



KEEP YOUR FUTURE IN MIND. . . . SET YOUR GOALS EARLY



CHOOSE COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL THAT WILL. . . .

CONTRIBUTE – TO GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.

ALLOW - YOU TO EXPLORE YOUR INTERESTS/AND EARN AN ENDORSEMENT.

PREPARE – YOU FOR COLLEGE, TECHNICAL SCHOOL, MILITARY, OR WORK.

HELP REACH YOUR GOALS BY:

MAKING THE MOST OF SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Employers, colleges and technical schools are concerned about your scholastic record as well as your attendance.

PARTICIPATING IN VOLUNTEER WORK

Investing your time in our areas of interest will give you valuable information and experience.

GETTING INVOLVED IN EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

School, church and community organizations allow you to gain experience in organizational skills, leadership training and accepting responsibility.

WORKING AT A PART-TIME JOB

Part-time jobs can help you learn about different career fields.

Planning Ahead For College

9TH Grade

- Follow the Distinguished Level of Achievement Plan, and plan to earn at least one endorsement.
- Be serious about your grades. Your class rank and GPA are an important part of the college admission process.
- Participate in extra-curricular activities and keep records of honors and awards you receive.
- Visit colleges (2 and 4 year), art, business and technical schools.
- Find out what it will take to be considered "College/Career Ready" by the time you graduate.
 - Explore your career interests and the type of post high school education required.

10TH Grade

- Participate in your individual planning session with your counselor and parent, to update your PGP (Personal Graduation Plan) that you began in 8th grade.
- Take challenging course work and advanced academic classes.
- Attend the District College Night to receive information from many college representatives.
- Take the PSAT in the fall.
- Concentrate on grades and stay involved.
- Continue your college visits in the summer.
Work on doing what it will take to be considered "College/Career Ready" by the time you graduate.

Graduation Requirements for Students Beginning 9th grade in 2014-2015 and after.

The Default Plan for HEB students is the Distinguished Level of Achievement Plan, which includes one endorsement choice. Multiple endorsements are possible.

<p>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS Four credits: *English I *English II English III English IV</p>
<p>MATHEMATICS Four credits: *Algebra I Geometry (OR) <u>Math Models with Applications followed by Algebra II</u> Algebra II followed by a 4th math credit</p>
<p>SCIENCE Four credits: *Biology Advanced Science Courses (3 credits-must include IPC, Chemistry or Physics)</p>
<p>SOCIAL STUDIES Four credits: World Geography World History *U.S. History U.S. Government (one-half credit) Economics (one-half credit)</p>
<p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION One credit</p>
<p>LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH Two credits in the same language</p>
<p>FINE ARTS One credit</p>
<p>SPEECH One-half credit - must be Professional Communications, Debate, or Communication Applications</p>
<p>HEALTH One half-credit</p>
<p>ELECTIVES FOR ONE ENDORSEMENT Five credits - one of which must be Technology</p>
<p>TOTAL CREDITS: 26</p>

<p align="center">ENDORSEMENT CHOICES</p>
<p>STEM Science Technology Engineering Math</p>
<p>BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY Architecture & Construction Arts, AV Technology, & Communications Business, Management & Administration Finance Hospitality & Tourism Information Technology Marketing, Sales & Service Transportation, Distribution & Logistics</p>
<p>PUBLIC SERVICES Education & Training Health Science Human Services Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security</p>
<p>ARTS AND HUMANITIES Art Dance Music Theater Social Studies World Languages</p>
<p>MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES Allows a student to complete prescribed courses from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of the four foundation subject areas • Advanced Placement / International Baccalaureate courses from each of the four foundation subject areas • 4 advanced courses from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas not in a coherent sequence

It is the responsibility of each college-bound student to research admission requirements, as each college's requirements may differ.



<p>* Course has a STAAR EOC. The required passing standard must be met for each EOC in order for a student to receive a high school diploma.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT A student may earn performance acknowledgements on their high school transcript for outstanding performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a dual credit course • On an AP or IB exam • For earning a nationally or internationally recognized industry certification • In bilingualism and biliteracy • On the PSAT, ASPIRE, SAT or ACT
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Distinguished Level of Achievement

A student may earn a distinguished level of achievement by successfully completing:

- A total of four credits in mathematics, which must include Algebra II
- A total of four credits in science
- The remaining curriculum requirements
- The curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement

A student must earn distinguished level of achievement to be eligible for top 10% automatic admission to a Texas Public University. (Some are allowed stricter automatic entry standards.)

Health Credit Options

A student may earn the required Health credit/waiver by completing two semesters or trimesters of one of the following courses:

- Cosmetology I
- Counseling and Mental Health
- Health (1 trimester only)
- Principles of Health Science
- Principles of Human Services
- Human Growth & Development

Technology Credit Options

A student may earn the required Technology credit by completing two semesters or trimesters of one of the following courses:

- Architectural Design
- Animation I
- Audio/Video Production I
- Business Information Management I
- Computer Maintenance
- Computer Programming I
- Desktop Publishing (Yearbook II, Newspaper II, Literary Magazine II)
- Digital Media
- Engineering Design and Presentation I
- Graphic Design & Illustration I
- Networking
- Pre AP/IB Computer Science I
- Principles of Applied Engineering
- Robotics I
- Web Technologies
- Principles of Information Technology

Business and Industry Endorsement

A student may earn a Business & Industry endorsement by completing the general graduation credit requirements with 5 elective credits (one of which must be Technology) from one of the following:

- A. A coherent sequence of courses for 5 or more credits in CTE that consists of at least 2 courses in the same career cluster including at least one advanced CTE course.



