth. Teacher and counselor recommendations play an important role in the acceptance process, particularly when they are able to provide insight beyond the resume. Heritage High School has an established process for letters of recommendation which will be outlined during senior guidance in the fall.

Interviews. An admission interview may be required or suggested as part of the application process. The interview is a time for college representatives to converse with an applicant to gauge "good fit" for the student as well as for the college.

Decision Type	Definition	Application Type	Commitment	Restriction
Regular Decision	Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated time period.	Nonrestrictive	Nonbinding	Not restricted from applying to other institutions
Rolling Admission	Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.	Nonrestrictive	Nonbinding	Not restricted from applying to other institutions
Early Action	Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.	Nonrestrictive	Nonbinding	Not restricted from applying to other institutions and have longer to confirm enrollment
Early Decision	Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they will enroll. The application and decision deadline typically occur early in the fall semester.	Restrictive	Binding	Must be responsible for determining and following institution guidelines and restrictions
Restrictive Early Action	Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have to respond by a specified date.	Restrictive	Nonbinding	Must be responsible for determining and following institution guidelines and restrictions

Grade Point Average and Class Rank

Courses taken in grades 9 – 12 and courses taken in middle school for high school credit count toward the student’s grade point average and class rank. Rank in class, honor graduate status, valedictorian, and salutatorian determination shall be based on a weighted grade point average (GPA) system. Grade points shall be based on semester grades for courses taken in grades 9–12 and courses taken in middle school for high school credit. The GPA shall be computed to three decimal places. The average of the fourth and fifth six-week grades in the semester prior to graduation shall count as a semester grade for purposes of determining rank, honor graduate status, valedictorian, and salutatorian.

GPA Exempt Courses for the class of 2017 and beyond. All high school credit courses taken during the regular school year shall count toward the GPA, except for the following: aide positions, peer tutoring, PSAT/SAT-prep classes, college credits that are not dual credits, driver’s education, credit by examination credits, and correspondence school courses. No credit or grade points shall be assigned for summer abroad courses such as the People To People program. Note - Successful completion of Fisd Summer School courses may result in credit being awarded, but GPA will not be calculated for the summer school courses.

Weighted Grades. All numeric grades shall be converted to a weighted scale (see chart). No grade points shall be awarded for any grade below a 70. The ACTUAL grade earned in ALL CLASSES will be entered on the report card and the transcript.

FISD Grade Point System

Grade Point	PAP/AP	Dual Credit	Regular
6.0	100		
5.9	99		
5.8	98		
5.7	97		
5.6	96		
5.5	95	100	
5.4	94	99	
5.3	93	98	
5.2	92	97	
5.1	91	96	
5.0	90	95	100
4.9	89	94	99
4.8	88	93	98
4.7	87	92	97
4.6	86	91	96
4.5	85	90	95
4.4	84	89	94
4.3	83	88	93
4.2	82	87	92
4.1	81	86	91
4.0	80	85	90
3.9	79	84	89
3.8	78	83	88
3.7	77	82	87
3.6	76	81	86
3.5	75	80	85
3.4	74	79	84
3.3	73	78	83
3.2	72	77	82
3.1	71	76	81
3.0	70	75	80
2.9	< 70 no points	74	79
2.8		73	78
2.7		72	77
2.6		71	76
2.5		70	75
2.4		< 70 no points	74
2.3			73
2.2			72
2.1			71
2.0			70
			< 70 no points

Top Ten Percent Rule

Under the Automatic Admission policy (Texas Education Code §51.803), Texas students may be eligible for automatic admission to a state college or university as an undergraduate student if they meet certain criteria.

To qualify for automatic admission, a student **must**:

- earn a grade point average in the **top 10 percent*** of his/her high school graduating class at a public or private high school in Texas (or, if the student is a Texas resident, graduate in the top 10 percent of his/her class from a high school operated by the U.S. Department of Defense);
- successfully complete the requirements for the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) or the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP);
- enroll in college no more than two years after graduating high school; **and**
- submit an application and all necessary admission requirements before the deadline set by the college or university to which they are applying.

State colleges and universities may admit a student accepted under the Automatic Admission policy for either the fall semester of the academic year for which the student applied or for the preceding summer session. Additionally, the admitting college or university may require that applicants in need of additional preparation for college-level work enroll in enrichment courses or programs during the summer immediately after the student is admitted.

***The University of Texas at Austin**

Senate Bill 175, passed by the 81st Texas Legislature, allows The University of Texas at Austin to limit automatic admission to 75 percent of the university's enrollment capacity designated for first-time resident undergraduate students.

