High School Handbook & College Planner
Texoma Christian School



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

TEXOMA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

High School Handbook and College Planner

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The purpose of this handbook is to provide helpful information about operations and opportunities at Texoma Christian School High School. The college planning information is not intended to be all-inclusive, and thus you are encouraged to do additional research in making final decisions about your post-high school opportunities. All policies herein are subject to change. Updated Aug 2026

Texoma Christian High School
And College Planning Guide

Academic Record – *The High School Transcript*

Grade Point Averages

Credits and Grade Point Averages are officially recorded on the high school transcript for students earning credits toward high school graduation. TCS calculates the GPA according to national standards set by the *National Center for Education Statistics* (NCES) based upon Carnegie Units of Instruction. GPAs are derived from a four-point system based on the following numerical scale:

Percentage	Letter Grade	GPA points
90-100 %	A	4.0
80-89 %	B	3.0
70-79 %	C	2.0
69 & below	F	0.0

Honors and Dual-Credit college classes earn additional GPA points as follows:

Additional GPA points are awarded for the following advanced coursework:

Honors courses	.5
Dual Credit courses	1.0

***Note**: Dual Credit courses taken before the fall of 2021 earned **.5** additional GPA points. Dual credit classes taken in the fall of 2021 and beyond earn **1.0** additional GPA points.*

"Weighted GPA" – Students earn additional GPA points (more weight) for advanced coursework. A weighted GPA includes these extra points in the calculation. A student's cumulative weighted GPA is reported on the TCS high school transcript.

Transfer High School Students and Graduation Transcripts

Students who transfer into TCS with high school graduation credits from other high schools are subject to the following:

1) Transfer students must complete all required credits for one of the two graduation plans offered by TCS to become a graduate of Texoma Christian School.
2) Transfer course credits will be utilized to confirm completion of credits toward TCS graduation plans only and will NOT be included on the TCS transcript. Therefore, transfer students must request their transcript(s) from their previous school(s).
3) Confirming credits from Home School transcripts may require additional items for consideration, such as, but not limited to, the following: official transcripts, grade reports, curriculum used, syllabus, and work samples, including tests, essays, and projects for each course.

Transcript Requests

TCS High School transcripts may be requested at www.parchment.com. A link to this site is located on the TCS website at www.texomachristian.org. Requests for electronic transcripts for current students are free. ALL transcript requests requiring the US postal service will incur postage fees, due upon request for both current students and alumni. Students with high school credits from other schools must request those transcripts directly from those schools.

Class Rank

Texoma Christian School numerically ranks students in the top ten percent of each class only. This is due to our small class sizes (usually under 25). Ranking students in a small pool or number does not fairly and accurately represent the academic rigor and achievement of our students. This "non-ranking policy", common to most small schools, as well as some large schools, is stated on all transcripts.

The class rank calculation is determined on a 100.0 scale. It is calculated based on weighted numeric semester grades rather than GPA points. This provides a more specific result.

Honors courses receive an extra five points per class per semester to be calculated into their rank. Approved dual credit courses receive an extra ten points per class per semester to be calculated into their rank.

These extra points are calculated into student grades for determining class rank and reporting weighted GPA purposes ONLY. The unweighted numeric grades earned will appear on the transcript and report cards. See below for ranking eligibility policies.

Additional numeric points are calculated into semester grades for ranking purposes:

Honors courses: 5 points

Dual Credit courses: 10 points

Note: Dual Credit courses taken before the fall of 2021 earned 5 additional points. Dual credit classes taken in the fall of 2021 and beyond earn 10 additional points.

Example: If a student makes a 98 in an Honors course, the grade would be calculated as a 103 in the system for ranking purposes. The actual grade of 98 would appear on their transcript and report card.

Transfer Students – Transfer Credits and Ranking

Only students who begin classes at TCS within the first 2 weeks of their sophomore year and complete their Sophomore, Junior, and Senior years at Texoma Christian School will be eligible to be ranked and considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian honors.

Earning Credits for Graduation & Credit Recovery

Students must achieve an average grade for both semesters of at least 70% or above in any given course to earn credit. Additional credit is not granted for coursework receiving a failing grade, including advanced coursework such as Honors and Dual Credit. A failed course does not earn credit and MUST be included on the high school transcript. These students also MUST repeat the course to earn credit toward graduation.

Students who fail to earn credits will be responsible for completing credit recovery coursework at their own expense and on their own time through an approved alternate resource such as summer school at their local ISD. Failure to do so promptly may interfere with the natural sequence of classes and result in the student's inability to obtain grade-level promotion and graduate on time with their current classmates.

Summer School Credits for Acceleration

Summer acceleration courses will NOT be accepted for credit toward TCS high school graduation requirements; this includes college courses offered during the school year for dual credit. These courses must be completed with their class cohort to receive credit toward high school graduation.

Transfer High School Students – Every effort will be made to ensure a smooth transition for students transferring into TCS during the high school years. However, transfer students who have yet to complete coursework as outlined in the TCS annual sequence of courses will be responsible for completing this coursework at their own expense and on their own time through an approved alternate accredited resource. Failure to do so may interfere with the natural sequence of classes and result in the student's inability to obtain grade-level promotion and/or graduate on time with their current classmates.

Auditing Courses

The purpose of auditing coursework should be to increase a student's knowledge and skills to reinforce their academic success in the continuing sequence of coursework. Auditing may also be helpful for students transferring into TCS during the high school years and may be considered on a limited and case-by-case basis.

Examples:

- Spanish I & II: Transfer students with a Spanish I/II credit may not be at the level of our Spanish curriculum; thus, auditing of Spanish I or II is not uncommon.
- Algebra I: It is not uncommon for students who took Algebra I in 8th grade and earned the credit to feel the need to reinforce this foundational skill area before continuing to upper-level math courses.

High School Coursework Audited Guidelines – Students auditing coursework are required to complete all classwork, including tests and quizzes. These students will receive progress reports and report cards; however, these grades will NOT be included on the TCS High School Transcript. The goal is the successful acquisition of the knowledge and skills the student will need for success throughout their continued education.

Class Scheduling

The class schedule is designed each year to meet the graduation requirements and needs of all students. Graduation requirements are a priority while efforts are made to allow for adjustments based on interest, requests, and resources available.

Class Adds, Changes, or Drops – *considered only within the 1st ten class days*

Texoma Christian School makes every effort to provide students with class loads and schedules designed to assist them in completing high school within four years. To accomplish this objective, TCS students must successfully complete all of the required courses. Schedule changes may be considered only under the following guidelines:

1. **The request process must be completed within the first ten class days**.
2. Students must first consult with their instructor.
3. Students must consult with the guidance counselor to discuss the implications of requested changes to the student's graduation plan.
3. Students must secure written parental permission and teacher recommendation.
4. The principal has the final authority to approve or deny the course change request.

Transfer Requests to and from Honors and Regular Coursework after the First Day of Classes:

Every effort should be made to consider the students' progress and proper placement as early as possible. Therefore, students, parents, and teachers should collaborate on the appropriateness of ALL requests to change course.

