

College Applying Process FAQ Sheet

***Please check college websites for all COVID updates. ***

College Application Fee Waivers

- 1. Where are my college application fee waivers?**
Collegeboard.org: sign in and click on MySAT and if you have waivers they will be in the blue box that say "Get my college application fee waivers"
- 2. Who qualifies for college application fee waivers?**
Students with free or reduced lunch
- 3. How many application fee waivers do you get?**
4 from College Board and an unlimited amount from your counselor or college advisor courtesy of ACT, if you took the test with a waiver.

SAT/ACT

- 1. Where do I register to take the SAT?**
collegeboard.org
- 2. Where do I register to take the ACT?**
act.org
- 3. Who qualifies for SAT/ACT waivers?**
Students with free or reduced lunch.
- 4. How many waivers do I receive to take the SAT/ACT?**
SAT (2) and ACT (2)
For waivers, email someone from the college access team.
- 5. Does the waiver cover late fees?**
Both waivers cover the late fees.
SAT (2) and ACT (2)
- 6. How much does the SAT and ACT cost?**
SAT \$46 without essay, \$60 with essay
ACT \$46 without essay, \$62.50 with essay
- 7. How many times can I take the SAT/ACT?**
You can take it as many times as you like, however, if you have free and reduced lunch you can only take them twice each with a waiver and anything after those, you are responsible for the cost.
- 8. What is the highest I can score on the SAT/ACT?**
SAT: 1600 ACT: 36
- 9. How do I send my scores and how much does that cost?**

If you take the SAT with a waiver, you have unlimited score reports to send to colleges, however, if you do not take the test with a waiver, you have 4 free score reports to send to colleges and each additional report is \$12 each. For the ACT you get 20 free score reports, if you take the test with a waiver, if not you get 4 free score reports and each additional is \$13 each.

10. How long does it take for me to get my scores back?

Approximately 3 weeks, 4 at the most.

11. Can I send scores after the application deadline?

Depends on the university, ask office of admissions.

12. If I missed my test, can I still take the next test?

Yes, you would need to pay the transfer fee of \$29 for the SAT, and \$26 for the ACT and late fees if they applicable.

13. If I did not do well on one section of the test, do I have to retake the whole test?

Only for SAT, however, with the ACT, you can retake sections instead of the whole test.

14. Where can I get prep for SAT/ACT?

SAT: khanacademy.org

ACT: academy.act.org

TSI (Texas Success Initiative)

1. How do I know if I need to take the TSI?

8th needed to enter ECHS program

9th-12th: Needed for dual credit

12th: needed for college registration if you did not score high enough on SAT 530 math and 480 EBRW

Applications

1. Where do I apply to a school in Texas?

applytexas.org

2. Where do I apply to a school that is out of state?

commonapp.org

3. Where else can I find a school's application?

The university's website or some schools accept the coalition application.

4. Where do I mail transcripts and supporting documents?

To the office of admissions address

Envelope should be addressed as follows:

Student's Name	Place Stamp Here
Student's Address (include city and state)	
University's Name	
Office of Admissions	
University's Address	

- 5. What all needs to be sent to a school in order to have a complete application?**
official transcript-HS and college transcript (if applicable), letters of recommendation, and fee waiver (if applicable), resume, personal statement (if applicable)
- 6. How many applications should I submit?**
I would advise four but you are more than welcome to submit more.
- 7. Which semester do I apply for?**
Fall of the year you graduate high school so if you graduate in 2021, you will apply for the Fall 2021 semester.
- 8. What type of student am I?**
You are a first-year Freshman U.S., despite any college credits you may have. Your credits just transfer and your classification will change accordingly.

Scholarships

- 1. Do I automatically receive a scholarship just for applying?**
No, but you could potentially be awarded the scholarship when you apply.
- 2. Do scholarships affect my financial aid?**
They can potentially affect institutional aid, because some schools do not allow you to exceed the cost of attendance, overall, they supplement your remaining balance after you have been awarded your highest amount of aid from FAFSA. So definitely apply.
- 3. Does a scholarship expire?**
Depends on the scholarship, some are renewable and some are one-time payments such as local scholarships.
- 4. Do I have to write an essay for scholarships?**
Most scholarships require some form of an essay, along with other requirements, however every scholarship is different so they may not have an essay as a part of their requirements.
- 5. Do I get the money awarded from a scholarship or is it sent to the institution?**

Smaller, local scholarships typically cut students a check and larger scholarships are usually sent to the institution's office of financial aid and will appear on your award letter.

6. What is the difference between a full tuition and a full ride scholarship?

Full tuition only covers your tuition, which would be considered a partial scholarship. Full ride covers all fees; tuition and room and board.

Exceptions (Check college sites for their COVID updates)

Prairie View A&M University does not accept STARR Test scores on the back of transcripts and have to be sent with supporting documents to the Office of Admissions. Scores can be found at texasassessment.org.

