

COLLEGE PLANNING

<p>FRESHMEN TAKE CHALLENGING COURSES THAT PREPARE YOU FOR THE RIGOR OF COLLEGE PRACTICE ORGANIZATIONAL AND STUDY SKILLS BEGIN OR CONTINUE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES OR ORGANIZATIONS THAT REFLECT YOUR TALENTS AND INTERESTS CONSIDER TAKING THE PSAT VISIT COLLEGE WEBSITES AND RESEARCH VARIOUS COLLEGES/PROGRAMS VISIT COLLEGEBOARD.ORG AND COLLEGEFORTEXANS.COM FOR USEFUL INFORMATION REGARDING COLLEGES AND FINANCIAL AID LOOK FOR A SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM OR VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY COMPLETE RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING FOR ANY PRE-AP OR AP CLASS THAT YOU PLAN TO TAKE BEGIN A RESUME OF ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>SOPHOMORES CONTINUE TO TAKE CHALLENGING COURSEWORK CONTINUE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE ON LEADERSHIP ROLES APPLY FOR THE HOBY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE CONSIDER TAKING THE PSAT CONTINUE RESEARCHING COLLEGES AND CAREERS VISIT COLLEGEBOARD.ORG AND COLLEGEFORTEXANS.COM FOR USEFUL INFORMATION REGARDING COLLEGES AND FINANCIAL AID TAKE TSI EXAM AT MIDLAND COLLEGE DURING THE SUMMER TO PREPARE TO TAKE DUAL CREDIT CLASSES JOIN MAILING LISTS FOR THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OF YOUR CHOICE CONTINUE TO UPDATE YOUR RESUME OF ACTIVITIES</p>
<p>JUNIORS CONTINUE TO TAKE CHALLENGING COURSEWORK CONSIDER TAKING CONCURRENT OR DUAL CREDIT CLASSES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF COLLEGE VISITS SUCH AS “SUPER SATURDAYS” TAKE THE PSAT IN OCTOBER AND USE YOUR RESULTS (MY COLLEGE QUICKSTART) TO STUDY FOR THE SAT USE COLLEGEBOARD.ORG TO ANSWER THE SAT QUESTION OF THE DAY TAKE THE ACT OR SAT <i>IN THE SPRING</i> ATHLETES SHOULD REGISTER WITH THE NCAA (http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.html) APPLY FOR BOYS/GIRLS STATE USE SEARCH ENGINES SUCH AS FASTWEB.COM TO FIND, NATIONAL, UNIQUE OR OBSCURE SCHOLARSHIPS LOOK FOR LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH THE COUNSELING OFFICE DURING PRE-REGISTRATION FOR YOUR SENIOR YEAR, CONSIDER TAKING A SEMESTER OF LEGACY AID IN JUNE FOLLOWING YOUR JUNIOR YEAR, BEGIN RECORDING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR THE LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP JOIN MAILING LISTS FOR THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OF YOUR CHOICE CONTINUE TO UPDATE YOUR RESUME OF ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>SENIORS CONTINUE TO TAKE CHALLENGING COURSEWORK CONSIDER TAKING CONCURRENT OR DUAL CREDIT CLASSES RE-TAKE THE SAT OR ACT, IF APPROPRIATE NARROW YOUR LIST OF POTENTIAL COLLEGES MAKE A CALENDAR OF ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES COMPLETE APPLICATIONS ONLINE (APPLYTEXAS.ORG for TEXAS PUBLIC COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES) ASK FOR AT LEAST THREE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (TEACHERS, EMPLOYERS, YOUTH MIINISTERS, SPONSOR, ETC.) WRITE APPLICATION ESSAYS (SEE COLLEGEBOARD.ORG AND ASK AN ENGLISH TEACHER OR PARENT TO HELP PROOF THE FIRST DRAFT) LOOK FOR LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH THE COUNSELING OFFICE APPLY FOR THE LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP (IN JANUARY) CHECK WITH THE SPECIFIC UNIVERISITIES FOR SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES USE SEARCH ENGINES SUCH AS FASTWEB.ORG TO FIND, NATIONAL, UNIQUE OR OBSCURE SCHOLARSHIPS COMPLETE THE FAFSA FORM (JANUARY OF SENIOR YEAR) IF YOU HAVE NOT TAKEN CONCURRENT OR DUAL CREDIT CLASSES, BE</p>

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SURE TO TAKE THE TSI EXAM AT MIDLAND COLLEGE

FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid The office of Federal Student Aid provides grants, loans, and work-study funds for college or career school. This form must be completed each year and serves as a fundamental consideration for many scholarships as well as the Federal and State programs. All college-bound students should complete this form as soon as possible in the spring of their senior year. www.fafsa.ed.gov/

PSAT - PRELIMINARY SAT/NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFYING TEST (NMSQT) This is a standard test that provides first hand practice for the SAT reasoning test. It also gives you a chance to enter the National Merit Scholarship Corporation Scholarship Programs. The PSAT is generally given on a Wednesday in the middle of October. Typically, juniors are automatically registered for this exam. Freshmen and sophomores; however, must usually pay a fee (Approx. \$14) and register in advance through the counseling office.

ACT - The ACT assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. You may take the ACT Assessment as often as you wish but the first testing should take place in the spring of 11th grade. (Register at www.act.org) The following areas make up the ACT: The multiple-choice tests cover four skills areas – English, mathematics, reading, and science.

The Writing Test, which is optional, measures the skills used in planning and writing a short essay.

***Although the Writing Test is optional, students are strongly advised to take this portion as well.

SAT - The SAT measures how well students apply what they have learned in school to analyze and solve problems as they would in college. The skills measured on the SAT are related to those skills needed for success in college. Many colleges require the SAT for college admission. Students may take the SAT as often as they wish, but the first testing should take place in the spring of 11th grade. (Register at www.collegeboard.org)

Skill areas tested include:

Writing: improving sentences, identifying sentence errors, improving paragraphs, and crafting an essay;

Critical reading: sentence completions and passage-based reading; and

Math: standard multiple choice questions and student produced responses.

DUAL CREDIT - These are courses taken for high school and college credit. Tuition and fees are payable to the college each semester during registration.

THEA/COMPASS - TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

The THEA is designed to provide information about the reading, mathematics and writing skills of students entering public colleges, universities, and educator preparation programs in public and private institutions. The Compass is an online version of the THEA.

TEXAS COMMON APPLICATION – This is one online application that can be submitted to any Texas Public University and participating Texas junior and private colleges. For participating schools, scholarship and housing applications can also be completed through this website. (https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c_start.WBX)

NCAA – NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.html) This organization oversees 23 sports for its member colleges and universities.

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP – A scholarship program offered through the Financial Aid Office of Midland College which maintains volunteerism as one of the primary requirements. Please see www.midland.edu for more details.

LEGACY AID – This is a one semester assignment to the elementary campus to assist with tutoring students. This opportunity is available only to seniors. The assignment accrues no credit or grade, simply volunteer hours.

HOBY - HUGH O'BRIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

This program allows one sophomore to attend a summer conference representing his/her high school. Opportunities are then available for those students to attend state and national leadership conferences. Announcements and opportunities to apply usually begin in September or October.

Useful and reliable websites for college, financial aid and career information: www.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG; www.COLLEGEFORTEXANS.COM; www.FASTWEB.COM; www.APPLYTEXAS.ORG, www.fafsa.ed.gov, <http://www.ctcl.org/>, www.TexasCollegeandCareer, www.StudentAid.gov, www.Twitter.com/FAFSA, www.Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid, www.ed.gov blog.