

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 of 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 February 2022

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 upon the following numerical scale:

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

Pre-AP, AP, 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: for the class of 2022 and 2023, dual credit courses taken prior to the fall of 2021 will receive .5 additional GPA points. Dual credit classes taken the fall of 2021 and beyond will receive 1.0 additional GPA points.

Advance Placement 1.0

“Weighted GPA” – Students earn additional GPA points (more weight) for advance coursework. A weighted GPA includes these extra points in the calculation. Student’s cumulative weighted GPA is reported on the 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) Previous high school graduation credits are subject to the TCS GPA calculation and transcript system including calculation for class rank as set forth in the “Class Rank” policies outlined herein.
- 3) Home School transcripts from non-accredited educational institutions will be considered only as pass/fail. Other required items for consideration include grade reports, transcript reports, curriculum used, syllabus, samples of work including tests and assessments 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. This includes both current students and alumni.

Class Rank

It is Texoma Christian School's Policy to rank numerically only the top ten percent of students and not to rank the remainder of the class 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, is stated on all transcripts.

The class rank calculation is determined on the 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 and AP 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 un-weighted numeric grades will appear on the transcript and report cards. See below for ranking eligibility policies.

Additional numeric points calculated into semester grades for ranking purpose:

Honors courses 5 points

Dual Credit courses 10 points *(Note: for the class of 2022 and 2023, dual credit courses taken prior to the fall of 2021 will receive 5 additional points. Dual credit classes taken the fall of 2021 and beyond will receive 10 additional points.)*

Advance Placement 10 points

Example: If a student made 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.

Transfer students, who enter TCS with weighted credit(s) for Honors, Pre-AP, AP or "local" credit(s) from other high schools that are not available to TCS students in the annual course offerings for each specific graduation class of students, will not be considered during the actual ranking process. This is to allow for a fair and consistent ranking system for all high school students.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian Honors (and ranking eligibility policies)

Senior class valedictorian and salutatorian are determined based upon 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.

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

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 to any coursework receiving a failing grade, including, Honors, Advanced Placement 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 in order 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 in a timely manner may interfere with the natural sequence of classes and result in 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.

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, students who have yet to complete coursework as outlined in the TCS annual sequence of courses may be responsible for completing such coursework at their own expense and on their own time through an approved alternate resource. Failure to do so may interfere with the natural sequence of classes and result in student's inability to obtain grade level promotion and/or graduate on time with their current classmates.

Transfer credits policy for "letter grades"

Transfer credits required for graduation purposes that do not provide numeric grades is subject to the following TCS numeric calculations. These numeric grades will be recorded on the TCS high school transcript and utilized for potential ranking purposes for those that qualify:

A+ = 100	B+ = 89	C+ = 79
A = 95	B = 85	C = 75
A- = 90	B- = 80	C- = 70

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 in to TCS during the high school years and may be considered on a limited and case-by-case basis.

Examples:

- Spanish I: Students may enroll in TCS with a Spanish I credit but are not on level with 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 who have earned the credit but feel the need to reinforce this foundational skill area before continuing on to upper-level math courses.

Audited Courses, class work and the transcripts – These students will be required to complete all required class work. 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 successful acquisition of the knowledge and skills the student will need for success throughout their continued education.

Class Scheduling

The class schedule is based on meeting the needs of students to complete graduation requirements. Graduation requirements are 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. Student must consult with the guidance counselor to discuss the implications of requested changes to the student's graduation plan.
3. Student 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 from Advanced Coursework to Regular Coursework

Students requesting a course change from advanced coursework to regular coursework during a given semester must consider the following:

1. 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.
2. Student, parents, and teacher should collaborate on the appropriateness of the request. Every effort should be made to consider the student's progress and placement as early as possible.
3. Transfer grades from Honors to regular coursework will include an additional 5 points for Honors courses (10 points for Advance Placement) to be added to the student's current grade.
4. The teacher will have discretion and will provide detail on how these additional points may affect the students overall grade and appear in the grade book.
5. For students who transfer during the semester, his/her high school transcript will reflect the regular course level rather than an advanced class for the semester.