Architecture &
Construction

Professional Communication (Required)
Technology (Required)
Business English
Dollars and Sense
Architectural Design I
Architectural Design II (Advanced)
Interior Design I
Interior Design II (Advanced)
Practicum in Architectural Design (Advanced)
Extended Practicum in Arch Design (Advanced)
Principles of Technology



Arts, A/V
Technology &
Communications

Professional Communication (Required)
Technology (Required)
Business English
Dollars and Sense
Animation I
Animation II (Lab) (Advanced)
Practicum in Animation (Advanced)
Extended Practicum in Animation (Advanced)
Video Game Design (Advanced)
Graphic Design & Illustration I
Graphic Design & Illustration II/Lab (Advanced)
Practicum in Graphic Design & Illustration (Advanced)
Ext Practicum in Graphic Design & Illustration (Adv)
Audio/Video Production I
Audio/Video Production II (Lab) (Advanced)
Practicum in Audio/Video Production (Advanced)
Extended Practicum in Audio/Video Production (Adv)
Commercial Photography I
Commercial Photography II (Advanced)
Practicum in Commercial Photography (Adv)
Extended Practicum in Commercial Photography (Adv)



Business
Management &
Administration

Professional Communication (Required)
Technology (Required)
Business English
Touch System Data Entry
Dollars and Sense
Global Business
Principles of Business, Marketing & Finance
Accounting I
Business Information Management I
Business Information Management II (Advanced)



Finance

Professional Communication (Required)
Technology (Required)
Business English
Touch System Data Entry
Dollars and Sense
Global Business
Principles of Business, Marketing & Finance
Business Information Management I
Accounting I
Accounting II (Advanced)



Hospitality
& Tourism

Professional Communication (Required)
Technology (Required)
Business English
Touch System Data Entry
Dollars and Sense
Lifetime Nutrition & Wellness
Introduction to Culinary Arts
Culinary Arts
Practicum in Culinary Arts (Advanced)
Extended Practicum in Culinary Arts (Advanced)



Information
Technology

Professional Communication (Required)
Technology (Required)
Business English
Digital Media
Dollars and Sense
Computer Programming I
Web Technologies
Engineering Design & Presentation I
Networking
Computer Maintenance
Computer Technician Practicum
Principles of Information Technology
Practicum in Information Technology (Advanced)
Ext Practicum in Information Technology (Advanced)
Principles of Technology
Touch Systems Data Entry



Transportation,
Distribution
& Logistics

Professional Communication (Required)
Technology (Required)
Business English
Dollars and Sense
Basic Collision Repair and Refinishing
Collision Repair (Advanced)
Painting & Refinishing (Advanced)
Automotive Basics
Auto Tech I: Maintenance & Light Repair (Advanced)
Auto Tech II: Auto Service (Advanced)
Practicum in Transportation Systems (Adv)
Extended Practicum in Trans Sys (Adv)
Engineering Design & Presentation I
Engineering Math
Principles of Technology



Marketing

Professional Communication (Required)
Technology (Required)
Business English
Touch System Data Entry
Dollars and Sense
Entrepreneurship
Global Business
Principles of Business, Marketing & Finance
Business Information Management I
Business Information Management II (Advanced)
Advertising
Sports & Entertainment Marketing
Social Media Marketing
Practicum in Marketing (Advanced)
Extended Practicum in Marketing (Advanced)

- B. 4 English elective credits (in addition to the 4 required English credits) to include 3 levels in one of the following areas:
- Advanced journalism: Newspaper
 - Advanced journalism: Yearbook
 - Debate
- C. A coherent sequence of four credits from (A or B) that may also include Web Design, and/or Independent Study in Technology.

Public Services Endorsement

A student may earn a Public Services endorsement by completing the general graduation credit requirements with 5 elective credits (one of which must be Technology) from the following:

A coherent sequence of courses for 5 or more credits in CTE that consists of at least 2 courses in the same cluster including at least one advanced CTE Course:



Education & Training

Professional Communication (Required)
 Technology (Required)
 Business English
 Principles of Human Services
 Dollars and Sense
 Child Development
 Counseling and Mental Health
 Human Growth and Development
 Principles of Education and Training
 Instructional Practices (Advanced)
 Practicum in Education & Training (Advanced)
 Extended Practicum in Educ & Training (Adv)



Human Services

Professional Communication (Required)
 Technology (Required)
 Business English
 Principles of Human Services
 Dollars and Sense
 Child Development
 Counseling & Mental Health
 Family and Community Service (Advanced)
 Human Growth & Development
 Interpersonal Studies
 Lifetime Nutrition & Wellness
 Cosmetology I/Lab
 Cosmetology II/Lab (Advanced)
 Parent Education for School Age Parents I (KEYS Only)
 Parent Ed for School Age Parents II (KEYS Only) (Adv)