Dropping Honors Courses: Students requesting a course change from honors coursework to regular coursework during a given semester must consider the following:

- This type of transfer can only be considered up to the first progress report of a given semester. After that point, transfers can only be considered at the end of the semester.

Adding Honors Courses: Students requesting a course change from regular coursework to honors coursework during a given semester must consider the following:

- This type of transfer can only be considered up to the **10th day of class,** and students may be required to make up honors projects or assignments. After that point, transfers can only be considered at the end of the semester.
- Grades earned in the honors course will be transferred to the regular course grade with an additional 5 points for Honors courses (10 points for Dual Credit)
- The teacher will have discretion and will provide details on how these additional points may affect the student's overall grade and appear in the grade book.

Coherent Sequence of Courses – Four-Year Plans

Note: The following illustration is not intended to be a declaration of all graduation requirements, but rather, it is intended to illustrate typical course sequences. See Graduation Plans for more details regarding graduation requirements.

9th	10th	11th	12th
Bible	Bible	Bible	Bible
English I	English II	English III	English IV
Alg 1/Geometry	Geometry/Alg 2	Alg 2/Pre-Calculus	College Math Prep College Algebra Pre-Calculus/Calc
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	4th Science Varies
World Geography	World History	US History	Government/Econ
Spanish I	Spanish II	Spanish III (optional)	Spanish IV (optional)
Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective
Phys Ed/Athletics	Phys Ed/Athletics	Phys Ed/Athletics	Phys Ed/Athletics

Additional information on courses and curriculum may be found on our website at www.texomchristian.org

Graduation

High school students and parents are encouraged to stay informed regarding the completion of their individual Graduation Plan (see these plans on the following pages).

Students and parents are encouraged to **communicate regularly with teachers** to monitor academic progress. Failure to pass or complete coursework as outlined may result in the student's inability to graduate on time with his or her current classmates.

Graduation Ceremonies

Students who fail more than one course (.5 credits) by or during their senior year may not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Graduation Requirements and Graduation Plan Choice

TCS graduation plans meet and exceed the State of Texas graduation plans. Both plans are designed to provide courses needed to adequately prepare students for College and University studies. In addition to the state requirements, TCS requires students to attend weekly chapel and reserves the right to add "local requirements", which currently include Bible class each year a student is enrolled.

DISTINGUISHED

(4) Bible	or 1.0 each year enrolled
(4) English	English I, II, III, IV
Social Studies (4)	W. Geography W. History U.S. History Government .5 Economics .5
Math (4*)	Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Pre-Calculus or 4th year math

*Math is required each year of High School

Science (4*)	Biology I Chemistry I Physics I 4th Science

*Science is required each year of High School

(2) Foreign Language (Same Language)
(1) Fine Arts
(2) Physical Education
(3) Electives
(.5) Personal Finance (fall of senior year)
(.5) Senior Seminar (spring of senior year)

Total Credits 29

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

(4) Bible	or 1.0 each year enrolled
(4) English	English I, II, III, IV
Social Studies (4)	W. Geography W. History U.S. History Government .5 Economics .5
Math (4*)	Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Pre-Calculus or 4th year math

*Math is required each year of High School

Science (4*)	Biology I Chemistry I Physics I 4th Science

*Science is required each year of High School

(3) Foreign Language (Same Language)
(1) Fine Arts
(2) Physical Education
(2) Electives
(.5) Personal Finance (fall of senior year)
(.5) Senior Seminar (spring of senior year)

Total Credits 29

4 Advanced Measures are required
see next page for details

*<u>The Scholar Graduation Plan includes the following additional requirements</u>:

1. Three years of the same foreign language
2. *Four "advanced measures" obtainable as follows:
   a) Outstanding performance in Advanced Placement and/or dual-credit college coursework with a grade of "B" or higher. Note: AP earns one per year-long course; DC earns one per 3-hour course.
   b) Earning a commended score on the PSAT earns one advanced measure (awards one of the four advanced measures).

TCS Honors Opportunities

National Honor Society

Membership in the Texoma Christian School Chapter of the National Honor Society is a high honor bestowed upon a limited number of TCS junior and senior students. To be eligible for membership, a student must have completed at least four semesters of high school, one of which must be at TCS.

Candidates must have at least a **3.5 cumulative GPA** to be considered. NHS is not just an honor roll. A list of potential candidates will be submitted to the high school principal and teachers, who will evaluate candidates on their **character**, **leadership**, and **service**.

A violation of the TCS code of conduct or academic integrity may be cause for non-recommendation to or removal from membership in the National Honor Society. Members must continue to meet the standards for nomination, maintain the minimum GPA, excellent character, and engage in service-related activities to remain active and earn the NHS designation at graduation.

Honors Graduates

A minimum GPA of **3.75** is required on the Distinguished or Distinguished Scholars graduation plan to be recognized as an honors graduate at graduation ceremonies.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian Honors (and ranking eligibility policies)

Senior class Valedictorian and Salutatorian are determined based on the cumulative numeric weighted semester grades at the end of the eighth semester. Requirements for ranking and being considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian honors are as follows:

1. Complete the Distinguished Scholar Diploma
2. Begin classes at TCS within the first 2 weeks of Sophomore year, and complete their Sophomore, Junior, and Senior years at Texoma Christian School.
3. Rank will be calculated solely on course credits earned at Texoma Christian School.

The valedictorian and salutatorian have traditionally been given the opportunity to speak at graduation. These students must submit their speeches to the Head of School for approval before the graduation ceremony.

TCS Advanced Coursework Opportunities

Honors courses

Honors courses are offered to academically motivated students who wish to excel and prepare for advanced college-level coursework. Admission to Honors coursework is NOT automatic.

Prerequisites for enrolling in Honors courses are a final course grade of 90 or higher in that subject area, 90th percentile or higher on standardized testing in that subject area, teacher recommendation, and parental consent. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis and must include an interview with the administration and involved teacher(s). College prerequisites are determined by the college.

Dual Credit Courses

This coursework, offered through our local Grayson College, allows students to earn dual high school and college credit for approved courses.

Transferability: This coursework is transferable to all public institutions of higher education in the state of Texas, by law. Experience has shown wide transferability of this coursework to other private and out-of-state colleges. However, it is the responsibility of the student to confirm transferability with the college(s) of their choice.

Senior students interested in dual credit coursework must:

1) Complete a Grayson College admissions application
2) Pass a college entrance test such as the TSI Assessment, SAT, or ACT
3) Pay the Grayson College course tuition, purchase textbooks, and class materials
4) Must earn a "C" or above to earn high school credit for graduation
5) Must earn a "B" or above to receive an "advanced measure" toward the highest Distinguished graduation plan offered to each class
6) Dual credit course(s) must be chosen from the TCS-approved list.
7) TCS-approved dual credit courses will be recorded on the high school transcript.

Dual Credit Coursework

These courses earn students both high school and college credit and are subject to the following rules:

1. Must be chosen from the approved TCS dual credit course list
2. Must be completed during the school year (fall and spring) in sequence with coursework as outlined on the TCS four-year graduation plan
3. Students must earn a "C" or above to earn high school credit for graduation.
4. Students must earn a "B" or above to receive an "advanced measure" toward the Distinguished Scholar graduation plan.

