Decatur High School
Senior Survival Guide
2010 - 2011

Everything you need to know to make your senior year a success.
Published by the
Decatur High School Counseling Department
Decatur High School
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Thanks to Jared Hedges for original illustrations (DHS Class of 1999)
Reflections—
Spend some time this year thinking about who you are and why you are here.

We do not see things as they are, we see things as we are.
—Anais Nin

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.
—Mahatma Gandhi

He that reads and grows no wiser seldom suspects his own deficiency, but complains of hard words and obscure sentences, and asks why books are written which cannot be understood.
—Samuel Johnson

Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.
—Aristotle

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

The pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; the optimist, the opportunity in every difficulty.
—L. P. Jacks
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Put First Things First!

First you have to graduate—to do so you must have all the courses you need for your chosen diploma. Check your course history and your current schedule to make sure you have all the courses you need.

This is your responsibility! Your graduation depends on it!

GRADUATION PLAN COMPARATIVE CHART

<table>
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<td>16 ½</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7 ½</td>
<td>9 ½</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL CREDITS FOR GRADUATION</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISTINGUISHED PLAN

For the Distinguished Plan, student must achieve any combination of four of these advanced measures:

- Original Research Project
- AP Score of 3 or above
- National Merit Finalist or Commended Status
- College Course Scores of 3.0 (B) or higher or tech prep classes with grade of “B” or higher and at least one tech prep class in 11th or 12th grade.

To get the distinguished seal, you must fill out the documentation forms (pick up in the counseling center) and turn them in to Mrs. Sanders. If you do not, you may not get the seal even if you have completed the measures. We must have documentation of the measures for you to receive the seal. We really mean it! We will not give you the Distinguished stamp if you do not provide the appropriate documentation!
Post High School Options

There are many options after graduation besides a four-year university. Although we are programmed to believe that anything other than a four-year university is less than desirable, that is not true in the 21st Century. In fact, forecasters tell us that 80% of the jobs that will be available during your working lifetime will only take some training beyond high school—not a four-year degree! Many choose to go to tech school to get a skill to make money. Military service or full time employment can get you started in the real world and if you decide on college, they will often pay for it.

There are literally thousands of occupations from which to choose. Use your senior year to research options and expand your horizons. Go to www.ikeepbookmarks.com/dhs_counseling_center and click on the career folder. Also see http://careerpronews.com for information on current trends.

And remember, it is a great idea to start out at a community college BUT make sure the classes you take will transfer to the university of your choice if you plan to complete a bachelor’s degree. Courses at a community college cost up to 75% less than large universities. To see if credits will transfer, go to this website: http://ccn.tccns.org/tccns/default.asp?mode=compare

Or you can use: http://www.tccns.org/ccn/TCCNS_FOR_PDF/Matrix_Book_Sections/2006/general.pdf

• 4-year university
• 2-year associate degree
• 1-2 year certificate programs
• Military
• Trade/vocational schools
• Apprenticeship programs
• Immediate full-time employment

Only you can know the right choice for you. Find what you love and then find a way to make money doing it. You will spend a large part of your life at work—find a career that fits your skills and personality.
Important Random Pieces of Information (FACTS)

2010-2011 School Year
Decatur High School
750 East Eagle Summit Drive
Decatur, TX 76234
940.393.7200

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Decatur High School Code: 441-870
(lots of stuff will require this number!)

Wise County Code: 249

There’s a CODE BOOK in the Counselor’s Office for codes you may need that are not in this handout.

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Career Information is available at any internet-connected computer.
USE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

Log onto www.ikeepbookmarks.com/dhs_counseling_center
This website has been created by the Counseling Center and the DHS Library to provide students and parents with a wealth of links to many areas. Click on the “Career Guidance” folder to get lots of websites that will assist you in researching careers and assessing your strengths & weaknesses.

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The I Keep Bookmarks website is your best “one stop shopping site!”

Get College Help--
DHS has a “Go Center” manned by UNT students who will help you with everything related to college! They come several times a month.
Check it out in the counseling center!
Texas Common Application Website www.applytexas.org
--(this website will link you to the home pages of all Texas state-funded universities. It is also best to fill it out on the web—not the paper copy—because you can save it and use it for more than one college. You must complete this application for any college you are considering if it is a Texas university.)

“Important stuff” about the Texas Common Application:

• Consistently use your full legal name on all sections.
• Print in black ink for any written information if use paper copy BUT BEST to complete online.
• Be sure to order a transcript for every college to which you apply. See Dawn Downe for transcripts.
• Be sure to make a photocopy (paper version) or a printout (web version) for your records.
• Make sure you send all fees, etc., as requested.
• Have your credit card number handy for web applications—a fee is assessed for each college.
• The major codes required are in the code book in the counselor’s office or are available online.
• Write essays in Word and have a teacher proof them for you. Write your own essays. The receiver wants your work, not someone else’s. Then transmit them with your Common Application. Be careful or you will transmit an unedited document.
• There are 3 essay topics—it is a good idea to write the essays now and have your English teacher review them for you. They are fairly generic and will work for many scholarship essays as well.
  • Topic A—Describe a challenge to which you have successfully responded. What did you learn about yourself as you responded to this challenge? Describe a challenge you anticipate facing in any aspect of college life. On the basis of what you learned from your earlier response, how do you expect to deal with this challenge?
  • Topic B—Describe and evaluate one experience that significantly influenced your academic interests. The experience might be a high school course, a job, a relationship, or an extracurricular activity. Be sure to explain how this experience led to the goals you now have set for yourself and why you think the academic program for which you are applying will help you reach those goals.
  • Topic C—What additional information do you wish to be considered in the decision to admit you? For example:
    • Exceptional hardship, setback, or personal experience that has shaped your abilities or academic credentials.
    • Personal responsibilities.
    • Exceptional achievements or special talents such as poetry, art, bilingual proficiency, etc.
    • Educational goals and choice of major.
    • Ways you have associated with the university.
• Enclose documentation and references to contact for verification, if appropriate.

