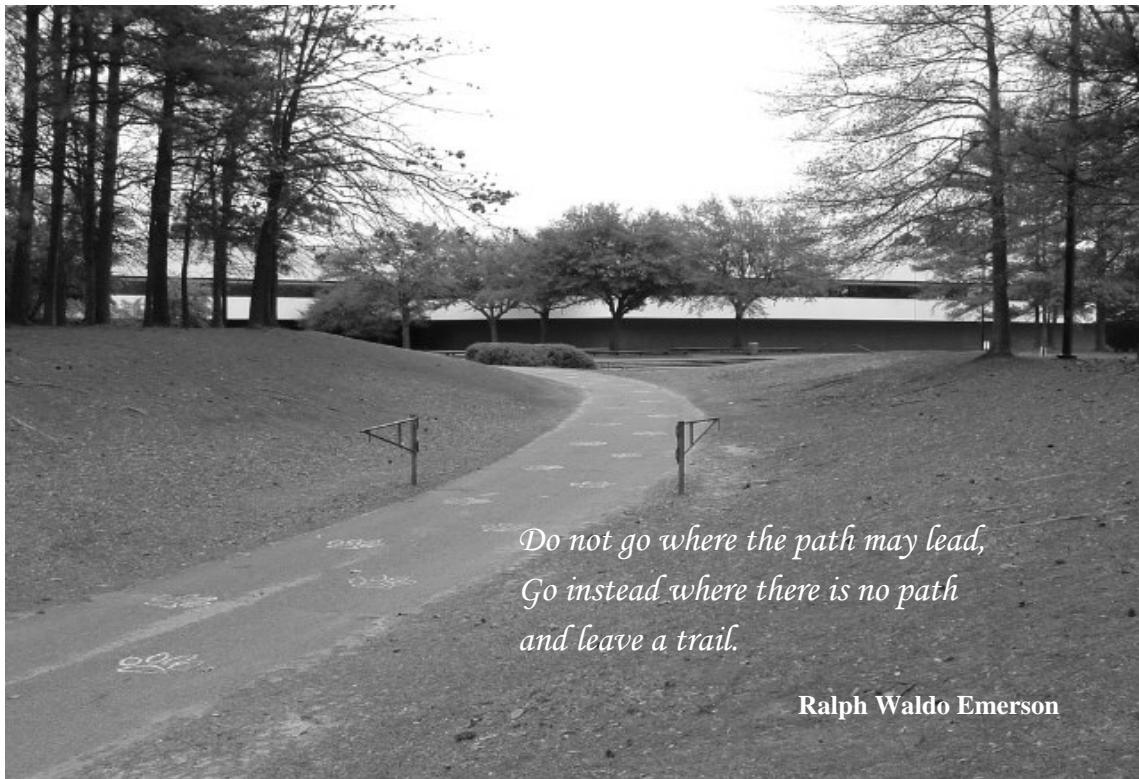


# LONGVIEW HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE GUIDE 2009 – 2010

**A GUIDE FOR THE STUDENT IN SEARCH OF  
POST SECONDARY EDUCATION**



LHS GUIDANCE  
WEBSITE

[WWW.LISD.ORG/LHS/GUIDANCE](http://WWW.LISD.ORG/LHS/GUIDANCE)

# Introduction – Getting Started

Whether you plan to attend a trade school, community college, technical school, state university or private college, you will have to make decisions about your education and future. The LHS College Guide has been written to assist you in getting started. This guide provides the basic information and steps for you and your family to follow in this process.

The spring and summer of your junior year is the ideal time to explore educational opportunities and to begin the admissions process. Learn the admission and test requirements for your educational choices early. Some schools may accept applications as early as September of your senior year. Request college catalogs, admission applications, test information, and information concerning housing, scholarships and financial aid. Contact the financial aid office at the schools you are considering to find out what is available to you and what documents you should file with that office.

**Caution: Do not assume that the procedures for admission, scholarships, financial aid, and housing are the same everywhere. Procedures vary from one school to the next. Examine admissions materials, catalogs, literature, and correspondence carefully.**

## *LHS CAREER CENTER*

The Career Center located in the LHS Library is an excellent resource for researching career fields and planning for post-secondary education. The library has *COIN* and *Bridges.com* for your use. These are career guidance programs that will help you discover your interests, and help you learn about careers, occupations, colleges, scholarships, financial aid, career planning and more. Additional resources include the Occupational Outlook Handbook, Encyclopedia of Careers, Americas Fastest Growing Jobs, and dozens of specific occupational books, guides, and magazines.

