



# Senior Planning Guide





# College Entrance Exams

- ACT/SAT are exams required for entrance to universities nationwide and often considered in scholarship criteria.
- ACT/SAT Seniors should take these exams as early in the year as possible!
- You can register for the ACT at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
- The registration site for SAT is [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)





# College Entrance Exams

- The THEA is required for entrance to all Texas public colleges and universities.
- Students can be exempt based on Exit Level TAKS scores or ACT/SAT scores (see your counselor for more information).
- To register for the THEA visit: [www.thea.nesinc.com](http://www.thea.nesinc.com)





# College Entrance Exams

- The websites for these exams also offer test taking strategies and practice exams!
- Fee waivers are available for the SAT and ACT for students who participate in the free and reduced lunch program. Please see your counselor to request a fee waiver.



# College Comparisons

- Colleges vary in size, location, cost to attend, programs offered, etc.
- Students should research colleges to determine the best fit.
- College websites are a great source of information.
- Collegeboard.com also offers a college search engine that is a great starting point.



# College Visits

- Once students have researched colleges, the next step is to visit the campus.
- Seniors are allowed two school days for college campus visits.
- Students must provide the attendance office with written documentation of their visit from the college upon return to THS.





# NCAA Clearinghouse

- Students interested in playing sports in college must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)
- Fee waivers are available for students who utilized a waiver for the ACT and/or SAT.





# Applying to College

- The Texas Common Application allows students to apply to any public university in the state of Texas.
- Students should visit [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org) to get started. Some applications are due as early as January!
- For all other colleges students should visit the college website and download the application or apply online.





# Financial Aid

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- This is the application that qualifies students for all financial aid and federal grants.
- Students should begin this process as soon as possible in January.
- Male students 18 and up must also register with Selective Service to qualify for financial aid at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov)





# Scholarships

- Scholarships is a broad term that can apply to Private or Institutional Programs.
- Private scholarships include funds provided by community organizations, foundations, professional organizations, corporations, commercial lending institutions, etc.
- Institutional Aid is provided and controlled by the college or university.





# Scholarships

- THS counselors post and provide access to all scholarship information received in the counseling center.
- However, the most information is available via the web. Students should utilize one of the many free scholarship search websites available. (A website resource list is provided.)



# Scholarships

- Institutional scholarships must be applied for directly through the college/university the student is planning to attend.
- Terrell does offer many local scholarships provided by the community. Information will be provided in February on the application process.





# Senior Survey

- Your counselor will meet with you individually to discuss the information presented here, your goals, and how to achieve those goals!
- Please utilize all of the resources available to you to prepare for your future success!





# Web Resources

- **[Texas Common Application](http://www.applytexas.org)** – Online application for all public universities in the state of Texas. [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)
- **[Online College Degrees](http://www.college-scholarships.com/ssac.htm)** Helping students make informed choices about online colleges, degrees & programs. <http://www.college-scholarships.com/ssac.htm>





# Web Resources

- **Direct Textbook** Compare Prices on New and Used College Textbooks  
<http://www.directtextbook.com/>
- **Collegiate Choice Walking Tours** Two New Jersey counselors offer unedited, unscripted videos of actual tours and info sessions at hundreds of colleges. Charge for the videos, but great tips for free.  
<http://www.collegiatechoice.com/>



# Web Resources

- ***The Colleges and Universities Page:*** College and university admissions office email addresses and phone numbers, financial aid office email addresses, and links to college and university home pages and online applications.  
<http://www.college-scholarships.com/>
- ***FastWEB:*** Bills itself as the internet's largest free scholarship search. <http://www.fastweb.com>
- ***FASTaid Scholarship Search:*** Bills itself as "World's largest FREE online scholarship database".  
<http://www.fastap.org/>




# Web Resources

- **FAFSA on the Web**: Submit your free federal financial aid form online  
<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- **The Financial Aid Page**: Comprehensive information on scholarships and financial aid, with lots of links. A great page.  
<http://www.finaid.org/>
- **Sallie Mae Free Online Scholarship Search**: Free online scholarship search. Calculate expected college costs, estimated family contribution, borrowing needs, loan payments, etc.  
<http://scholarships.salliemae.com/>



# Web Resources

- **CollegeNet Mach 25**: Free scholarship search which will also help you create letters to apply for scholarships.  
<http://www.collegenet.com/about/index.html>
  - **FreSch!**: A free scholarship search service which is updated weekly. You'll also find lots of good advice on this page, and you can sign up for a free email scholarship newsletter.  
<http://www.freschinfo.com/>
  - **The Scholarship Page**: A free scholarship search service. <http://www.scholarship-page.com/>
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# Web Resources