Southern University and A&M College is currently not accepting fee waivers; however, the application fee is \$20.

Some schools (Texas Tech and Texas State) require a copy of a student's SAT/ACT waiver, or an official school document to prove that a student is economically disadvantaged.

FAFSA/TASFA

1. What does FAFSA stand for?

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

2. Where do I complete the FAFSA application?

fafsa.ed.gov

3. When does FAFSA/TASFA open?

October 1

4. Which tax return is needed to complete my FAFSA application?

Prior-prior year i.e. for the 2021-2022 application, 2019's tax return can be used.

5. What is the deadline to complete FAFSA/TASFA?

January 15, but the sooner your FAFSA is completed, the better.

6. How do I know how much money I will get?

You will receive an award letter from the universities that you put on your "School Selection" list on the FAFSA website that shows how much you will receive.

7. What is my FSA ID for and does my parent(s) need one?

Your FSA ID is your electronic signature and only one parent needs a FSA ID, which can be created at fsaid.ed.gov.

8. Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to receive financial aid?

No, however, you will need to complete a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) application if you are not a U.S. Citizen.

9. Do I have to complete FAFSA every year?

Yes, every year that you are in college, you will need to complete a FAFSA application, so get very familiar with the FAFSA website.

10. Which application do I complete?

Make sure the application is for the year that you will be starting the semester, i.e. 2021-2022 application.

11. How to answer certain questions on your FAFSA application?

- ✓ If you are a male student completing the FAFSA application, make sure you select **“No, register me”** on the Selective Service question, in order to receive federal money, you have to register for the selective service
- ✓ Be sure that you select **“Yes”** when asked, If you would like work-study?
- ✓ You are seeking your **“First Bachelors”**
- ✓ You are a **“1st year/ Never attended college”**
- ✓ Make sure you add the local community college to your **“School Selection”** unless you are ECHS.

12. What is the difference between FAFSA and TASFA?

FAFSA is **FEDERAL** money, whereas, TASFA is **STATE** money. FAFSA is for U.S. Citizens and TASFA is for non-U.S. Citizens.

13. How do I know if a college accepts TASFA?

Contact the school's office of admissions.

14. Where can I find the TASFA application?

tinyurl.com/y9h5z8nn

15. Where do I have to mail the TASFA application after completion?

To the university's office of admissions.

16. What else do I need to complete to have a complete TASFA application?

If you are a male, you would need to register for the selective service at sss.gov
Complete the Affidavit of Intent and have it notarized.

17. Am I taking out loans when I apply for FAFSA?

Loans may appear on your award letter; however, it is up to you and your parents to accept or decline the loans.

18. Why is tax information and social security numbers required to complete FAFSA?

FAFSA has to verify you and your parent's identity as well as their tax information.

19. What if the student does not live with their parents?

If they filed them on their taxes, you must list the parent's information.

20. If a student is homeless or ever been in foster care, select yes for the question that asks.

Class Rank & GPA

1. Does class rank affect acceptance to colleges?

Most universities have admission requirements based on your class rank or GPA. However, there are some schools that have open enrollment or they individually select their incoming students based on the applications received (typically private institutions).

2. What is the difference between a college GPA and weighted GPA?

Your college GPA is unweighted, and weighted GPA includes core classes and electives over the duration of your high school career. The college GPA is used to determine admission to a university.

3. If I am in the top 10% am I automatically admitted to the schools that I apply to?

This rule applies to Texas public universities, with the exception of The University of Texas at Austin, which is 6%. This rule does not apply to private institutions in the State of Texas.

Essays

1. Do I have to write the essays to be admitted to college?

Some universities do not require an essay, but I advise you to submit one for potential institutional scholarships and to give the university an opportunity to learn more about you and why you want to attend their school

2. Which essay do I write?

If a school requires an essay, they will list which essay they want. The list can be found online under "Apply Texas essays" for Texas schools, for out of state schools, the requirements can be found on their website.

3. Why do I have to write an essay?

The essays are an opportunity for the university to learn more about you as a person versus an application number. An essay is a great opportunity to sell yourself to the university, whether that be due to a special circumstance you may have overcome, a specific program the university has that you may be interested in, or just to simply learn more about you.

