COLLEGE 101
College Admissions Process
TODAY’S GOALS

▪ College Admissions Process
▪ College Affordability
▪ Naviance Student Portal
MENTAL HEALTH

SCHOOL
- WORKLOAD
- PEER PRESSURES

HOME
- LOVE
- COMMUNICATION
- SUPPORT & ACCEPTANCE
College admissions process

“How can I assist my student through the college process?”
DEFINING COLLEGE

**College:** An educational or establishment offering instruction in a professional, vocational, or technical field

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Colleges</th>
<th>Colleges/Universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● 2 year Associate’s Programs</td>
<td>● 4 Bachelor’s Degrees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● 1 year certificate programs</td>
<td>● Typically four to six years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Degrees may be earned at community, technical, vocational colleges</td>
<td>● Normally entails a core curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Students can transfer to 4-year colleges/universities</td>
<td>● Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● May matriculate advanced professional degree (i.e., law school, medical school, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Creating a college list
HOW DO I PICK? (COLLEGE “FIT”)

College fit
A broad assessment of the extent to which an institution meets a student’s social, academic, and financial needs.

Factors to determine college fit
• Academic programs/ majors
• Physical location of the institution
• Institutional size
• Student to professor ratio
• Retention/Graduation rates
• Campus Life/Student Activiti
• Campus Diversity

Examples
• If you do not like cold weather, choosing a college up north may not be a good “fit”.
• If you want more individualized attention in class, a large size college may not be a good “fit”.
• If affordability is a factor, researching financial opportunities is key!
College match

Refers to the relationship between institutional selectivity and student’s academic ability, and is usually assess by their academic profile.

Student Academic Profile
- Class ranking/Quartile
- Grade point average
- SAT/ACT scores

Institutional Selectivity
- Highly selective 4-year institution
- More selective 4-year institutions
- Less selective 4-year institutions
- Non-selective 2-year institutions
BUILDING A COLLEGE LIST: “REACH” “TARGET” “SAFETY”

• **Reach School** - A college or university where your academic profile is below the institution’s admission requirements. Although you do not meet the requirements, your academic profile is not too far outside the average admit range.
  — Example: Your Dream School you would love to attend in the fall but do not meet admissions requirements

• **Target School** – A college or university where your academic profile meets 1 or 2 admission requirement, but not all of them. There is a possibility of gaining admission.
  — Example: Applicant may meet the testing requirement, but their GPA is below the admission requirement.
SAFETY SCHOOL = ASSURED ADMISSIONS

• **Safety School** - A college or university where you met all the admission requirements. Potentially gain automatic acceptance to the institution based off your academic profile.
  — Example: you have met SAT/ACT requirements, GPA, and quartile.

• Having a list of Safety Schools will guarantee
  — Automatic entrance to the college or University (You will receive an acceptance letter)
  — A safety school will give you the option to select the college or university you would like to attend.
**Assured admission** is based on the required combination of the high school class rank and college entrance test scores as indicated below. The State of Texas guarantees automatic admissions to all state-funded universities in the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Texas-Dallas</th>
<th>No Minimum</th>
<th>Review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>1500/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University-Galveston</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>1500/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Tech University</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>1180/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Houston</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>1080/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Texas</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>1040/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas-Tyler</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>1020/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas State University</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>1000/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamar University</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>910/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen F. Austin State University</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>950/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelo State University</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>900/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University-Kingsville</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>830/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Southern University</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>GPA 2.5 and 900/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie View A&amp;M University</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>800/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas-San Antonio</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>1170/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas-Arlington</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>1130/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>1080/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Woman’s University</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>1080/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwestern State University</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>1070/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University-Commerce</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>980/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M International University</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>980/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Texas A&amp;M University</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>940/18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students with assured admissions must “file complete” with each college to receive a formal acceptance.*
**Assured Admission**
Guaranteed admission based on class rank and/or test score (i.e., top 10%)

- Students who are “file complete” and are guaranteed admission, will receive an acceptance letter from any Texas public institution.

