College Prep 101 for Parents

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Freshman & Sophomore Year Timeline

- Choose Classes Wisely
- Make Good Grades
- Research Colleges & Careers
- Get Involved
- Volunteer
- Use Naviance
  - Complete Career Inventory Questionnaires
  - Build a Resume
Junior Year Timeline

- Review Graduation Requirements
- Get/Stay Involved - Add to Resume
- Identify Interests
- Narrow Down College List
- Take College Visits/Attend College Fairs
- Research College Admissions Deadlines
- Research Test Prep/Take Test Prep Class
- Take ACT and/or SAT in Spring
- Make a Calendar/Timeline for Senior Year
Senior Year Timeline

- Retake ACT or SAT
- Build Complete Resume
- Take College Visits
- Compare Colleges/Finalize Application List
- Complete Essays (Admissions & Scholarships)
- Apply to College
- Apply for Financial Aid
- Stay Strong (Keep Grades Up)
- Make Final Decisions/Notify Colleges
- Apply for Housing
Naviance

● Interest/Skill/Work Values Assessments
● Educational & Occupational Information
● Career Portfolio:
  ○ Education Planner
  ○ Resume Builder
  ○ Career Search
  ○ College Search
  ○ College Comparison
● Financial Aid Assistance
● Student Profile
● Scholarship Search
GPA & Class Rank

- GPA & Class Rank are based on semester grades for all high school credit courses.
- Colleges see weighted GPA and rank which factor in Pre-AP and AP GPA points.
- The first official class rank is determined during the spring semester of the junior year and is updated after each subsequent semester.
- Colleges look at percentile by quarters of class rank.
ACT vs SAT

Should I take ACT or SAT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English (1-36)</td>
<td>Read/Write Score (200-800)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math (1-36)</td>
<td>Math (200-800)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading (1-36)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science (1-36)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composite ACT Score (1-36)</td>
<td>Total SAT Score (400-1600)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACT/ SAT Comparison

- Take Spring of Junior Year.
- Send Scores to Universities on Your School List.
- Research differences between ACT and SAT.
- When in doubt, take both.
- Colleges will take your higher score.
- If you prefer Algebra --- SAT
- If you prefer Geometry & Trigonometry --- ACT
- If you prefer always using a calculator --- ACT
- If you prefer scientific terms/charts --- ACT
- If you prefer grammar & sentence structure --- ACT
Choosing a School

- Dream School vs Reality School
- Be Realistic!
- Does it Have your Major?
- Academic Fit
- Personal Fit
- Social Fit
- Size of School
- Distance from Home
- Financial Concerns
Applying to College

- **Apply Online**
  - For Texas Public Schools - [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)
  - For Most Private Schools - [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- **Pace Yourself** (Fill it out and SAVE until you submit)
- **Keep a Copy of Submission**
- **Complete all Required/Suggested Essays**
- **Request Transcript from High School Registrar**
- **Send ACT or SAT Scores from ACT/SAT (if not already done)**
- **Check Online Status**
- **Try to Apply by Thanksgiving**
- **Apply for Housing**
### University of Houston Automatic Admission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank in Class</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top 10%</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 11-25%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 26-50%</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 51% or Lower</td>
<td>Individual Review</td>
<td>Individual Review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Priority scholarship deadline - November 15th**
- **Regular admission deadline - June 7th**
- **$75 application fee**
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rank in Class</th>
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<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top 10%</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 11-25%</td>
<td>30 (27 English, 27 Math)</td>
<td>1360 (620 Math, 660 Read/Write)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 26% or Lower</td>
<td>Individual Review</td>
<td>Individual Review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regular admission deadline - December 1st

$75 application fee
University of Texas - Austin Automatic Admission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank in Class</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>** Top 6%</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 7% or Lower</td>
<td>Individual Review</td>
<td>Individual Review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Priority admission deadline - November 1st
- Regular admission deadline - December 1st
- $75 application fee
## Texas State University Automatic Admission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank in Class</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top 10%</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 11-25%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Quarter</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Quarter</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Quarter</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1330</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Priority admission deadline - March 1st**
- **$75 application fee**
DOs
● Keep your focus narrow and personal.
● Prove it – use examples.
● Be specific & creative.
● Speak of helping others or overcoming adversity.

DON’Ts
● Don’t tell your readers what you think they want to hear.
● Don’t write a resume.
● Don’t let your parents write your essays.
● Don’t be too wordy.
● Don’t forget to proofread.
● Prompts are available online via ApplyTexas and Common Application.
Letters of Recommendation

- Start thinking of recommenders (but don’t ask now).
- Ask the recommender personally.
- Give recommender your resume/questionnaire.
- Allow *at least* two weeks.
- Factor in Thanksgiving/Christmas breaks.
- Ask people that know you as a person, not just a student.
- A good letter should speak of your character, not just your accomplishments.
- Write thank you notes.
Financial Aid

- Fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) starting Oct 1st.
- Scholarships
  - Scholarships are merit-based.
- Grants
  - Grants are need-based and require FAFSA information.
- Loans
  - Loans are neither merit-based or need-based but do require FAFSA information.
- Work Study
  - Work Study is a student job on campus where you work for your money.
How to Win Scholarships

● Apply!
● Get on mailing lists.
● Ask university reps.
● Show that you are complete/well-rounded student.
● Extracurricular involvement helps.
● Volunteer hours makes an application stand out.
● Have exceptional essays that speak of a meaningful person/experience, overcoming adversity, or helping others.
● Have outstanding recommendations that speak of your character, not just your accomplishments.
Additional Resources

- FAFSA - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Compendium of Texas Colleges & Financial Aid Calendar - [www.mspf.org](http://www.mspf.org)
- Texas Financial Aid Information - 1-877-782-7322
- Texas Directory of Financial Aid Resources - [www.tgslc.org](http://www.tgslc.org)
- College Board Financial Aid Profile - [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- Financial Aid Seminars - [www.katyisd.org/dept/ce](http://www.katyisd.org/dept/ce)
We appreciate your feedback as we continue to build our Legacy Parent Academy program.

Please scan this QR code to submit your feedback for tonight’s session or visit the Legacy Parent Academy page at www.KatyISD.org.

If you’ve attended previous Legacy Parent Academy sessions, please also submit your feedback for those sessions online.