



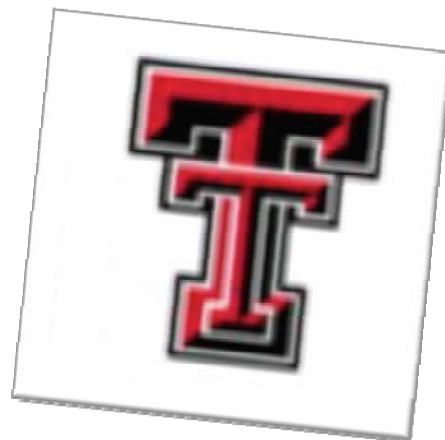
TERRELL HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S CORNER

SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR AND SENIOR INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 2012

UPCOMING TEST DATES:

Test Date	Test Offered	Regular Registration Closes	Late Registration Closes
3/10/12	SAT	2/10/12	2/24/12
5/5/12	SAT	4/6/12	4/20/12
6/2/12	SAT	5/8/12	5/22/12
4/14/12	ACT	3/9/12	3/23/12
6/9/12	ACT	5/4/12	5/18/12



ACT Testing Info and Registration:

www.actstudent.org

SAT Testing Info and Registration:

www.sat.collegeboard.com

The following websites are great resources for scholarships. There are MANY available!!

www.fastweb.com

www.cappex.com

www.scholarships.com

www.everychanceeverytexan.org/funding/aid/faidalphalpha.php

After SENIOR parents receive their W-2s in January, students and/or parents need to fill out a FAFSA, this begins the process of finding grants, loans, and scholarships for students. The sooner you complete a FAFSA the better the chance of getting more money- so act fast! Federal deadline is June 30, 2012, but some schools may have earlier deadlines.

www.fafsa.ed.gov/ FAFSA IS FREE TO FILE!

**FINANCIAL
AID
INFORMATION**

Junior and Senior Year Timelines:

Junior Year:

- Continue working on GPA, volunteering and participating in clubs or activities.
- Take the PSAT again in October to practice as well as attempt to make a qualifying score for National Merit Scholar.
- Career selection should be coming to a conclusion.
- Begin narrowing the search for a college/university. A list of five such institutions should be a good selection. Likewise, investigate the entrance requirements for each of the institutions of interest. Complete a campus visit to the campuses of your choice and ask many, many questions including of students when you have the opportunity.
- Take the ACT or SAT for the first time in the last months of the school year so that you have as much of your education complete. Also, the state has been paying for the administration for students in the junior class during one of the last administrations.
- With regards to Texas A&M and University of Texas, taking the ACT or SAT should be completed much earlier do to the admission deadlines. Students considering these options should ensure as many opportunities as needed to meet the deadlines.
- If you are an athlete and you are considering athletic competition at the next level, you should begin the process with NCAA clearinghouse.
- Score high on state exams that determine graduation.
- Search for and apply for outside scholarships.

Senior Year:

- Continue working on GPA, volunteering and participating in clubs or activities.
- Career selection should be coming to a conclusion. The final decision regarding a career may still be in the future but a decision on where to go to college may be crucial to your career choice.
- Your college/university selections should be down to three to five options. Make application to all of these schools by meeting the application process prescribed by the individual college/university. Also, request a transcript be sent to each of these institutions through the counseling office. Many institutions use www.applytexas.com as a general application reducing the amount of work and time for the applicants.
- Texas A&M and University of Texas have very early admission deadlines. If one of these schools is in the final options, please be aware of these deadlines on application.
- Retake the ACT or SAT to improve your scores for admissions as well as financial aid.
- Complete your FAFSA and have them sent to the colleges/universities of your choice to ensure financial aid opportunities. This step can be done after taxes have been filed in February or thereafter.
- Apply for local scholarships in the spring semester. Search for and apply for outside scholarships.

SPRING SENIOR REVIEW:

The counselors will set appointments upon request to follow up with your senior student regarding their transcripts, GPA, and testing. Contact your child's counselor to make an appointment.

Financial Aid Workshops:

ATTENTION PARENTS OF GRADUATING SENIORS...LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS AND APPLY FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AT THE EVENT. PLEASE BRING YOUR 2011 W-2 AND TAX RETURN INFORMATION AS WELL AS YOUR CHILD'S SOCIAL SECURITY CARD (all will be confidential).