The University has determined that it will automatically admit all eligible 2017 summer/fall freshman applicants who rank within the top 7% of their high school graduating classes, with remaining spaces to be filled through holistic review.

College Readiness Criteria for Texas Public Universities

State of Texas Uniform Admissions Standards: Per state law, TEC 51.803-51.809, Uniform Admissions Standards (UAS) require that all students meet one of the following college readiness standards in order to be eligible for consideration for admission at a Texas Four-Year Public Institution:

- Successfully complete the curriculum for the Recommended or Distinguished high school program or
- Satisfy the College Readiness Benchmarks on the SAT or ACT assessment
 - SAT – 1500 out of 2400 (critical reading, math and writing)
 - ACT – 18 English, 21 Reading, 22 Math, 24 Science

College Admissions Testing

Most colleges and universities *require* either an **ACT** or **SAT** test *for admission*. They are given on certain *Saturdays* throughout the school year and early summer. **The national test dates and deadlines for the SAT and ACT are listed below. Heritage High School Code: 442 488**

The Counseling office *encourages* all college-bound students to take an **ACT or SAT** by the end of their *junior year*. While it is not encouraged to randomly repeat testing, there are some very good reasons for taking a particular test again. Certain scholarships require a designated minimum score on the **SAT** or **ACT**, as do many universities. Retaking the test **may** improve the student's score.

Students on free or reduced lunch can receive a fee waiver (up to 2) for these tests. Students who use a fee waiver may also request college admissions fee waivers (up to 4). Students need to see their counselor for more information.

SAT: Register at <https://sat.collegeboard.org/home>

Test and Registration Dates: (Starting in March 2016, the new SAT will replace the current SAT.)

SAT Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (late fee applies)
March 5 (Redesigned SAT)	February 5	February 23
May 7 (Redesigned SAT)	April 8	April 26
June 4 (Redesigned SAT)	May 5	May 25
Fall 2017 Test Dates TBA	TBA	TBA

Cost: (fees subject to change)

SAT with Essay (March – June, 2016) - \$54.50

SAT w/o Essay (March – June, 2016) - \$43.00

SAT Subject Tests: Register at <https://sat.collegeboard.org/home>

Some colleges require SAT subject test(s) for admission. Students take the **Subject Tests** to demonstrate to colleges their mastery of specific subjects such as English, History and Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and Language. Check with your college choice to see if SAT Subject Tests are either required or recommended for admission. Fees vary by number and type of tests. Subject Tests are not available on every SAT Date.

ACT: Register at www.actstudent.org

Test and Registration Dates:

ACT Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (late fee applies)
April 9	March 4	March 18
June 11	May 6	May 20
September 10	TBA	TBA

Cost: (fees subject to change)

ACT with Essay (April – June, 2016) - \$56.50

ACT w/o Essay (April – June, 2016) - \$39.50

Test Preparation

Khan Academy[®] - The College Board and the nonprofit Khan Academy[®] have teamed up to provide **FREE**, personalized SAT study resources for all students. Students who have taken the PSAT or SAT have access to **personalized** SAT study resources. Khan Academy[®] provides students with thousands of practice questions, reviewed and approved by the College Board, four official SAT Practice Tests written by the College Board, and personalized recommendations for instruction and practice to help students fill their knowledge gaps.

College Board SAT Practice – College Board provides SAT practice at <https://sat.collegeboard.org/practice>. Get The Official SAT Question of the Day™, check out practice questions in math, critical reading, and writing to test your skills, take an official full-length SAT, and watch tutorial videos.

ACT Practice – ACT provides ACT practice at <http://www.actstudent.org/testprep>. A new ACT question of the day is posted every day and five sets of questions are available for English and mathematics, four sets are available for reading, and seven are available for science. To prepare for the writing test portion of the ACT with writing, a sample writing prompt and responses are provided.

Princeton Review – FISD has a contract with Princeton Review to provide SAT/ACT test preparation at a discount. Many of the classes are offered at Wakeland High School for the convenience of Frisco students. Check the Princeton Review website at <http://www.princetonreview.com> for a list of test prep courses available.

Which Test is Right for You?