### Counselor Assignments

Dean of Students	Jim Bowie, LPC	903-663-7128	<a href="mailto:jbowie@lisd.org">jbowie@lisd.org</a>
At Risk Counselor	Eleanor Kirk	903-663-7126	<a href="mailto:ekirk@lisd.org">ekirk@lisd.org</a>
Counselors	12 <sup>th</sup> - Tonia Saucedo	903-663-7326	<a href="mailto:tsaucedo@lisd.org">tsaucedo@lisd.org</a>
	11 <sup>th</sup> - Vickie Spearman	903-663-7142	<a href="mailto:vspearman@lisd.org">vspearman@lisd.org</a>
	10 <sup>th</sup> - Larry Wade	903-663-7142	<a href="mailto:lwade@lisd.org">lwade@lisd.org</a>
	9 <sup>th</sup> - Ann Dunn	903-663-7103	<a href="mailto:adunn@lisd.org">adunn@lisd.org</a>
	9 <sup>th</sup> - Nelderine Johnson	903-663-7202	<a href="mailto:njohnson@lisd.org">njohnson@lisd.org</a>
Global High School Special Education	Penny Champion	903-663-7232	<a href="mailto:pchampion@lisd.org">pchampion@lisd.org</a>
	Cynthia Smith	903-663-7274	<a href="mailto:cannsmith@lisd.org">cannsmith@lisd.org</a>
Secretary	Sharon Milam	903-663-7169	<a href="mailto:smilam@lisd.org">smilam@lisd.org</a>
Fax		903-663-7328	

# TIMETABLE FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING

## FRESHMEN

- Plan a realistic high school program to meet your needs and future plans.
- Become aware of vocational and career opportunities. Make good grades.
- Use the LHS Library's Career Center.
- Become familiar with requirements of colleges and programs that interest you.
- Become involved and keep a record of school activities.
- Take the PLAN Test in October.
- Attend the College/Career night at Maude Cobb Activity Center.
- Strive to be a Globe Scholar/Texas Scholar and to graduate on the Recommended High School Program.
- Choose classes carefully for the sophomore year.

## SOPHOMORES

- Plan a realistic program to meet your needs and future plans.
- Become familiar with the materials and assistance available in the Guidance Office.
- Use the LHS Library's Career Center.
- Investigate the vocational programs available through your local and area schools.
- Attend the College/Career Night at Maude Cobb Activity Center.
- Continue making good grades.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October.
- Strive to be a Globe Scholar/Texas Scholar and graduate on the Recommended High School Program.
- Choose classes carefully for the junior year.

## JUNIORS

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October.
- Research college and vocational opportunities. Visit colleges and technical schools.
- Attend seminars and meetings with college and career representatives who visit Longview High School.
- Plan to take the SAT or ACT in the spring of your junior year.
- Continue a thorough self-evaluation of your abilities, interests, and future goals.
- Discuss educational plans with your parents, teachers, and counselor.
- Make a list of college features that suit your interests, needs, preferences, and abilities.
- Start to evaluate colleges and to select those that interest you.
- Request college catalogs, scholarships, financial aid, and housing information.
- Attend the College/Career Night at Maude Cobb Activity Center.
- Investigate scholarship and financial aid opportunities.
- Choose classes carefully for the senior year.

## SENIORS

- Check to see that all graduation requirements are being met.
- Continue seeking occupational and career information.
- Apply for scholarships and financial aid. Become aware of deadlines.
- Be aware of test registration dates. Take SAT or ACT college entrance examinations early.
- Submit college and financial aid applications. Check deadlines.
- Attend the College/Career Night at Maude Cobb Activity Center.
- Make dormitory or other housing arrangements. Check deadlines.
- Request that transcripts be mailed to the colleges to which you have applied.
- Notify colleges of your decision once an offer has been made.
- Continue to perform at your highest level of academic achievement.
- Request final transcript be mailed to the college or university you plan to attend.
- Take the THEA, if necessary.