Great website to compare courses between two colleges (example: Weatherford and Tech) is:
http://ccn.tecns.org/tccns/default.asp?mode=compare

bullet Read—Read—Read and Follow—Follow—Follow instructions😊

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Tips on how to fill out a form—any form
(college application, scholarships, job application, etc.)

• Make copies and do a “practice copy”.
• Carefully read and follow all instructions.
• Use black ink.
• Print neatly and clearly.
• Fill in all blanks—put “N/A” if not applicable.
• Pay attention to deadlines! Do not procrastinate.
• Memorize your social security number and your driver’s license number.
• Write down and carry with you your car information (make/model/year/license plate number, etc.)
• Have health insurance information readily available.

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Scholarships
Be sure to register with fastweb.com and they will send you daily info on available scholarships that fit your profile. You must have an email address to register on fastweb. It is very very very very important that you listen to the daily announcements or come by the counseling center and look at the currently available scholarships. Make sure Mrs. Sanders knows your name and your face and your desire to apply for scholarships. DHS subscribes to a scholarship service that provides you with a very long list of scholarships available. Check it often— http://www.collegeguidanceconsultants.com
It requires a username and password that you can get in the counseling center. Our contract does not allow us to publish it because it is only for our students’ use. There is a lot of money available for scholarships, but if you do not apply, you will not get any of it! For tips on essays, check out www.essayedge.com.

We try to keep the website updated regarding scholarships. Go to http://www.decaturisd.us/ then to “campuses” and choose “high school.” Sometimes we have scholarship information on the front page. Also check the “counseling center” on the high school website for information regarding scholarships.
We also have lots of scholarship information in the “Scholarships” folder at www.ikeepbookmarks.com/dhs_counseling_center
This website was created by the Counseling Center to serve our students and parents.

Very important—Mr. Hall and Mrs. Liggett are happy to write you a letter of recommendation; however, you must complete a Letter of Recommendation Packet BEFORE they will write the letter. Packets are available on the high school website or in the counseling center. There are no exceptions!

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Use this link to go to the Weatherford College website page for testing:
http://www.wc.edu/stsv/index.php?module=pagemaster&amp;PAGE_user_op=view_page&amp;PAGE_id=12&amp;MN_position=17:1

THEA (cost $29 plus $10 extra for quick THEA) OR COMPASS ($25) at WC
Decatur or at WC Weatherford
(note: for THEA you need a money order of $29 made out to “ES” and $10 check or cash)
—“You gotta take it and pass it” to attend any Texas college or to take Dual Credit courses unless—
THEA Exemptions (any one will do)
- ACT composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on both Math and English
- SAT 1 1070 or higher with a minimum of 500 on Math and on Verbal
- Exemption because of high TAKS scores (2200 in math and 2200 in writing with at least a 3 on
  the composition part) is available based on the EXIT (11th) TAKS only.

The THEA Website is http://www.thea.nesinc.com and there is a practice THEA test on the site.
Go to www.act.org/compass for a practice COMPASS test.
—You may take the THEA OR COMPASS at the local Weatherford College site—
Call 627.6316 or 627.2690 for information—Matt Joiner or Becki Byrd will help you.
If you do not meet exemptions and do not pass THEA OR COMPASS,
you will be enrolled in developmental courses until you pass all parts of the THEA OR COMPASS.

Other Important THEA OR COMPASS Information:
- A passing score on the THEA OR COMPASS is good for five years after taking it. It is good to take
  it as soon after TAKS and Algebra II completion as possible (if you are not THEA OR COMPASS
  exempt).
- You and your parents should receive your THEA scores about two weeks after you take the test.
  When you register for the test, you can designate one or more colleges or universities to receive your
  scores, and your high school counselors can usually access your scores online; however, no one else
  will know your scores unless you decide they should. Be very very careful in filling out your
  name, date of birth, and social security number. You can cause yourself much grief if you
  make any errors.
- Each section the THEA Test has 40 to 50 multiple-choice questions. The reading section has about
  seven passages that are 300 to 700 words long and questions about each passage. The math section
  covers fundamental math, algebra, geometry, and problem solving. A calculator is permitted. The
  writing section has a written essay of 300 to 500 words and multiple-choice questions. The test can
  take up to five hours to complete. Passing: Math—230, Reading—230, Writing—220
- The COMPASS is completed online and results are immediate. Passing: Math—51, Reading—81,
  Writing—6 OR 5 and 59

See Mrs. Sanders in the Counseling Center for a handout on the THEA OR COMPASS at
Weatherford College, Decatur Campus or call 1.800.287.5471 and ask for student services to
talk with the Weatherford location.

Tech Prep

It is important for you to make sure you sign up on the Weatherford College website if you have
taken Tech Prep courses. You may not plan on going to WC but if you do, or if you go to almost any
community college in Texas, you may be able to get college credit for high school tech prep courses you
have taken. You can also get Distinguished Achievement points for Tech Prep courses. See the website:
http://www.wctechprep.net for more information.
Campus Visits and Requesting College Information

It is very important to visit the colleges you are interested in. First “visit” them on the Internet. You can get great information and details from their website. Then make arrangements to go to the college (an official visit is best). You get 2 days for college visits as a junior and 2 days as a senior. The student will then get a form from Mrs. Moore (the attendance clerk) and then get a signature from their assistant principal. While visiting the college, you will need to get a college representative to provide you with documentation of the visit. Otherwise, it will not be excused! You must bring this documentation back to school on the first day of returning to DHS from the college visit.