Coherent Sequence of Courses – Four Year Plans

Note: The following illustration is not intended to be a declaration of all graduation requirements, but rather this 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 I or Geometry	Geometry or Alg II	Alg II or Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calc or Calculus
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	4th Science Varies
World Geography	World History	US History	Government/Economics
Spanish I	Spanish II	Spanish III	Spanish IV
Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective
Physical Ed/Athletics	Physical Ed/Athletics	Physical Ed/Athletics	Physical 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 that 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		DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR	
(4) Bible	or 1.0 each year enrolled	(4) Bible	or 1.0 each year enrolled
(4) English	English I, II, III, IV	(4) English	English I, II, III, IV
Social Studies (4)	W. Geography W. History U.S. History Government .5 Economics .5	Social Studies (4)	W. Geography W. History U.S. History Government .5 Economics .5
Math (4*)	Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Pre-Calculus	Math (4*)	Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Pre-Calculus
*Math is required each year of High School		*Math is required each year of High School	
Science (4*)	Biology I Chemistry I Physics I 4 th Science	Science (4*)	Biology I Chemistry I Physics I 4 th Science
*Science is required each year of High School		*Science is required each year of High School	
(2) Foreign Language (Same Language)		(3) Foreign Language (Same Language)	
(1) Fine Arts		(1) Fine Arts	
(2) Physical Education		(2) Physical Education	
(3) Electives		(2) Electives	
Total Credits 28		Total Credits 28.	
		<i>*4 Advanced Measures are required see below for details</i>	

*The Scholar Graduation Plan includes the following additional requirements:

1. An additional year of foreign language (3 years of the same foreign language)
2. *Four “advanced measures” obtainable as follows:

- a) Outstanding performance in Advance Placement and/or Dual credit college course work 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 advance measure (awards one of the four advance 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 of 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, good character and engage in service-related activities to remain active and earn the NHS designation at graduation.

Honors Graduates

Eligibility is based on the cumulative eight-semester grade point average (**GPA**). A **3.75** GPA qualifies the student as an honor graduate and recognized at graduation ceremonies.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian Honors (and ranking eligibility policies)

Senior class valedictorian and salutatorian are determined based upon the cumulative numeric weighted semester grades at the end of the eighth semester.

Requirements for ranking and being for considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian honors:

- 4. Complete the Distinguished Scholar Diploma
- 5. Begin classes at TCS with in the first 2 weeks of Sophomore year, and complete their Sophomore, Junior, and Senior years at Texoma Christian School.

The valedictorian and salutatorian have traditionally been given the opportunity to speak at graduation. These students are required to submit their completed speeches to the Head of School for approval prior to 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 such as, AP and Dual Credit. 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, 90 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 administration and involved teacher(s). College prerequisites are determined by the college.

Advance Placement Courses

AP coursework is college-level work providing high school students the opportunity to gain valuable skills and study habits for college as well as prepare for AP exams. AP courses offerings are based on interest and resources available.

Colleges may grant credit or “Advance Placement” to student for qualifying scores (established by each university). AP tests are ordered in the fall and administered by TCS staff in May. Students are responsible for cost of these tests. *More information about Advanced Placement may be found at www.collegeboard.org/ap.*

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

Acceptable Tests/Scores for Dual Credit Enrollment:

SAT: 1070 combined verbal and math with at least 480/Verbal and 530/Math
ACT: 23 composite score with at least 19 on English and 19 on Math sections

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 procedure for dropping dual credit coursework:

1. The **STUDENT MUST make a request in writing by emailing their professor through their Grayson Canvas email found in their online class portal.**
2. Copy this message to the high school counselor, to assist with any follow up that may become helpful.
3. 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 credit.

College “Mini-mesters” Coursework

College mini-mester courses are not eligible for TCS dual credit. In rare instances of hardship and credit recovery, TCS Administration may grant exceptions to this policy upon timely written request for same.

Dual Credit Tuition & Fee Exemptions

Students may be eligible for tuition and fee exemptions, or reduction 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>

Summer College Coursework

Approved dual credit courses must be completed during the academic school year on the TCS campus; however, students may enroll in “concurrent college coursework” during the summer. Summer acceleration courses will NOT be accepted for credit toward the TCS high school diploma plans.

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 and concurrent course options. These courses must not take priority over the TCS schedule or graduation requirements.

Eagle Early College Academy

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 prior to high school graduation.

Students who enroll in this program can work toward earning the distinction of an associates 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 associates degree (60 hours) or Texas Core Curriculum hours (42 hours) 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 a 42 Semester Credit Hour of core coursework. This coursework is designed for all undergraduate students in Texas public higher education that will allow students transfer the entire set of completed courses to another public Texas higher education institution without having to repeat 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

Please be advised

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

Although our school counselor advises TCS students on college admissions and high school degree plans, the counselor is not an official advisor for Grayson College.