## **PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE**

***Mapping Your Future*** ([www.mapping-your-future.org/](http://www.mapping-your-future.org/)) is a premier website that is among the best the Internet offers. Students can begin career planning, assess skills and interests, explore college and career options, explore financial aid and scholarships, choose a college and much more. Free online career exploration and career planning is a feature of this web site. A student can match careers to their interests, search for a particular career, review careers by cluster, and review featured careers. For each career, students will learn about wages, career outlooks, job tasks, education, skills, similar careers and more.

### ***Mapping Your Future*** ([www.mapping-your-future.org](http://www.mapping-your-future.org/))

#### ***Ten Steps to Planning Your Career:***

*Visit this website and click on any of the ten steps for links to invaluable resources.*

1. Develop a *career plan*. Think about what you want to do and find out more about the kind of training, education, and skills you will need to achieve your career goal.
2. Assess your *skills and interests*. Think hard about what you enjoy, what you are good at, what kind of personality you have, and the values you hold.
3. Research *occupations*. Find out more about the nature of the jobs that interest you, such as educational requirements, salary, working conditions, future outlook, and anything else that can help you narrow your focus.
4. Compare your *skills and interests* with the occupations you have selected. The career that matches your skills, interests, and personality the closest may be the career for you.
5. Choose your *career goal*. Once you have decided what *occupation* matches up best with you, then you can begin developing a plan to reach your career goal.
6. *Select a school* that offers a college degree or training program that best meets your career goal and financial needs.
7. Find out about *financial aid* to help support you in obtaining your career goal.
8. Learn about *job-hunting* tips as you prepare to graduate or move into the job market.
9. Prepare your *resume*, and practice *job interviewing techniques*.
10. Go to your career guidance center (at your middle school, high school, or local library for additional information and help on career planning, or check out our *Internet Resources*.

## COLLEGE PLANNING/FINANCIAL AID WEBSITES

The Internet can help you in nearly every part of the college search, college admission, financial aid and scholarship search experience. Use search engines wisely. For example: You could type in college admissions and get a list of thousands of sites. But it would be better to have a good idea of what you're looking for: lists of college home pages, scholarships, financial aid help college comparisons, Rice University, tips on essays, best colleges in Texas, scholarships for tall people etc.

- **ACT website (ACT Testing)**  
[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
- **Any College.Net**  
[www.AnyCollege.net](http://www.AnyCollege.net)
- **BlackExcel:College Help Network**  
[www.blackexcel.org](http://www.blackexcel.org)
- **College Answer**  
[www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com)
- **College Board Online(SAT Test)**  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) or  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- **College Express**  
[www.collegeexpress.com](http://www.collegeexpress.com)
- **CollegeData.com**  
[www.collegedata.com](http://www.collegedata.com)
- **College for Texans**  
[www.collegefortexans.com](http://www.collegefortexans.com)
- **College Net**  
[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)
- **College Quest**  
[www.collegequest.com](http://www.collegequest.com)
- **College View**  
[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)
- **Compendium of Texas Colleges & Financial Aid Calendar**  
[www.window.state.tx.us/scholars/mspmain.html](http://www.window.state.tx.us/scholars/mspmain.html)
- **eCampusTours.com**  
[www.ecampustours.com](http://www.ecampustours.com)
- **ETS Net**  
[www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)
- **ExPan Scholarship Service**  
[www.collegeboard.org/fund/finder](http://www.collegeboard.org/fund/finder)
- **FASTWEB Scholarship Search**  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- **Financial Aid – The Smart Student**  
[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)
- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- **LHS Guidance Website**  
[www.lisd.org/lhs/guidance](http://www.lisd.org/lhs/guidance)
- **National Collegiate Athletic Assn. (NCAA)**  
[www.NCAA.org](http://www.NCAA.org)
- **National Association for College Admission Counseling**  
[www.NACAC.com](http://www.NACAC.com)
- **Minority On-Line Information Service(MOLIS)**  
[www.sciencewise.com/molis](http://www.sciencewise.com/molis)
- **MyCollegeOptions.com**  
[www.mycollegeoptions.com](http://www.mycollegeoptions.com)
- **Occupational Outlook Handbook of the Department of Labor Statistics**  
<http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>
- **Princeton Review**  
[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)
- **Sallie Mae's On-line Scholarship Service**  
[www.salliemae.com](http://www.salliemae.com)
- **Scholarship Resource Network**  
[www.srnexpress.com](http://www.srnexpress.com)  
**School Soup**  
[www.schoolsoup.com](http://www.schoolsoup.com)
- **Texas Common Application**  
Admission to Texas Public Universities  
[www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)