Dual Credit Tuition & Fee Exemptions

Students are responsible for paying for dual credit coursework and materials. Students may be eligible for tuition and fee exemptions or reductions based on family income. For

more information, see the following links or contact the GC business office. Eligibility Guidelines: https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/income-eligibility-guidelines

Dropping Dual Credit Coursework

Students struggling with dual credit coursework should discuss their concerns with their professor, parents, and school counselor as soon as possible.

Important steps and procedures for dropping dual credit coursework:

1. The **STUDENT MUST make their request in writing** by contacting their professor through their Grayson Canvas email found in their online class portal.
2. Meet with the high school counselor immediately to process a transfer into the equivalent high school course to be completed for graduation purposes.

If a "drop" is approved, the student's current Grayson dual credit course grade (with an additional 10 points) will be transferred into the equivalent high school course for completion of this graduation requirement credit.

Early College Concurrent Coursework

Concurrent college courses allow students to pursue additional college hours while in high school. These courses provide college credit only and do not provide students with high school credit. Thus, these credits are not recorded on the high school transcript and are not utilized in GPA calculations.

Students interested in pursuing these additional college hours must go through the TCS counselor for enrollment. These courses must not take priority over the TCS schedule or graduation requirements.

Eagle College Academy

Texoma Christian School provides an accelerated path for students passionate about excelling academically and completing dual-credit and concurrent courses in high school.

This program has been developed in partnership with Grayson College to offer our high school students the opportunity to maximize their high school years to complete additional college coursework before high school graduation.

Students who enroll in this program can work toward earning the distinction of an associate degree or earning hours toward the Texas Core College Curriculum when they graduate from TCS.

How does this program work?

Highly motivated high school students will need to complete both dual-credit and concurrent-credit college hours to move toward their goal of obtaining an Associate of Science degree in General Studies (60 hrs) or Texas Core Curriculum hours (42 hrs) by graduation. While some of these hours (24-30 hours) can be completed as dual credit, students will also need to plan to complete many of these college hours outside of the school day and during the summer, as concurrent college credit.

What is the Texas College Core Curriculum?

The Texas Core Curriculum is 42 semester credit hours of core coursework. This coursework is designed for all undergraduate students in Texas public higher education. This allows students to transfer these completed courses to another public Texas higher education institution without repeating any core courses.

Qualifications, Eligibility, and Enrollment

Students who are highly motivated, self-disciplined, and high achievers would be good candidates for this rigorous and challenging program.

- Overall GPA of 85 or higher
- Two teacher recommendations
- Parental approval
- Complete college enrollment steps as designated by Grayson College and outlined herein.

Important Note: The courses and degree plans are subject to change as our program is dependent on Grayson College's schedule and course offerings each semester.

Student Responsibility

1. It will be essential that students meet with the high school counselor each semester for course enrollment.
2. The TCS school counselor is not an official advisor for Grayson College. Therefore, students must consult with Grayson College advisors regularly to remain on track for earning the associate's degree by high school graduation.

Post High School Planning

The Guidance Office serves to assist our students in exploring options and identifying a path after high school that fits their God-given individual gifts and personal interests to influence the world for Jesus Christ. With our Heavenly Father as their ultimate guide, we want to help students follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they seek His plan for their lives.

The Guidance Office offers resources and important directives for students and families on this journey, such as career exploration, college search, and more. Information about course offerings, graduation requirements, and recommended courses of action to plan for post-high school education is offered regularly through classroom visits, evening parent meetings, and timely email communications.

College Exploration and Visitation

Colleges and universities determine their own admissions requirements, which can be competitive and vary widely. For this reason, TCS parents and students are encouraged to investigate the college entrance requirements early in the high school years so that a more informed and appropriate post-high school course of action can be made. College planning timelines begin on page 30.

Visiting a college campus in person is the best way to make an informed college choice. During the high school years, students may be granted permission to be excused (2 days per year) from school for official college visits by completing an "Anticipated Absence" form two weeks in advance. This form is available on the TCS website.

College Admissions Application and Student Disciplinary Disclosure

Upon request, Texoma Christian School will report disciplinary actions taken during grades 9 – 12 that result in a student's out-of-school suspension or dismissal from the school to colleges and universities.

Should senior students be subject to disciplinary action(s) as referenced above, after they have applied or been admitted to college(s), both the student and the college guidance counseling office will notify the colleges of these actions when requested.

Keeping Track – The College Admissions Resume

Students are encouraged to keep track of their school and community activities, awards, service, and employment. Records should be kept beginning in 9th grade, such as:

- School and Community volunteer service projects, including the number of hours
- Honors and awards (both in and outside of school)
- Extracurricular Activities/Sports and clubs (including leadership & awards)
- Employment

Why should I create and maintain a high school student resume?

- Many colleges and scholarship organizations will request this information during the application process. Having this information up-to-date and in one place will make filling out these applications a breeze.

- The TCS National Honor Society committee requires a resume from high school students who are being considered for induction into the TCS Chapter of NHS.

Athletics and College Scholarships

TCS does not offer an official guide for the arduous process of playing college sports and earning athletic scholarships. Therefore, students and parents are encouraged to begin this process early and remain vigilant with tasks required by these organizations.

Students interested in playing sports at college should begin their research in their freshman year, including taking videos, keeping stats, and completing athletic inquiry forms on college websites for each sport.

NCAA Interest – The National Collegiate Athletic Association

The NCAA has three membership divisions, I, II, and III. Institutions are members of their division based on size, scope, and whether they provide scholarships.

YOU MUST BE CERTIFIED by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. It is **the student's responsibility** to make sure the clearinghouse has the documents needed no later than Junior year. Students must:

1) Register online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net
2) Submit an official high school transcript from every school you have attended to the NCAA showing at least 6 semesters (end of Junior year).

   NCAA-required courses align with the TCS graduation plan requirements; you can look up our school by entering our school code of 446-499.
3) Submit SAT/ACT scores directly from SAT/ACT to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
4) Junior and Senior year; update academic and amateurism information and request final amateurism certification.
5) Request that a final high school transcript be sent to the eligibility center upon graduation.

NAIA – The Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

The NAIA is another governing body for college athletics and scholarships, typically for smaller liberal arts colleges. For more information, go to https://www.naia.org/ .

NJCAA – The National Junior College Athletic Association

The NJCAA is the governing body of intercollegiate athletics for two-year colleges. For more information, go to www.njcaa.org.

Athlete Showcase Website – https://www.ncsasports.org/

On this website, you can create a profile with your stats and videos for college coaches to preview. This is one of many websites of this nature where you can house your videos.

Testing (testing seasons may vary)

8th grade: 8th graders will take the **Pre-*ACT 8/9*** test in the spring. This test provides information regarding college readiness by indicating whether your student has reached certain "benchmarks" appropriate for his or her current grade level.

9th – 11th grade: High school students will take the ***PSAT*** (Practice test for the SAT) in the fall of their 9th, 10th & 11th grade years. The test is administered on National PSAT Test Day in October, here on campus, during a regular school day. For 11th graders, this is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship program.

10th grade: 10th-grade students will take the **Pre-*ACT PLAN*** (Practice test for the ACT) during the fall, here on campus, during a regular school day.