Student Responsibility

It will be essential that students enrolled in Eagle Academy early college coursework meet with the school counselor each semester for enrollment, annually with a college advisor at Grayson College and consult advisors at the four-year college where they plan to transfer this coursework.

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 are offered regularly through classroom visits, evening parent meetings and timely email communications. See pages 26-27 for an outline of activities and meetings offered.

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

Texoma Christian School, upon request, will report to colleges and universities all disciplinary actions taken during grades 9 – 12 that result in a student’s out-of-school suspension or dismissal from the school. This includes, but is not limited to, schools that use the Common Application.

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 in writing when requested and/or required.

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?

- Most scholarship organizations will request this information during the application process. Having this information up-to-date and in one place will make filling out scholarship 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.
- Many colleges request student resume information for admissions purposes.

Athletics and College Scholarships

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.

If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you wish to participate, 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 NCAA showing at least 6 semesters (end of Junior year).
NCAA required courses line up well 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) Spring of Senior year update academic and amateurism information and request final amateurism certification.
- 5) Request a final high school transcript 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 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 Show Case Website – www.berecruited.com

On this website you can create a profile with your personal stats and videos for college coaches to preview.



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.

Texoma Christian School High School Code: 446-499

SAT

Reading, Writing & Math
No Essay
No penalty for guessing

ACT

Reading, English, Math & Science
Essay optional
No penalty for guessing

To register go to www.collegeboard.org

To register go to www.actstudent.org

- Students are encouraged to test twice, spring of Junior year & fall of Senior year
- Both tests are widely accepted at colleges and universities
- Both tests begin at 8 a.m. and dismiss at approximately 1 p.m. (if taking the essay)
- Both given 6-7 times per year

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 – This college entrance test is gaining favor with many colleges. It includes verbal reasoning/reading, grammar/writing and math. It is shorter in length than the SAT/ACT at 2 hours to complete. (www.cltexam.com)

“Test Optional” – A growing number of colleges are no longer requiring traditional college entrance test score. Check with your college of choice regarding this option.

The SAT II Subject tests – As per a College Board announcement in January 2021, the SAT subject test will no longer be offered or required by colleges after June 2021

FREE Test preparation:

- ACT prep: www.academy.act.org
- SAT prep: www.khanacademy.org

For good test preps ideas for a fee – go to our website at <https://texomachristian.org/pages/college-entrance-test-prep/>

CLEP Exam Credit

CLEP exams cover material taught in courses that you may generally take in your first two years of college. By passing a CLEP exam, you can earn 3 to 12 college credits. Most colleges and universities grant credit for CLEP exams, but not all. **Therefore, before you take a CLEP exam, check directly with the college or university you plan to attend** regarding their credit policy. These tests are administered on most college campuses at a cost under \$100. 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 (SAT/ACT) accommodations. The following links will lead you to information on eligibility and documentation requirements.

For the SAT: <http://www.collegeboard.com/ssd/student/index.html>

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

SAT SSD eligibility requirements – you must have:

1. Have a disability that necessitates testing accommodations,
2. Have documentation on file at your school that supports the need for requested accommodations and meets the *Guidelines for Documentation*,
3. Receive and use the requested accommodations, due to the disability, for school-based tests.

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.

For the ACT: Requirements are similar to SAT. For details go to <http://www.act.org/aap/disab/index.html>

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)

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 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 be guided through a number of self-discovery, career exploration and classroom guidance activities throughout their high school years to include 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/>

JobHunter'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 for information to 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 really 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 in order 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 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 a United States Military Academy 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 opportunity is 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 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. Admissions 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 the 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 decision for your Congressman and Senators.

