

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 still have interest.
 - The Texas online application (<https://goapplytexas.org>) is accepted by most Texas colleges and universities. Remember to refer to your file of grades and activities that you have compiled throughout your high school career.

More “To Do”

- Research housing requirements.
- Work on your admissions essay(s).
- Ask those who have agreed to write your recommendation letters.
- Get your high school transcript. (If you have taken dual credit courses, you will also need that transcript.)

More “To Do”



- Polish your essay(s).
- Ask others to read and make comments on your essays(s).
- Be sure it reflects you.
- Attend your school’s college fair.
- You and your parents should attend your school’s financial aid night.
- Make plans to visit the schools you are interested in.

Update Your Planner

- Prioritize tasks that must be completed for admissions and financial aid.
- Check each college's scholarship deadline, as some are very early.
- Be sure to meet or beat the published deadlines.

Complete Applications Early

- Begin your admissions application as early as possible.
- Complete your FAFSA as early as October 1st

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

Respond Promptly to Contacts

- 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.

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

General Information

- Financial aid is available from federal, state, and colleges.
- The FAFSA is the key in your application for most aid programs.
- It is very important to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1st.

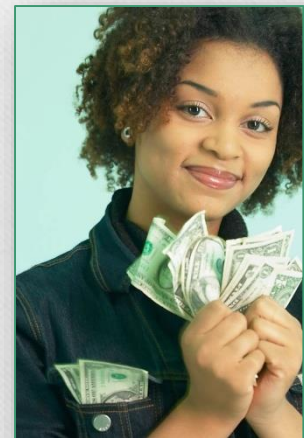
Eligibility Requirements for Federal Student Aid Programs.

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.

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 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
- <https://going2college.org>
 - Another AIE site containing wide-ranging information
- <http://www.knowhow2go.org>
 - Sponsored by the American Counsel on Education (ACE) and the Lumina Foundation for Education.

Most Important of All

- Please visit <https://pphef.org> to view our Windmill Scholarship applications. Here you will find our requirements, terms and conditions as well as the PPHEF service area counties. Application period is January of each year until mid March. Watch our website for updates and please watch our social media postings for deadline dates.



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Windmill Scholarship

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- For more information visit: www.pphef.org
 - Click on the “student” or “parent tab” for helpful planning information.

Twitter - PPHEF_TX
Facebook - @WindmillScholarship
Main Phone Number – 806-324-4100

