

Senior Survival Skills for College Admissions

Skills and
planning
tips to
prepare for
the college
admissions
process.



SENIOR HIGH SUCCESS:

EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTING
THE SENIOR HIGH CURRICULUM

Your Senior Year is Important

- Review your class schedule with your guidance counselor and make adjustments, if necessary.
- Stay involved with your extracurricular activities, community service and volunteerism.



The “Must Do” On Your “To Do List”

- Take or re-take the ACT or SAT test.
- Start sending your admission application to the colleges in which you have interest.
 - The Texas online application (www.applytexas.org) is accepted by most Texas colleges and universities both public and private. Remember to refer to your file of grades and activities that you have compiled throughout your high school career.

August “To Do”

- Start your essays
 - With your top schools in mind, start drafting your essays and be sure to leave yourself time for edits, edits and more edits.
 - Have your counselors, teachers and even parents review and critique them. The more eyes you have on them, the better they will be.

September “To Do”



- Secure letter of recommendation
 - Reach out to teachers, counselors, coaches, employers, and even youth ministers who would be happy to write you a glowing review.
 - Don't forget to send them a thank you note afterwards!

October “Accomplishments”

- Submit your FAFSA – Opens October 1 every year
 - Some student aid programs award funds on a first-come, first served basis so don't wait too long to submit your FAFSA.
 - Please have your student and one parent's FSA ID prior to completing the FAFSA.

Note: Prior/Prior income tax information will be needed to complete the FAFSA. The IRS DRT will allow this information to be transferred from the IRS to the FAFSA without interruption.

- Be sure you are on the official FAFSA website. **Beware!** Use only the official FAFSA Website: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- Some sites look similar, but charge a fee. **Never pay to apply for financial aid or for financial aid advice.**

Eligibility Requirements for Federal Student Aid Programs.

You must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident.
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Attend an eligible institution and enroll as a regular student.
- If male, register with the Selective Service System by your 18th birthday.

Note: A federal or state drug conviction, while receiving federal aid, can disqualify you for federal aid.

November “Deadlines”

- Stay on top of deadlines
 - Don't let the date for early application sneak up on you. Many schools have different application deadlines; make sure you know when everything is due.
 - Be sure and review the website of the schools you are applying to and verify deadline dates.

January

- Apps are due
 - January 1 is the universal deadline for most schools' application, so make sure yours are in. If you applied for early action, you could receive your early decision letter any day.
 - Colleges will send you information, directions, instructions and requests for information and data.
 - Respond quickly and thoroughly. Call the college if you have questions or concerns.
 - Follow-up with colleges to make sure they have received your application and other materials.
 - It is imperative you check your email's often for correspondence.

February & March

- Mail's here
 - Keep an eye out for your college acceptance letters.
 - Watch for Financial aid offers. This is when you'll get financial aid offers from the schools that you have applied to and been accepted. Compare them to see which offers the best financial aid package.

April “Decision”

- Decision time
 - After deciding where you’d like to go, make sure to stay on top of communications from your school. Deposits, forms and housing apps are all due prior to leaving in the fall.
 - Make a budget-talk to you parents to figure out how much you’ll expect to earn and pay while at school. Having a budget will start you on the journey toward financial responsibility.

May “Final Countdown”

- ENJOY...ENJOY...ENJOY
 - Congratulations Senior Class
 - Do amazing things and know we are excited about your future!

Say “Thank You”.

- Send thank you notes to the teachers or friends that have written recommendation letters for you.
- If you are awarded a scholarship— especially from a local organization— you should write a thank you note.



Thank
You

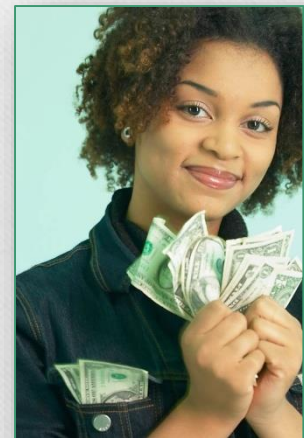
College-Level Examination Program

The C.L.E.P Test

- The CLEP test can provide college credit in any of over 30 areas of examination, based on your score on the test.
- Each college sets its own standards for accepting CLEP scores for credit.
 - Each college sets its own standards for minimum scores for credit, and some schools limit the number of CLEP credits they will accept. Check with your guidance counselor and/or the college of your choice.
- There is a fee, but it will be less than the cost of the same course taken at college.
- For more information go to <https://www.collegeboard.org>

Financial Aid—Two types.

- Gift Aid—money that you receive that does not have to be repaid.
- Self-Help Aid—money that must be earned (work programs) or repaid (loan programs).



Federal Gift Aid

Eligibility is determined by completing a FAFSA form each year of college.

- Types of Aid
 - Pell Grant.
 - Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG).

Self-Help Aid

Must be earned through work or repaid if a loan.

- Federal Work-Study (FWS)
- Federal Student Loans
 - Federal Direct Loans
 - Subsidized and Unsubsidized
 - Parent Plus

Self-Help—Things to Remember

- Student loans must be repaid—the more you borrow, the higher the payments.
- Borrow conservatively—the least amount you need to cover the costs of your education. Do not over borrow to cover costs for items not necessary for your education.
- Continue to gather information on scholarships for which you might qualify. Remember all scholarships are gift aid and do not have to be repaid.

Useful Websites

- <http://www.collegeforalltexas.com>
 - Supported by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/msp/>
 - Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation—Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar. Sponsored by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.
- <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/>
 - College 529 savings plans.

More Useful Websites

- <https://www.AIE.org>
 - Adventures in Education—Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corp. supported site
- <http://going2college.org>
 - Another AIE site containing wide-ranging information
- <http://www.knowhow2go.acenet.edu>
 - Sponsored by the American Counsel on Education (ACE) and the Lumina Foundation for Education.

Panhandle-Plains Higher Education Foundation

- For more information visit: www.pphéf.org
 - Click on the Student/Parent tab for helpful planning information.
 - Click on the Windmill Scholarship tab for application terms and conditions.
 - **SCHOLARSHIP** opens December 15th.

