

General Info about College

College Degrees

- **Associate's Degree** – Two-year degree that will require 60-70 credit hours.
- **Bachelor's Degree** – Four-year degree that will require about 130 -150 credit hours.
- **Master's Degree** – Generally two years to complete after bachelor's degree. It is a graduate degree.
- **Doctoral Degree** – It is a graduate degree that comes after a Master's Degree. Can be finished in two years but usually takes longer than that.

College Hours

A full-time student will take at least 12 hours a semester. Taking fewer than 12 hours per semester will affect your financial aid.

Students are classified by the total number of hours they have earned and they move at their own pace rather than as a group:

0-29 college hours = freshman

30-59 college hours = sophomore

60-89 college hours = junior

90 or more college hours = senior

Types of Colleges

Two-Year Institutions

Most two-year colleges are called community colleges. These colleges offer programs that can be completed in one or two years, usually falling into two categories:

- **Transfer programs, or basic freshman- and sophomore-level courses**; Credits you can transfer to a four-year college toward an eventual bachelor's degree. In addition, community college students who meet certain requirements may receive an associate's degree. Community Colleges often have convenient locations, lower costs, and open admission
- **Technical programs in technical fields**; Fields such as firefighting, some computer fields, dental hygiene, and cosmetology, will either culminate in a certificate, licensure or an associate's degree. Students who complete these programs move directly into the job market, although some fields first require licensing examinations.

Four-Year Institutions

- Four-year universities grant bachelor's degrees (also known as undergraduate degrees).
- Four-year institutions are often divided into colleges and schools (for example, College of Business Administration, School of Visual Arts).
- Four-year colleges can be public or private.

Public Institutions

- Colleges are also different in the way they are funded. Public colleges receive a significant amount of funding from taxes, keeping tuition lower than private colleges/universities.
- Because they are operated partially with state or local funds, public institutions are closely supervised by one or more governing boards.

Private Institutions

- Private colleges are not publicly funded, so tuition and fees are generally higher than for public colleges.
- Many private colleges are church affiliated and receive funding from their religious denomination.
- Although they are more expensive than public schools, private schools generally have more funds to give as scholarships.

Minority Serving Institutions

- Hispanic serving institutions, tribal and historically black colleges and universities typically have a large number of minority students and significantly more minority professors than most colleges. These are typically referred to as HBCU.
- At these schools, minority students comprise at least 25 percent of the total full-time undergraduate enrollment.
- Some students prefer attending a college where most of the other students share their ethnic background because they share a common culture.
- Examples are *Texas Southern University*, Houston TX, *Prairie View A&M*, Prairie View TX, *Huston-Tillotson University*, Austin TX. See this link for a full list:
<http://hbculifestyle.com/list-of-hbcu-schools/amp/>

Liberal Arts Institutions

- Liberal arts colleges offer a broad base of courses in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences.
- Most are private and focus mainly on undergraduate students.
- Classes tend to be small and personal attention is available

Proprietary (For Profit) Institutions

- Proprietary colleges are for-profit colleges and universities.
- They are operated by their owners or investors, rather than a not-for-profit institution, religious organization, or government and are usually more expensive.
- Many of these schools do not receive federal or state tax money, and so they are dependent solely on students' tuition for income.
- They are generally MUCH more expensive than public schools and have little money for scholarships.
- These are some of the more well-known proprietary schools in Tarrant County:

University of Phoenix (online)