February 23, 6:00 – 7:30 pm OR
February 25, 9:00 – 10:30 am

Terrell High School – CTE Building



College Links:

The link below asks a series of questions to help students determine which college majors might be of interest to them.

www.careerclusters.org

College Confidential:

This link takes students to a discussion board type community where they can get answers to practically any question they might have about college.

<http://talk.collegeconfidential.com/college-search-selection/280633-how-do-you-know-what-you-want-study.html>

My Plan:

This link has assembled a comprehensive set of tools and resources to assist you in preparing for this upcoming transition to work or college.

http://www.myplan.com/timeline/high_school.php

Texas Common Application:

This application can be used for ANY four or two year college in Texas, check with the colleges you are interested in for application deadlines!

www.applytexas.org










The state has enacted Senate Bill 1107 effective January 1, 2012, requiring that all first-time students entering college must provide proof of vaccination against bacterial meningitis 10 days prior to the start of classes.

Upcoming TAKS Dates:

- March 5, 7– 9 Senior Retests (SS, ELA, Math, Sci)
- April 24-27 TAKS Tests and Retests (ELA, Math, Sci, SS)
- July 9-12 TAKS Retests (ELA, Math, Sci, SS)

Colleges Offering Free Tuition Based on Family Income

Students **MUST** be accepted to the college in order to qualify for the free tuition offers.