Hints for a Campus Visit:

- Meet with an admission officer.
- Verify admission requirements (tests and high school preparation).
- Discuss your chances for success.
- Obtain a school calendar and a catalog—if you don’t already have them.
- Determine college costs—total cost of attendance, not just tuition.
- Ask about financial aid opportunities, as well as deadlines, forms required, etc. Each college has their own scholarships/grants, etc. as well as access to federal and state money. You must ask to get help on financial aid.
- Meet with faculty in the academic area of interest to you.
- Ask questions about academic requirements/offerings.
- Identify career-planning services for undergraduates.
- Tour the campus. (Be sure to check out the dorms, dining hall, library, fitness facilities, etc.)
- Talk to students about the general academic environment and the study commitment necessary for success.
- Find out what student activities (clubs, organizations, intramurals, etc.) are available.
- Get specifics on housing—do you have to live on campus? —what are the requirements and deadlines and costs for dorms?—be sure to ask questions and then ask some more.
- Investigate transportation options (parking fees, availability of spaces to park, what if you don’t have a car, etc.)
- Pay attention to “how it feels” on the campus—each one feels different and one is right for you.
- Once you’ve decided on a college, go to their financial aid office and request forms for ALL scholarships for which you might qualify. Fill them ALL out. You never know which one you might receive!
Random College Info

Q—What’s an hour?
A—In high school you earn credits, usually 1 or ½ per course. In college you earn hours, usually 3 per course. That’s because you usually attend a class 3 hours per week. Twelve hours (usually 4 classes) is usually considered full time for scholarship/grant eligibility purposes. An undergraduate (bachelor’s) degree usually takes about 130 college hours.

Q—What can I get out of college besides just coursework?
A—Ask questions—the more the better.
• Find out what services are available at your college.
• For instance, at UNT, the health center is very good and doctor visits are free while you are a student.
• Counseling services—both academic and personal—are usually provided free of charge.
• Tutorials are often available at no extra cost.
• Fitness facilities (racquetball, swimming, gyms, weights, etc.) are available to all students—check with the department for hours available.
• Computer labs are often available 24 hours a day and printouts are free (well, not really because you pay a large lab use fee, so take advantage of it!)
• Get to know your advisor—he or she is there to serve you.
• If you’re struggling with a class—talk to the professor. He or she will help you.
• Get a schedule of events—plays, movie nights, sports, religious activities—many are free and most that aren’t have student discounts.

Q—How do I make the grade?
A—Go to class!
• Attendance at all classes often ensures at least passing grades (that is if you also listen.)
• Sit at the front—if you come to class, act interested, and sit at the front, research indicates you will make better grades.
• Most college professors grade on the normal curve. Thus, you could think you’re failing a class and end up with an A or a B! Unfortunately, the opposite is also sometimes true.
• Find someone in every class to contact if you miss a day. Unlike high school, you are expected to know what is going on even if you are not there. The test will happen whether you know about it or not. Due dates are not usually adjusted to suit your schedule. Missing a deadline could cause you to fail a course.

Q—Do I need to purchase a parking permit?
A—Probably so. Most colleges are serious about parking permits and can and will ticket or tow your car. If you don’t pay, they can block grades and/or registration. Parking stickers may seem expensive, but it’s usually good to purchase one. Parking in a handicapped spot if you are not handicapped can carry a fine of over $200! Don’t do it.

Q—What about books?
A—In college, you have to go to a bookstore and purchase all your own books. Then, sometimes, if they have not been changed, you can sell them back at about ½ what you paid for them. Buy used books whenever possible because they are cheaper than new ones. You can write all over your books—after all, they’re yours. Use a highlighter, margin notes, etc. But, if you want to sell them back, you might think about their condition. See these websites for book sources:
• AddAll.com (more than 40 online bookstores for new & used books—lists shipping costs and delivery times as well)
• Half.com (has a special book section—search by ISBN number to be sure you get the right edition)
• Abebooks.com (offers detailed descriptions of the used books)
• When you are finished with the book, you can turn around and resell it on: Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com

Q—What if I just get the “brush off” from the school bureaucrats when I need something?
A—Keep asking, and keep pushing—not in a rude way but in an assertive way. Everyone at a college, a government agency, etc., is only there because of consumers like you. You are the reason they have a job and their job is to serve people like you. You should be gracious and understanding but demand that you be served.
Etiquette

This area does not receive enough attention in today’s society. Rudeness is rampant. Please help combat rudeness with civility. Here are a few ways you can stamp out rudeness:

- Always say please and thank you—if people perceive you as polite, they are more likely to help you—besides, it is just the thing to do.
- Develop a good firm handshake with accompanying eye contact—this is important in United States culture.
- Practice good listening skills—if people do not think you are interested in what they have to say, it’s possible they won’t want to waste their time on you. What are good listening skills?
  - Eye contact (in the United States culture).
  - Not interrupting.
  - Repeating main points that are presented by the speaker to make sure you understand the message.
  - Leaning slightly toward the speaker.
- Write thank you notes—the more the better. Acknowledge when people help you in any way.
  - Notes to those who write letters of recommendation for you.
  - Notes to anyone who provides you scholarship monies.
  - Notes to anyone who gives you a gift or who goes out of his or her way to help you.
  - Notes to people you appreciate detailing what you appreciate.
  - **DO NOT LET YOUR MOTHER WRITE YOUR THANK YOU NOTES—YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESPONSE, NOT YOUR MOTHER.**
- Use the telephone appropriately. If you are at work, answer in a professional manner. If you are at home, answer in at least a civil manner. “Yeah” is not a way to answer the phone!
- If you take phone messages for others WRITE DOWN: date, time, caller’s name, and message.
- RSVP means let them know—yes or no—if you are going to the event. It is rude not to RSVP when asked to do so.
- Learn the difference between assertiveness and aggressiveness and practice assertiveness.
Pay attention to what is going on around you. If someone walks up to a door and has their hands full, open the door for them. If you have two basket loads of groceries and a person comes up behind you with one item, let them get in front of you. Practice Random Acts of Kindness and notice things for which you are grateful—it can reframe your whole life.
Getting information from colleges:

- It is probably best to use the website and contact the appropriate people to get the particular information you desire. If you send an e-mail be sure to include:
  - your snail mail address,
  - your full name,
  - your social security number,
  - your e-mail address (and you might want to get an address that is more appropriate than some we’ve seen!),
  - a clearly written request for whatever you want, and a thank you for the consideration.
- Use the communication skills we’ve taught you!