**Black Excel: The College Help Network** ( [www.blackexcel.org](http://www.blackexcel.org) ), founded in 1988 has helped young people and their parents all across the country navigate the college admission process. "Black Excel is a resource for all, especially African American families and first generation college students," states Isaac Black, founder. This website offers extensive links to scholarships, financial aid, college selection, career planning, career preparation

# College Admission Tests

Most colleges require that you take a college admission test. The most common tests used are the SAT and the ACT. In addition, the THEA test is required of every student who enrolls in a Texas public college, university, or technical school.

Students should take the SAT or ACT in the spring of their junior year and/or fall of their senior year. The THEA should be taken in the spring of the senior year. Some students may be exempt from the THEA. There are exemptions and they are listed later in this guide.

When registering for these tests, you will be required to give the LHS School Code.

**The LHS school code is 444-280.**

LHS recommends that you prepare for the SAT, ACT, or THEA. A free study guide is available in the LHS Guidance Office for the SAT and ACT. Books, study guides, and sample tests can be purchased via the internet. A website that offers students a look at the kinds of questions that will be on many tests, including the college admissions tests mentioned in this guide is <http://www.testprepreview.com/>. LHS offers SAT and ACT test preparation classes. Students report that these classes have been beneficial in getting prepared for these tests.

**SAT** – The SAT is the most widely taken college entrance examination. It is designed to test your skill level in math, vocabulary, and reading and comprehension. Beginning in March of 2005, the New SAT was released and is currently administered to students. A new writing section is the chief component of the revised test—students are now asked to write an essay that requires them to take a position on an issue and use reasoning and examples to support their position. (The essay is similar to the type of writing required for in-class college essay exams.) Multiple-choice questions follow the essay and measure a student’s ability to identify sentence errors and improve sentences and paragraphs.

The new SAT math section includes topics from third-year college preparatory math, such as exponential growth, absolute value, functional notation, and negative and fractional exponents (Algebra II).

And last, but certainly not least, the new SAT replaced the analogies section with a critical reading section (previously known as the verbal section); this section includes short and long reading passages from a variety of texts. Though analogies were eliminated, sentence-completion questions remain.

The perfect score is now 2400 (as opposed to 1600); and the new exam houses three sections instead of two, each scored on a 200-to-800 point scale.

The test takes three hours and 45 minutes to complete, including an unscored 25-minute variable section.

The SAT subject tests are designed to measure knowledge and skills in particular subject areas, as well as ability to apply that knowledge. Do not take the SAT subject tests unless your college requires you to take it.

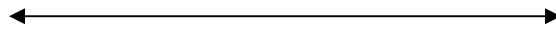
Registration for the SAT is easy. The fastest, most convenient way to register is online. In addition, study guides and paper SAT registration forms are available in the Guidance Office. Register online and avoid the hassles of registering by mail.

**Register online for the SAT**  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

LHS School Code  
444-280

## SAT Test Dates

Test Date	Test	Registration Deadlines	
		Regular	Late (late fee applies)
October 10, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	September 9, 2009	September 23, 2009
November 7, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	October 1, 2009	October 15, 2009
December 5, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	October 30, 2009	November 12, 2009
January 23, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	December 15, 2009	December 30, 2010
March 13, 2010	SAT only	February 4, 2010	February 18, 2010
May 1, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	March 25, 2010	April 8, 2010
June 5, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	April 29, 2010	May 13, 2010



**ACT**– The other standardized test used for admissions by some colleges is the ACT. The ACT measures skill levels in English, math, reading, and science reasoning. The ACT Writing Test as an optional part to the ACT. The ACT writing test complements the English Test. Some colleges may require the Writing Test for admission and some may not. Check with the college admissions office to determine what is required. Learn all about the ACT at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). Application and study guides are available in the Guidance offices. Register online and avoid the hassle of registering my mail.

Though the ACT Writing Test is optional at some colleges, Longview High School recommends that students take the ACT Writing Test.