COLLEGE	Criteria for FREE tuition	Admissions Requirements	Deadlines	Other details:																		
Sam Houston State (Bearkat Promise) 	Covers tuition for students with family incomes of \$25,000 or less.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>SAT</th> <th>ACT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st Qtr.</td> <td>850</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Qtr.</td> <td>930</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd Qtr.</td> <td>1030</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th Qtr.</td> <td>1140</td> <td>25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	SAT	ACT	1 st Qtr.	850	17	2 nd Qtr.	930	19	3 rd Qtr.	1030	22	4 th Qtr.	1140	25	March 1st All paperwork submitted for admissions. April 1st Submit & complete all Financial Aid paperwork	Includes housing for freshmen students. Renewable for 3 yrs.			
Rank	SAT	ACT																				
1 st Qtr.	850	17																				
2 nd Qtr.	930	19																				
3 rd Qtr.	1030	22																				
4 th Qtr.	1140	25																				
Texas A & M (Aggie Assurance) 	Covers tuition for Adjusted gross family income of \$60,000 or less - may also be eligible for aid to for fees, books & supplies, & dorm,	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>SAT</th> <th>ACT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Top 10%</td> <td>No minimum</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st Qtr.</td> <td>1140</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Qtr.</td> <td>1230</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd/4th Qtr</td> <td>1270</td> <td>29</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	SAT	ACT	Top 10%	No minimum		1 st Qtr.	1140	25	2 nd Qtr.	1230	28	3 rd /4 th Qtr	1270	29	January 15th POSTMARK for all paperwork for admissions. March 31st - deadline for submission of all Financial Aid paperwork.	Must be 1 st time entering freshman & must maintain a 2.5 gpa to continue receiving the Aggie Assurance for up to 4 years.			
Rank	SAT	ACT																				
Top 10%	No minimum																					
1 st Qtr.	1140	25																				
2 nd Qtr.	1230	28																				
3 rd /4 th Qtr	1270	29																				
Texas State Univ. (Bobcat Promise) 	Must be an entering freshman & Texas resident with family adjusted gross income of \$25,000 or less.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>SAT</th> <th>ACT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Top 10%</td> <td>No minimum</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st Qtr.</td> <td>920</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Qtr.</td> <td>1010</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd Qtr</td> <td>1180</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th Qtr</td> <td>1270</td> <td>29</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	SAT	ACT	Top 10%	No minimum		1 st Qtr.	920	20	2 nd Qtr.	1010	22	3 rd Qtr	1180	26	4 th Qtr	1270	29	March 1st All paperwork submitted for admissions. April 1st Submit & complete all Financial Aid paperwork	Must complete at least 15 credit hours each semester (fall and spring) and maintain a 2.0 g.p.a.
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Top 10%	No minimum																					
1 st Qtr.	920	20																				
2 nd Qtr.	1010	22																				
3 rd Qtr	1180	26																				
4 th Qtr	1270	29																				
Texas Tech (Red Raider Guarantee) 	Covers tuition & fees for family incomes of \$40,000 or lower.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>SAT</th> <th>ACT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Top 10%</td> <td>No minimum</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st Qtr.</td> <td>1140</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Qtr.</td> <td>1230</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd/4th Qtr</td> <td>1270</td> <td>29</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	SAT	ACT	Top 10%	No minimum		1 st Qtr.	1140	25	2 nd Qtr.	1230	28	3 rd /4 th Qtr	1270	29	February 1 for admissions. May 1st deadline for submission of all admissions & Financial Aid paperwork.	Must be a 1 st time entering freshman and enroll in a least 12 hrs a semester.			
Rank	SAT	ACT																				
Top 10%	No minimum																					
1 st Qtr.	1140	25																				
2 nd Qtr.	1230	28																				
3 rd /4 th Qtr	1270	29																				
University of Houston (Cougar Promise) 	Covers tuition & fees for family incomes of \$40,000 or lower.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>SAT</th> <th>ACT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Top 20%</td> <td>No minimum</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>21-50%</td> <td>1000</td> <td>21</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> (Or individual review)	Rank	SAT	ACT	Top 20%	No minimum		21-50%	1000	21	March 1st POSTMARK for all paperwork for admissions. March 31st deadline for submission of ALL Financial Aid paperwork.	Must be 1 st time entering freshman & take at least 30 credit hrs for Fall & Spring semesters within a year once enrolled and maintain a 2.5 GPA to keep scholarship.									
Rank	SAT	ACT																				
Top 20%	No minimum																					
21-50%	1000	21																				
Univ. of North Texas (Emerald Eagle Scholars) 	Covers tuition & fees for family incomes of \$40,000 or lower.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>SAT</th> <th>ACT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Top 10%</td> <td>No minimum</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st Qtr.</td> <td>950</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Qtr.</td> <td>1050</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd Qtr.</td> <td>1180</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th Qtr.</td> <td>Individual Review</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	SAT	ACT	Top 10%	No minimum		1 st Qtr.	950	20	2 nd Qtr.	1050	23	3 rd Qtr.	1180	26	4 th Qtr.	Individual Review		March 1st All paperwork submitted for admissions. March 1st Have completed & submitted the FAFSA	Must be 1 st time entering freshman & must maintain 2.5 g p a & enroll in 15 hrs each semester - completing 30 hrs each yr + work in a campus job 10 hrs wk
Rank	SAT	ACT																				
Top 10%	No minimum																					
1 st Qtr.	950	20																				
2 nd Qtr.	1050	23																				
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4 th Qtr.	Individual Review																					
Univ of TX Arlington (Maverick Promise) 	Family income of \$65,000 or lower.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>SAT</th> <th>ACT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Top 25%</td> <td>No minimum</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Qtr.</td> <td>1050</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd Qtr.</td> <td>1150</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th Qtr.</td> <td>Individual Review</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	SAT	ACT	Top 25%	No minimum		2 nd Qtr.	1050	22	3 rd Qtr.	1150	25	4 th Qtr.	Individual Review		April 1st All paperwork submitted for application & be accepted for admissions. April 1st Submit & complete all Financial Aid paperwork	New freshmen students are eligible for up to 5 years; new transfer students are eligible for up to 3 yrs if 2.0 gpa is maintained and enroll in a min of 6 hrs at UTA.			
Rank	SAT	ACT																				
Top 25%	No minimum																					
2 nd Qtr.	1050	22																				
3 rd Qtr.	1150	25																				
4 th Qtr.	Individual Review																					
Univ of TXSanAntonio 	Family income of \$25,000 or lower.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>SAT</th> <th>ACT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Top 25%</td> <td>No minimum</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Qtr.</td> <td>960</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd Qtr.</td> <td>Individual Review</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th Qtr.</td> <td>Individual Review</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	SAT	ACT	Top 25%	No minimum		2 nd Qtr.	960	20	3 rd Qtr.	Individual Review		4 th Qtr.	Individual Review		March 1st POSTMARK for all paperwork for admissions. March 15th deadline for submission of ALL Financial Aid paperwork.	Must be 1 st time entering freshman & must maintain 2.0 g p a & completing 30 hrs each yr . Eligible for four yrs.			
Rank	SAT	ACT																				
Top 25%	No minimum																					
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3 rd Qtr.	Individual Review																					
4 th Qtr.	Individual Review																					
Tarleton State (Texan Tuition Guarantee) 	Family adjusted gross income of \$30,000 or lower.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>SAT</th> <th>ACT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Top 25%</td> <td>Provide scores</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Qtr.</td> <td>Provide scores</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd Qtr.</td> <td>930</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th Qtr.</td> <td>1030</td> <td>22</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	SAT	ACT	Top 25%	Provide scores		2 nd Qtr.	Provide scores		3 rd Qtr.	930	20	4 th Qtr.	1030	22	April 15th All financial aid forms must be completed; must be PELL eligible; must enroll in at least 15 hours; must be degree seeking.	Student must maintain a 2.5 GPA and completes minimum of 30 hours in an academic year; eligible for 8 consecutive long semesters.			
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Top 25%	Provide scores																					
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.(SAT Scores = Critical Reading + Math)

Myths About Financial Aid

"I'm not going to bother filling out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* because ..."