Ogle School of Hair Design

DeVry University

Everest College

Kaplan College

ATI Career Training Center

The Culinary School of Fort Worth

Remington College

Westwood College

Brown Mackie College

College Admission and Financial Aid Checklist

College/University Deadlines	1st College	2nd College
Name of school		
Admission application deadline		
Financial Aid application deadline		
Admission	1st College	2nd College
Admission application completed on the following date		
Admission fee paid or used waiver on the following date		
ACT ___ SAT ___ Scores sent		
Other Tests		
High school transcript sent to institution:		
Other forms/documents sent (if required):		
Resume		
Letters of recommendation (who are they from?) 1) 2) 3) Remember to write a thank you note to the people who wrote letters!		
Health Forms (meningitis vaccination). Check with school nurse.		
Applying for Financial Aid	1st College	2nd College
Applied for FAFSA ID		
FAFSA forms completed on: _____		
Institutional Scholarships		
Departmental scholarships applied for: (e.g. Music from the Music Department; apply for these directly with the school.)		
Application for Housing	1st College	2nd College
Application for residence hall requested:		
Room reservation made on: _____		
Room deposit paid on: _____		

College Admission Process

If you are applying to one or more public schools in Texas, go to www.applytexas.org or www.commonapp.org to start your college application process.

If you are applying to a private school or community college in Texas that does not use Apply Texas, or to a school outside of Texas, you must apply at that school's website.

1. Register Online at www.applytexas.org or www.commonapp.org

- Write down your application ID number and password!
- Be certain to keep a record of both your application ID and password for each application.

2. Fill out the Apply Texas ADMISSIONS Application.

- Biographical Information
- Family Income/Obligations
- Educational Background
- Titles and credit values of senior year courses
- Test Scores
- Residency Information
- Extracurricular Activities with dates – don't forget to add **TRIO Talent Search!**
- Community Service with dates
- Awards with dates
- Employment Information with dates

3. Fill out the Apply Texas SCHOLARSHIP Application.

4. Fill out the Apply Texas ESSAY Section.

5. Submit the Apply Texas Application, Scholarship and Essay

- Certification of Information
- Payment Information – If you took SAT/ACT using a waiver, you can print application fee waivers from the test websites.

6. Upload or mail the Following Documents to the Undergraduate Admission Office.

- Resume (See the "sample resume" page behind the "Other Resources" divider.)
- Official Transcript: The cost is \$3.00 per transcript. Fill out the form that is available in the counseling office.
- Letters of Recommendation: A letter written by someone who is familiar with you, usually a teacher, employer, or person of similar authority, who has evaluated your qualifications for a college or university.

7. Wait for acceptance letters or e-mails!

Let's Go Shopping

You are going shopping for a college and it's important that you do your research just as if you were buying a car, a house, or any other major purchase. There are questions to ask yourself, and questions to ask colleges. And they are shopping for students; they want the students who will be a good match and that will be successful.

Things to Consider About the School:

Even though you have applied, you are still deciding.

Questions to Ask Yourself

- Where do I want to live? Close to home?
Far away from home?
- How big do I want my school to be? Do I want to be lost in the crowd, or for my absence to be noticed if I'm not in class?
- Does the school have a good reputation for my major? Does it even *have* my major?
- Do I want to live on campus or off campus?
At home or away?
- How much do I have to spend?
- How much does it cost per 1 credit hour?

Location

- Choosing the right college for you means choosing a place to live for four years or more.
- In addition to distance from your home, consider how the college's location will affect you.
- Consider the size of the city or town where the college is located.

Faculty

- The professors at a college should counsel you about career pursuits, help you identify your special strengths, act as your mentors as you proceed with your education and, if warranted, write recommendations for your first job.
- Choose a college that has qualified faculty members who can provide avenues into the real world through internships and jobs and who genuinely care about your well-being.
- You should ask about a college's student-faculty ratio; the lower, the better, because that means that there are fewer students per instructor.
- Keep in mind that the ratio is not the same as the class size, and that freshman classes are typically larger than junior or senior classes.

Size

Generally, large colleges offer a wide variety of majors while very small schools often focus on the liberal arts or a few specialties. Small colleges offer an intimate setting where you get to know just about everyone on campus and they all get to know you.