NEW SAT vs ACT	
Scores	
The SAT is scored on a scale of 400 – 1600.	The ACT is scored on a scale of 1 – 36.
Questions	
SAT Questions require more time to understand and answer.	ACT questions tend to be more straightforward.
Reading	
The SAT has 5 Reading passages.	The ACT has 4 Reading passages.
Science	
If you are a true science-phobe, the SAT might be a better fit.	The ACT has a Science section that tests your critical thinking skills.
Math	
Both tests now have the SAME advanced math concepts: Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry and Trigonometry	
Tools	
You do NOT get to use a calculator on all the math questions on the SAT.	You get to use a calculator for ALL math questions on the ACT.
Essay	
Both essays are OPTIONAL.	
The SAT essay section is more comprehension focused. Time allowed: 50 minutes	The ACT wants to see how well you can evaluate and analyze complex issues. Time allowed: 40 minutes

Differences and similarities in SAT and ACT courtesy of Princeton Review. Take a FREE Practice Test PrincetonReview.com or call 800-2REVIEW to talk to an Educational Advisor for your test prep needs.



at

Advanced Placement Exams

The Advanced Placement (**AP**) program allows students to *complete college-level studies* while still *in high school*. Students taking AP courses are encouraged to take the appropriate AP exam. Students may receive, based on their examination score, college placement and credit. *Students should check with the college or university they are planning to attend to determine the amount of credit awarded.*

Cost: \$92 (AP Capstone Seminar \$141)

The 2016 AP Exams will be administered over two weeks in May: May 2 through 6 and May 9 through 13. Early testing or testing at times other than those published by the College Board is not permitted under any circumstances.

Week 1	Morning 8 a.m.	Afternoon 12 p.m.	Afternoon 2 p.m.
Monday, May 2	Chemistry Environmental Science	Psychology	
Tuesday, May 3	Computer Science A Spanish Language & Culture	Art History Physics 1: Algebra-Based	
Wednesday, May 4	English Literature & Composition	Physics 2: Algebra-Based	
Thursday, May 5	Calculus AB Calculus BC		
Friday, May 6	United States History	European History Studio Art-Last Day to Submit Digital Portfolios	
Week 2	Morning 8 a.m.	Afternoon 12 p.m.	Afternoon 2 p.m.
Monday, May 9	Biology Music Theory	Physics C: Mechanics	Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
Tuesday, May 10	United State Government & Politics	French Language & Culture Spanish Literature & Culture	
Wednesday, May 11	English Language & Composition	Macroeconomics	
Thursday, May 12	World History	Statistics	
Friday, May 13	Human Geography		

Financial Aid

You hear so much talk about the cost of college, it's easy to be anxious — but how much does it really cost? The short answer is, "it varies." No matter the cost, you should consider your degree as an investment in yourself and your potential.

Tuition refers to the amount of money charged by colleges and universities for attendance. Tuition is used by the university to defray the costs of funding staff and faculty, lab equipment, course offerings, computer systems, facility upkeep, libraries, and to provide a safe and comfortable environment for students. In addition to tuition, you can count on paying fees – fees are used to cover things like access to the school workout facilities, libraries, student centers, computer labs, health centers, and counseling and guidance services.

There are two major categories that universities fall under: public (state-supported), and private (independent) institutions. As a general rule of thumb, state universities are less expensive to attend than their private counterparts. Tuition at a state school can rise dramatically if you are not a resident of that state so don't be confused when researching costs.

FAFSA or CSS Profile: The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the form most commonly used by colleges and universities in the United States. Another form used by some college and universities (mostly private) is the CSS Profile, a service of the CollegeBoard (www.collegeboard.com). A major difference between the FAFSA and the CSS Profile is that the CSS Profile takes home equity (value of your house) into account while the FAFSA does not. Check with your college/colleges to see which form they use. **Even if you do not believe that you will qualify for federal aid, colleges use one or both of these forms to determine your aid package (grants, scholarships, loans, work study, exemptions).**

FAFSA: Available in October at <https://fafsa.ed.gov> (cost is free)

CSS Profile: Available in October at <https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile> (initial application and one college report is \$25, additional reports are \$16, cost subject to change)

Expected Family Contribution: Eligibility for most financial aid is based on a student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and determined by the answers you provide on your FAFSA. This is an estimate of your capacity to contribute to college expenses; the lower the EFC, the higher the financial aid award. The EFC is usually subtracted from the Cost of Attendance (COA) to determine your financial need. If COA is greater than the EFC, then you are determined to have need. Since your financial aid situation can change from year to year, you must apply for aid each year. Always keep copies of forms you submit to the school, government or lender during the financial aid process.

Types of Financial Aid: Financial aid information may be obtained from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Center for Financial Aid at <http://www.theccb.state.us>.

- **Grants and Scholarships** – State and Federal Grants and Scholarships provide financial aid that does not have to be repaid. Some grants and scholarships require the student to maintain a certain grade point average (GPA) or take certain courses. Many scholarships are based on merit whereas most grants are awarded on the basis of financial need. Scholarship opportunities are listed in Family Connection (Naviance®); each time you log in and search for scholarships, only the most recent scholarships will appear.

