

# Frequently Asked Questions about Senior Year

## Monterey High School

Class of 2019

### *Who is my counselor and principal this year?*

All grade levels work with an alpha “house” counselor and principal assigned by alphabet according to the student’s last name:

<b>A:</b> Gail Holdridge, Lead Counselor	Garrett Luft, Alpha Principal
<b>B - D:</b> Kristen Lewis, Academic Counselor	Garrett Luft, Alpha Principal
<b>E - I:</b> Kim Brinkley, Academic Counselor	Angie Redd, Alpha Principal
<b>J – M:</b> Jill Forbes, Academic Counselor	Trey Aguilar, Alpha Principal
<b>N - R:</b> Adrienne Greaser, Academic Counselor	Vince Garcia, Associate Principal
<b>S - Z:</b> Crystal Scott, Academic Counselor	Jennifer Walden, Alpha Principal
Tom Thomson, Special Services Counselor	



### *When is Graduation?*

May Graduation Ceremony: Saturday, May 23, 2020	United Supermarkets Arena	3:00 p.m.
August Summer Ceremony: Thursday, August 6, 2020	Monterey High School	6:00 p.m.



### *How do I apply to college?*

You will submit a completed application (online) to your college/university. You will also submit a transcript, and any requested test scores (SAT and/or ACT, TSI) to the college admissions office. Most colleges have an application fee. Some colleges will request essays. Some colleges will later request letters of recommendation or other information.



### *Where do I get an admission application?*



Colleges require an online application process. This helps them process your application more efficiently. Any state Texas University admissions application can be completed at [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org). Several other out of state college admissions can be completed on the national common application website at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). A newer application process which includes more than 140 member schools is the Coalition for College. Visit <http://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/> for more information. Processing applications through these sites saves you time when applying to several different universities. Many out of state admissions and private universities will require an application be completed directly from the university admissions site. Visit the individual university’s admissions website for details.



### *When should I apply?*

Now is the perfect time to begin. Many Texas applications process opened July 1<sup>st</sup>, others in August. Early fall semester is preferable. This gives universities time to process applications and communicate any additional needs with the prospective student. “Rolling admission” schools will accept applications for the fall semester even late into the summer. Other schools have deadlines, usually December to early spring. More competitive schools have earlier deadlines, usually toward the end of the first semester. Texas A&M and UT Austin’s deadline is generally around December 1<sup>st</sup>. Pay close attention to any application deadlines your school might have. **Note:** Students planning to live on-campus should investigate housing application deadlines as soon as possible.



## ***Where do I get a copy of my transcript?***

You may request an official transcript from Ms. April Floyd, Monterey's Registrar, in our main office. She keeps a sign-up sheet for submitting a transcript request. The first copy is free, and subsequent copies cost \$1.00. A copy of your transcript is "official" when it includes the embossed seal of Monterey and an original signature of a school official. Most colleges prefer transcripts be sent electronically through the Texas "T-Rex System. End of Course (EOC) test results should be included on your transcript.

SAT or ACT test results should be requested directly from College Board or ACT. TSI score results are not sent to the high school, so the student must provide that information directly to the university.



## ***What test scores are needed for college applications?***

The SAT or ACT is usually required for admission to four-year universities. Almost all colleges will accept either test, or will choose your best score if you submit more than one. This is commonly referred to as Superscoring. When you sign up to take the test, you should indicate which universities or colleges you want to receive your test results. You can submit up to four test result for free. You can also have scores submitted to schools after you have taken the test, for an additional fee. Community or junior colleges may not require the ACT or SAT, but often request scores or require you take the TSI assessment in order to assist them in placing you appropriately or for scholarship eligibility.



## ***What does superscoring mean?***

Superscoring is when a college takes the highest sub scores (on ACT or SAT) from various test dates to get a new higher super score. This simply means that they piecemeal your sub scores by taking your best sub score from more than one test administration. Some colleges do not super score and will only look at your total higher score per test. Check with the college in which you are applying to determine how they evaluate test scores.



## ***I took the SAT (or ACT) in the spring semester of junior year. Should I take it again?***

College Board (SAT) advises that scores on tests generally don't go up unless "significant education achievement" occurs between the test dates. By this they usually mean a semester of work. So, if you took the test last February or March, you might consider retaking the test in early fall. If you took the test in May or June, you might wait until the December date to retest. If you made a score high enough to be admitted to the school you wish to attend, you should probably retake the test if a higher score would make you eligible for scholarships. Because the ACT and SAT are two completely different formats of tests, it is recommended that students take ***both***. Generally students will score better on one than another.