Cost

- You probably know that the price tag for a college education varies widely.
- Be sure to consider that college costs include more than just tuition; there are fees, textbooks, room and board, and other expenses.
- All the costs may seem overwhelming, but most schools offer many types of financial aid.

Campus Life

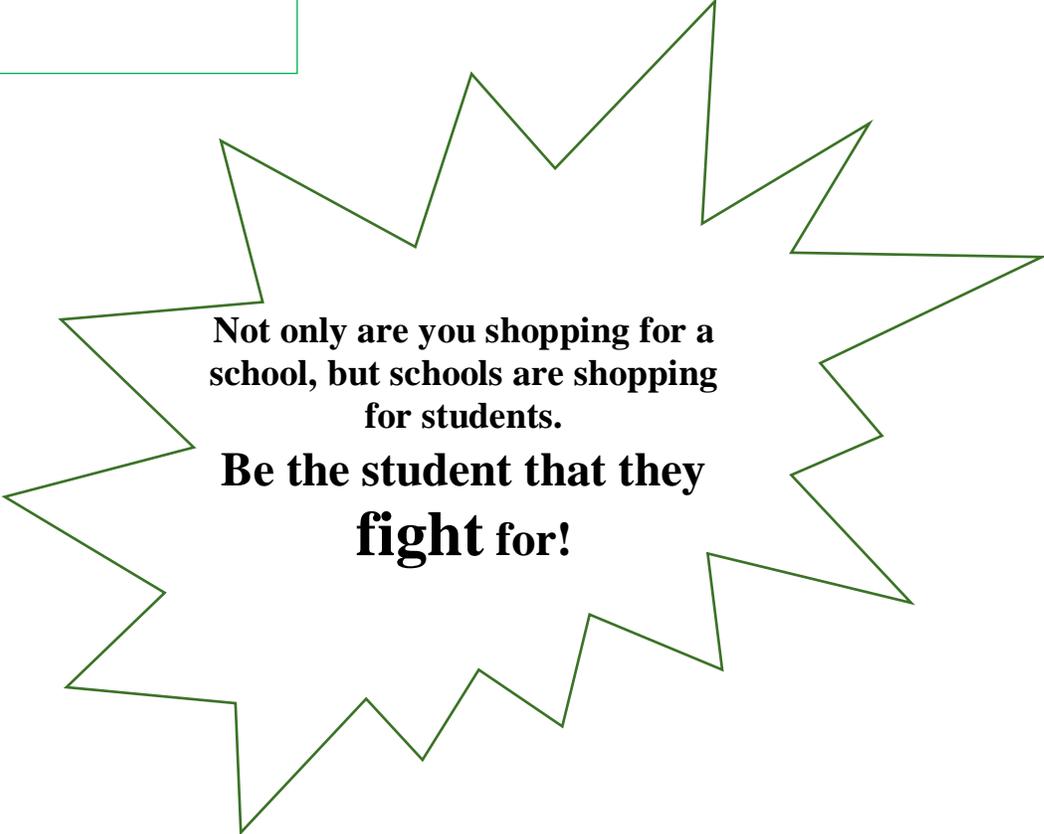
- Not only will you be attending school, you'll be living either at the school or close to it.
- Are there things offered that will give you an opportunity to get involved?

Safety and Security

- Every college is required to publish crime statistics.
- Check out the situation at any campus you are considering, and ask about lighting and the availability of police escort services at night.

Support Services

- The right college should provide services and resources to help you adapt. So when you're looking at colleges, consider resources such as health centers, libraries, tutoring, counselors and computer labs.
- On the next page, you will find a list of schools which have Student Support Services, a TRIO program that provides academic and personal support to help you stay in school.



Not only are you shopping for a school, but schools are shopping for students.

Be the student that they fight for!

