

The Admissions Process

Apply for admissions to the college you want to attend at www.collegeforalltexans.com and click on "Apply for Colleges and Financial Aid."

Common documents required for admissions applications are:

- Application for admission and application fee,
- Official test scores (PSAT; SAT or ACT),
- Official high school transcripts,
- Official college transcripts (for transfer students, dual credit, concurrent credit, etc...).

Additional requirements may be:

- Essays (may be a critical application component)
- Admission standards (class ranking, secondary courses required by institution)
- Residency requirements (non-US residents can apply to community colleges or provide resident alien credentials and may be required to test for English proficiency (TOEFL)).

Scholarship Tips

Make sure you are eligible.

Follow directions and make sure your application includes everything requested. NEVER leave a question blank on the application. If a question doesn't apply to you, answer as "not applicable (N/A)."

Make a copy of the original application to use as a draft-use it as a working copy and transfer information to the original for submission.

Have a winning, eye-catching, interesting essay. Your essay needs to make an impression on the reader so it needs to be personal with concrete details that make your story come alive.

Be VERY aware of deadlines. Mail or submit all applications days in advance of the posted deadline.

Make copies of everything you submit-many scholarship applications are online, so you'll have your copies available for the next application you fill out.

Ask for HELP from a counselor, a teacher, or call/email the organization offering the scholarship.

Tips for Writing an Essay

- **Prepare**- identify your topic and goals, outline your essay, and demonstrate why you need or want this scholarship. This will enable you to highlight your qualities.
- Key elements of a five paragraph essay are the **Introduction**, three supporting paragraphs as the **Main Body** of the essay, and the **Conclusion**.
- Follow the instructions – if there is a word or page limit, write as close to the limits as possible.
- Craft a fascinating **Introduction** - take something from your life, compare it to something creative or unique and relate it to a future success. Write from personal experience as this tells who you are and highlights your personality.
- In the **Main Body** paragraphs, identify your short- and long-range goals, demonstrate how the academic path you want to follow helps you reach your goals, explain how that path will enhance your existing knowledge about your chosen field. Identify research you've done on your chosen field and college.
- Describe **Events** in your life that shaped your accomplishments and plans for the future. Explain your academic background, workforce experiences, extracurricular activities, religious service projects and community service. Avoid a sob story-don't write about how hard life has been, you don't want to work while going to school, or pay back a student loan, or burden your parents. If you have faced adversity, use it to show how you removed obstacles or persevered to succeed without preaching.
- Write a powerful **Conclusion** – emphasize accomplishments as it shows you are confident, ready for college and deserving of a scholarship. Don't forget a "thank you" for their time in considering your application.
- Check your grammar, spelling and punctuation. Ask someone else go over your essay to check it.

Watch Out for Scams

- You should NEVER have to pay to apply for a scholarship or complete the FAFSA.
- Money back offers or guarantees and requests for credit card or bank account information indicate that a fee is involved.
- Watch out for scholarship programs that offer to do all the work for you.
- Guarantees of winning a scholarship award or a certain number of scholarships indicate this is a false appearance of a loan program.
- Scholarship events scheduled at hotels/public sites are usually presentations aimed to get you to pay a fee for a scholarship search service.
- If you think something doesn't sound legitimate, contact the following to ask questions or report scams:

National Fraud Information Center
Council of Better Business Bureaus
Federal Trade Commission

1-800-876-7060
703-276-0100
877-FTC-HELP

www.fraud.org
www.bbb.org
www.ftc.gov