**Holistic Review**
Admission based on the review of all application items

- GPA/Rank
  - Academic Rigor
- SAT or ACT score
- Resume
  - Extracurricular activities
  - Leadership experiences
  - Talents Awards
- Essays
- Letter(s) of recommendation
- Interview(s) (more selective institutions)
Private/Selective Institutions
You’re applying to a private institution inside or outside of Texas that doesn’t have any guaranteed admission criteria.
1. GPA/Rank/Quartile
2. SAT/ACT Scores
3. Essay(s) – could also be #4
4. Extracurricular Activities – could also be #3
5. Letter(s) of Recommendation
6. Demonstrated Interest (if applicable)

Test optional/test flexible school
You’re applying to a school that does not require the SAT or ACT. Organize yourself based on what would be most to least important.
1. GPA/Rank/Quartile
2. Essay(s)
3. Extracurricular Activities
4. Letter(s) of Recommendation
5. Demonstrated Interest
6. Test scores (#6 if test optional, #2 if test flexible?)
WHAT ARE TEST OPTIONAL SCHOOLS

A test-optional admissions policy means some applicants can choose not to submit SAT or ACT scores. The rules vary per college. Some colleges may require applicants to provide supplemental information in place of test.

**Benefits**

- Admissions flexibility for students who do not test well (i.e., students with strong GPA and low test scores)
- Focus on other portions of the application (i.e., extracurricular activities, experiences, personal statement)
The Common Application

- **Explore** – Research on 750 colleges and universities from across the world.
  - 13 Texas Public and Private institutions are affiliated with The CommonApp.
- **Apply** - Complete and submit an application to your choice institution.
- **Repeat** - Apply to more institutions using ONE application.
- The Common Application include 2 main components:
  - The Common Application Profile.

ApplyTexas Application

- **Explore** - Search 2-year and 4-year institutions in Texas.
  - All Public Texas institutions
  - 21 Private Texas institutions
- **Apply** - Complete and submit an application to your choice institution.
- **Repeat** - Apply to more institutions using the same application.
- Apply for scholarships and submit college application essays.*
Coalition Application

Making college a reality for all students.
# STUDENTS:
WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

## Non-Restrictive Application Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Type</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Commitment</th>
<th>Students Restriction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Decision</td>
<td>Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.</td>
<td>NON-BINDING</td>
<td>Not restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolling Admission</td>
<td>Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.</td>
<td>NON-BINDING</td>
<td>Not restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Action (EA)</td>
<td>Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution’s regular response date.</td>
<td>NON-BINDING</td>
<td>Not restricted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Restrictive Application Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Type</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Commitment</th>
<th>Students Restriction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Decision (ED)</td>
<td>Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.</td>
<td>BINDING</td>
<td>Must confirm enrollment by May 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictive Early Action (REA)</td>
<td>Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.</td>
<td>BINDING</td>
<td>Must confirm enrollment by May 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicants must choose **ONE** of the above deadlines per college application.

*Texas OnCourse*

(HISD GLOBAL GRADUATE, 2016)

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*Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.*

*Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.*
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “FILE COMPLETE”

- Complete Admission File - An applicant is considered “file complete” once the application and ALL required documents are submitted. Files must be received on or before the institution’s admissions deadline.

- Required documents (*if applicable)
  - Essay
  - Application fee/Fee waiver
  - Official high school transcript
  - Official test scores (SAT/ACT/ SAT Subject Test)
  - Permanent Resident Card or I-551*
  - Senate Bill 1528 Affidavit*
  - Letter of Recommendation
APPLICATION DECISION OUTCOMES

- Acceptance
- Conditional Admission
- Waitlisted
- Denial
- Withdraw
- Appeal

- For some colleges and universities, mostly public, a denial is good until the student provides new information.

- An appeal is possible when the student provides:
  - Increased SAT or ACT scores
  - Letters of Recommendation
  - Essays
  - Corrected information
**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**High School Transcript:** Students will be asked to enter their high school GPA and current or most recent courses in the Education section.