Acceptance/Rejection Letters

1. What is the next step after being accepted?

- ✓ Compare the cost of attendance for each school
- ✓ Look into the different financial aid awards with the inclusion of scholarships
- ✓ Look at the location; what will you need to get there i.e plane/car
- ✓ Which school were you accepted into; is it the best choice
- ✓ Consult with your family
- ✓ Is your FAFSA completed with the schools you want to attend added on your school selection?
- ✓ Were you selected for verification?
- ✓ Research housing on the campus(es)?
- ✓ Look at meal plans available
- ✓ Complete scholarships
- ✓ Visit the colleges and see if they have something for students who have been accepted
- ✓ Constantly check your email from the university
- ✓ If you received work study, be sure to start looking for a job on campus, preferably libraries, museums, offices
- ✓ Speak up and ask questions; get familiar with the people in the university's offices(admissions and financial aid especially)
- ✓ Research the services that the university offers i.e. clinic, counseling, writing center
- ✓ Research potential organizations to join on campus
- ✓ Connect with a teacher or staff member that may have gone to the university
- ✓ Speak with an alumni of your high school who have gone to college, preferably the college that you are considering
- ✓ Make sure you sign up for orientation
- ✓ Look into programs/organizations that support first generation students, if applicable

Reminders: get involved, do your work and go to class because it costs money, do not be afraid to challenge yourself, practice self-care, STUDY, introduce yourself to your professors, they control your grade, utilize the resources on campus such as tutors, computer labs, library, writing center

2. If I get rejected, what are my next steps?

- ✓ Just because you do not start at a school, does not mean you cannot graduate from the school, you have options
- ✓ The decision is not personal, but based on admission policies
- ✓ There is an appeal process: get a higher GPA, write an essay, letters of recommendation, higher SAT/ACT score (different universities have different policies which asks for different documents)
- ✓ You can always transfer, however, be sure you are taking classes that will transfer to your dream university, make good grades that support the school's policies
- ✓ Look into the options that you were accepted to!

Athletes

1. If I am an athlete, do I still have to apply to college?

Yes, wherever you commit, you have to apply, because you are a Student Athlete for the university, not just an athlete.

2. Where do I complete NCAA/NAIA Clearing House?

NCAA: eligibilitycenter.org NAIA: naia.org

3. Do I have to pay for the registration for clearing house?

If you receive free or reduced lunch, the fee is waived.

Reminders:

If you are interested in junior college, please visit NJAA.org

Do not forget to put the school that you commit to on your FAFSA application; just because you receive a scholarship, you still have to complete a FAFSA application

The NCAA does have Core-Course, SAT/ACT and GPA requirements see below:

Division I:	Division II:
16 Core Courses	16 Core Courses (if enrolling on or after August 1, 2013)
4 years of English	3 years of English
3 years of math (algebra 1 or higher level)	2 years of math (algebra 1 or higher level)
2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered)	2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered)
1 extra year of English, math, or science	2 extra years of English, math or science; 3 extra years if enrolling on or after August 1, 2013
2 years of social science	2 years of social science

Division I: 16 Core Courses	Division II: 16 Core Courses (if enrolling on or after August 1, 2013)
4 years of additional core courses (from any category above, or in a foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy)	3 years of additional core courses (from any category above, or in a foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy); 4 extra years if enrolling on or after August 1, 2013

GPA	SAT	ACT
4.0	400	37
3.5	600	50
3.0	800	66
2.5	1000	85
2.3	1080	93

Division II and NAIA have requirements as well, see below:

Minimum SAT 820 or sum of 68
ACT and 2.00 core grade-point
average

Military

- 1. What if I want to go to the military?**
Speak with a recruiter from the branch that you would like to join; do your research before signing any contracts and take the ASVAB.
- 2. How do I know if I can use my parent's military benefits at the college of my choice?**

GI Bill

- ✓ Active military and veterans must elect this benefit
- ✓ Irrevocable election
- ✓ May be used by qualifying dependents
- ✓ Must be used within 15 years of discharge

- ✓ VA pays the tuition directly to the school
- ✓ Can't be used with Hazelwood
- ✓ Stipends paid directly to the student
- ✓ Book stipend paid per credit hour at the beginning of each semester up to \$1000 per year

Hazlewood

(Joined in Texas and/or be a Texas Resident)

(Texas Public Universities)

Hazlewood Dependent:

- ✓ Only available to dependents of veterans who are 100% disabled/deceased due to military service
- ✓ Eligible until age 26
- ✓ Each child eligible for 150 hours of tuition exemption
- ✓ Nothing paid to the veteran
- ✓ Must meet eligibility criteria
- ✓ Student must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress to remain eligible

Hazlewood Legacy:

- ✓ Eligible until age 26
- ✓ Veteran and dependents eligible for 150 hours of tuition exemption
- ✓ Only one person may use the benefit at any time
- ✓ Nothing paid to the veteran
- ✓ Must meet eligibility criteria
- ✓ Student must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress to remain eligible

Transcripts

1. Which transcripts do I send to the university?

You will send your official transcript to be admitted to the school, and another one once you graduate, showing that you have actually completed high school. If you are in Dual Credit/Early College students, send Cedar Valley transcript at the end of school year.

2. Can your admission decision be reversed if your GPA drops from the time of decision and when you graduate?

Uncommon situation, however, if your GPA drastically changes, for instance, a 3.0 drops to a 1.5, that is grounds for a reversed decision.

3. Where do I get my transcripts?

Email someone on the College Access Team and/or counselor.
Some schools have an uploading process.

4. How many transcripts do I need?

You will need one for each school you apply to.