Health Science

Professional Communication (Required)
 Technology (Required)
 Business English
 Dollars and Sense
 Counseling and Mental Health
 Anatomy & Physiology
 Principles of Health Science
 Heal Sci Theory & Clinical - Rotation (Advanced)
 Heal Sci Theory & Clinical - Site (Advanced)
 Honors Heal Sci Theory & Clinical – PCT (Advanced)
 Heal Sci Theory-Fire Academy (Advanced)
 Medical Terminology
 Medical Microbiology
 Pathophysiology
 Honors Pharmacology (Advanced)
 Honors Ext Practicum in Health Science-(Phleb) (Adv)



Law,
 Public Safety,
 Corrections
 & Security

Professional Communication (Required)
 Technology (Required)
 Business English
 Dollars and Sense
 Counseling & Mental Health
 Forensic Science
 Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
 Court Systems & Practices
 Law Enforcement I Rotation or Dispatch (Advanced)
 Law Enforcement I Fire Academy (Advanced)
 Law Enforcement II (Advanced)
 Prac in Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security (Adv)
 Extended Prac in Law, Public Safety, Corr & Secur (Adv)

Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Endorsement

A student may earn a STEM endorsement by completing the general graduation credit requirements (must include Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics with 5 credits (one of which must be Technology) from one of the following:

- A. A coherent sequence of courses for 5 or more credits in CTE that consists of at least 2 courses in the same career cluster including at least one advanced CTE course.



Professional Communication (Required)
Technology (Required)
Business English
Dollars and Sense
Principles of Applied Engineering
Engineering Design & Presentation I
Engineering Design & Presentation II (Advanced)
Engineering Mathematics (Advanced)
Principles of Technology
Forensic Science
Robotics I
Robotics II (Advanced)
Honors Robotics I
Honors Robotics II (Advanced)
Practicum in STEM (Advanced)
Extended Practicum in STEM (Advanced)
Honors Aerospace I
Honors Aerospace II (Advanced)
Honors Practicum in STEM (Advanced)
Honors Extended Practicum in STEM (Advanced)

- B. A coherent sequence of 4 credits in Computer Science
- C. A total of 5 credits in math by successfully completing Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and 2 additional math courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite
- D. Total of 5 credits in science by successfully completing Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Principles of Technology, and 2 additional science courses (IPC is not an allowable science for the STEM endorsement.)
- E. In addition to Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics, a coherent sequence of 3 additional credits from no more than 2 of the areas listed in (A), (B), (C), or (D).

Arts & Humanities Endorsement

A student may earn an Arts & Humanities endorsement by completing the general graduation credit requirements and completing at least **one** of the following:

- A. A total of 5 social studies credits in a coherent sequence
- B. 4 credits of the same language in a language other than English
- C. 2 credits of the same language in a language other than English and 2 levels of a different language in a language other than English
- D. A coherent sequence of 4 credits by selecting courses from 1 or 2 disciplines from Art, Dance, Music, or Theatre
- E. 4 English elective credits by selecting from the following:
 - English IV
 - Creative Writing
 - IB English IV
 - Independent Study in English
 - AP English Literature & Composition (AP English IV)
 - IB Research and Technical Writing

Multidisciplinary Endorsement

A student may earn a Multidisciplinary Studies endorsement by completing the general graduation credit requirements and completing at least **one** of the following:

- A. 4 credits of advanced CTE or core academic courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or postsecondary education without remediation from within 1 endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence.
- B. 4 credits in each of the 4 foundation subject areas to include English IV and Chemistry and/or Physics.
- C. 4 credits in AP, IB, or dual credit selected from English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Economics, World Languages, or Fine Arts.

Testing Requirements for High School Graduation

STAAR EOC: In order to receive a high school diploma, students must earn the required credits for graduation and must pass 5 STAAR End-of-Course exams (EOC).

These exams are:

- Algebra 1
 - For the majority of students, Algebra is generally taken in 9th grade. 8th grade Pre-AP Algebra students will take this EOC in 8th grade.
- Biology
 - For the majority of students, Biology is generally taken in 9th grade. 8th grade Pre-AP Biology students will take this EOC in 8th grade.
- English 1
 - This course is taken at the 9th grade level. The test is a combined Reading/Writing test.
- English 2
 - This course is taken at the 10th grade level. The test is a combined Reading/Writing test.
- U.S. History
 - For the majority of students, this course is taken in 11th grade.

Performance Acknowledgment

For students who begin 9th grade in 2014-2015 and thereafter, a student may earn a performance acknowledgement for:

- Outstanding performance (as determined by the Texas Education Agency)
 - in a dual credit course
 - in bilingualism and biliteracy
 - on an AP test or IB exam
 - on the PSAT, the ASPIRE, the SAT, or the ACT
- Earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license.

Other Standardized Testing Options for Junior High Students

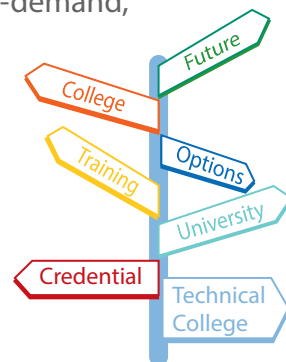
PSAT – All 8th graders will take the PSAT 8/9. This is a practice SAT exam that helps to identify students with AP (Advanced Placement) potential. Students scoring high enough on the PSAT as a 8th grader may earn the distinction as a “Superintendent’s Scholar.”