Important things to remember when talking to any provider of information you are requesting

Whether it is a college admissions person or someone you call about car trouble or a problem with a product or service—remember to:

- Get the name of the person with whom you speak.
- Write down the date, the name of the person with whom you speak, and what they said. This will provide you with documentation in case the matter is not resolved.

House Bill 1403
(Passed May 2001)

Under House Bill 1403, international students who meet all of the following requirements will qualify for Texas residency at state universities regardless of INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) status:

- Graduate from a Texas public or private high school or receive a GED after attending for three consecutive years.
- Not enrolled, including concurrent enrollment, in an institution of higher education before the fall semester of 2001,
- Live with parent, legal guardian, or conservator during that time.
- Sign an affidavit stating that they meet the above qualifications and will apply for permanent residency upon first availability to do so.

1403 Students Also Qualify For:

- HB 1403 (Top 10% Automatic Admission)
- Texas Grant and other State Financial Aid—(note: if you are not a U.S. citizen, you may be eligible for state aid through the FAFSA but not federal aid. Complete the paper copy of the FAFSA and hand carry it to the financial aid office of the college of your choice to determine any grant eligibility.)

Another item of interest:
54.0065 Tuition Rebate for Certain Undergraduates basically provides you with a $1000 rebate if you attend a Texas Public University and get a bachelor’s degree with no more than 3 hours over the required hours for the degree. For more information see www.thecb.state.tx.us

There are also other grants available—see table of contents.
ACT or SAT

Our school code is **441-870**—Be sure to put it on your ACT/SAT Applications! Most colleges will accept either test and will use the highest score among all tests taken. You need to check for sure with the college of your choice regarding their entrance requirements. *We recommend the ACT because it is much like the TAKS.* Also, you may have already taken two practice ACT tests (Explore & Plan.)

If you go to a community college, you only need the THEA OR COMPASS, and you do not need to take the SAT I or the ACT—If you later transfer to a university, you will be a transfer student and will not need the SAT I or ACT—*if you have enough transfer hours.*

**ACT Information:** The ACT is an achievement test. You can register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or you can pick up a paper registration form in the counselor’s office. You can choose whether or not to take the writing test, but if you are not sure which college you will attend, then you should take the writing test. The info below is from the ACT website.

You can find the page shown just below at [http://www.actstudent.org/regist/nextdates.html](http://www.actstudent.org/regist/nextdates.html)

The cost of the test is $33.00 with no writing and $48.00 with writing.

### 2010-2011 ACT Test Dates

**Test Dates in the U.S., U.S. Territories, and Canada**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
<th><em>(Late Fee Required)</em></th>
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<td>September 11, 2010</td>
<td>August 6, 2010</td>
<td>August 7 – 20, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 23, 2010</td>
<td>September 17, 2010</td>
<td>September 18 – October 1, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 11, 2010**</td>
<td>November 5, 2010</td>
<td>November 6 – 19, 2010</td>
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<td><strong>April 9, 2011</strong></td>
<td>March 4, 2011</td>
<td>March 5 – 18, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11, 2011</td>
<td>May 6, 2011</td>
<td>May 7 – 20, 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SAT I Information:** The SAT is an aptitude test. It includes a writing assessment. You can register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) or you can pick up a paper registration form in the counselor’s office. See the website for more information. *Remember for the SAT, wrong answers are penalized ¼ point for each wrong answer.* Also realize there are SAT Subject Tests which are required by some colleges. *If you are taking the college entrance exam, you want the SAT I not the subject tests!* The information below is from the SAT website. The cost of the test is $47.

**Dates & Fees—SAT:** [http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenfees.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenfees.html)
# SAT Dates & Fees

## 2010-2011 Test Dates and Deadlines

U.S. registration materials that are mailed must be postmarked by the U.S. deadlines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT Date</th>
<th>SAT Subject Tests Available</th>
<th>Register-By Date*</th>
<th>Late Registration*</th>
<th>Changes By*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 4 2010</td>
<td>Subject Tests</td>
<td>Nov 5 2010</td>
<td>Nov 19 2010</td>
<td>Nov 17 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22 2011</td>
<td>Subject Tests</td>
<td>Dec 23 2010</td>
<td>Jan 7 2011</td>
<td>Jan 5 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7 2011</td>
<td>Subject Tests</td>
<td>Apr 8 2011</td>
<td>Apr 22 2011</td>
<td>Apr 20 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 4 2011</td>
<td>Subject Tests</td>
<td>May 6 2011</td>
<td>May 20 2011</td>
<td>May 18 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Registering Late**

If you are testing in the United States, U.S. territories, or U.S. commonwealths, and you miss the registration deadline, you still have time to submit a registration, but you must pay a late fee.
AP Exams
The AP Exams will be given in the spring during early May for all AP courses. You can get specific information on AP and exam schedules at www.collegeboard.com or from Mr. Neal Hall, Counselor.

~

CLEP TESTS
Check with the college of your choice about the possibility of testing out of an area you believe you have high skills in. You do not have to take an AP test to get college credit. If you are really good in English, Math, Spanish, French, Science, Computers, etc., there may be a way to avoid entry-level courses and save a lot of money. Colleges do not normally volunteer this information. You have to ask!

