

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 a 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.goapplytexas.org
2 and 4 year public colleges and universities in Texas

National Common Application - www.commonapp.org
Over 900 colleges

Coalition for College - 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; check deadlines.

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).
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
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
Test fee: \$88.00 (with essay) \$6.00 (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
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 1st.
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