11th/12th grade: Students are encouraged to take ***the SAT & the ACT*** (College Entrance Tests) in the spring of their junior year, which are offered locally on national test dates.

Students with Learning Disabilities must submit documentation obtained within 3 years of requesting accommodations to be considered.

SAT/ACT Registration (www.collegeboard.org and www.actstudent.org)

Students are encouraged to:

- Examine results of practice tests to consider which tests their strengths lie in.
- Test at least twice, in the spring of Junior year & fall of Senior year
- Fee waivers are available for those who qualify. See your school counselor.
- Texoma Christian School High School Code: **446-499**

FREE Test preparation:

- ACT prep: www.academy.act.org
- SAT prep: www.khanacademy.org
- Test Prep options for a fee can be found on the TCS website

TSI Assessment: An achievement test given for entrance into Junior Colleges and dual credit courses, offered at Grayson College. GC testing center (903) 463-8608.

CLT – Classical Learning Test (www.cltexam.com): This college entrance test is gaining favor with many colleges. It includes verbal reasoning/reading, grammar/writing, and math.

"Test Optional/Test Blind": Some colleges do not require college entrance scores or consider them for admissions even when submitted. Check with your college of choice to confirm this.

CLEP Exams: CLEP exams cover material taught in courses that you may generally take in your first two years of college. Not all colleges and universities grant credit for CLEP exams. Therefore, check directly with the college or university you plan to attend regarding their credit policy. For more information, go to www.collegeboard.org.

College Entrance Testing Resources for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, may be eligible for college entrance testing accommodations. The following links will lead you to information on eligibility and documentation requirements.

SAT: http://www.collegeboard.com/ssd/student/index.html

- For additional questions: ssd@info.collegeboard.org or 609-771-7137

ACT: http://www.act.org/aap/disab/index.html

Eligibility Requirements – you must have:

1. Have a disability that necessitates testing accommodations
2. Receive and use the requested accommodation(s), due to the disability, for school-based tests
3. Have documentation on file at your school that supports the need for requested accommodations and meets the *Guidelines for Documentation*, which must be **LESS THAN 3 YEARS OLD**

If any of these requirements are not met, you may still be eligible. You may send your disability documentation with the *Student Eligibility Form* to the College Board for review and determination.

College Services to Students with Disabilities

Documented disabilities for which you have been granted accommodations in secondary school may be available to you in college. Check with the colleges of your choice for requirements, application process, and services available. **Colleges want you to be successful, so ask!**

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

The local DARS office assists students with disabilities (learning, emotional, or physical disabilities) and their families in transitioning into employment and/or vocational training. For more information, contact the local transitional counselor at (903) 813-8222. It is best to contact this office no later than the fall of a student's junior year.

College Majors and Career Exploration

"You are God's workmanship – created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for you to do!" Ephesians 2:10

Students will experience self-discovery and career exploration guidance activities throughout their high school years, including personality, interests, and abilities/skills assessments, as well as career research.

These activities are designed to help students understand their unique divine design and make connections with the world of work. Students will also be exposed to a variety of career professionals and college professors who will share information about their fields through classroom presentations.

Self-discovery and Career Exploration Resources:

College Board Major and Career Profiles

http://www.collegeboard.com/csearch/majors_careers/profiles/index.html

Career Cruising

www.careercruising.com TCS in partnership with a local community college off this great resource site for free to our students. It includes assessments, in-depth career info as well as resume building and storage. For log in contact the school counselor.

Occupational Outlook Handbook

http://www.bls.gov/

O Net

This site is a collection of assessments, data, guides, and just plain good information related to career planning. It is a government Web site which caters more to adults than to students, but it can still be very helpful to students who are serious about getting accurate and up-to-date career information: http://online.onetcenter.org

Career One Stop

This site provides short video clips covering In-Demand Occupations. Contains a wealth of information for students, parents, and career advisors.
https://www.careeronestop.org/GetMyFuture/default.aspx?frd=true

Health Opportunities in Texas: H.O.T. Jobs:

http://www.texashotjobs.org/

Job Hunter's Bible.Com

This site is produced by the writers of the popular career-planning book "What Color is Your Parachute?" It is rich in career assessments and planning and exploration tools. http://www.jobhuntersbible.com/

Career Ship

This Web site is primarily a source of information for career exploration. It includes excellent information and tools to help students make important career decisions and plan ways to reach career goals: http://mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer/careership/

Virtual Job Shadowing

Want to spend part of your day experiencing a job first-hand? While you are in school, that can be a challenge, but not with this site. Here you can see and hear what is happening at the job site of many favorite occupations on the net. It requires the assistance of a counselor, teacher, or other adult mentor to set up the job shadow experience, but it could help you decide whether a specific occupation is for you or not: http://www.jobshadow.com/

Two-Year Colleges, Career and Technical Schools

Students can prepare for many of today's high-growth career fields by attending a two-year college or technical school. Students can also start at a two-year college and then transfer to a four-year college. Two-year colleges and technical schools will require applicants to obtain acceptable college entrance test scores to pursue a two-year degree or take courses to transfer to a four-year degree program; however, many excellent certificate programs offered will not require these tests.

Military www.myfuture.com

Whether you feel called to serve or are just curious, this website is a great place to get the information you need to make an informed decision about joining the Military and one of its five major branches: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

ROTC

The Reserve Officer Training Corps offers a wonderful way to have your education paid for with guaranteed occupations waiting for you after graduation. Seventy-five percent of all military officers come through the ROTC program. APPLY EARLY – Summer before senior year.

ROTC – Army (www.armyrotc.com) 800-USA-ROTC

AFROTC – Air Force (www.afrotc.com) 800-522-0033

NROTC – Navy, with a Marine Option (www.navy.com/careers/nrotc) 800-NAV-ROTC

Military Academies

An appointment to one of the United States Military Academies takes a strong desire to serve your country. The application process is tedious, and life as a cadet is rigorous, but the educational and networking opportunities are without limits for the right person! Contact the academies no later than your junior year. The academy will then assign you a Liaison Officer for your school. This person will be a great resource for you as you go through the process outlined below.

Timeline for Military Academy Application

Sophomore and Junior Year

- Contact the academy of your choice and ask for the contact information for your Liaison Officer. Ask your Liaison Officer to help you apply for the special summer program at the academy. Admission is by invitation ONLY and is based on your PSAT.
- Plan to take the PSAT in the Fall of Junior year.
- Plan to take the SAT or ACT during Junior year.
- Make sure your parents and guidance counselor are aware of your interest.
- If interested in one of the military service academies, contact the academy NO LATER THAN JANUARY OF JUNIOR YEAR.
- Several tasks must be accomplished simultaneously:
  - ✓ Contact the academy to complete the pre-candidate information form.
  - ✓ Request a nomination to a military academy from your United States Congressman and Senators.
    - Contact the U.S. Senators at www.senate.gov
    - Contact your congressman at www.house.gov
  - ✓ Once you have completed the application, return it to the local office indicated on the forms and try to become familiar with the local office personnel responsible for academy decisions for your Congressman and Senators.