- ***The Princeton Review***: Free scholarship search as well as college and career recommendations. Provides online college searches and an application accepted by lots of colleges and universities. ACT/SAT prep courses available.  
<http://www.princetonreview.com/>
- ***NACAC College Fair News***: A listing of major college fairs throughout the country hosted by the National Association of College Admissions Counselors. These fairs are attended by hundreds of colleges and offer students a great opportunity to meet college representatives and gather literature.  
<http://www.nacanet.org/studentresources>



# Web Resources

- **Braintrack**: Would you believe a page with links to more than 4,750 colleges and universities? <http://www.braintrack.com/>
- **College Board Online**: College Board, the people who bring you the SAT, offer you everything you could ever want to know about the SAT as well as online registration. Other subjects on this extensive site include information about the AP (advanced placement) exams.  
<http://www.collegeboard.com/>
- **ACT Home Page**: The ACT site offers online registration and test prep.  
<http://www.act.org/>



# Web Resources

- **THEA:** Online registration and test prep. Required for all public universities in the state of Texas. [www.thea.nesinc.com](http://www.thea.nesinc.com)
- **Occupational Outlook Handbook:** Online resource for information about careers including job outlook and average salaries. [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)
- **Coalition for Christian Colleges and Universities:** If you're looking for "Christ-centered education", you'll find links to Coalition member institutions here <http://www.cccu.org/>



# Web Resources

- **SuperCollege**: "Harvard graduates reveal exclusive secrets, tips...". Newsletter, survival kit, and more.  
<http://www.supercollege.com/>
- **GoCollege**: Another pretty comprehensive information page for college-bound students, with a free college search, free scholarship search, and something that sets it apart from many similar sites....free online ACT and SAT practice tests.  
<http://www.gocollege.com/>



# Web Resources

- **NCAA**: If you're an athlete concerned about eligibility issues, try this site. If you can understand the NCAA rules the SAT and ACT should be a snap for you.
- [http://www2.ncaa.org/index\\_students\\_parents.php](http://www2.ncaa.org/index_students_parents.php)
- [http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/ncaa/NC/AA/general/index\\_general.html](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/ncaa/NC/AA/general/index_general.html)
- **NAIA**: Another organization which governs college athletics. If you're a student-athlete considering attending an NAIA college/university, you'll be interested in this page. <http://www.naia.org/index.html>



# Web Resources

- **College Night**: General information, articles, and links for students and parents  
<http://www.collegenight.com/index.html>
- **Next Step Magazine**: The Next Step Magazine helps high school students with college planning, career exploration and life skills.  
<http://www.nextstepmagazine.com/NSMPages/home.aspx>
- **Free SAT Prep**: Free tips, strategies, and practice questions and answers from former SAT instructors.  
<http://www.freesat1prep.com/>



# Web Resources

- **College Athletic Scholarships** ...  
All the information student-athletes need to maximize their opportunities to compete in college sports and/or be offered athletic scholarships. And, all free. <http://www.college-athletic-scholarships.com/>
- **Education Planner** – Career and college planning site.  
[www.educationplanner.org](http://www.educationplanner.org)



# Web Resources

- **Official Army Website:**  
<http://www.army.mil/>
- **Official Navy Website:**  
<http://www.navy.mil/>
- **Official Marine Website:**  
<http://www.usmc.mil/>
- **Official Air Force Website:**  
<http://www.af.mil/>
- **Official Coast Guard Website:**  
<http://www.uscg.mil/USCG.shtm>



# Web Resources

- **Selective Service:**  
<http://www.sss.gov>
- **US Department of Education:**  
<http://www.ed.gov>
- **Federal Trade Commission** –  
Information about scholarship  
scams – <http://www.ftc.gov>



# Counselor Contacts

- Please see your counselor for assistance!
- A-G Counselor – Eleanor Anderson  
[anderose@terrell.ednet10.net](mailto:anderose@terrell.ednet10.net)
- H-N Counselor – Jeff Moore  
[moorejef@terrell.ednet10.net](mailto:moorejef@terrell.ednet10.net)
- O-Z Counselor – Shannon Clevenger  
[clevengs@terrell.ednet10.net](mailto:clevengs@terrell.ednet10.net)
- 972-563-7525