~

High School Transcripts
(required for college applications and for some scholarships)
(Please request transcripts one week in advance of date needed!!!)
If you apply to a college, they will require a high school transcript. Most colleges require that the transcript be sent directly from the registrar’s office. Transcripts will also be provided for scholarship applications; however, we ask that you provide a stamped, addressed envelope in which to mail the transcript. Mrs. Dawn Downe in the 2nd floor office handles transcript requests. See her for transcript requests. Other office personnel may provide transcripts if Mrs. Downe is unavailable.

Important Note: It is important for seniors to remember to arrange with Mrs. Downe to have their final transcript sent to the college of their choice. Please understand that if you take any dual classes from WC, you must send them a final transcript for them to release grades to the college of your choice. That means TWO final transcripts must be requested. You will request this in late spring.

I don’t have a clue—what can I do?
See your counselor to get information on careers, college, or just life. Your counselor can help you get where you want to go. Not everyone needs to go to college, but almost everyone needs some training beyond high school. Texas State Technical College is one of the best-kept secrets in Texas. Cheap—quick (18 months for most majors)—and guaranteed to get you a good job in everything from computer networking to golf turf management! Weatherford College is also affordable and convenient and has many many great training plans for careers that are interesting and pay well. Weatherford College either in Decatur or in Weatherford will give anyone personal attention and terrific resources as will most community colleges. And, you can save up to 75% on tuition at community colleges. You can go anywhere for your basics, then if you want a university education, go for it. Your diploma will still say Texas Tech or A&M or UT or UNT or whatever—even if you start at Weatherford or TCC or NCTC or another community college.

Also—if you want to go to college—you can—see your counselor about ways to get there, even if you have no money, or if you are the first in your family to consider it, or if your grades are the pits! But—if you really really do not want to go to college—and that’s ok, too—see your counselor for information on jobs and apprenticeships right out of high school.
College codes for some of your favorite Texas colleges & universities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Texas Code</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abilene Christian University</td>
<td>003537</td>
<td><a href="http://www.acu.edu">http://www.acu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelo State University</td>
<td>003541</td>
<td><a href="http://www.angelo.edu">http://www.angelo.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin College</td>
<td>003543</td>
<td><a href="http://www.austinc.edu">http://www.austinc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor University</td>
<td>006967</td>
<td><a href="http://www.baylor.edu">http://www.baylor.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central Texas College</td>
<td>003558</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nctc.cc.tx.us">http://www.nctc.cc.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas Baptist University</td>
<td>003560</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dbu.edu">http://www.dbu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardin-Simmons University</td>
<td>003571</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hsutx.edu">http://www.hsutx.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Payne University</td>
<td>003575</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hputx.edu">http://www.hputx.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwestern State University</td>
<td>003592</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mwsu.edu">http://www.mwsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Houston State University</td>
<td>003606</td>
<td><a href="http://www.shsu.edu">http://www.shsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Methodist University</td>
<td>003613</td>
<td><a href="http://www.smu.edu">http://www.smu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarleton State University</td>
<td>003631</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tarleton.edu">http://www.tarleton.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant County—Central</td>
<td>008898</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tcjc.cc.tx.us">http://www.tcjc.cc.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant County—Northeast</td>
<td>008899</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tcjc.cc.tx.us">http://www.tcjc.cc.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant County—Northwest</td>
<td>010964</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tcjc.cc.tx.us">http://www.tcjc.cc.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant County—South</td>
<td>008900</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tcjc.cc.tx.us">http://www.tcjc.cc.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant County—Southeast</td>
<td>000326</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tcjc.cc.tx.us">http://www.tcjc.cc.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
<td>010366</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tamu.edu">http://www.tamu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Christian University</td>
<td>003636</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tcu.edu">http://www.tcu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSTC—Waco</td>
<td>003634</td>
<td><a href="http://www/tstc.edu">http://www/tstc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Tech University</td>
<td>003644</td>
<td><a href="http://www.texastech.edu">http://www.texastech.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Woman’s University</td>
<td>003646</td>
<td><a href="http://www.twu.edu">http://www.twu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas—Arlington</td>
<td>003656</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uta.edu">http://www.uta.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UT Austin</td>
<td>003658</td>
<td><a href="http://www.utexas.edu">http://www.utexas.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UT Dallas</td>
<td>009741</td>
<td><a href="http://www.udallas.edu">http://www.udallas.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Dallas</td>
<td>003651</td>
<td><a href="http://www.udallas.edu">http://www.udallas.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Texas</td>
<td>003594</td>
<td><a href="http://www.unt.edu">http://www.unt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weatherford College</td>
<td>003664</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wc.edu">http://www.wc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on Texas Colleges</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.collegefortexans.com">http://www.collegefortexans.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on colleges around the world</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.braintrack.com">http://www.braintrack.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website for finding all U.S. colleges</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.50states.com/college/texas.htm">http://www.50states.com/college/texas.htm</a> for Texas Colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UT San Antonio has a great list of scholarship links</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.utsa.edu/scholarships/searchsch.cfm">http://www.utsa.edu/scholarships/searchsch.cfm</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Any college website will be a great place to go to get tons of info. They will have career center links as well as links to many other areas. The web is your friend. Get to know the positive uses of the internet.
A few more random items from recent graduates

- Credit cards are bad bad bad if you aren’t very careful with them. Everyone wants to give you one and let you charge—unfortunately, they then want their money, and the interest is really high. Be careful of credit cards—they will bite you!

- Pay attention to your bank transactions. Keep your own records. Save all copies of deposit slips—if the bank makes an error on a deposit, you will need the receipt to get the money into your account. Please do not play the “beat the bank” game. It will bite you. Checks clear very quickly now and will bounce before you know it. Learn how to reconcile a bank statement and reconcile your account EVERY month!

- Colleges and financial institutions are serious about deadlines and penalties. It can cost you lots of dollars if you forget to register on time or pay a debt on time.

- It costs a lot more to live on your own than you might think. Although it is tempting to consume, new cars come with lots of hidden costs—insurance, state fees, maintenance, etc. They can own you instead of the other way around. Think before you buy.