West Point Military Academy – Army https://www.westpoint.edu/ 1-845-938-4041

United States Air Force Academy www.usafa.af.mil 800-443-9266

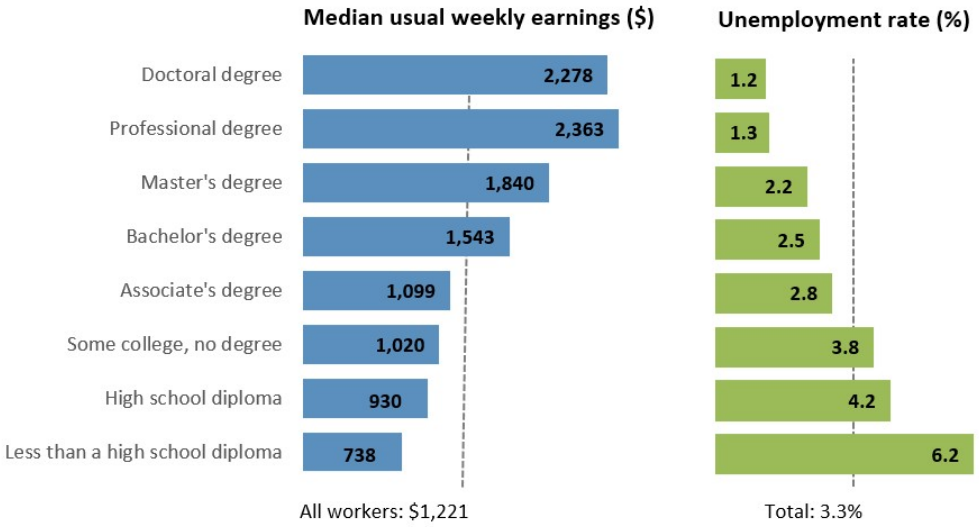
United States Naval Academy www.usna.edu 1-410-293-4361

US Coast Guard Academy www.uscg.mil 1-877-883-8724

Merchant Marine www.usmma.edu 1-516-773-5391

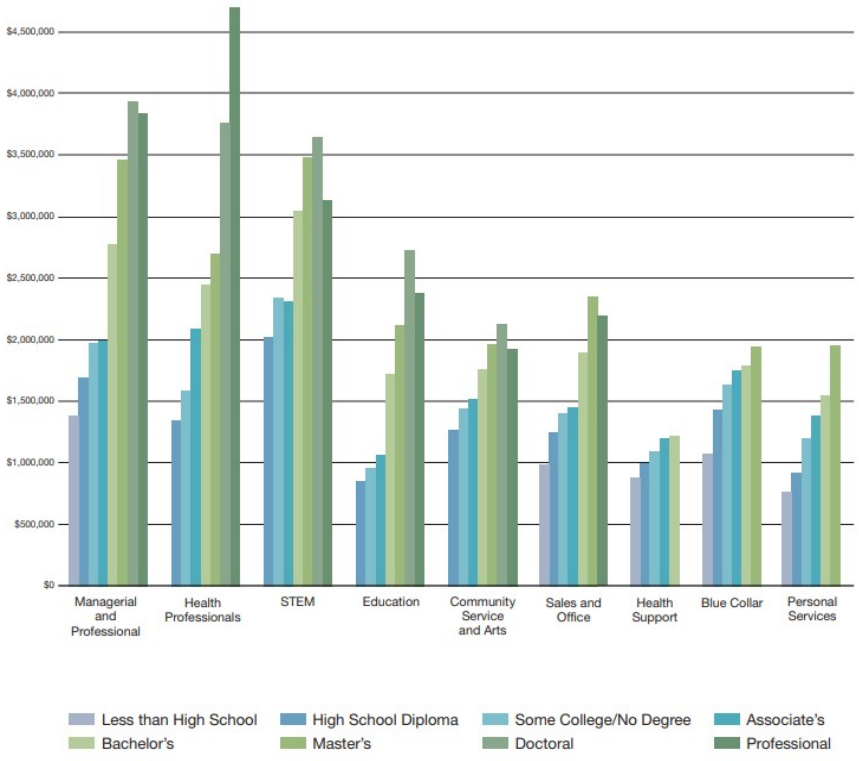
Education Pays! Post-high-school education makes a significant difference in your earning power over a lifetime. The latest information from the U.S. Bureau of Labor confirms that earning a bachelor's degree may almost double your earnings.

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2024



Note: Data are 2024 annual averages for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Earnings by Career Field (Georgetown University Research)



College Planning Resources

Basic College Admissions Criteria

- High School Transcript: GPA and rigorous Course Selections
- College Entrance exam scores SAT/ACT (some optional)
- Extracurricular activities in High School
- Leadership and Community Involvement
- Recommendations
- Character – Colleges will ask about disciplinary infractions
- College entrance essays
- Rank: High schools with fewer than 100 in a graduating class typically have a "non-ranking policy". Colleges accept "non-ranking policies" from small schools.

Always check with the Admissions office for their specific admissions criteria.

Basic College Requirements – College-bound students should present a high school academic record that includes the following:

- 4 units in English that include composition and literature
- 4 units in Social Studies, including US Government and Macroeconomics
- 4 units in Mathematics (many colleges now expect applicants to have completed Mathematics studies through Pre-Calculus)
- 4 units in natural science with labs (for competitive colleges, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics)
- 2 to 3 units in the same Foreign Language (for highly selective colleges, 3-4 years is recommended)
- 1 to 2 units of Fine Arts
- Electives

Digital Footprint/Social Media outlets

Beware! What you put on the internet is instantly out of your control and no longer private. Colleges look at and consider this material.

College and Your Character: Your Choices Matter!

Colleges ask both you AND your school administration about disciplinary infractions. Be aware that your school must answer truthfully, which could include, but is not limited to, questions regarding school suspensions and other disciplinary infractions.

Many colleges and scholarship organizations ask for recommendations from your administration and teachers. They are seeking to discover more than what your resume and transcript can tell them. This includes your character as well as the level of academic effort and curiosity you display in the classroom setting.

Texas Top 10% Admissions Rule

Applicants for admission to any Texas Public University as listed in Ed. Code 61.003 will be automatically admitted if the applicant is:

1) First-time freshman
2) Graduate with a GPA in the top 10% of the student's graduating class.
3) Apply within 2 years of graduating from a public or private high school in TX that is accredited by a generally recognized accrediting agency

To qualify for automatic admissions, an applicant must:

1) Apply before any filing deadline established by the institution.
2) The institution will review the applicant's record (high school transcript and test scores) and any other factor the institution considers appropriate to determine whether the applicant may require additional preparation for college-level work or would benefit from a retention program, usually the summer prior to enrollment.

Top 25% Admissions

Some universities in Texas have automatic admission based on your ranking in the top 25% of your class and college entrance scores. You will probably need higher-than-average ACT or SAT scores to qualify. For more info on Top 10% & 25% opportunities, go to: www.mytexasfuture.org.

College Application Process

- www.commonapp.org Application for many private and public
- www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org Application for many private and public
- www.goapplytexas.org Application for Texas public colleges and universities.

College Selectivity

This term refers to the percentage of students who are admitted compared to the number who apply. The following information provides a general idea of scores related to the various types of enrollments, representing approximately the middle 50% of entering freshmen.