- **Loans** – **Federal student loans** are funded by the federal government; **private student loans** are nonfederal loans made by a lender such as a bank, credit union, state agency, or a school. **All loans require repayment with interest. Federal student loans** include many benefits (such as fixed *interest* rates and income-based repayment plans) not typically offered with **private students loans**. In contrast, **private student loans** are generally more expensive than **federal student loans**.
- **Work Study** - The **Federal Work-Study Program** provides jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses. Some colleges have a **College Work-Study Program** which will provide part-time jobs to eligible students with financial need to enable them to attend college.
- **Exemptions** - Exemptions are a type of financial assistance allowing some Texas residents to attend a public college or university in Texas without paying tuition or, in some cases, tuition and fees. For a complete list of exemptions, go to <http://www.collegeforalltexans.com>.

Start early as financial aid is usually awarded on a “first-come, first-serve” basis. High school juniors can take advantage of the FAFSA Forecaster to better understand options for paying for college. Get an estimate of your eligibility for federal student aid at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm>.

Financial Aid Websites

Cappex Scholarship Search	https://www.cappex.com/scholarships
College Board Scholarship Search	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search#
College for All Texans	http://www.collegeforalltexans.com
Fastweb Scholarship Search	http://www.fastweb.com
Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	https://fafsa.ed.gov
Federal Student Aid (U.S. Dept of Education)	https://studentaid.ed.gov
Opening Doors to Higher Education	http://www.thesalliemafund.org
Peterson’s College Quest College Service	http://www.collegequest.com
Scholarships.com	https://www.scholarships.com
StudentScholarshipSearch.com	http://www.studentscholarshipsearch.com
Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation	http://www.tgslc.org
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board	http://www.theccb.state.us
The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid	http://www.finaid.org/otheraid

Frisco Education Foundation Scholarships

Frisco Education Foundation (FEF) Scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors to help them in their continued educational journey. Scholarships are awarded based on specific criteria established by donors. These criteria range from academic achievement and community involvement to financial need, success outside of academic ranking and career aspirations. For more information, go to <http://www.friscoisd.org/departments/frisco-education-foundation/student-scholarships>.

You are not advised to pay a fee for any financial aid or scholarship information.

Transferring From a Two-Year College to a Four-Year Institution

The Texas Common Course Numbering System is a voluntary, cooperative effort among Texas two-year colleges and four-year institutions to facilitate transfer of freshman and sophomore level general academic coursework. TCCNS provides a shared, uniform set of course designations for students and their advisors to use in determining both course equivalency and degree applicability of transfer credit on a statewide basis. When students transfer between two participating TCCNS institutions, a course taken at the sending institution transfers as the course carrying the same TCCNS designation at the receiving institution. College courses usually transfer as one of three types of credits: elective credits, general education credits, or major field of study credits. To date, 136 institutions of higher learning in Texas participate in TCCNS.

For more information on the Texas Common Course Numbering System, go to <http://tcens.org>.

Trade and Technical Schools

Trade and technical schools offer *short-term* training in a wide variety of career fields. They are usually privately owned with varied programs; some area private schools are listed below.

Texas State Technical School is a public school option; you may check programs at TSTC at <http://www.tstc.edu>. Collin College offers a variety of certificate programs which concentrate on hands-on skill development. Upon completion of the certificate, a student will have the credentials to get an entry-level position in a specific field of study. You are also encouraged to research other options.

Private Trade and Technical Schools in the DFW Area	
Arlington Career Institute	http://arlingtoncareerinstitute.edu
Art Institute of Dallas	https://www.artinstitutes.edu/dallas
Art Institute of Fort Worth	https://www.artinstitutes.edu/fort-worth
Concorde Career Institute	http://www.concorde.edu/campus/dallas-texas
DeVry Institute of Technology	http://www.devry.edu
ITT Technical Institute	https://www.itt-tech.edu
KD Studio Actors Conservatory	http://www.kdstudio.com
Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts Dallas	http://www.chefs.edu/locations/dallas
Ogle School (Cosmetology)	http://www.ogleschool.edu
Page Parkes Center of Modeling & Acting	http://pageparkes.com/dallas/acting-classes
Paul Mitchell (Cosmetology)	https://paulmitchell.edu/dallas
PCI Health Training Center	http://www.pcihealth.edu/locations/dallas
Remington College	http://www.remingtoncollege.edu
Toni & Guy Academy	http://dallas.toniguy.edu
Universal Technical Institute, Inc.	http://www.uti.edu/campus-locations/dallas-tx
Wade College of Merchandising/Design	http://www.wadecollege.edu

Military Enlistment, ROTC, Academies

Enlistment: Students interested in pursuing enlistment in one of the military branches should contact a recruiter to determine career and education options. The following table lists contact information for recruiters.