- Don’t judge the college experience by your first semester. There is a pretty steep learning curve. There is so much to get used to. The second semester is usually much better.

- When you are ready to leave home either to get a job or go to college:
  - Find a job first and commute until you can afford an apartment. Apartments will require an application fee, deposit, and first month’s rent—a lot of money altogether. Realize you will need a co-signer to get an apartment and such, because most young people do not have credit established. Also, your parents will need decent credit to help you get credit. Hefty deposits are also required for telephone, electric, gas, etc.
  - Do not get loans unless you have to—that interest thing again!
  - Be very careful in choice of roommate—talk to someone who has one to get good information in choosing a roommate.
  - Make a budget and stick to it. This will help you avoid a lot of problems. If you are short of money—eat at home. Going out to eat is very expensive—even fast food.
Useful Web Sites—this is the best resource you have
Best Website for “One Stop Shopping” is www.ikeepbookmarks.com/dhs_counseling_center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athletes—register no later than Sept of Sr. year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athletic Info—NJCAA—junior colleges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletic Info—NCAA</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Information:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>***College &amp; Career Information</td>
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<tr>
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<td>College Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colleges (Private)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual campus tours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Search Engine and links for other resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Army provided study skill website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Preparation 101</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Aid and Scholarship Sites:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAFSA on the Web (federal financial aid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting a PIN to do FAFSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Education, Student Guide in English &amp; Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Financial Aid Information Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid and Scholarship Searches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Aid and Scholarship Searches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Aid and Scholarship Searches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Aid and Scholarship Searches (Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning Credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid and College Search site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid and Scholarship Searches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid and Scholarship Searches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid and Scholarship Searches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For tons of info about colleges, financial aid, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Website</td>
</tr>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Testing Information:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT Info and online registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice THEA test as well as online registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT &amp; AP Program Info and online registration for SAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing Tips and Information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Websites and Sites for Parents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Various resources—excellent site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various resources—excellent site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site for Parents &amp; Educators (college prep)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connection to U. S. Govt. Services &amp; Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Education Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Educational Network Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Workforce Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent career info site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good career website</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best career info site (see “DHS address/codes/etc for passwords”)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military Websites:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States Air Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Coast Guard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Marines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Navy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Decatur Independent School District Website | http://www.decaturisd.org |
Note: the websites on the previous page are gathered from various reputable sources and may or may not be well maintained and helpful from year to year. Please provide us with feedback if any should be added or deleted. Thanks!

!Warning!
There is not a truth patrol on the internet—
BEWARE if people want money to help you get scholarships—
do not become a victim.
If it sounds too good to be true—it probably is.
Beware of anything or anyone who asks for your money.
If they want your money to give you an honor, it is simply a scam.
Do not give personal information or money except to reputable institutions.

More on Protection from Scams

For financial aid, you need to use the website www.fafsa.ed.gov
You will access this site on or after January 1, 2011. You cannot do it sooner but the closer to January 1st the better!
There is now a website www.fafsa.com which charges for the same service provided free at the above website. Do not use www.FAFSA.com. Beware of any company asking you for money for anything related to scholarships, financial aid, or honors.

Another example of questionable marketing is “Who’s Who?”
Who’s Who just wants your money. They tell you you’re selected for Who’s Who and then want to sell you a book. They are in business to make money and use unsuspecting people to market their products. They send a referral form to a teacher or someone else and ask them to nominate worthy students/teachers. Then they notify the student/teacher that he/she has been selected for Who’s Who and want them to send in information and purchase a book. By all means, send in the information if you wish, but please realize that purchase of the book is simply helping these people stay in business.

Selection to Who’s Who has no known criteria except that someone gave the Who’s Who people your name. Decatur Independent School District does not endorse this company.

Decatur Independent School District also does not endorse any company which might contact you regarding financial aid, scholarships, etc. which also requests that you pay for their service. Please ask a counselor or administrator if you have questions about any company with which you may have dealings.
Financial Aid

If you are interested in financial aid, it is very important for you to file your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon after January 1, 2011 as possible. It is best to file online. To do so

• First, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and request a PIN both for yourself and for one of your parents (the one who will sign your FAFSA.) You can do this anytime, but keep the PIN# and keep the password in a safe place where you can find it when you need it.
• You and you parents need to file your 2010 Federal Income Tax Return as soon as possible after January 1, 2011.
• Go online and fill out the FAFSA form any time after January 1, 2011. It takes quite a while to complete the form so give yourself time to work on it. You can save it in increments and complete it over several days’ time.
• If you do not have the internet available, come to the school to file.
• We will help you!!!!!!! DO NOT USE www.fafsa.com because it is a scam!

The FAFSA will tell you how much the government expects your parents to contribute to your education. All other monies needed will be possible through loans or grants. You cannot get any federal aid unless you file a FAFSA.*

A GREAT website for financial aid and other college information is www.collegefortexans.com

*Note—If you are not a U.S. citizen but have graduated from high school in Texas and have attended Texas schools for a number of years, you may be eligible for grant monies from the state of Texas. You are not eligible for federal monies so you cannot file your FAFSA online. See counselors or Rhonda Grundy for more information.

**Note** Many Ivy League colleges require a separate financial aid form that you complete on the Collegeboard website. It is called CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE
The link is https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/index.jsp

Important! Men—on or before your 18th birthday, you must register for selective service. It only takes a moment—go to http://www.sss.gov
If you do not register, you cannot apply for financial aid.

University of North Texas Talent Search Program:
If you are a first generation college student (mom and dad did not go to college) then there is extra help for you through the UNT Talent Search program. Desiree Padrón is our amazing Talent Search Lady and she comes to the high school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to meet with students and help them figure out how to go to college. Her program is for first generation students as well as students with great financial need. You can see her website at http://www.coe.unt.edu/TRIO//
**Resumes**

You will need to create either a resume or a “Fact Sheet” on yourself for scholarship applications. It would be good to do both. To learn how to create a good resume, there are many resources available on the internet. Do not pay to have a resume created. You can do your own using the resources available on the internet and programs such as Microsoft Word.