Open Enrollment - ACT 16-21 – such as community colleges

- These colleges typically admit all students who apply; however, minimum scores are required (see page 9) to be exempt from remedial coursework.

Traditional Enrollment – 70 to 90% of applicants admitted
ACT 18-24 – UNT, UTA, SOSU

Selective Enrollment – up to 75% of applicants admitted
ACT 21-30 – Tx State, Tx Tech, AC

Very Selective Enrollment – less than 50% of applicants admitted
ACT 25-30 – UT Austin, TCU, TAMU, Baylor

Highly Selective Enrollment – less than 20% of applicants are admitted
ACT 27-36 - Wheaton, Duke, Vanderbilt, Harvard, Rice

The College Search

College admission is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.

In looking at colleges, consider the following:

Core Values	Location	Size; Stud/Prof Ratio	Cost
Entrance requirements	Academic rigor	Available Majors	Support Services

General College Search

- Make the personal "good fit" a priority. "A degree from a prestigious university is not a guarantee of success." Leon Pope, Colleges that Change Lives
- Visit college websites for a quick and comprehensive way to get current information. Look for their most recent "freshmen profile" and "College Preview" events.
- Schedule official campus visits, sit in on a class, talk to students, spend the night in a dorm, and explore extracurricular activities and the local community.
- Research the success of graduates such as
  - ✓ The number of graduates accepted to graduate schools
  - ✓ The employment stats of recent graduates
- Don't initially discount colleges with a high price tag. Many of these schools have institutional money and provide a high percentage of scholarships.
- Plan to apply to 3-5 schools that you would consider a "reach", "target," and "safe" colleges for you.

Great college search engine resources for your college search

- www.bigfuture.org by the College Board
- www.petersons.com

Texas Schools

- www.mytexasfuture.org
- www.thecb.state.tx.us The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Site
- http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/InteractiveTools/HELM/ Map of Texas colleges

Christian College Information

- www.myblueprintstory.com
- www.christiancollegeguide.net

Special Constituency Sites

- www.hsf.net The Hispanic American Scholarship Fund
- Empowering HBCUs and College Students - UNCF African American
- Scholarships For Native Students | Native Forward Scholars Fund Native American

College Admissions Vocabulary

Early Decision

This is a program where students apply to their first choice early in the fall of the senior year, receiving notification by approximately mid-December. If accepted, students are committed to attending and must withdraw any other outstanding applications. Early Decision must come with a warning. This is not a good idea unless students have done a thorough college search and know without a shred of doubt that this is the college for them.

Questions to ask yourself before you decide to go Early Decision

1. Have you thoroughly researched several colleges and know what your options are?
2. Do you know why you're going to college and what you want to accomplish there?
3. Have you visited several campuses, spent time in classes, stayed overnight, and talked to students and professors?
4. Do the college's courses and core values match your goals and values?
5. Are you absolutely convinced that one college clearly stands out above all others?

Early Action

"Early action" is when students apply early in the fall of their senior year. These students receive an admissions decision earlier than those applying by the regular application deadline. This does NOT create a commitment for the student to accept an admission offer. This action is not binding for the student and provides flexibility. Students should check with their colleges of choice for specific policies and deadlines.

Regular Decision

This plan is where institutions review most of their applications before notifying the majority of candidates of their admissions. In this process, colleges set a deadline for completing applications and will respond to completed applications by a specified date. If students are applying for financial aid, this may include an additional process and deadline.

Rolling Admissions

This policy allows colleges to notify students of admissions as soon as the application is received and reviewed. In this situation, it is wise to apply early because once the admissions quota is reached, applications may no longer be accepted.

Wait List

This term is used by institutions to describe a process in which they may initially delay offering students admission. Rather, the institution extends to students the possibility of admission.

College – Ways to Pay!

I. Grants, Loans & Work Study: Government-funded grants are disbursed based on financial need and do not have to be repaid. The government also subsidizes low-interest loans to those who qualify. Loan repayments are usually deferred until after college graduation. Work-study provides paid employment on campus to students who qualify.

To apply for the above funds, students must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form available October 1st of senior year, online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Once a student's FAFSA is on file at their college financial aid office, the student will be notified about programs for which they qualify. *Be sure to complete and submit this by your college's "priority deadline".*

II. College-Specific Scholarships: Colleges offer scholarships to students based on merit **and** financial need. Scholarships do not have to be repaid. Most colleges require a completed FAFSA form to be considered for their private scholarship funds, regardless of whether you qualify for Federal Aid.

III. Independent College Scholarships:

- **Company- and Church-Specific:** Many companies and churches offer scholarships to their employees and members' children. ASK!
- **Independent Scholarships:** These are scholarships offered by organizations relating to ethnicity, interests, club/civic affiliation, career choice, and much more. Sign up with a ***scholarship search engine*** to access scholarships specific to your individual interests and affiliations. (see the next page for suggestions)
- **Local Independent Scholarships:** Local community organizations offer scholarships to area students. This information is sent upon arrival from your school counselor to all seniors and their parents. So, check your email regularly!

Scholarship TIPS

There are millions of scholarship dollars available! Consider this: your time is money; the more time you take on this endeavor, the more money you can potentially earn. Do not wait until senior year, but if you do, it is not too late! Consider preparing common scholarship essays in advance – such as:

- Describe in 250 words or less, how this scholarship will help you achieve your educational and occupational goals.
- What is unique about your financial needs, and how do you plan to contribute to your college expenses?

Scholarship Scams!

Beware of any scholarship search assistance that costs money and/or guarantees results. Also, beware of www.fafsa.com! This is a site that will charge you to do what you can do for FREE at www.fafsa.ed.gov. **For additional Scholarship Scam information,** go to: The Federal Trade Commission at http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/scholarship/

Helpful Financial Aid Websites

Federal and State Aid Application and Eligibility Information

- www.fafsa.ed.gov - FREE Application for Federal Student Aid
- www.studentaid.ed.gov - This U.S. Department of Education site includes user-friendly guides on federal grants, loans, work-study programs & scholarships.
- http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/hope-taxes.htm Information on the "Hope Scholarship & Lifetime Learning Credits"
- www.texastuitionpromisefund.com
    - A 529 plan is an education savings plan operated by a state or an educational institution and designed to help families set aside funds for college. Earnings on 529 plans are tax-free if used for qualified higher education expenses.
- www.mytexasfuture.org ***Texas*** student aid info and college planning

Texas Valedictorian/Highest Ranking Graduate Scholarship

- www.tea.texas.gov/HRG/
- Amount can include up to tuition exemption from a Texas public college or university for the first two semesters of college immediately following graduation. Private colleges may or may not offer and honor this award.

Scholarship Search Engines *(provide customized search options)*

- https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
- www.cappex.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.studentscholarships.org

Special Scholarship Constituency Sites

- www.uwsp.edu Search for minority scholarships
- www.hsf.net The Hispanic American Scholarship Fund
- www.blackexcel.com African American
- http://www.apiasf.org Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund
- www.aihec.org Native American

Calculate your financial need – "Estimated Family Contribution" (EFC):

- www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

Loans - http://www.collegeboard.com/pay/ Lets students calculate the amount of debt they can afford to incur, based on their anticipated income after graduation

Volunteer/Service Opportunities

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40

Volunteering has a positive impact on your community, school, and on you! It is also important in college admissions, but they are not just looking for a laundry list of hours. Colleges want to see a picture of who you really are and what you are passionate about.