Air Force	http://www.airforce.com	MSgt Williams, Jason	214-494-4668
Army	http://www.goarmy.com	SSG Boyd, Jason	214-705-7693
Marines	http://www.marines.mil	Staff Srgt Osborn, Robert	903-235-0042
National Guard	http://www.nationalguard.com	SSG Robert Lugo-TXFD	972-804-9582
Navy	http://www.navy.com	AE2(AW) Cody Howard	214-872-4317

ROTC: Reserve Officers Training Corp is a college program offered at many postsecondary institutions, and students may apply for an ROTC scholarship to assist with college tuition. College students who enroll in an ROTC program will enter the military as officers. If interested, check with your college choice to see if ROTC is an option.

Military Academies: Students interested in applying to one of the military academies should start the process during the spring of junior year. Candidates must obtain an official nomination from a U.S. Congressperson (except Coast Guard), and all must undergo a stringent physical examination. *Students should contact the Academy of choice soon after January 31 of the junior year and send a written request for an application to the student's State Senator or Representative in April of the junior year to allow adequate time to meet all requirements.* Students selected for an academy receive four years of college tuition, room, board, fees, and a monthly salary to cover expenses.

- The **United States Military Academy** is known as West Point. It is a four-year, coeducational military academy whose “cadets” graduate as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army.
- The **United States Naval Academy** is often referred to as USNA, Annapolis, or Navy. It grants bachelor's degrees to students based on academic, militaristic, and athletic performance.
- The **United States Air Force Academy** is the youngest of the five academies, and its graduates are commissioned second lieutenants in the U.S. Air Force.
- The **United States Coast Guard Academy** in New London, Connecticut, offers eight majors and, like its four counterparts, requires graduates to complete five years of active duty service.
- The **United States Merchant Marine Academy** trains “midshipmen” in marine engineering, maritime law, and other subjects related to military and civilian sea transport.

Employment

Job vs. Career

Without additional training after high school, graduates may discover limited career options. Rather than starting a career, graduates may be forced to “*get a job.*” Unfortunately, many of these jobs may only pay minimum wage and opportunities for advancement can be quite limited. However, businesses and industries are always looking for polite, industrious, punctual, well-groomed employees who are willing to learn. Employees with these qualities can prove invaluable to an employer, possibly leading to advancement and opportunity. High school graduates should attempt to find a job in an area of career interest which could lead to job advancement.

Finding a Job

Prepare a Resume – Prepare a professional looking resume and attach a copy of your resume to each application you complete. You can also mail or email a copy of your resume and cover letter to prospective employers requesting an interview.

Job Leads – Job leads can come from a variety of sources. The best job leads will probably not be in the newspapers. For career-oriented jobs, it is best to network with the people you know in the career field you desire and always keep a professional rapport with each of your past employers. It’s a small world; don’t burn your bridges!

Dress for Success - Dress sharper than everyday attire; the employer will know you consider the interview to be very important. **Be conservative** in dress; revealing clothes, clothing with holes, very short skirts, extremely high-heeled shoes are not appropriate. **Careful grooming** is a must (clean hair, nails and hands). Avoid too much of anything, such as colognes, aftershaves, make-up, or jewelry.

How Employers Think

Traits Employers Consider Important

- ✓ Dependable
- ✓ Team player
- ✓ Responsible
- ✓ Self-starter
- ✓ Efficient

Factors Which Eliminate Candidates

- ✓ History of absenteeism
- ✓ Poor Communication Skills
- ✓ Lack of specific skills
- ✓ Lack of enthusiasm

Job Interview Tips

Preparation

- Learn about the organization.
- Have a specific job or jobs in mind.
- Review your qualifications for the job.
- Prepare to answer broad questions about yourself.
- Arrive before the scheduled time of your interview.

The Interview

- Answer each question concisely.
- Respond promptly.
- Use good manners. Learn the name of the interviewer and shake hands as you meet.
- Use proper English and avoid slang.
- Be cooperative and enthusiastic.
- Ask questions about the position and the organization.
- Thank the interviewer and follow-up with a thank you letter.

NCAA

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is a nonprofit organization. Its members include 1,200 colleges and universities, and the NCAA works to help student athletes achieve excellence in both sports and academics. To participate in Division I, II, or III athletics, a student must meet qualifying criteria. If interested in NCAA eligibility, go to www.eligibilitycenter.org to register and research the requirements. If you have financial need, see your counselor for a waiver.