## ***What is Monterey's school code?***

It is **444350**. This number is used for the SAT and ACT, and for any question regarding the CEEB school code.



## ***What about the TSI assessment test?***

Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is the state's measure for determining college readiness level and placement in college. If ACT or SAT was not taken, or scores were not at admission standard level, then the TSI assessment test is required. It is not an admission test *per se*, rather used for placement determining whether remedial coursework is needed. Most students earning dual credit while at Monterey may have already taken the TSI assessment, or they are exempt by reason of high EOC scores, or high ACT or SAT scores. The TSI assessment is good for 5 years. A senior will want to have taken the TSI and/or SAT/ACT prior to enrolling in their college classes. Monterey does not receive copies of TSI results, so file your score reports in a safe place. Students attending private Texas universities or out-of-state universities do not need to take the TSI assessment.



### ***What is the “Top 10% Rule”?***

Students graduating in the top 10% of their class are automatically granted admission to all Texas public colleges and universities. They must still submit all necessary admission materials by the deadline imposed by the university, but there will be no minimum test (SAT or ACT) score for admission. The university will grant admission, but may not be able to admit the student into their requested department or major field of study initially. The top 10% rule does not apply to out-of-state universities. The University of Texas was granted an exception and may limit top 10% automatic admissions to 75% of the class. It is advised that top 10% students wishing to attend UT Austin apply as soon as possible to make this quota. ***This current class of 2020 is set at top 6% for UT automatic admissions.***



### ***When is the top 10% determined?***

LISD will run grade point averages (GPA) and rank calculations at the end of **September**. This allows the senior class to “settle” by dropping any students’ no longer attending Monterey and adding all transcripts of seniors new to Monterey. This GPA/ rank are sometimes referred to as a “six semester rank”, meaning it includes work done in the two semesters each of the ninth, tenth, and eleventh grades. Transcripts will then have the six-semester GPA and rank, plus the date the rank was determined, printed on the transcript. The college or university will require this information. In a hypothetical class of 500 students, the top 50 students would comprise the top 10%. Students with the same GPA will share the same rank number, so the top 10% for a class of 500 students might be rank numbers 1 through 47 (with multiple students at rank 47), with the next ranked student at 51. In this example no student holds the rank of 48, 49 or 50.



### ***When is the FINAL GPA and rank determined?***

The district will calculate class rank at the **end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six-weeks grading period**. The average of the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> six-weeks shall be used as the semester grade for this purpose. This GPA determines Honor graduates (3.50 to 3.99) and High Honor graduates (4.00 and higher). This is also the GPA and rank that is printed on transcripts and remains permanent after graduation. A final transcript is one that has the GPA and rank, the date it was determined (following the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks), and the date of graduation. This final GPA/rank calculation will determine valedictorian and salutatorian. The grade point average for these two positions is not limited to the hundredth place in their determination.



### ***Does the last six weeks “not count” for anything?***

***Even though final GPA/rank is run at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks, senior should still work their hardest to finish out the last six weeks of their classes. Grades will still be taken and averaged for a final semester grade in the class and on the transcript.***

While the GPA and rank will be calculated after the 5<sup>th</sup> six-week period, the final transcript (the one that goes in your permanent record) will include all grades earned. All colleges require copies of the final transcript, with the date of graduation, to finalize acceptance of an applicant. Seniors will be able to indicate which college they want their final transcript to be sent when they go through the Senior Checkout procedure just prior to graduation. Monterey will send final transcripts to the desired college(s), or mail to the home, if so requested. Final transcripts are also used for a variety of purposes such as determination of scholarship recipients, application to the Greek “rush” procedure, and others. A senior is advised to keep his or her grades as high as possible through graduation to avoid disappointment or non-eligibility. **Not continuing to work and pass the course could result in the student not graduating.**



## **How does my college receive the college credits (Dual Credit) I earned through SPC or UT “On Ramps” dual credit courses?**

South Plains College or UT “On Ramps” has kept a transcript showing all grades and credits earned through dual credit work at Monterey. A student should request a copy of their SPC or UT transcript (usually in the summer after graduation to include spring semester grades) be sent to the college or university where they have enrolled. The receiving college determines which courses are acceptable. Often, the receiving college will add those credits to their college transcript with a “P” for pass, and not include the grade earned. That is an advantage for your new college grade point average.