"... my parents make too much money, so I won't qualify for aid."

Reality: There is no income cut-off to qualify for federal student aid. Many factors besides income—from the size of your family to the age of your older parent—are taken into account. Your eligibility is determined by a mathematical formula, not by your parents' income alone. And remember: when you fill out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSASM), you're also automatically applying for funds from your state, and possibly from your school as well. In fact, some schools won't even consider you for any of their scholarships (including academic scholarships) until you've submitted a FAFSA. Don't make assumptions about what you'll get—fill out the application and find out.

"... only students with good grades get financial aid."

Reality: While a high grade point average will help a student get into a good school and may help with academic scholarships, most of the federal student aid programs do not take a student's grades into consideration. Provided a student maintains satisfactory academic progress in his or her program of study, federal student aid will help a student with an average academic record complete his or her education.

"... you have to be a minority to get financial aid."

Reality: Funds from federal student aid programs are awarded on the basis of financial need, not on the basis of race. The FAFSA doesn't even collect this kind of information about an applicant.

"... the form is too hard to fill out."

Reality: The FAFSA is easier than ever, especially if you fill it out online at www.fafsa.gov. There are detailed instructions for every question, and the form walks you through step by step, asking only the questions that apply to you. If you need help, you can access real-time, private online chat with a customer service representative. If you're filling out the paper FAFSA, you can get help from a high school counselor, from the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend, or from our toll-free number: **1-800-4-FED-AID**. And remember, the FAFSA and all these sources of advice are FREE.

So what do I do now?

Go to www.fafsa.gov, fill out the application, and see what you get!

For more information about federal student aid, see www.studentaid.ed.gov or contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center:

1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)

TTY: 1-800-730-8913

For inquirers without access to the toll-free number: **319-337-5665**

E-mail: studentaid@ed.gov



Steps to Federal Student Aid

STEP
1

Get free information and help from a school counselor, the financial aid office at the college or career school you plan to attend, or the U.S. Department of Education at www.studentaid.ed.gov or **1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)**. Free help is available any time during the application process. You should never have to pay for help.



STEP
2

Collect the documents needed to apply, including income tax returns* and W-2 forms (and other records of income). A full list of what you need is at www.fafsa.gov. Tax return not completed at the time you apply? Estimate the tax information, apply, and correct information later.



STEP
3

Complete the 2012–2013 FAFSASM between Jan. 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013 (no exceptions to either date!). **BUT**, apply as soon as possible after Jan. 1 to meet school and state aid deadlines (see note at bottom of page). Apply online at *FAFSA on the Web*SM (the faster and easier way) by going to www.fafsa.gov.

STEP
4

Within a few days, the U.S. Department of Education will send you your *Student Aid Report* (SAR)—the result of your FAFSA. Review your SAR and, if necessary, make changes or corrections and submit your SAR for reprocessing. Your complete, correct SAR will contain your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)—the number used to determine your federal student aid eligibility.



STEP
5

The college or career school that you plan to attend might request additional information from you. Be sure to respond by any deadlines, or you might not receive federal student aid.



STEP
6

All applicants: The college or career school will tell you how much aid you can get at that school. Contact the financial aid office if you have any questions about the aid being offered. **First-time applicants:** Review award letters from schools to compare amounts and types of aid being offered. Decide which school to attend based on a combination of (a) how well the school suits your needs and (b) its affordability after all aid is taken into account.

Note:

You also might be able to get financial aid from your state government, your school, or a private scholarship. Research nonfederal aid early (ideally, start in the spring of your junior year of high school). You can find a free scholarship search at www.studentaid.ed.gov/scholarship. Be sure to meet all application deadlines!

* If you file your taxes before filling out your FAFSA online, you might be able to have your tax information automatically retrieved from the Internal Revenue Service and inserted in your FAFSA. The FAFSA will walk you through the process.

Download this fact sheet at www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs
2012–13



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