Get involved in a few things that interest you and do not spread yourself too thin. Check with your church, look for needs in your neighborhood, and check out the various resources listed below. Be sure to keep track of your activities, including your hours!

Suggested Agencies:

Boys & Girls Clubs:

- Sherman – (903) 892-9019 Denison – (903) 465-9008

American Red Cross:

- www.redcross.org/donate/volunteer ; (903) 465-1330

North Texas Youth Connection:

- Vicki Penn, Volunteer Coordinator (903) 893-4717 gcjavpenn@cableone.net

Texoma Community Center (formerly MHMR):

- Paula Cawthon, Volunteer Coordinator (903) 957-4865; pcawthon@mhmrst.org

The Substance Abuse Council; the Pride Prevention Center

- Neva Yeary (903) 892-9911

Churches:

- Get involved in your church, youth group, teach Sunday school, help in the nursery, help with church projects

Check out:

Volunteer Match Service

- www.volunteermatch.org Search by zip code and areas of interest then email them directly through this link.

National & Community Service – Learn & Serve America:

- www.learnandserve.org- Spirit of Service Awards, Presidential Freedom Scholarships, President's Volunteer Service Award

United Way; www.unitedway.org

Special Olympics; www.specialolympics.org

Volunteer in Parks; www.nps.gov/volunteer/

Make a Wish; www.wish.org/home/volunteer.htm

GET INVOLVED!

TCS Extracurricular High School Activities

This list is subject to change

- Student Council
- 4-H
- Sisters in Service
- Photo and Art Club (PAC)
- National Honor Society (Juniors and Seniors)
- TAPPS Academic Competitions
- Sisters-In-Service (SIS)
- Athletics (Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Golf, Soccer, Tennis, Cheerleading, Track & Cross Country)

Leadership Opportunities

- Applied Leadership class available 10th-12th grade
- Campaign for a leadership role in school clubs & student council
- Sport Team Captains
- Take initiative in your church youth groups and teach Sunday school
- Organize friends to complete a community project or to help someone in need
- Be a summer camp counselor
- Teach or coach sports to younger students (YMCA, Boys/Girls Club)
- Apply to Camp RYLA in the summer of your Jr. year (a leadership training camp)
- National Youth Leadership Forums – www.nylf.org (leadership camps on Medicine, Law, Technology & Defense/Diplomacy)
- Congressional Youth Leadership Council Conferences – www.cylc.org
- Teen Mania's Global Expeditions - www.globalexpeditions.com, Mission Trips
- Youth With a Mission – www.ywam.org
- Christian Leadership – www.focusinstitute.org
- Christian Leadership – www.summit.org/conferences/
- Christian *Passion Conferences* – www.268generation.com

As always, keep track of all your activities; scholarship organizations and colleges will gather this information during their application process.

General Outline of High School College Planning Activities

Students at TCS will engage in activities throughout the high school years (shared on the next two pages) that will provide stepping stones toward a better understanding of who they are and the post-high school options available to them.

EACH year, high school students are:

- Invited to attend local College Fairs and encouraged to build their personal college list
- Encourage involvement in extracurricular activities, leadership, community, and school service
- Encouraged to consider meaningful summer experiences i.e., camps, work, job shadowing, volunteering, and service
- Provided classroom guidance such as self-discovery, college & career exploration

High School Classroom Guidance Topics:

- ✓ Gifts/Talents, Strengths, Personality Self-discovery Assessments
- ✓ Lunch and Learn: Exposure to Career Professionals and College Professors
- ✓ Post-High School Career Exploration and Research tools
- ✓ Understanding types of colleges and other post-high school educational options
- ✓ How to Choose a College that is Right for You
- ✓ Scholarship Searching
- ✓ College Application Planning
- ✓ Social Media/Digital Footprints Awareness
- ✓ High School/College Resume Building
- ✓ The Significance of Meaningful Summer Experiences
- ✓ Multiple opportunities to practice for the SAT and ACT

PARENT meetings offered:

- High School Preview meeting for parents of rising freshmen
- Annual Course Selection meeting for parents of high school students
- Various informational parent meetings on topics such as college and career guidance, and financial aid

Student Activity Outline by Grade Level

9th graders will

- Consider high school diploma options and complete a 4-year course plan
- Start keeping track of activities and awards, and build a high school resume
- Take the PSAT (Preliminary SAT), take the pre-ACT 8/9 in 8th grade
- Experience self-discovery and career exploration activities

10th graders will

- Update diploma plan and high school resume
- Take the PSAT (pre-SAT) & the 10th grade PLAN (pre-ACT)
- Be encouraged to take their college entrance test prep seriously by utilizing the free personalized test preparation offered through SAT and ACT
- Continue self-discovery and career exploration activities
- Learn the steps to building a college list that is a good fit academically, socially, spiritually, and financially, including family talking points to identify priorities
- Be considered for induction into the TCS Chapter of the National Honor Society

11th graders will

- Update diploma plan and high school resume
- Write college and scholarship essays
- Attend lunch events for college rep presentations
- Be reminded to make official college campus visits to the schools on their list
- Take the PSAT for the last time (National Merit Scholarship Program)
- Be encouraged to register for the SAT and ACT early in the spring
- Be encouraged to seek leadership opportunities such as Camp RYLA
- Be provided with college application planning activities

12th graders will

- Be encouraged to apply to colleges of choice early in the Fall (prior to Nov. 1)
- Be encouraged to retake the SAT and ACT early in the fall if needed to increase scholarship opportunities
- Receive information on various local scholarship applications throughout fall and spring from the guidance office

God has a plan for YOU!
Jeremiah 29:11



Timelines for College Admissions

"May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." *Psalm 20:4*

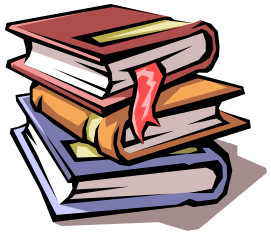
Freshmen

Make High School Count

Realize that your grades count!

- □ Your academic record, the transcript, is crucial to college entrance because it tells a college about your academic skills over 4 years.

Develop good study skills now



- □ **How-To-Study.com** This site helps develop effective study skills: https://www.how-to-study.com/
- □ Practice good time management, and plan ahead

Plan now to take a wide variety of rigorous courses

- □ College will be looking for strong grades and tough course choices. Push yourself in areas where you have strengths and interests.

Start practicing for college entrance testing now

- □ Take the PSAT each Fall of high school and take practice tests online
- □ Utilize the free prep resources available with your PSAT & PACT tests

Start a college search now

- □ Make finding a "good fit" for you a priority over a prestigious college name
- □ Research college information (www.bigfuture.org) and start talking with your parents about your priorities and goals for your life after high school
- □ Attend College Fairs – Watch your emails for these opportunities to meet multiple college representatives in one place!