Software-based credit recovery, virtual, online, independent study and correspondence courses may or may not be eligible per NCAA.



College Selection

There are many considerations in the selection of a particular college or university. The intention of this section is to make the student aware of both academic and personal factors that might play a part in his or her college decision. Not all of these factors listed are important to each graduate, so each should be weighed according to individual priorities. Using the resources previously discussed, you can decide which colleges meet your criteria.

HOW DO I FIND COLLEGE INFORMATION?

Colleges vary greatly in programs offered, costs, and admission requirements.

Family Connection (Naviance®) – FISD provides our students free online access to college and university searches. Students may log in at <https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/auth/login/?hsid=heritage>.

Internet Resources – The Internet has a wealth of current and up-to-date information. Almost anything you want to know about colleges can be found online. Some helpful sites are:

- **MyRoad** – <https://myroad.collegeboard.com/myroad/navigator.jsp>
- **NACAC for Parents & Students** – <http://www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/Pages/Default.aspx>
- **Every Chance Every Texan: Minnie Steven’s Piper Foundation Compendium of Texas Colleges** – www.window.state.tx.us/scholars/
- **The College Board** – www.collegeboard.com
- **College View** - www.collegeview.com/
- **University and College Accountability Network** - www.ucan-network.org/
- **College Navigator** – U.S. Dept. of Education – www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/
- **Peterson’s Guide** – www.petersons.com

Reference Materials – Your High School Counseling Center and the school or local library have a few college reference books and handbooks, however; most colleges prefer students peruse the website to find information about the institution. On the website, students and parents will find information on college costs, housing, admission procedures, entrance tests required, major programs of study, and much more. Some references available are:

- Colleges that Pay You Back (College Board)
- Paying for College
- The Best Value Colleges
- Getting Financial Aid
- Guide to College Majors
- The College Application Essay
- Campus Visits and College Interviews (College Board)
- Get it Together for College (College Board)
- Book of Majors (College Board)

College Catalogs – The college catalog in effect for *the year you enter* a university is your contract for graduation. Keep it and reference it frequently. It is the *best single source of information* about a college. If you are seriously considering a college, download a copy from the college website.

College Visits - *Juniors and seniors are allowed two college visits.* During your visit, you must obtain documentation of your visit from the college. Documentation must be given to the attendance clerk once you return to campus.

Academic and Social/Personal Considerations

Academic considerations should be the primary factors in college selection, but a balance of requirements should also be considered (academic, social, and personal). Without an understanding of the academic atmosphere, a subjective decision is difficult. We urge you to read carefully these academic considerations and weigh their relative importance to you.

- *Will you be more comfortable at a community college or a four-year college?*
- *Do you know your degree direction? Does the school have adequate curriculum for it? Does it satisfy your specialized interests? Are you aware of job availability in possible career fields relating to those degree directions?*
- *What are admission standards (most competitive, less competitive)?*
- *What is the cost and what financial aid/scholarships are available?*
- *What are faculty and class sizes? Is class format lecture or discussion? What is the ratio of students to professor? Remember that published ratios are sometimes misleading, and may be averaged, particularly for first year students. Are labs required?*
- *Is the school fully accredited?*
- *Are credits transferable to other schools you might consider for transfer? Are they applicable to your degree plan? (Remember D's don't transfer.)*
- *Are there foreign language requirements for either high school graduation or college in meeting admission standards or degree requirements?*
- *Does the school provide tutoring labs (writing, math, etc.)?*
- *What is the extensiveness of course and program offerings? How soon can you get into courses in your degree plan program?*
- *Does the college require or will achievement tests for placement be accepted?*
- *Are there special academic programs available (accelerated programs, honors, remedial)?*
- *Is there availability for study abroad programs? What internship opportunities are available?*
- *How is the academic year divided (semester, quarter, block system)?*
- *What is the attrition rate of the freshman class? What percent graduate?*
- *What is the diversity of students and faculty (scholastic, geographic, graduates vs. undergraduates)?*
- *What percent of graduates, of those who apply, are admitted to professional schools?*
- *Is there a job placement service for graduates?*
- *What kind of technology is available for students?*
- *Will you be more comfortable in a small environment versus a larger environment?*
- *Considering the geographical location of the school, will there be additional costs for traveling home, a higher cost of living, clothing needs due to a difference in weather?*
- *What housing is available and what must you furnish? Adequate study areas?*
- *What transportation is available? Can a student have a vehicle on campus?*
- *Is the school co-educational or exclusively male/female? What are the ratios?*
- *Family traditions. Are they tied to a particular college, university or religion? Is that important to you?*
- *What extracurricular activities and religious organizations are available (athletics, fraternities, sororities, band, social groups, debate clubs, union activities, student government, etc.)?*
- *Is military training or ROTC offered?*
- *Are cultural activities available to suit your interests(lectures, concerts, plays, etc.)?*
- *Are there counselors available for personal problems?*