Distinguished Level of Achievement – *Benefits*

Choices determine options

Most of the very best jobs available now and in the future require education and training beyond a high school diploma. Whether you intend to pursue a high-demand, industry workforce credential from a community or technical college or a traditional four-year degree from a university, the choices made in high school will determine your future options.

To best prepare yourself now for the transition to post-high school education or quality workforce training, choosing and taking the right classes is essential. The Distinguished Level of Achievement will ensure the best preparation for your future.



Why it matters — *Benefits*

The Distinguished Level of Achievement opens a world of educational and employment opportunities for you beyond high school. The Distinguished Level of Achievement will:

- Allow you to compete for Top 10% automatic admissions eligibility at any Texas public university;
- Position you among those first in line for a TEXAS Grant* to help pay for university tuition and fees; and
- Ensure you are a more competitive applicant at the most selective colleges and universities.

*Must be financially qualified

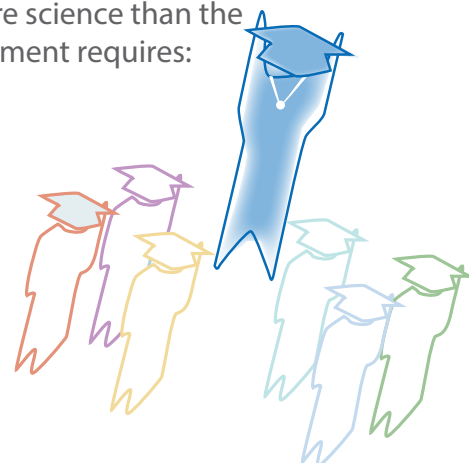
What it means

The Distinguished Level of Achievement requires more math and more science than the Foundation High School Program. The Distinguished Level of Achievement requires:

- A total of four credits in math, including Algebra II;
- A total of four credits in science; and
- Successful completion of an endorsement in your area of interest.

Advantages

- Opportunity to earn an endorsement in an area of interest
- More college and university options
- More financial aid options
- Better preparation for college-level coursework at community/technical colleges and universities
- Opportunity for immediate enrollment in classes related to your chosen field of study
- Strong foundation to successfully complete an industry workforce credential or college degree



Endorsements – Choices

Endorsements

For the first time, students will be able to earn one or more endorsements as part of their graduation requirements. Endorsements consist of a related series of courses that are grouped together by interest or skill set. They provide students with in-depth knowledge of a subject area.

Students must select an endorsement* in the ninth grade. Districts and charters are not required to offer all endorsements. If only one endorsement is offered, it must be multi-disciplinary studies.

Students earn an endorsement by completing the curriculum requirements for the endorsement, including 4th credit of math and science and 2 additional elective credits.

Students can choose from 5 endorsement areas

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses related to STEM
- Mathematics
- Science
- Computer Science
- Combination of no more than two of the categories listed above

Business and Industry (one of the following or a combination of areas)

- Agriculture
- Arts
- Audio/Video
- Finance
- Marketing
- Food and Natural Resources
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Technology Applications
- Architecture and Construction
- Technology and Communications
- Business Management and Administration
- Transportation or Distribution and Logistics
- English electives in public speaking, debate, advanced broadcast journalism, advanced journalism including newspaper and yearbook

Public Service (one of the following)

- Human Services
- Law
- Corrections and Security
- Health Science
- Public Safety
- Education and Training
- Government and Public Administration
- Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)

Arts and Humanities (one of the following)

- 2 levels each in two languages other than English (LOTE)
- 4 levels in the same LOTE
- Courses from one or two areas (music, theater, art, dance) in fine arts
- English electives not included in Business and Industry
- Social Studies
- American Sign Language (ASL)

Multi-Disciplinary Studies (one of the following)

- 4 advanced courses from other endorsement areas
- 4 credits in each foundation subject area, including English IV and chemistry and/or physics
- 4 credits in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, LOTE or fine arts

* Visit your school counselor to learn more about your options.

Students may earn more than one endorsement.

GPA Counts!

GPA – Grade Point Average - Refers to a grade point scale that assigns more points to grades earned in certain classes. Courses designated as Pre-AP, Pre-IB, Dual Credit, and certain selected and approved CTE courses will fall on the Tier II scale. Courses that culminate in a national or international exam, i.e. Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other District determined courses will fall on the Tier III scale. All other courses fall under the Tier I scale.

GRADE SCALE AND GRADE POINT EQUIVALENTS

<u>NUMBER GRADE</u>	<u>TIER III</u>	<u>TIER II</u>	<u>TIER I</u>
98-100	6.000	5.000	4.000
93-97	5.666	4.666	3.666
90-92	5.333	4.333	3.333
87-89	5.000	4.000	3.000
83-86	4.666	3.666	2.666
80-82	4.333	3.333	2.333
77-79	4.000	3.000	2.000
73-76	3.666	2.666	1.666
70-72	3.333	2.333	1.333
Below 70	0	0	0

A grade point average (GPA) is a calculated average of the numeric grades you earn in school following a 4.0, 5.0, or 6.0 scale. Every semester, you'll receive a GPA based on the grades you earned in all of your classes during that semester. Throughout high school, you'll also maintain a cumulative GPA, which is an ongoing average of all your semester one and two grades beginning with freshman year. For some who begin earning high school credit in 7th & 8th grade, those credit earning courses count toward GPA.