West Point Military Academy – Army www.usma.edu 1-845-938-4041

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

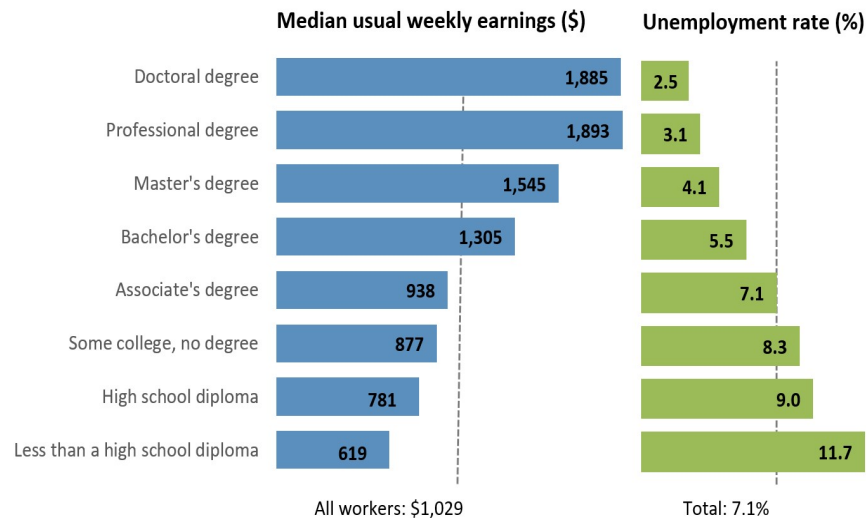
United States Naval Academy www.usna.edu 1-410-293-4361

US Coast Guard Academy www.cga.edu 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 degree may almost double your earnings.

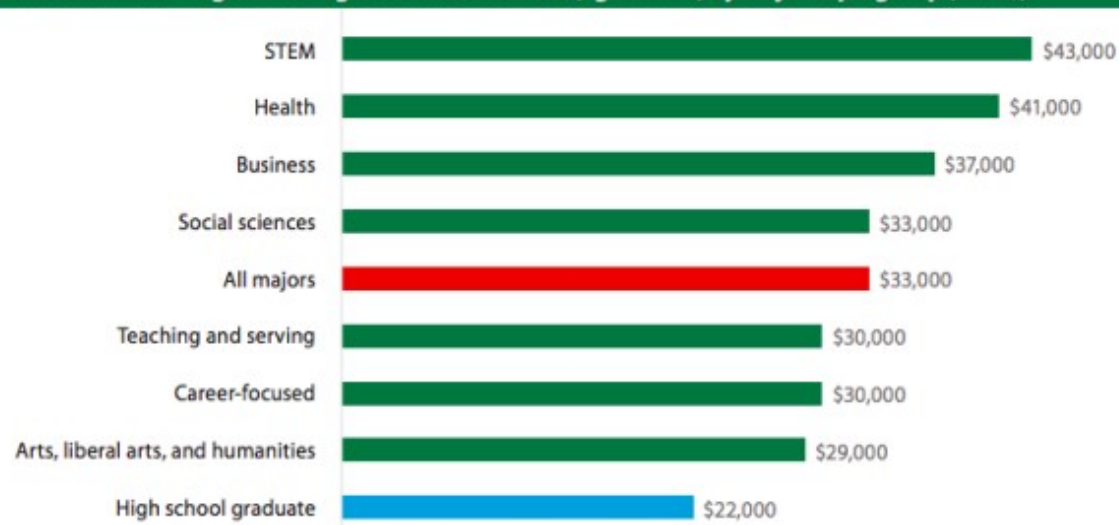
Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2020



Note: Data are 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.

FIGURE 1.1 | Among entry-level college-educated workers, STEM majors earn \$43,000 annually, while arts, humanities, and liberal arts majors earn \$29,000 annually.

Median annual wages of college-educated workers (ages 21-24) by major supergroup (2013\$)



Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* micro data, 2009-2013.

College Planning Resources

Basic College Admissions Criteria

- High School Transcript: GPA and rigorous Course Selections
- College Entrance exam scores SAT/ACT (some optional)
- Extra Curricular activities in High School
- Leadership and Community Involvement
- Recommendations
- Character – college will ask about disciplinary infractions
- College entrance essays
- Rank: High schools, less 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 of the colleges that interest you 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 Macro Economics
- 4 units in Mathematics (many colleges now expect applicants to have completed Mathematics study 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.

Your character, your behavior, 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 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 find out 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 admissions to any Texas Public University as listed in Ed. Code 61.003 will be automatically admitted if applicant is:

- 1) first-time freshman.
- 2) graduated with a GPA in top 10% of 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, which TCS is.

To qualify for automatic admissions an applicant must:

- 1) Submit an application 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.collegeforalltexas.com

College Application Process

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

College Selectivity

This term literally refers to the percent of students who are admitted compared to the number who are applied. The following information provides a general idea of scores related to the various types of enrollment, 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 admitted
ACT 27-32 - 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.
- Visit campuses, take campus tours, sit in on a class, talk to students, spend the night in a dorm, check out campus life, extra-curricular 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 extra 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 Collegeboard
- www.petersons.com

Texas Schools

- www.collegeforalltexas.com
- 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
- www.blackexcel.com African American
- www.aihec.org 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 attend 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 courses and core values of college offers match your goals and values?
5. Are you absolutely convinced that one college clearly stands out above all others?

