

## TIPS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

### Admission Decisions:

**Top 10% in Texas** - if you are in Top 10%, you are eligible to be automatically admitted in the Texas Public Institution to which you apply, except the University of Texas - Top 6%. You must meet the application deadline and graduate from high school as Distinguished Level of Achievement.

**Assured Admissions** - Test scores and rank meet a required formula. SAT combines score is Critical Reading (CR) plus Math (M); writing score is used as separate evaluation tool.

**Test Optional** - Numerous colleges will be providing this option for admission applications this year due to COVID. See the explanation located on the document "What Does Test Optional Mean?"

**Review** - Application packets are reviewed in a holistic manner - courses, grades, rank, test scores, activities, letter of recommendations, essay, etc.

**Provisional** - Students are sometimes admitted on a probationary status. Summer school may be required and a set grade point will have to be earned; policies vary.

### Items required for college application packet:

1. The application - apply online or with a paper application
2. Partial high school transcript - based on 6 completed semesters (includes semester grades, GPA, rank, graduation plan)
3. SAT/ACT Scores - Scores MUST be sent from testing agency. Four scores sent for fee when you take the test.
4. Application Fee - Waiver from SAT/ACT can be used for application
5. Recommendation letters or forms.

### The Application:

Texas Common Application - [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)  
2 and 4 year public colleges and universities in Texas  
National Common Application - [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)  
Over 900 colleges  
Coalition for College - [www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org](http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org)  
150+ colleges  
Institutional applications by individual basis, check website.

### Application Tips:

#### Read carefully and follow the instructions thoroughly.

Meet deadlines; **don't procrastinate!**  
Take the essay seriously. Don't submit a generic essay.  
Use all space allotted for short answer questions.  
Include all of your accomplishments, describe fully; no acronyms.  
Note your ethnicity and if you are a 1st generation college student.  
If sending additional information by mail, identify with your name, social security number, and or date of birth.  
Include all materials that are required.

### Application Fee:

Most colleges and universities will have a fee you need to pay.  
The fee cost varies with each university.  
Some colleges/universities will waive your fee if you are on free/reduced lunch or if you make a campus visit and apply on time.  
The fee is due by the application due date; pay online or by check.

### Transcripts:

A partial high school transcript should be sent to all colleges to which you are applying. The transcript includes courses, semester grades, and GPA/rank.

1. Request transcript from Ms. Maldonado in the main office.
2. Allow 1 week to process orders before picking up copies.
3. No charge for the first transcript; each additional copy is \$1.00.
4. Transcripts can be sent electronically via TReX to Texas colleges.
5. Physical copies of transcripts will be given to you in a sealed envelope (DO NOT OPEN).
6. Request a transcript immediately after submitting applications.
7. Check frequently with your college regarding status of your file.
8. You MUST request a final transcript in May to be mailed after graduation to the college you plan on attending.
9. Dual credit transcripts - request that SPC mail a transcript to the college you are applying to attend. Also, mail a final dual credit transcript from South Plains College.

### College Admissions Testing (SAT and ACT):

Counselors suggest taking both tests and retesting to improve scores.

**SAT** Reasoning Test to measure a student's aptitude (critical reading, math, and writing)  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)  
Test Fee: \$55.00 (no essay or SAT Subject tests anymore)  
\*\*\* Admissions will look at combined reading and math score  
**LISD pays to have all juniors take SAT in the spring.**

**ACT** An achievement based test  
(English, Reading, Math, Science)  
[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)  
Test fee: \$85.00 (with essay) \$60.00 (no essay)

Must register 4-5 weeks in advance to not pay late fee / stand by fee.

### TSI Compliance:

Students must demonstrate TSI compliance by passing the TSI, SAT, or ACT prior to enrolling in any college level course.

#### Exemptions:

SAT - 480 EBRW and 530 Math  
ACT - 23 composite with 19 minimum in English and Math

#### TSI 2.0 Compliance Scores:

Math - 950 or 910 + 6 Diagnostic  
ELAR - 945 + 5 Essay or 910 + 5 Essay + 5 Diagnostic

\*Older scores from the original TSI are still good for 5 years from test date:

Math - 350 Reading - 351 Writing - 363 + 4 Essay or 5 Essay

Register for the TSI at LHS with Ms. Brady in Room 2107 or call (806) 219-1731

### Scholarships:

Available for academics, financial aid, community service, essay, etc.  
College Scholarships - Check with the financial aid and admissions offices regarding scholarships specific to each university.  
LHS Website - All scholarships that we are aware of are posted in the scholarship tab on the LHS Counselor Website  
LHS Counselor Twitter - Follow @BeAWesterner for news and updates  
Local - Community Foundation of West Texas [www.cfwtx.org](http://www.cfwtx.org)  
Scholarship Search Sites - Build a profile to help match you with scholarships you might be eligible for. Ex: FastWeb.com

### Financial Aid:

**FAFSA** - The form required for any grants, loans, work study, and some college scholarships. The FAFSA application window opens October 1<sup>st</sup>.  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

\*Effective with the Class of 2022, all seniors must complete the FAFSA or TASFA as part of graduation requirements. Students can also opt-out but must see their counselor for more information.

**LEARN Counselors** are available at LHS on Wednesdays & Thursdays to assist you with the college application process, financial aid applications, etc.  
Make an appointment to meet with them in the counseling office.

### Letters of Recommendation:

**Counselor Recommendation:** Check to see if a counselor recommendation is required. If a counselor recommendation is required, complete the recommendation "Gold Packet" download from LHS counselor webpage or in your counselor's office. If the letter must be mailed, provide a stamped and addressed envelope when you submit your request.  
\*\*\*Allow 2 weeks for the letter to be written and keep in mind that letters are confidential and not generally given to the student.

**Teacher Recommendation:** Provide the purpose of the letter, address of where to send letter, and provide reference sheet, envelope, and postage.

Visit Counselor Website for more information

<http://bit.ly/LubbockHScounselors>

Twitter: @BeAWesterner