Your GPA is important for your future because:

1. Even before college, your GPA can determine whether or not you're eligible to take [Advanced Placement \(AP\)](#) or [International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#) courses during your junior and senior years of high school.
2. For admission, prospective colleges consider both your GPA and your class rank, which is determined by your GPA. So the higher your GPA, the better your chances are of getting into the college of your choice. Your rank will also dictate how well you need to score on the SAT or ACT for college admissions.
3. Your GPA is a major consideration for both academic and athletic college scholarships as well as financial aid.

Start improving your GPA now.

4. You can't wait until your junior or senior year to start worrying about your cumulative GPA. Every single class you take for high school credit gets averaged in, so all your grades are just as important. If you bomb every class in the first year or two, it'll be impossible to graduate with an above average GPA. For example, if you receive all D's or 1.0's in 9th and 10th grade and all A's or 4.0's in 11th and 12th grade, your cumulative average GPA will be 2.5, which doesn't meet the minimum many schools require for admission.
5. But a little planning and hard work during your [freshman year](#) can go a long way toward a better cumulative GPA and make all the difference when you send in your college applications. In fact, the GPA on your college application may only reflect the first 3 or 3 ½ years of high school anyway since you'll need to apply before your first semester grades of senior year are calculated.

GPA Tips & Tactics

- Work hard in your freshman and sophomore years to increase your chance of admission into AP, IB, honors and accelerated course—they're your ticket to a higher GPA since they're given more weight on the GPA scale.
- While a low GPA won't keep you from getting into college, some four-year colleges do require a 3.0 or higher for admission. The myth of an "easy" senior year is FALSE – Every grade you make counts!
- Don't slack off once you receive your acceptance letter. Your future college will continue to monitor your grades through the end of your senior year and expect a final transcript.

WHAT COUNTS IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

What admissions staff found as “considerably important” in a national survey:

Factor	Considerable importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in college prep courses	76.0%	12.5%	9.3%	1.4%
Strength of curriculum	51.8	35.3	7.3	5.5
Admission test scores (SAT, ACT).	54.3	27.9	13.7	4.1
Grades in all courses	77.1	13.8	6.4	2.8
Essay or writing sample	18.9	35.9	22.1	23.0
Student's demonstrated interest	13.7	25.5	32.1	28.8
Counselor recommendation	14.6	46.0	25.8	13.6
Class Rank	9.2	24.0	34.6	32.3
Teacher recommendation	10.9	46.4	28.0	14.7
Subject test scores (AP, IB)	6.9	30.6	30.6	31.9
Portfolio	6.2	5.7	27.6	60.5
Interview	4.7	17.4	31.9	46.0
SAT II scores	2.4	6.1	21.2	70.3
Extracurricular activities	7.9	36.0	36.9	19.2
State graduation exam	1.9	7.6	21.9	68.6
Work	2.8	15.6	47.4	34.1

SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2017

Texas public universities and colleges will automatically accept the top 10% of the graduating class from public high schools, if the student graduates with a Distinguished Level of Achievement Diploma. The University of Texas at Austin automatically accepts the top 6%

IMPORTANT TERMS ASSOCIATED WITH COLLEGE

TYPES OF DEGREES:

AA – Associate of Art Degree – 2-year degree (approximately 65 credit hours) awarded by community or junior colleges and some 4-year colleges

BA or BS Degree – Bachelor of Art or Bachelor of Science Degree – 4 year degree (approximately 130 credit hours) in a fine arts, liberal arts, math, or science area

MA or MS Degree – Master of Arts or Master of Science Degree – degree awarded after completion of a BA or BS degree, usually 30-45 credit hours

Ph.D., Ed.D., Professional School (law, medicine, veterinary) – degree awarded after completion of BA or BS, usually takes from 3 to 5 years to complete depending on the area, an MA or MS may be required

TERMS:

It's Never Too Early To Start Planning!

Financial Aid

Most financial aid is awarded based on financial need.

$$\frac{\text{Cost of Attending College} - \text{Family Contribution}^{**}}{\text{Financial Need}}$$

More than \$8,180,000,000 in financial aid is awarded to students in Texas each year

Types of aid

Grants and Scholarships* (Free Money) = 47%

Work Study (Part-time jobs) = 1%

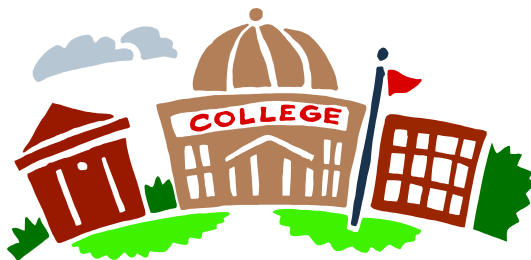
Loans (To be paid back, with interest) = 52%

**Family contribution is calculated based on family income and size information the student provides using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).