Senior College Timeline

Spring of Junior Year

- Continue to research colleges using Family Connection (Naviance®) and other online resources.
- Take the SAT and/or ACT now to allow time to review results and retake the exams in the fall if necessary.
- Complete the Do What You Are profile, Career Interest Survey, and Letter of Recommendation Survey in Family Connection (Naviance®) (these must be completed for a counselor letter of recommendation).
- Looking for opportunities to study in the summer? Check Family Connection (Naviance®) under “Enrichment Opportunities.”

Summer 2016

- Visit colleges during the summer. Call ahead for appointments with the financial aid, admissions and academic advisors at the colleges you plan to visit.
- If you visit a college, send thank you notes to the people who met with you.
- Go online to view applications and learn what information you will be asked to provide. Focus on the essays and decide how you will present yourself to the college admissions representatives.
- Decide if you are going to apply under a particular college’s early decision or early action program. Remember to make note of all deadlines (admissions, housing and scholarships).

August/September

- Attend Guidance with counselors through English in September; Dual Credit students should make arrangements to attend a session during 1st or 4th period.
- Review transcript, grades and credits one more time.
- Attend the FISD Annual College Fair in September.
- Narrow your college options; plan to apply to at least 3-5 schools.
- Update Family Connection (Naviance®) with colleges you are applying to.
- Register for SAT/ACT or SAT Subject Tests if needed.
- Request letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors and/or employers (two weeks in advance). Must follow the counselor letter of recommendation checklist to request a letter from a counselor. Teachers should be given a stamped, addressed envelope.
- GPA and rank available mid-September. You can request transcripts through Parchment.com before recalculations occur or wait until after recalculations, whichever you feel is in your best interest.
- If an essay is part of the college application, finalize your rough draft.

October

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) should be submitted using last year’s income tax information.
- Complete final essays and admission procedures necessary for applications.
- Conduct scholarship searches through Family Connection (Naviance®) and other resources.

- Watch for college application and scholarship deadlines (including early action/early decision).

November

- Prepare for the Frisco Education Foundation Scholarship application process; visit with two current teachers for recommendation and one person who can provide you a community recommendation. (Counselors cannot submit recommendations and community member cannot be a teacher.)
- **Submit all college applications before Thanksgiving!**

December

- Complete any Texas Tech/UT correspondence courses by end of winter break.
- Get 2nd semester schedule adjusted for courses you may need to graduate.
- Submit Frisco Education Foundation Online Scholarship by deadline.

January

- Notify your counselor if you will need a mid-year report.
- New GPA and Rank will be available after semester grades are finalized.

February

- Watch the mail for college decisions.
- Continue scholarship search.

March

- Check on finalizing housing arrangements at your college of choice.
- Make sure that you have turned in everything required for admissions and financial aid, medical forms with proof of meningitis vaccination.
- Watch for award letters from colleges where you have applied for aid; respond by the deadline. Update statuses in Family Connection (Naviance®).

April

- Complete follow-up paperwork for admissions, housing, orientation, financial aid, medical, etc.
- If attending a Texas public college, register for testing for TSI (Texas Success Initiative) if not exempt.
- New GPA and Rank available to determine valedictorian/salutatorian/honor grads.
- Complete Graduation Survey (counselors will schedule through English and arrange for a computer lab)

May

- Busy month with AP exams, FEF Scholarship Night, Senior Awards Night, and Top Ten Luncheon