Early Action

Early action is a program where students apply early in the fall of senior year; gain admissions decision prior to spring but is not binding; providing flexibility. Students should check with their colleges of choice for specific policies and deadlines.

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.

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.

Wait List

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

College – Ways to Pay!

I. Grants, Loans & Work Study: Government funded grants are dispersed 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 any of 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, students will be notified about programs for which they qualify. *Be sure to complete and submit this to 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 or not you qualify for Federal Aid.

III. Independent College Scholarships:

- **Company and Church Specific:** Many companies and churches offer scholarships to their employee and member's 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 need and how do you plan to contribute to your college expenses?

Scholarship Scams!

Beware of any scholarship search assistance that costs money and/or guarantee 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 financial 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”
- [Texas Tuition Promise Fund](http://TexasPromiseFund.com) TexasPromiseFund.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.collegeforalltexas.com **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 *(provides customize search options)*

- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- www.goingmerry.com
- 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@cablone.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

Kohl's Kids Who Care Program

- www.kohlscorporation.com/communityrelations/ : you can read about their winners and how/what they got involved with

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
- Cheerleading
- Athletics (Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Golf, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Cross Country)

Leadership Opportunities

- 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 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 steppingstones toward a better understanding of who they are and the post high school options available to them.

EACH YEAR of 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 various classroom guidance such as listed below.

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
- ✓ 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 – begin their high school resume with an online tool
- 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)
- 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
- Encouraged to research and discuss college list with family to narrow the list and identify colleges campuses to visit
- Considered for induction into National Honor Society (see page 7 for eligibility)

11th graders will

- Update diploma plan and high school resume
- Write college/scholarship essay
- Special lunch events for college rep presentations
- Encouraged to make college campus visits throughout the year
- Take the PSAT for the last time (National Merit Scholarship Program)
- Encouraged to register for the SAT and ACT early in the spring
- Encouraged to seek leadership opportunities such as Camp RYLA
- Experience college application planning activities throughout the school year

12th graders will

- Be encouraged to apply to colleges of choice early in the Fall (prior to Nov. 1)
- Be encouraged to take the SAT and ACT again 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

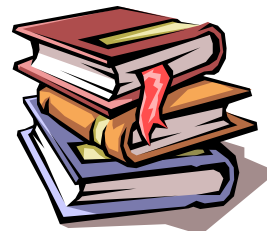
Make High School Count

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 a 4-year period.

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, 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 interest.

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 your 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 - Sherman & Denison High School both offer a local opportunity to meet representatives from up to 100 colleges and universities

Explore your interest, strengths & gifts

- ☐ Register at www.bigfuture.org for free exploration powered by CollegeBoard
- ☐ 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?

[illegible]

Sophomores

Prepare a solid foundation & boost your skills

High school grades COUNT

- Continue to keep your grades up, seeking 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 to identify academic areas of weaknesses early and develop a plan to improve
- Take the PSAT and utilize free access to College Board resources that will create a personalized SAT study plan based on your results.
- Take college entrance test prep seriously! Consider taking test prep courses in the summer after Sophomore year in preparation for taking it for the first time, spring of junior year.

Build your COLLEGE LIST by:

- Have family discussions and ask yourself:
 - ✓ “What kind of college experience am I looking for?”
 - ✓ “What are my priorities in looking for a college?”
 - ✓ “What kind of college will help me grow as a person as well as gain a degree?”
 - ✓ “Do I want to stay close to home or move away?”
- 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.

College Athletics Interest

- Register with NCAA, NAIA and 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?

[illegible]

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 percent 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
- ☐ Spanish III students, consider taking a Spanish CLEP test

Prepare College Essay

- ☐ Complete a college entrance essay in Junior English class

Recommendations (for both admissions and or scholarships senior year)

- ☐ 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

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 list of your activities and awards for your college resume

College Sports: 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?

Actionable Ideas 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

[illegible]

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! Much 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

- Men register with Selective Service to be eligible for Federal Student Aid including low interest student loans. Go to www.sss.gov
- 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; complete 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 in the summer and/or Fall – Advising and enrollment begins in April for Grayson summer and fall classes; 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 clearing houses 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...

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

[illegible]