How Can I Prepare for College

- ❖ Prepare for college academics by taking the most rigorous classes you can.
- ❖ Grades are important; many scholarships are awarded on academic achievement.
- ❖ Participate in community activities as well as extracurricular school events.
- ❖ Begin to learn about the different colleges and universities through the internet and with campus visits.
- ❖ Investigate career options for your future and explore opportunities to learn more about specific careers.

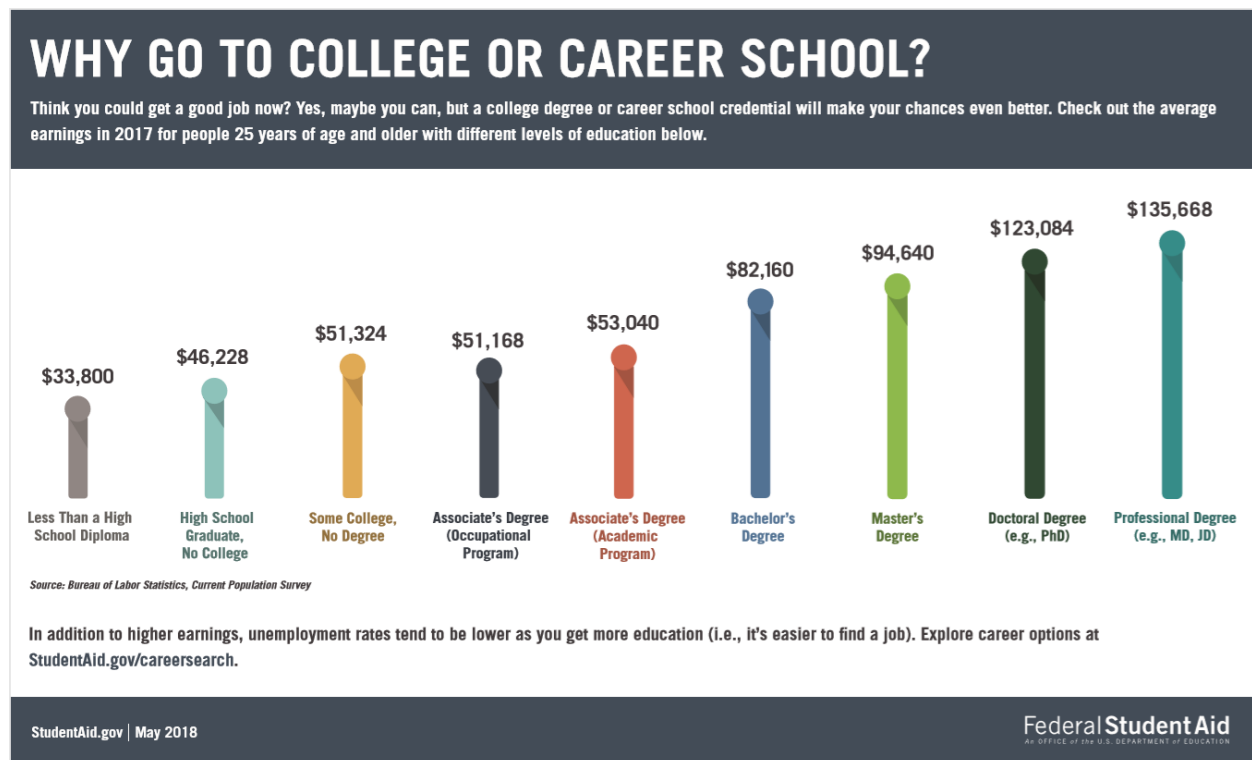


Why Go to College?

(How about ... to get a good job!)

Can't I get a good job now?

Yes, maybe you could, but a college degree will make your chances even better. Check out the earnings and unemployment rates below for people 25 years and older with different levels of education.



Sometimes it's hard to stay in school if you think you need to be working to earn money. But if you get an education beyond high school, you'll have a wider variety of jobs to choose from, and you'll earn more— especially in the long run.

But I don't know what career to go into!

If you can't decide what to do, talk to your school counselor or visit [StudentAid.gov/prepare](https://studentaid.gov/prepare) to find out how to prepare for college and explore your career options.

Doesn't college cost a lot of money?

Think of college as an investment: You spend money now so you can earn more later. The U.S. Department of Education may help you pay for your education. Take a look at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) for information about our federal student aid programs. The site also links to a free scholarship search at [StudentAid.gov/scholarships](https://studentaid.gov/scholarships).

Still have questions? Call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)

8th Grade

- Review** choices offered under the **Foundation High School Program** and the **Endorsements** to decide on your future academic path.
- Select** the endorsement that best fits your area of personal interest and the major you plan to study in college.
- Recognize** that most college entrance requirements include rigorous advanced courses including **Algebra II**, higher-level science courses and languages other than English.

9th/10th Grade

- Monitor** high school credits; be sure to meet all **local and state requirements**.
- Take dual credit** or **Advanced Placement courses** if possible to earn college credit while still in high school.
- Keep** list of awards, honors and extracurricular activities for scholarship and college applications.
- Research** colleges or universities you are interested in attending. **Check** admission and application requirements and timelines.
- Explore** interests and take advantage of **Career Day** opportunities.
- Attend college nights** hosted by your high school. **Talk** with school representatives about the types of financial aid available.
- Take** the Preliminary SAT (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in your sophomore year for practice. In your junior year, take the PSAT for eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Students who take the PSAT or ACT ASPIRE[®] tend to score higher on the SAT or ACT than those who do not.