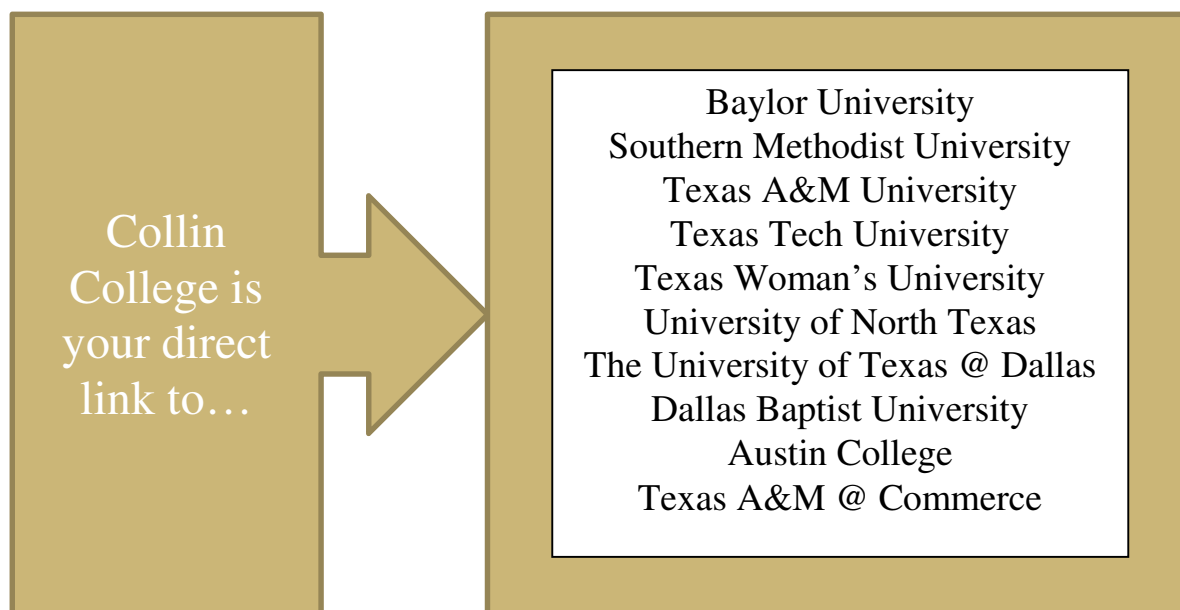
June

- Graduation!

All Things Collin College

Collin College offers a special University Partnership Program with several four-year universities (see list below). Pre-admission programs help reduce the time to earn a degree, making college more affordable and accessible. Students complete the first two years of a bachelor's degree, pay Collin's tuition rates, and are guaranteed admissions to the partner university if admission requirements are met.

Applications for each preadmission can be viewed and downloaded from:
<http://www.collin.edu/transferu/Pre-admnProg.html>.



Jump Start Collin College

Dual Credit – Seniors have the option of taking DUAL CREDIT classes through Collin College. Students must attend a **MANDATORY** meeting scheduled on April 11th at 6:30 PM in the Heritage cafeteria to learn about the dual credit process. A Collin College representative will walk students through the admission and registration processes. Students are responsible for cost of tuition, books, and must provide their own transportation to and from the campus. Students on the lunch program may request a tuition waiver from a high school counselor. You can find out more information about dual credit at www.collin.edu/dualcredit.

Please note that dual credit classes require self-motivation, reliable transportation and commitment. Heritage will only have access to mid-term and final grades each semester; and Heritage counselors cannot communicate with the professors or college personnel regarding a dual credit student. Parents must also understand that The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords eligible students a right to privacy for educational records. Parents will not have access to a student's grades or be able to communicate with college professors regarding a student's grades.

Midterm grades are added to 2nd and 5th six-week report cards. Mid-term grades for the 5th six weeks are calculated into the final ranking for graduation and awards purposes.

Remember these are college classes with college professors. Students must follow Collin College's guidelines and **The Collin College** calendar.

What is the difference between Dual Credit and Concurrent Enrollment?

Dual Credit allows high school students to take Collin College courses and receive credit both for their high school diploma and their college degree. Courses may be taught on the high school or college campus by Collin College professors. **Concurrent Enrollment** allows high school student to take Collin College courses but only earn college credit.

A high school counselor must provide approval for both dual and concurrent credit. For Dual Credit, an A/B grade point average is required in the subject area, and student must demonstrate the level of maturity needed to be successful in college course work. If a student earns a "D" in a Dual Credit course, the student will no longer be given approval to take Dual Credit courses.

College credit will transfer to most colleges or universities. Visit <http://www.collin.edu/transferu/> for more information.

Students must meet readiness standards. Students with the following scores are exempt:

SAT 1070 CR/M combined with CR 500+ and Math 500+ **OR**
ACT 23 composite with 19+ on English and 19+ on Math

If a student does not meet the above criteria, then a student must register and take the mandatory TSI Assessment.

<https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/testing/availabletesting/tsi.html>

What Does It Take To Be Successful in College?

1. **Budget your time and stay organized!**
2. **Go to class and ask questions!**
3. **Prepare and study for your classes. Typical study time is 2 – 3 hours for every hour that is spent in class.**
4. **Connect with your professors and with other students through student organizations and study groups.**

Contact List for Heritage

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