**Register Online for the ACT at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)**

## ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadlines	
	Regular	Late (Late Fee Required)
September 12, 2009	August 7, 2009	August 7-21, 2009
October 24, 2009	September 18, 2009	September 19–October 2, 2009
December 12, 2009	November 6, 2009	November 7-20, 2009
February 6, 2010	January 5, 2010	January 6-15, 2010
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010	March 6-19, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010	May 7-21, 2010

***THEA Test (Texas Higher Education Assessment)*** - The THEA Test (formerly TASP) is a 5 hour test designed to provide information about the reading, math, and writing skills of students entering Texas public colleges and universities. It measures skills that a high school graduate should possess upon entry into higher education. You must take the THEA Test (or an acceptable alternative test) if you are a full or part-time student at a public college or university in Texas, unless you qualify for a THEA Test exemption.

Students attending our-of-state colleges are not required to take the THEA. The law requires all entering college students in Texas to be assessed for college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing. However, students may not have to test if they fall into any of the following categories, although each institution may have additional requirements. Contact your current or prospective public university, community college, state college, or technical college if you think you may qualify.

Common THEA Test Exemptions:

- Students who meet qualifying standards on certain tests, as indicated below.  
**Note:** TAKS and TAAS scores are valid for three years from the date of testing. SAT and ACT scores are valid for five years from the date of testing.
  - TAKS (exit-level) - 2200 in math and/or 2200 in English/Language Arts (ELA) with a writing sub-score of at least 3
  - SAT - a combined score of 1070 with a 500 on the math and/or verbal sections
  - New SAT: No qualifying standards are available for the new Writing section. For TSI purposes, institutions are to use only the standards for the Math and Verbal (Critical Reading) sections.
  - ACT - a composite score of 23 with a 19 on the math and/or English sections

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND YOU

### Ten Steps to Success

Scholarships offer money you don't have to pay back. Thousands of scholarships are awarded each year by colleges, organizations, corporations, clubs, churches, and individuals. Call the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend. More than 90% of scholarships and financial aid come directly from the college. While there are a great number of scholarships available, they are difficult to get because so many of them have specific eligibility requirements and deadlines. Listed scholarships will tell you what audience they are targeting. You should use the "free" scholarship search engines available on the internet. In addition, talk to the director of the activities, such as band, dance, art, etc that you are involved here at LHS. They may know of scholarship opportunities at various colleges and universities through their associations with fellow directors.

**When looking for scholarships, keep the following in mind:**

1. The process requires time, work, and dedication on the part of students and parents. Successful investigation of scholarships requires an on-going, yearlong commitment with critical attention to deadlines. Contact the financial aid officer of the college being considered and request information concerning scholarships and financial aid.
2. Start early. Now is the time to begin and continue your scholarship search. Many scholarships have fall deadlines and require specific steps to be taken to meet eligibility requirements.

3. Use the Internet to search for scholarships. See below for a list of scholarship search engines.
4. Check out the LHS Guidance website at [www.lisd.org/lhs/guidance](http://www.lisd.org/lhs/guidance).
5. Listen carefully to announcements made on the public address system. Share this information with parents and investigate applicable scholarships noting deadlines for application and specific procedures.
6. Investigate scholarships via printed books and publications in the school library, public library, Guidance Office, and community bookstores.
7. Apply for local scholarships. These are generally for smaller amount (i.e., \$100 to \$1,000). However, since the competition is not as great, they can be easier to obtain. The Guidance Office will announce in the spring when local scholarships become available.
8. Network—check the scholarship opportunities with your community organizations, church, and your place of employment, clubs, and private groups.
9. Private colleges are often more generous in awarding scholarships. Do not rule out a private school until you have considered its scholarship opportunities and overall scholarship and financial aid package.
10. Pay particular attention to deadlines. Scholarship opportunities become available throughout a student's senior year, and deadlines are sometimes only weeks after being publicized.

## FINANCIAL AID SEMINARS: A NEW KIND OF SCAM

You get a letter in the mail inviting you and your parents to a free financial aid seminar. The free seminars may or may not be legitimate. While the presentation is free, the services may cost hundreds of dollars. There is little or nothing these services can provide you that is not already available for free.