11th/12th Grade

- Take dual credit** or **Advanced Placement courses** if possible to earn college credit while you are still in high school.
- Check** with your counselor's office to learn about available scholarships. Be sure to apply early and for as many scholarships as possible. Do not limit yourself to local scholarships.
- Consider** taking SAT/ACT preparation classes. **Sign up** and take the ACT and/or SAT test, preferably in your junior year but no later than the fall of your senior year.
- Fill out** the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) early in the spring of your senior year.
- Apply** to college during the fall of your senior year.

If you plan to pursue technical training or enter the workforce after graduation, see the Information - *Workforce Resources* page or visit Texas Reality Check at www.texasrealitycheck.com/.

Resources

Foundation High School Program with Endorsements

tea.texas.gov/graduation-requirements/hb5.aspx

In 2013, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 5 creating the Foundation High School Program. This webpage provides an array of information including:

- A side-by-side comparison of the Foundation High School Program and the previous graduation programs
- A Foundation High School Program Frequently Asked Questions
- Approved Foundation High School Program Rules — Detailed information about the state's graduation program

Compare College TX

www.comparecollegetx.com

Compare College TX is an interactive, mobile-friendly web tool designed to help students and parents learn more about Texas public universities and community/technical colleges.

Did you know...

credit

students can earn college credit while still in high school by taking Advanced Placement courses and earning high scores on the AP tests or by enrolling in and passing dual credit courses?

eligible

students ranked in the Top 10 percent of their graduating class from an accredited public or private Texas high school may be eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public university if they have completed the Distinguished Level of Achievement?

earnings

over their lifetime a high school graduate with a bachelor's degree earn 84 percent more* than a high school graduate?

tuition

the highest ranking graduate at each Texas public high school receives a certificate from the Texas Education Agency that can be used as a scholarship to cover tuition costs at any Texas public college or university?



*Center on Education and the Workforce, "The College Payoff: Education, Occupations, Lifetime Earnings," August 2011. Georgetown University

Internet Insight

The following web sites can be beneficial to you throughout the application process and in your quest to financially support your college career. HEB ISD does not endorse or recommend any specific website. These are for informational purposes only.

<u>College for All Texans</u>	www.collegeforalltexans.com	scholarships for Texans
<u>College is Possible</u>	www.collegeispossible.com	a campaign to provide information related to preparing for, paying for, and choosing the right college
<u>College Net</u>	www.collegenet.com	school information
<u>Fast WEB</u>	www.fastweb.com	extensive listings of scholarships
<u>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</u>	www.fafsa.ed.gov	government financial aid application
<u>High Scholarships</u>	www.highscholarships.com	scholarship search for high school
<u>Nelnet</u>	www.nelnet.com	college planning, financial aid information
<u>Sallie Mae College Answer</u>	www.collegeanswer.com	college planning, financial aid information
<u>SAT</u>	www.collegeboard.com	SAT registration and testing information
<u>Scholarships</u>	www.scholarships.com	scholarship search, financial aid information
<u>U.S. Department of Education</u>	www.ed.gov	college funding
<u>Wired Scholar</u>	www.wiredscholar.com	scholarship search, preparation

Career

If you are considering going straight into the workforce or into a technical training program following graduation, you still need to complete your high school education and earn a high school diploma.

While in high school, you will want to:

- Look** at the five endorsements offered under the Foundation High School Program.
- Determine** your area of interest.
- Complete** your selected endorsement along with the required foundation program to earn your high school diploma.
- Learn** about available jobs, and any required post-high school or technical training.
- Explore** new career opportunities.
- Research** wage and occupation information, required levels of education and training requirements.
- Discover** your interests and abilities; use labor market resources at www.texasrealitycheck.com/ and at www.texasworkforce.org/customers/jsemp/career-exploration-trends.html.
- Research** which jobs are among the fastest and most in-demand in Texas at www.texascaresonline.com/hotshots/hotshotslists.asp.

Community College & Career Schools

- Find** training and certifications for specific occupations or skills through community colleges or career schools and colleges at www.texasworkforce.org/svcs/propschools/career-schools-colleges.html.

Did you know... training

many of the high-demand jobs¹ will require some postsecondary education?

tuition

students attending community colleges or trade schools may also be eligible for state or federal financial aid?²

credential

that Texas public school students can earn a Performance Acknowledgement on their transcripts by earning a state-, nationally- or internationally-recognized credential for a specific professional occupation, such as certified nurses' aid certification (CAN) or computer tech certification (CTC) while in high school?

earnings

over their lifetime, high school graduates with a workforce certificate from a community or technical college earn 20 percent more³ than those with only a high school diploma?

¹ Texas Workforce Commission

² Get the facts at www.collegeforalltexans.com or studentaid.ed.gov

³ Center on Education and the Workforce, "Certificates: Gateway to Gainful Employment and College Degrees," June 2012. Georgetown University



TOOLS TO HELP YOU PLAN FOR THE FUTURE



A one-stop shop for all students' career and education planning needs

Choices360 gives students the tools and information they need to graduate with a diploma and a plan. Featuring a modern visual design, customizable Individual Learning Plan module, in-depth financial aid information and extensive integrated college and career databases, Choices360 provides an engaging, informative, and relevant resource to promote the success of all students.