To create a personal “Fact Sheet,” you will need to create a Word document that lists your honors, club memberships, and accomplishments for each year of high school. Make it look good. See your counselor if you have questions.

See the next page for a sample resume. Also, you need to have a sheet nicely formatted that lists your references. Do not give your references unless asked to do so. Your resume has a line at the bottom that states “references available on request.”

Your reference sheet should have at least three references. References should be people who know you well enough to discuss your abilities and possibilities with a potential employer. They should NOT be relatives. The best references are people who know you and who have a business address and title. Example: teachers, counselors, administrators, former employers, doctors, attorneys, pastors, youth ministers, etc. Format your reference page with the items centered on the page. It should look something like this:

**References of Zoe Benson**

Mrs. Susanne Parker, Social Studies Teacher  
Decatur High School  
750 East Eagle Summit Drive  
Decatur, TX 76234  
940.393.7200  
susanne.parker@decatur.esc11.net

Mr. Neal Hall, Counselor  
Decatur High School  
750 East Eagle Summit Drive  
Decatur, TX 76234  
940.393.7209  
neal.hall@decatur.esc11.net

Mrs. Sheila McCollum, Assistant Principal  
Decatur High School  
750 East Eagle Summit Drive  
Decatur, TX 76234  
940.393.7205  
sheila.mccollum@decatur.esc11.net

Note—always ask permission to list someone as a reference. Then you can be sure they will give you a good word. If they will not, you don’t want to list them.
Zoe Benson

Objective
Part-Time Employment while attending San Angelo State University

Experience
Summers 2007-2009    Wilderness Summer Camp    Anywhere, Texas
Camp Counselor—responsibilities included
- Living in cabin with six 10-year-old girls.
- Planning and implementing activities for 60 10-year-old girls.
- Rotations with food service at the camp where we prepared and served 300 meals daily.

2008 to present    Ferguson and Bardwell    Decatur, Texas
Secretary
- Responsible for all incoming calls for a small insurance agency.
- Responsible for both accounts receivable and accounts payable.
- Other duties as assigned including acting as a courier.

Education
Currently Attending Decatur High School, Decatur Texas
Expected Graduation Date: June, 2010
- Overall current GPA of 3.78
- Completed honors courses in math, science, English, Spanish, and social studies.
- Completed business courses in accounting, business computer information systems, and business image management and multimedia.

Interests & Extracurricular Activities
Some of my activities and interests during my high school years:
- Active in the Eagle Band, DHS Yearbook Staff, and Spanish Club
- Volunteer for WARM (Wise Area Relief Mission)
- Active member of church youth group—annual mission trips to various locations
- Peer Helper at Carson Elementary School

Skills
Keyboarding (50 wpm), Microsoft Office computer applications (Word, Excel, Power Point), Internet use, Pagemaker software, Page layout, can speak Spanish well enough to communicate.

References
Available on request.
Crime Prevention
Going to College?
Put safety on your study list
By D. Aileen Dodd, Knight Ridder News Service

When teenagers leave home and move to college, they often forget to pack their common sense, says Eric Shoemaker, the University of Miami’s public safety director.

They walk the campus alone at night. They leave dorm rooms wide open. They break the fundamental rule of safety: Don’t make yourself an easy target for a thief.

Universities, like most residential communities, have crime problems. That’s why college freshmen should learn how to protect themselves and their property.

“No one is immortal. No one is exempt from getting injured.” Shoemaker said. “It doesn’t make sense to think the rest of the world doesn’t fall into a university campus.”

Property theft is the most common campus crime. Students who leave their doors unlocked or their backpack unattended soon may discover some of their belongings are missing. Wallets, [Ipods], [cell phones], [laptops], textbooks, calculators, and clothing can disappear within minutes.

College-bound students should check the crime statistics of a university just as they would review its academic programs, says Anthony Artrip, director of security at the University of Miami School of Medicine. Why? Because a safe environment gives a student the comfort he/she needs to concentrate on school, he said.

“The Campus Security and Students Right to Know Act of 1990,” said Artrip, “provides that institutions must disclose information about its campus safety policies and procedures, and statistics concerning certain crimes on campus.”

Here are some tips from Artrip:

• Learn about the city or town where you will attend school. Discuss with campus security and police the areas where you may be more vulnerable. Identify a fellow student who is a local and is willing to show you around.

• Engrave your Social Security number on expensive items such as television sets, VCR/DVD players, bicycles, and computers and keep a record of serial numbers to make identification easy if they are stolen.

• When traveling off campus, check in with your roommate.

• Travel in groups whenever possible. Use the school’s escort service when you are on campus alone at night. Walk in well-lighted areas with a friend or fellow student. Pay attention to your surroundings. Carry your keys in your hand so you can enter your car, room, or apartment without delay.

• Always lock your car and ride with your windows up. Never leave your valuables in plain view. Keep your car in good running condition, with plenty of gas in the tank.

• Use waist packs instead of purses.

• Identify the locations of emergency phones around the campus.

• Always report crimes, suspicious activity, or suspicious people to police or campus authorities.

• Always lock your dorm room doors. Don’t leave doors unlocked, even for a few minutes while you go to the laundry room or soft drink machine. Unwanted intrusions can occur in seconds. Have broken locks or windows repaired immediately.

• Never give personal information unless you know the requestors of the information are legitimate. Be very wary of any type of telephone solicitation requesting personal information.
Types of Financial Aid - State and Federal Grants and Scholarships—(from www.collegefortexans.com Website then click on “paying for college” then “grants”)

State and Federal Grants and Scholarships provide financial aid that does not have to be repaid. Some grants and scholarships require the student to maintain a certain grade point average (GPA) or take certain courses. Most grants are awarded on the basis of financial need.