# Apply For Scholarships Not Associated With the College's Financial Aid Office

On an Internet search engine type in the word “scholarship” and the answers will amaze you. Searching for scholarships is an extremely time consuming task. Completing the applications, collecting the necessary information and documents, composing the essays, and submitting everything by a deadline date can be overwhelming. But if you are determined to find money to pay for part of your education then you might want to let one of the scholarship search services like *FASTWEB.com* or *SRNexpress.com* help. To start this service you must set up an “account” by answering lots of questions. As scholarship opportunities come to the attention of these services, they send you an e-mail notification that the opportunity is available. Don't use companies or businesses that promise to search for scholarships for you for a fee. They do nothing more than what you can do on the Internet or what the free search services do. **IT'S A SCAM!!!!** There are laws in place to try to combat this practice, but often these criminals set up shop temporarily, collect your money and are gone before they can be detained. Visit the Federal Trade Commission's website to find a list of fraudulent companies who practice scholarship scams. Their web address is <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/edcams/scholarship/cases.htm>.

Below are some tips to remember when applying for any scholarship:

- If you have a lot of scholarships to apply for, organize them by deadline dates and complete them in that order. Do not expect scholarship organizations to accept your application after the deadline date. It is your responsibility to manage your time so that you can complete the application and collect the necessary attachments. Punctuality, as well as following instructions, is part of the criteria by which your application will be evaluated.
- Compose an essay using the prompt, *What are my goals for the future?* Try to write a good essay that is no more than 300 words in length. Have your English teacher critique it for you. You can use this for many different scholarships.
- Get letters of recommendation from teachers, from employers, and people in the community and/or church. If you have been in some sort of volunteer program, get the person in charge to write one for you. Come by the Scholarship Drawer to get the *Senior Data Sheet*. Complete it, make copies of it, and give it to the people you ask to write letters of recommendations for you.
- Make copies of all of your letters of recommendation. You can use them for all of your scholarships.
- Make sure that you read the instructions on the scholarship applications carefully. Here is something you may not know. When an organization sends LHS an application, they usually attach a cover letter addressed to the counselor with an explanation of the judging criteria. Most often “*how well student follows directions*” is one of the judging criteria. Watch for the obscure instructions throughout the application. Many students miss these, and, consequently, their applications are discarded.
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## ***The Basic Requirements of Most Scholarships***

Almost every scholarship you apply for requests the following information and/or documents to be included/attached:

1. The completed application
2. An official transcript
3. An essay
4. Letters of recommendation

Some applications may also request a recent photo as well as other attachments related to the scholarships, such as artwork, poetry, etc. Here are some tips to use when collecting the documents and attachments.

- Type or print the application in **BLACK** ink; it photocopies better than blue. Many times your application will be copied and sent to several judges for perusal.
- An official transcript is one that bears the seal affixed by the LHS registrar, Mrs. Fugler. **Please allow 24 hours from the time you request your transcript until you pick it up.** You may request up to 5 transcripts at a time.
- Your class rank will most likely change at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks. You will want to request the most recently updated transcripts for your scholarships, especially if your GPA and class rank improve!
- If you discover some information is missing from your transcript, such as a credit earned in middle school, test scores (PSAT, SAT, ACT, AP), credit received through credit by exam, credit by acceleration, etc. please make the error known to the registrar so that it can be resolved before graduation!
- Write the best essay that you can and then ask someone, perhaps your English teacher to critique it. Often it is the essay that breaks a tie for the scholarship judges. There are books on how to write a good ear-catching essay to use for scholarships and college admissions. Some applications will give you a prompt for your essay. Others will ask a question that you answer in essay form. Still others ask you to pick your own subject. Obviously grammar, punctuation and spelling will be judged, but how the essay moves the judges is often the one thing that sets your essay apart from all of the others. Look in the career center section of the LHS library for books on writing a great essay. Also, ask your English teacher for resources. Don't forget the Internet when searching for help. Although you probably won't find many essays to read, many websites will offer tips and things to avoid.
- Letters of recommendation (or letters of references) help judges to know a bit more about how others relate to you. Request letters of recommendation from at least three people, but have another person in mind should you need a fourth letter. Always remember to thank those who recommend you. **ALLOW PLENTY OF TIME FOR YOUR REFERENCE TO WRITE THE LETTER---NOT A DAY OR TWO BEFORE YOU NEED IT!**

You may encounter an application that asks you to submit your high school *resume*. What is a high school resume? It is basically a *list* of important information about you that you would want judges to know about you when considering you for an award. From a scholarship judge's perspective, the advantage of using a resume is that it is a quick method of noting the applicant's strong points. The resume should list background information, academic information, career goals, community service, hobbies, and any other information that you think might set your application apart from all others. The Internet is a great resource for creating a resume.

