

It is never too early to plan for college...

Parents:

- Encourage your child to attend school and do well.
- Begin to examine your finances and determine how you will pay for the upcoming expenses. Check into the Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan for options or consider investment options such as the Education 529 Fund.
- Encourage students to get involved in extra-curricular activities and community service. This will increase scholarship potential.
- Explore ROTC and Selective Service options.
- Encourage students to take Freshman level courses in 8th grade. (For example, Spanish, Health, Keyboarding or Algebra I) This will give them more room in their High School schedules for Pre-AP courses or Advanced Placement classes.

If a student places out of 12-15 hours of college work, that is the equivalent of a full semester or approximately \$7,000.



Why should I go to college?

- To perform many jobs you must go to college.
- College gives you more opportunities to do what you want.
- Entry-level workers will make an average of \$10,579 per year compared to a person with a bachelor's degree who will make an average of \$35,000 per year.

How do I decide what career to choose?

- Talk to your parents about their jobs.
- Participate in Career Days at school
- Check the internet at careers.com, monster.com, or jobsontheweb.com.
- Take Aptitude and Interest Assessments that assist you in understanding your preferences and strengths.

What do I do if I change my mind?

The best choice is **EDUCATION**. You can always change your mind; the more you learn, however, the more opportunities you will have. Make sure to keep all your options open!

Ensure the Possibilities !

“What can I do now that will increase my chances to receive money for college?”

1. **The TEXAS Grant Program requires:**
 - a high school diploma
 - enrollment within 16 months of graduation
 - completion of recommended or distinguished high school curriculum
 - enrollment on 3/4-basis
 - financial need
 - Texas resident
 - no conviction of a felony or crime involving a controlled substance

Most grants do not need to be repaid

Therefore, you should prepare yourself to take the classes necessary for the recommended or distinguished curriculum, by taking challenging coursework and keeping grades high. In addition, it is very important that you make good choices in regards to drugs and alcohol.

2. **Get involved in community service sports, ROTC, or academic clubs. This will increase your chances for a scholarship.**
3. **Ask questions.**



Internet Resources

www.finaid.org

www.fastweb.com

www.texasuitionpromisefund.com

www.window.state.tx.us/education

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.supercollege.com

www.ed.gov/finaid.html

www.collegeboard.com

www.kellerisd.net

www.collegefortexans.com

www.tacac.com

www.nacac.com

www.act.org

www.tgtp.org



For more information, contact

The Counseling Center

Facts:

- GED (General Educational Development) certificate — limits opportunities
- A high school diploma opens doors.
- The recommended or distinguished high school plan prepares students for college and helps avoid costly remedial classes in college.
- These plans open the door to Texas Grant opportunities.
- Research indicates that people with more education earn more money.

Top Ten Reasons to Continue Your Education

10. Fulfill a dream-or begin one.
9. Have fun.
8. Make connections that can link you to future jobs.
7. Become part of a cultural stew.
6. Meet new people.
5. Do what you love doing and get paid for it.
4. Exercise your mind.
3. Earn a higher income.
2. Learn critical-thinking and analytical skills.
1. Don't get left behind.

Selecting Your Road to the Future



Helping You Plan for College