Choices360 is role-based and adapts to reflect the goals of high school students, middle school students, and parents.

Career Planning Tab Features

Assessments: Research-based and industry-validated assessments are the key to helping students make the best choices about their future. The Choices360 system provides the best career interest assessments available. Every assessment is immediately scored, and the results are saved to each student's portfolio.

Choices360 includes the following assessments:

- ✓ Interest Profiler (formal career interests assessments)
- ✓ Career Cluster Survey (helps students identify a top Career Cluster)
- ✓ Ability Profiler (formal aptitude assessment)
- ✓ Basic Skills Survey (informal basic skills assessment)
- ✓ Work Values Sorter (formal work values assessment)
- ✓ Transferable Skills Checklist (informal skills assessment)

Careers and Clusters: Choices360 is built upon interconnected databases. With a database of over 744 careers based on the U.S. Department of Labor's O*NET career database, students have, at the click of a mouse, a wide variety of careers to explore and to plan for. Each career is linked to the relevant education program, which is then linked to postsecondary institutions throughout the U.S. O*NET-based career profiles are also available in Spanish.



College Planning Tab Features

Explore Schools: Before choosing a postsecondary educational path, it's important for students to see the connections between careers, programs, and postsecondary institutions. That's why XAP's Choices360 system connects all three in an intuitive manner.



Students can find schools based upon the career they're interested in pursuing. They can also filter for schools that meet their individual needs. Students can search for schools based upon multiple search criteria.

High School Planning Tab

XAP's Choices360 system connects academic classwork to career and college exploration in an easily customized process that adapts to each student's goals. Educators can use **Your Plan of Study** to ensure students are meeting 4-6 year course planning mandates and track students' progress towards graduation. Parents can review and approve the plan.

Students can see how their high school courses will help them reach their goals, monitor their progress toward graduation, and compare their course plans to the entrance requirements of colleges of interest.

Financial Aid Planning Tab

A key component in postsecondary planning is financial planning. Choices360 offers numerous tools and comprehensive content to help guide students. Students can find information on the affordability of education, the FAFSA, how to borrow responsibly, and scholarship and loan programs – and much more!

Parental and Guardian Involvement

It's not just students that Choices360 serves –parents and guardians play an integral part in students' success. Parents can create an account on Choices360 and view content written just for them. Students can invite parents to have access to their portfolio from the parent's Choices360 account. Once access is provided by the student, the parent can review the student's portfolio including the student's Plan of Study. Parents can add comments and suggestions to their student's portfolio which are viewed by students and their counselors.

Your Portfolio Tab

College plans, course plans, experiences, careers, accomplishments... they're all captured in a real-time portfolio for students to keep – and for parents and teachers to track, if desired.

The screenshot shows the 'Your Portfolio' page on the Choices360 website. At the top left is the '360 CHOICES' logo. To the right is a search bar with a 'GO' button and the text 'En español cuando disponible' and 'Santa Fe Student | Sign Out | Talk to Us | Need Help?'. Below the logo is a navigation menu with icons for mail, calendar, home, and tabs for 'CAREER PLANNING / HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING / COLLEGE PLANNING / FINANCIAL AID PLANNING / YOUR PORTFOLIO'. The 'YOUR PORTFOLIO' tab is active, and a sub-menu below it includes 'INDEX', 'CAREER PLANNING', 'HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING', 'COLLEGE PLANNING', 'FINANCIAL AID PLANNING', 'YOUR PROFILE', and 'YOUR JOURNAL'. The main content area is titled 'YOUR PORTFOLIO > INDEX PAGE' and contains several sections: 'Santa Fe Next Step Plan' with a link to 'Santa Fe Next Step Plan'; 'Your Profile' with a description 'Personalize your portfolio by recording your future goals, experiences, extra-curricular activities, etc.' and a link to 'Your Profile'; a grid of four planning portfolios: 'Career Planning Portfolio' (review saved careers and assessment results), 'High School Planning Portfolio' (update plan of study and high school results), 'College Planning Portfolio' (update future educational plans and college preparation), and 'Financial Aid Planning Portfolio' (review financial aid plans); 'Your Journal' with a description 'Record your ideas, questions, and thoughts as you make your plans.' and a link to 'Your Journal'; and 'Your Planning Milestones' with a description 'Track your progress on items you need to complete.' and a link to 'Your Planning Milestones'. On the right side, there are several vertical panels: 'Send and Receive Messages' (no messages in inbox, link to 'All messages'); 'Review and Manage Your Event Calendar' (no upcoming events, link to 'All events'); 'Account Access Activity' (link to 'View account access activity'); 'Restart and Review Your Guideways' (question 'Where do I start? What do I do next?', link to 'Try following a guideway', link to 'All Guideways'); and 'Parent/Guardian Access to Your Portfolio' (red text 'No invitations have been issued', link to 'Invite a parent or guardian to connect to your portfolio').

See your campus Guidance Counselor for assistance with Choices360.