Don't forget to apply for scholarships and other forms of financial aid after you enroll in college. There are actually more funds, foundations, endowments, etc. set up by college alumni to assist students already enrolled in an institution.

Just one Website at the U.S. Department of Education tells you everything you need to know about getting federal student aid to help pay for your education after high school. Go to [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov), apply for aid online, and get all the information you need from just one place.

You can fill out and transmit online the FAFSA for free. You can access department publications such as *The Student Guide and Funding Your Education*, and find everything you need to know about federal student aid programs.



# FINANCIAL AID FOR TEXAS STUDENTS 2009-2010

*This brochure, published by the Texas Financial Aid Information Center provides a complete listing of federal and state programs, application procedures, resources, and contact information. Call toll free 877/782-7322 to request your guide.*

**FinAid** was established in the fall of 1994 as a public service. This award-winning site has grown into the most comprehensive annotated collection of information about student financial aid on the web. Access to FinAid is free for all users and there is no charge to link to the site.

FinAid has a stellar reputation in the educational community as the best Web site of its kind. It's comprehensive, it's informative, it's objective--and it's the first stop on the Web for students looking for ways to finance their education.

## SHORT COURSE ON FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid refers to the wide variety of programs that help students and families pay for college or graduate school. Students receive financial aid in the form of grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans. While some financial aid is in the form of academic or talent scholarships, most financial aid is based on financial need. Those who can demonstrate the greatest financial need will receive the greatest amount of need-based financial aid. Financial need is established by completing the FAFSA (Free Application Federal Student Aid). Financial aid comes in the following forms:

- **Grants** which are free money based on a family's financial need.
- **College Work-Study Programs** which provide students the opportunity to earn money in on-campus jobs.
- **Loans** which are borrowed funds that must be repaid, usually with interest.
- **Scholarships** which may be awarded according to financial need and achievement or may be awarded strictly on academic or other talent.

***Tip:*** Contact the financial aid office at the school you may attend to find out what financial aid is available to you and what documents in addition to the FAFSA you should file with that office. Each school will have its own procedures. Your best source of information (including application deadlines) is the financial aid office at the college or university. Contact the financial aid office no later than the fall of the senior year.

## HOW FINANCIAL AID WORKS

The primary purpose of student financial aid is to provide resources to students who would otherwise be unable to pursue a post-secondary education. Financial aid works on the basic principle: Parents and students contribute to the cost of college to the extent they are able. This is called "expected family contribution" (EFC). If the family is unable to contribute the entire cost, financial aid is available from the federal government, state government, college or university, and private agencies. Some private colleges may have you submit the CSS/Financial Aide Profile instead of the FAFSA. Determine early what your college requires.

## **FEDERAL STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Students are advised to contact the financial aid office at the school they are planning to attend to discuss their eligibility for federal financial assistance programs.

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Federal Work Study (FWS)
- Federal Perkins Loan
- Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) (Federal Stafford Loans)
- William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan)
- PLUS Loans (Parent Loans)

Not all schools participate in these programs. Also, not all schools take part in all the programs. To find out which programs (if any) are available at a particular school, contact the financial aid office at that school.

Approximately two weeks after submitting the FAFSA, you will receive acknowledgement from the federal government in the form of a Student Aid Report (SAR) advising you what your “expected family contribution” (EFC) is. The school’s financial aid administrator will combine programs in a “financial aid package”. This is a combination of grants, scholarship, work-study programs, and loans. If you apply to more than one college for financial aid, compare offers and you may want to negotiate financial packages. If you have special circumstances not covered by any of the standard financial forms, consider writing a letter to the financial aid office describing your situation. Also, if your financial aid situation changes at any time (parent loses job), notify the financial aid office immediately. Although they must work within certain limits, their mission is to help families afford college.

### ***MILITARY CAREERS***

The United States military is the nation’s single largest employer. For qualified individuals, it offers training and employment in over 200 job specialties, 75% of which have similar jobs in the civilian world. According to the Department of Defense, more than 400,000 new military personnel need to be recruited each year to replace those who complete their enlistment or retire in over 100 career occupations. Learn about career and educational opportunities at [www.todayismilitary.com](http://www.todayismilitary.com). To contact military recruiters, look in the phone book under “U. S. Government”.

### ***TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS***

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board publishes several booklets and pamphlets with information to help high school students prepare for college.