Explore your interests, strengths & gifts

- □ Take a free assessment at https://www.mynextmove.org/ & explore careers
- □ Talk to family members about their careers

Get involved & keep a list of your activities

- □ Community service is important to college & scholarship applications.
- □ Focus on activities that interest you, **quality rather than quantity.**
- □ Plan a meaningful summer with camps, volunteering, and employment
- □ Maintain a list of your activities and awards throughout your high school years for your college and scholarship applications.

College Athletics Interest – Be realistic about your abilities; keep track of accomplishments, including videos of your performances

Freshmen – Questions to "ponder"

pon·der *verb*
~ to think carefully, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion

Who am I? What makes me unique?

Who do I want to become?

What interests me? And why? What subjects in school do I like and why?

What types of things do I want to find out more about?

Freshmen Year

Notes – Thoughts – Activities

Sophomores

Prepare a solid foundation & boost your skills



High school grades COUNT

- □ Keep your grades up, and ask for help as soon as you struggle

Don't forget – CHARACTER COUNTS

- □ Be mindful of your attitude and behavior; you will need administrators and teachers to complete recommendations for you!
- □ In the spring of Sophomore year, students will be considered for the TCS chapter of National Honor Society. Considerations will include GPA, service & character.

Identify academic strengths & weaknesses – TEST PREP

- □ Take the Pre-ACT and PSAT to identify academic areas of weakness early and develop a plan NOW to improve your skills & increase scores for scholarships
- □ Take your college entrance test prep seriously in preparation for considering appropriate test prep courses in the summer after sophomore year, before taking your test for the first time, in the spring of junior year.

For College Goers – Build your COLLEGE LIST by:

- □ Have family discussions and ask yourself:
  - ✓ "How do my priorities in choosing a college compare with my parents'?"
  - ✓ "What kind of college experience am I looking for?"
  - ✓ "Does my academic profile (GPA, Test scores) meet the requirements of the school(s) I am interested in?"
  - ✓ "What kind of college will help me grow as a person as well as gain a degree?"
- □ READ this book! Colleges That Change Lives by Loren Pope
- □ Utilize Collegboard's www.bigfuture.org. Here you can set up a personal account to compile your own lists and research schools that fit your priorities and academic profile.

Students with Learning Disabilities – Review your testing documentation. It must be obtained within 3 years of requesting accommodations to be considered for SAT/ACT.

College Athletics Interest

- □ Register with NCAA, NAIA, or NJCAA and video your skills

Continue to build your college resume

- □ Get involved in extracurricular & service activities, seeking opportunities for leadership and service
- □ Maintain and update your list of activities regularly for your college resume

Sophomores - Questions to "ponder"

pon·der *verb*
~ to think carefully, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion

How am I doing? How are my grades? What are my priorities?

What are my strengths and weaknesses?

What are my goals?

Actionable Ideas to Move Me Forward:

Where do I need to go from here to get where I want to go?

i.e. additional test prep? Tutor? Special summer programs of interest? Better choices in friends?

Sophomore Year

Notes – Thoughts – Activities

Juniors

Narrow your search & make campus visits



Narrow Your College Choices to 3-5 by researching & visiting campuses

- □ Discuss college financing with your parents and begin researching scholarships
- □ Make PERSONAL visits to campuses

VISIT! What to ask on a college visit:

- □ What are the college's core values? And how are those demonstrated?
- □ What percent of first-year students return as sophomores?
- □ What percent of first-year classes are taught by graduate assistants?
- □ What programs do you have in place to help ensure freshmen succeed?
- □ What percent of entering students graduate?
- □ What percentage of graduates who apply to graduate school are admitted?

TEST! Take College Entrance Exams

- □ Take the SAT and ACT in the spring of your junior year so that you will have scores for college applications in the coming summer and fall

Prepare College Essays

- □ Complete a college entrance essay in Junior English class

Recommendations (for both college admissions and/or scholarships)

- □ Ask a teacher you believe can give you a stellar recommendation
- □ Colleges want to hear about your academic motivation and performance in an instructional setting
- □ Your college applications will open up the summer before your senior year, so ask now!

Continue to Build Your College Resume

- □ Apply to Camp RYLA the summer of your Jr. year (a leadership training camp); see your guidance counselor for details
- □ Continue to be involved in extracurricular activities, community service, leadership, and employment
- □ Update your high school/college resume with your activities and awards

College Sport

Register at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net and request a transcript sent at the end of junior year.

Juniors – Questions to "ponder"

pon·der *verb*
~ to think carefully, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion

What information do I need to make the best college choice/fit for me?

- What kind of experience do I want?
- What do I want to learn/gain from my college years?
- What kind of person will I become if I attend that college?
- When I look back on my college years, what do I want to be able to say?

What do I want to study?

- What are my interests and ability areas?
- How can I use my unique gifts and interests to bring about a better world?

<u>Actionable Ideas</u> to move me forward:

- How will I make the time to do the things necessary to be ready to apply to my colleges of choice at the beginning of my senior year?

My plan… i.e. schedule college visits now, research scholarships now

Junior Year

Notes – Thoughts – Activities

Seniors

Narrow your search and apply!



Fall

- □ Apply to at least 3 schools (safe, target, and reach) by November 1; applying early gives you an edge and allows you to enjoy your senior year!
- □ Make a calendar with your college application and financial aid deadlines.
- □ October: Your FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) becomes available Oct 1; plan to complete this and your college's financial applications - check your schools!

  Note! *Most of your financial aid/scholarship money will come from the college you choose to attend,* so follow their scholarship application process closely; they may have special forms and deadlines to meet.
- □ Sign up early for the SAT and/or ACT if you have not already taken them and/or wish to increase your score for scholarship purposes.
- □ Request college and scholarship recommendations at least 2 weeks in advance

Spring

- □ Continue scholarship search; local scholarships are available in the spring and will be sent via email from the School Counselor – check emails regularly!
- □ Make a backup plan with your "safe" school; complete your application to Grayson College and their scholarships by March 15. You can always turn the money down if your other plans work out.
- □ For students attending Grayson College in the summer and/or Fall:
  - Complete their scholarships by their priority deadline, usually March 15
  - Summer and Fall advising and enrollment begin **in April**; completing this process early can help you get the best class schedule.
- □ Keep up your grades! – Once you are accepted, colleges will require another high school transcript in January and in May.
- □ Compare financial aid packages when you receive admissions notifications. Look for the best value ("Net Price") rather than the most money.
- □ Finalize your college choice & notify all colleges of your decision by May 1st
- □ Request your final high school transcript to be sent to 1) Grayson College, 2) your college of choice, and 3) sports clearinghouses if applicable

Seniors – Questions to "ponder"

pon·der *verb*
~ to think carefully, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion

How will I make the time to complete college and scholarship applications in September to meet early action deadlines?

i.e. Set goals to spend 1 hour/week on scholarship applications

My goals…

How will I make the time to complete college and scholarship applications in September to meet early action deadlines?

i.e. Set goals to spend 1 hour/week on scholarship applications

My goals…

What information do I need to make the best final decision on the right college fit for me? What do I need to do to get this information?

My plan… i.e. compare your offers, review your priorities and values, seek God

Senior Year

Notes – Thoughts – Activities