**List of Activities, Work, and Family Responsibilities:** Extracurricular activities, family and or work responsibilities, internships, summer activities, community service. Each student will have the option to list up to 10 activities in this section.

**Test Scores and Dates from College Entrance Exams:** SAT, ACT, and SAT Subject Test scores, among others, and they'll be asked to provide a month, day, and year for each.

**Parent/Legal Guardian Information:** Students will need to find out about their parents’ education history and occupational information.

**Academic Honors and Achievements:** The student will be able to list any honors related to their academic achievements 9th - 12th.

Students will need a **reliable email address** to create an account.

(The Common Application)
## Standardized Testing

### SAT

**College Admissions Process**

- No point penalty for wrong answers
- 2 Sections
  - Evidence Based Reading and Writing
  - Math
- Optional Essay *(Strongly recommended)*
- Score: Min 200, Max 800 - per section
- Length: 3 hours and 50 minutes
- **Send your own scores**
- Costs $54.50
  - Waivers available for students on free/reduced lunch

*Students on free/reduced lunch can send an unlimited amount of score reports.*

### ACT

**College Admissions Process**

- No point penalty for wrong answers
- 4 Sections
  - English
  - Math
  - Reading
  - Science
- Writing optional *(Strongly Recommended)*
- Score: Scale of 1-36
- Length: 3 hours and 50 minutes
- **Send your own scores**
- Costs $56.50 w/writing
  - Waivers available if on free/reduced lunch

### TSI

**Placement Test**

The **Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment** is to determine if a student is ready for college-level work in the areas of **reading**, **writing**, and **math**. Success in these areas can help the student complete their college degree or certificate program.
### College Admissions Timeline

#### August
- Define your college list
- Determine application deadlines and requirements
- Create your college application account(s)
- Start/Finish writing college essays
- Begin/Submit college applications
- Retake SAT/ACT (if necessary)

#### September
- Meet with your counselor/Complete counselor recommendation request
- Ask your teachers/mentors for letters of recommendation
- Begin to gather financial aid documentation for CSS Profile/FAFSA/TASFA
- Send SAT/ACT scores to your colleges
**COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TIMELINE**

**October**
- FAFSA/TASFA/CSS available Oct 1\(^{st}\)
  - First Come/First Serve
- Finalize college essays (if applicable)
- Continue submitting college applications
- Follow Up with your Recommenders (if applicable)
- Submit supplemental information to colleges

**November/December**
- Early Admissions application deadlines begin (Nov 1, 15, 30)
- Finalize your college admissions applications (if applicable)
- Check admissions status and verify that all documents have been submitted
- Submit financial aid application ASAP
College Affordability

Don’t let the price tag scare you!
Key College affordability terms

- **Grants** – Money awarded to students, from the government, based on need or merit to help pay for education expenses. This is money students do not need to pay back.

- **Scholarship** – money awarded to students based on academic or other achievements to help pay for education expenses. Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid.
  - **Need-based scholarships** are awarded based on a student’s family income. Grades and test scores have no bearing on this.
  - **Academic (Merit) scholarships** are based on a variety of components, such as your performance and involvement in high school.

- **Subsidized Loan** – a loan based on financial need for which the federal government generally pays the interest that accrues while the borrower is in an in-school, grace, or deferment status.

- **Unsubsidized Loan** – a loan for which the borrower is fully responsible for paying the interest regardless of the loan status. Interest on unsubsidized loans accrues from the date of disbursement and continues throughout the life of the loan.

- **Work-study** – a refer student aid program that provides part-time employment while you are enrolled in school to help pay for educational expenses.

*See handout for additional terms.*
CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

What makes up the sticker price of a college?

Sticker Price
$42,848
WHAT DOES COLLEGE COST?

Tuition & Fees: The amount a student pays for college classes and any extra fees.

Books & Supplies: Textbooks needed for each class and any additional supplies or required materials.