## **balfour Where do I get my Cap & Gown?**

Balfour is the company we will use for cap & gown purchases this 2019-2020 school year. Balfour assembly and order schedule days are as follows:

**Senior assembly to distribute cap & gown information & order details: September 30th**

**Cap & Gown order days on campus (Cafeteria):**

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> & October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Balfour will deliver cap & gown orders to students during the spring semester. The time is to be determined, but usually occurs around March or early April. Any questions regarding cap & gown orders can be directed to:

**Balfour**

**4620 34<sup>th</sup> St. Lubbock, Texas 79410**

**Phone: (806) 795-0525**

**E-mail: <https://www.balfour.com/texas/lubbock/monterey-high-school>**



## **How do I get a scholarship?**

Scholarships are divided into two categories. *Need-based* scholarships are awarded based on some criteria such as financial need, being the first in your family to attend college, being the child of a veteran, or being from a minority group. *Merit-based* scholarships are awarded based on some skill or talent in academics, athletics, the fine arts, etc. Scholarship opportunities received at Monterey will be advertised through announcements, e-mails. All scholarships that MHS becomes aware of are posted on the [MHS/Counselor webpage/Scholarships link](#). Students are encouraged to actively research and seek out scholarship opportunities. The Internet is a tremendous resource for this research, and use of a free scholarship website such as **FastWeb** [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) or **Apply Texas** [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org) is encouraged. Please see the counseling/College & Career Ready page on the MHS website for other scholarship search sites. Parents are encouraged to inquire at work to see if their company offers any scholarships for employees’ dependents. Investigate university departmental scholarships (such as those unique to the engineering department or music department) that might not be widely advertised. Students should always research what scholarships and other financial aid opportunities are available by contacting the college financial aid office where they plan to enroll.



## **How do I improve my chances of obtaining a scholarship?**

Apply for **EVERY** scholarship you are qualified for, no matter how small. Actively seek out scholarship opportunities; don’t wait for them to “come to you.” Be careful to include all necessary application information, submit a legible application, and meet all application deadlines. If letters of recommendation are required, seek out people who know you well and are inclined to promote your best points. Give the letter writers *plenty* of time to write their letters and have them submitted in time to meet deadlines. Include a stamped, addressed envelope so that person may mail your letter upon completion. (Follow up with a note of thanks for writing your letter.) Keep your grades as high as possible, be involved in activities and organizations at a high level (serve as a class officer or leader position if possible), and consider doing volunteer work or organizing community improvement projects. Also, remember that there are scholarships for college sophomores, juniors and seniors that you may apply for after you are enrolled in and attending college. They are not limited to the senior year of high school. Check with the university’s financial aid department or with LEARN.



## What is LEARN?

The LEARN Educational Talent Search is a government-funded agency that provides financial aid advice and assistance with college admissions. Their mission is to assist students who are the first generation in their family to attend college or indicate Economically disadvantage status, but they graciously assist all students who seek their help, and at no charge to the student or family. ***Our LEARN counselor is Irene Mesquias-Guerrero and will be on campus each Wednesday and Thursday.*** To make an appointment to visit with the LEARN counselor, please sign up in the notebook in the Lead Counselor’s Office. You can also visit the LEARN office which is located at 2161-50<sup>th</sup> Street or 763-4256 to schedule an appointment.



Federal Student Aid  
An Office of the U.S. Department of Education

## What is the FAFSA?

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is the form, devised by the Department of Education, used by agencies to determine eligibility for financial aid. You will find that many scholarships, and almost all grants and loans, ask for FAFSA information. The FAFSA is filled out by using your most recent Income Tax information. The FAFSA application process opens October 1, 2017. The most current income tax information will be your 2016 fiscal year (January-December 2016.) The FAFSA can be filled out online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). ***Monterey will be hosting a LEARN FAFSA Workshop for parents on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Call Gail Holdridge, Lead Counselor to schedule an appointment.***



## What if a senior student wants to go into the workforce out of high school?

Some students may not be ready to tackle a two or four year university outside of high school. Many students are more interested in training certification programs or the workforce. The important piece in graduation is to have a plan prior to graduation. Seniors can visit the following website for more information regarding job training or workforce solutions.

- <http://www.yourfreecareertest.com>
- <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/jobseekers>
- <http://www.texasrealitycheck.com/>



## What if a senior is interested in pursuing a military career?

Students interested in a military career should research all branches and their enlistment policies. Most branches offer money to pay for college. It is important to remember that the armed forces usually require a commitment of 2 to 6 years. If seniors are interested in visiting with a recruiter, he/she can sign up to see one of our MHS assigned recruiters on campus. Sign up to visit with a recruiter is in the lead counselor’s office.

*Counselors will be visiting individually with each senior this fall to answer questions about college and/or career opportunities, finalize graduation information and verify that all credits are obtained by May, 2020. Feel free to give your alpha counselor a call or e-mail them with any questions.*