This section of the site lists the State and Federal Grants and Scholarship programs available to students at Texas colleges and universities.

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This section of the site lists the State and Federal Grants and Scholarship programs available to students at Texas colleges and universities. Some links are added at the right to save space.

- Texas Historical Commission Fellows Program
- Education and Training Vouchers for Youths Aging Out of Foster Care
- Educational Aide Exemption
- Texas Health Service Corps Program: Stipends for Resident Physicians
- Federal PELL Grant
- Vocational Nursing Scholarships
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
- Federal Teacher Quality Enhancement Scholarships from the U.S. Department of Education
- Fifth Year Accounting Student Scholarship
- Kenneth H. Ashworth Fellowship Program
- Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program
- Marine Corps Foundation Scholarship
- Professional Nursing Scholarships
- Robert C. Byrd Scholarship
- Rural Emergency Medical Services Scholarship Incentive Program
- Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program (formerly TEXAS Grant II) (TEOG) (awards made on or after 09/01/2005)
- TEXAS Grant
- Texas Public Educational Grant
- Tuition Equalization Grant Program

Awards of the grant are made through the college financial aid office.

For more information:
1.877.782.7322 (toll free manned hotline)
7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday – Thursday
1.800.242.3062 extension 6387 (unmanned) to request materials
Website: www.thecb.state.tx.us e-mail: grantinfo@thecb.state.tx.us
Early High School Graduation Scholarship (for students who graduate on or after 09/01/2005) (EHS)  For info shown below go to: http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/cfbin/tofa2.cfm?ID=131

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program is to provide tuition and fee assistance to students completing grades 9-12 early or with a significant number of college hours; thus, enabling and encouraging these students to attend college in Texas.

Who can apply?

Individuals who

- Graduate from a Texas public high school on or after 09/01/2005
- Have completed either the recommended high school curriculum or the distinguished achievement high school curriculum* in no more than 36 consecutive months**
- Have attended high school in Texas only
- Register for the Selective Service or are exempt from this requirement and
- Are Texas residents.

*A student who does not satisfy the high school curriculum requirement will be considered to have satisfied those requirements if the high school from which the student graduates notes on the student's transcript that the student was unable to complete the appropriate curriculum within the time allowed because the necessary courses were unavailable due to course scheduling, lack of enrollment capacity or another cause not in the student's control.

**The maximum time allowed to complete the requirements for grades 9 - 12 may be extended to 41 months or less (with a lesser award); or to 45 consecutive months or less if the student also graduates with at least 30 hours of college credit.

Eligibility to receive an award through this program begins with the first regular semester or term following high school graduation (excluding the summer session between graduation and the first fall term). Eligibility ends six years later, unless the student seeks and is granted a hardship extension.

Where may the awards be used?

May be used at both public and private, non-profit colleges and universities in Texas. If the award is used at a Texas non-profit private college or university, the college or university must provide a matching scholarship (or combination of smaller scholarships of matching value) to use this credit. No funds may be used to pay for continuing education classes for which the college receives no state tax support.

How much can be awarded?

An otherwise eligible student who graduates in no more than 36 months receives $2,000 for use toward tuition and required fees. If he/she also graduates with at least 15 semester credit hours of college credit, he/she may receive an additional $1,000.

An otherwise eligible student who graduates in more than 36 months but no more than 41 months receives $500 for use toward tuition and required fees. If he/she also graduates with at least 30 semester credit hours of college credit, he/she may receive an additional $1,000.
An otherwise eligible student who graduates in more than 41 months but no more than 45 months can receive $1,000 if he/she graduates with at least 30 semester credit hours of college credit.

**How large is the program?** In 2005-06, 5,959 students received awards in this program.

**How can I apply?**

To obtain an application for this program, click here to download; call 512/427-6387 (Austin area) or 800/242-3062, ext. 6387 (outside Austin) or send an e-mail to Student Services. Your high school counselor must submit a certification form to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on your behalf. The Board then assesses your eligibility, determines your award, and if you qualify, sends an award letter to you, your high school and the college you plan to attend.

**Where can I get additional information?**

- EHS Legislative Update - September 1, 2005
  This item was last updated 10/11/2006.
- EHS High School Information Packet
- To read more about this program check out: Texas Education Code, 56.201 and Coordinating Board Rule, Chapter 21, Subchapter CC
- E-Mail Us!

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**Cost of Higher Education in Texas**
http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/paying/collegecostsfull.cfm

**School Calendar**
http://www.decaturisd.us/decatur/site/default.asp
(calender is on front page)

**Important Information from Counselors**
See the high school website!
http://www.decaturisd.us/1027201251073093/site/default.asp

**Important Site for College Information**
http://www.collegeforalltexans.com

**See Rene’ Fuller**
for information on Career Pathways and check out:
www.achievetexas.org

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College Equivalency Websites:

- Texas Common Course Numbering System Website
  - www.tccns.org/matrix/index.htm
  - Includes ALL public and private colleges in Texas
- Midwestern State Univ.
  - http://admissions.mwsu.edu/equivalencies.asp
- Sam Houston State Univ.
  - www.shsu.edu/saminfo/trnsequiv.cgi
- Stephen F. Austin State Univ.
  - www.sfasu.edu/admissions/transfer.html
- Tarleton State Univ.
  - www.tarleton.edu/~admissions/tccns99.htm
- Texas A&M, Commerce
  - http://sus.tamu-commerce.edu/sus/admissions/1003558.html
- Texas Woman's Univ.
  - http://www.twu.edu/admissions/transfer/northcentral02.htm
- Univ. of North Texas
  - http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/articulation/
  - Univ. of Texas
- www.utexas.edu/student/admissions/ate/
  - UT Arlington
- www.uta.edu/admissions/equiv/ncentraltx.pdf