Room & Board: The cost for living on campus and eating meals on campus.

Personal & Transportation: Any additional expenses such as laundry, cell phone service, going out money, and flights home throughout the year.

= Cost of Attendance
## COST OF ATTENDANCE BREAKDOWN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In-State Public College or Public University</th>
<th>Out-of-State Public College or Public University</th>
<th>Private College or Private University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$9,410</td>
<td>$22,500</td>
<td>$32,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Fees</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room and Board</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
<td>$8,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$21,410</td>
<td>$34,500</td>
<td>$44,160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COST OF ATTENDANCE

DIRECT COSTS

▪ Tuition and Fees
▪ Room and Board

INDIRECT COSTS

▪ Books and Supplies
▪ Travel Expenses
▪ Miscellaneous or Personal Expenses

Direct Costs + Indirect Costs = Cost of Attendance

Direct Costs, on average, are the primary items included in the student bill.
Type of financial aid

- **SCHOLARHIPS**
  - Need-based or academic (merit) based
  - Do not have to pay back (FREE)

- **GRANTS**
  - Need-based or academic (merit) based
  - Do not have to pay back (FREE)

- **WORK-STUDY**
  - Students work on campus and get paid

- **LOANS**
  - Must pay back
  - With/without interest
Types of financial aid applications

**FAFSA**
- US Citizen
- Permanent Resident
- Refugee or Asylum
- Visa (please check website for eligible Visa requirements)

**TASFA**
- TX Resident (3+ years)
- HS Grad/GED
- Temporary Residents (DACA/Work Permit)
- Undocumented Students

**CSS PROFILE**
- Non-federal financial aid over 400 colleges/universities.
- All students can complete the application
- Not required by all institutions*
- $25 Initial application fee, $16 for Additional Reports*
- For eligible students, the CSS Profile waiver will cover ALL applications and reporting fees.
- Collegeboard Account Required
BENEFITS OF CompleTING THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

- Applying for financial aid helps students automatically qualify for
  - The Federal Pell Grant (max of $6,095) [not TASFA]
  - Scholarships offered by the university
  - Grants offered by the university

- Even if you don’t think you qualify for financial aid, completing the FAFSA, or TASFA, and or CSS Profile will allow colleges to see what other scholarships & grants a student can qualify for
FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

FAFSA = Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Application opens **October 1st**
- Parent(s)/Student’s social security number
- Permanent resident card (If applicable)
- Parent(s)/Student’s date of birth
- 2017 Parent(s)/Student’s tax information*
- Selective Service is **MANDATORY** for male students completing the FAFSA
Student requirements

- Paper Application - collegeforalltexans.com
- Application available October 1st
- Student’s date of birth
- Student’s 2017 Tax Information (if applicable)
- IRS Non-Filer Letter (if applicable)
- SB 1528 Affidavit
- Student university ID # for each college
- Selective Service Registration Card (male students)

A copy of application and supplemental documents should be sent to EACH college applied to.

Parent Requirements

- Parent date of birth
- Marriage Date (if applicable)
- 2017 Income Tax Return & Tax Transcript
- IRS Non-Filer Letter (if applicable)

Parent information is required unless student is classified as independent.
CSS PROFILE

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All students can complete the application

Not required by all institutions*

$25 Initial application fee, $16 for Additional Reports*

For eligible students, the CSS Profile waiver will cover ALL applications and reporting fees.

Collegeboard Account Required
Additional Information
COLLEGE FLY - IN OPPORTUNITIES

A fly-in program is when a college offers a student to visit their campus at a free cost or assist students with financial assistance. Usually, invitations are extended to underrepresented and diverse students (i.e., first-gen, low-income, minority). Often referred to as diversity programs, multicultural programs, travel assistance programs, etc.

Benefits
- Visit college campus
- Pre-Screening for college applications
- Free, travel assistance programs
College Fairs

- Colleges that Change Lives
  - Go To College Fairs
  - Joint Travel Programs
QUESTIONS