SAT and ACT Info

Difference Between the SAT & the ACT		
	SAT	ACT
Time	3 hours (plus 50 min for essay)	2 hours 55 min (plus 40 min for essay)
Number of Sections	4 plus essay	4 plus essay
Section Types	Reading: 65 min Writing and Language: 35 min Math (No calculator): 25 min Math (with calculator): 55 min Optional essay: 50 min	English: 45 min Math: 60 min Reading: 35 min Science: 35 min Optional essay: 40 min
Scoring	Two section scores: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and Math, on a 200-800 scale combined for a total score from 400-1600	Four section scores scaled from 1-36 averaged for a composite from 1-36
Wrong answer penalty?	No	No

STUDY TIPS

- 1) **Take a practice test**
 - a. Take a practice test under conditions that mimic the real testing environment. This helps familiarize you with the test before you take it.
- 2) **Use your PSAT results to drive your prep work at CollegeBoard.org**
- 3) **Sign up for a prep class**
 - a. HEB offers prep classes for the SAT and ACT at a discounted rate for TRIO students. See flyer in this section.
- 4) **Online Prep**
 - a. Online test prep lets you prep when and where it suits you best, repeat lessons, or skip ahead.
- 5) **Use the resources your TRIO advisor gives you**
 - a. Your advisors will provide you with a practice booklet as well as websites that will help you prepare for the test....use them!
- 6) **Relax**
 - a. After you have studied, make sure you get a good night's rest the night before the test as well as eat a well-balanced breakfast the day of the test!

SAT and ACT DATES

SAT Test Date	SAT Tests Offered	SAT Regular Registration Closes	SAT Late Registration Closes
August 24, 2019	SAT and Subject Tests	July 26, 2019	August 13, 2019
October 5, 2019	SAT and Subject Tests	September 6, 2019	September 24, 2019
November 2, 2019	SAT and Subject Tests	October 3, 2019	October 22, 2019
December 7, 2019	SAT and Subject Tests	November 8, 2019	November 26, 2019
March 14, 2020	SAT Test Only	February 14, 2020	March 3, 2020
May 2, 2020	SAT and Subject Tests	April 3, 2020	April 21, 2020
June 6, 2020	SAT and Subject Tests	May 8, 2020	May 27, 2020

Test Center at Trinity High School if highlighted

ACT Test Date	ACT Registration Deadline	ACT Late Registration
September 14, 2019	August 16, 2019	August 30, 2019
October 26, 2019	September 20, 2019	October 4, 2019
December 14, 2019	November 8, 2019	November 22, 2019
February 8, 2020	January 10, 2020	January 17, 2020
April 4, 2020	February 28, 2020	March 13, 2020
June 13, 2020	May 8, 2020	May 22, 2020
July 18, 2020	June 19, 2020	June 26, 2020

Test Center at L.D. Bell High School TBD

College Placement Test

FAQs

What is the TSI Assessment?

- *The TSI (Texas Success Initiative) helps your institution determine if you are ready for college-level course work in the general areas of reading, writing, and mathematics.*

Do I have to take the TSI Assessment?

- Not all incoming students need to take the TSI Assessment. There are many ways you can be exempt.

What are the TSI Assessment Exemptions?

- Have met the minimum college readiness standard on SAT, ACT, or a statewide high school test;
 - ACT composite score of 23 or higher, with individual math and/or English scores of no less than 19. SAT composite score of 1070 or higher, with a minimum score of 500 on math and reading.);
- Have successfully completed college-level English and math courses;
- Have enrolled in a Level-One certificate program (fewer than 43 semester credit hours
- Are not seeking a degree; or
- Have been, or currently are, in the military.

What Does the Assessment Cover?

The TSI assessment in mathematics

- Elementary Algebra and Functions
- Intermediate Algebra and Function
- Geometry and Measurement
- Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability

The TSI Assessment in Reading

- Literary analysis
- Main idea and supporting details
- Inferences in a text or texts
- Author's use of language

The TSI Assessment in Writing (Multiple-Choice Section)

- Essay Revision
- Agreement
- Sentence Structure
- Sentence Logic