- *Educational Opportunities at Texas Public Universities 2006-2007* – A list of degree programs offered by Texas public universities, cross-referenced by subject area.
- *Educational Opportunities at Texas Public Community and Technical Colleges 2006-2007* – A list of technical and vocational programs and academic course areas offered by Texas community and technical colleges, cross-referenced by subject area.
- *Planning for College Admission, Advice for High School Students* – Lists high school course requirements as well as SAT and ACT score requirements for the state’s public universities.
- *Financial Aid For Texas Students* - \$3 Billion is available every year to help Texans attend college.

**You can access these publications on line at the College For Texans Website,  
[www.collegefortexans.com](http://www.collegefortexans.com),  
and clicking on *Additional Resources*.**

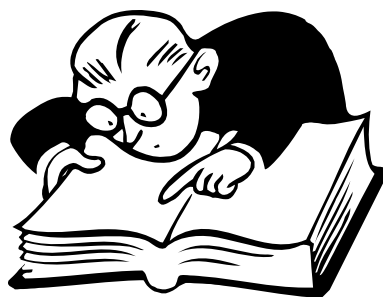
## ***NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE***

If you intend to participate in Division I or II athletics as a freshman in college, you must register and be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. You should register in September of your senior year in high school. The Clearinghouse has reduced the number of guides sent to high schools because the Clearinghouse has implemented online registration for prospective student-athletes.

To register, prospective student-athletes should access the registration materials by visiting the new clearinghouse Website at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net). From the home page, the prospect should click on "Prospective Student-Athletes".

The NCAA strongly suggests that prospective student-athletes who plan to participate in intercollegiate athletics at an NCAA Division I or II institution use this new online registration, rather than completing the paper form. If a prospective student-athlete wishes to pay by check or money order, the student must complete the paper form. You may access additional forms by visiting the NCAA Website at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). From the home page, pull down the Parent/Prospect page from the Customer Home Pages pull-down menu. From there, click on "Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete." The LHS Guidance Office also has traditional paper applications on file.

***Please Note:*** *When taking the SAT or ACT tests, be certain to have your score reports sent to the NCAA. You may send your score reports to 4 different institutions free of charge by using the College & Scholarship Program Codes on page 33 of both the SAT and the ACT registration forms. Be sure to use the NCAA code, 9999 as one of your four choices.*



# EAST TEXAS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER

The East Texas Educational Opportunity Center (ETEOP) is funded by the U.S. Department of Education under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. The ETEOC is one of five federal TRIO programs designed to provide (1) academic support to insure that high school students graduate; (2) information about careers, colleges and financial aid to insure that everyone who has the desire may enroll in a post secondary educational or training program after high school; (3) academic support to insure that once enrolled in college, students graduate and to on to pursue graduate or professional degrees. Among the services provided by the ETEOC are:

- **Financial Aid Counseling:** The ETEOC library has information about the different sources and types of student financial aid available for post-secondary education; about the various application forms required to obtain financial aid; the financial aid award process; and established deadlines for applying for financial aid. Printed and computerized resources are available for prospective students interested in additional non-federal grants and scholarships.
- **FAFSA Forms:** The ETEOC can assist families in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- **Academic Counseling:** The ETEOC helps prospective students understand admissions requirements relative to entrance/placement exams; high school or college units or credits; and high school or college transcripts. Printed and computerized material is available to help clients prepare for the ACT/SAT/THEA exams. The Center assists clients in registering for those exams.
- **College Selection Counseling:** The ETEOC library contains information about two-and four-year colleges and universities, as well as vocational and trade schools throughout the United States. This information includes size and location, admissions requirements and deadlines, testing requirements, financial aid practices and policies, and athletic and other extracurricular activities.
- **Career Counseling:** This service provides information about (1) high-demand careers in the East Texas area as well as across the country; (2) type of work performed, working conditions and suitable personal qualities for specific careers; (3) type of training required for the career; (4) where the training is provided; and (5) the transferability of skills to another occupation. Career interest and aptitude assessments are provided to help clients make decisions about careers that are most suited to them.
- **Application Assistance:** The ETEOC provides assistance completing application forms for college admission, student financial aid, student housing, SAT/ACT/THEA exams.
- **Fee Waivers:** The ETEOC has SAT and ACT fee waivers for eligible students.

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