

Preparing for College

Senior To-Do List

Taylor High School

Seniors - It's Your Time to Shine!

The beginning of your senior year is the best time to start the college application process. My hope is that this presentation will help get you started with the process!

The background is a solid teal color with a repeating pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent shapes. These shapes include five-pointed stars and arrows pointing in various directions, creating a textured, geometric effect.

Prepare to Apply

Research Colleges

How?

- ⇒ Make a list of what is most important to you (size, location, degree plan, cost, etc.)
- ⇒ Research:
 - College Websites
 - Online Info Sessions
 - Virtual or Physical College Tours

Each Senior is allowed 2 college visits during the school year. You must complete and turn in a College Visit Form to your counselor BEFORE going!

This year, THS is taking groups of seniors to visit various college campuses. Watch for more info in your email.

Then...

- ⇒ Begin narrowing your choices to 3-5 schools.
 - *Reach*
 - *Realistic*
 - *Safety*
- Wed, Sept 7 - College Fair at High School
- Wed, Oct 26 - College Fair at Taylor School Gym

-Visit the THS website for upcoming visits from college recruiters

Tip: Use [Big Future](#) or one of the college planning resources on next slide to help!

Resources for Career and College Planning

MY NEXT MOVE

<https://onetonline.org>

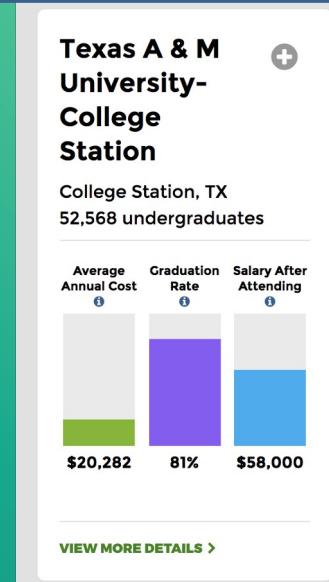


<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>



<http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/>

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>



Resources for College Comparison, Scholarships and the Job Market



www.texasoncourse.org



www.texasrealitycheck.com



<https://www.fastweb.com/>



<https://www.cappex.com/>



Begin the Application Process

Application Systems

- ⇒ [ApplyTexas.org](https://applytexas.org)
 - For public Texas colleges & universities and trade schools
- ⇒ [CommonApp.org](https://commonapp.org) and [The Coalition Application](https://thecoalitionapplication.com)
 - For private and out-of-state colleges & universities and many Texas colleges and universities.

THS Counselors and TC representatives will work with English 4 classes on September 8th to help students apply.

Due Dates

- ⇒ Early decision and early action applications are typically due in October and November. Be sure to check your deadlines!
- ⇒ Many regular admissions applications are due December 1st with other schools deadline between January 1 and March 1.

Begin the Application Process

When you apply...

- ⇒ Complete ALL of the application - including the scholarship part (if applicable)
- ⇒ Save as you go!
- ⇒ Pay the application fee (if you receive free/reduced lunch, email [Mrs. Hortenstine](#) for a waiver)
- ⇒ Send a transcript - [Mrs. Zucknick, THS Registrar](#) can help with this.
- ⇒ Send ACT and/or SAT Scores - you must request these scores through the ACT and College Board websites.
- ⇒ Send TSIA2 scores - email [Mrs. Hortenstine](#) for a copy of your scores.

Visit THS CCMR Website

College / Career Readiness

- All students must be “college / career ready” before graduating.
- Student’s can achieve college readiness with SAT, ACT or TSIA2 and with Industry Based Certifications through our welding, healthcare, culinary, automotive, floral design, programs.

TSI ASSESSMENT EXEMPTIONS AND COURSE PLACEMENT CHART

TSI Assessment Exemptions			
All United States Veterans are exempt from TSI Assessment			
<i>Test Score Exemptions: Test scores are valid for 5 years</i>			
TEST	CRITICAL READING	MATH	OTHER
TSIA	351	350	Essay 5 OR Writing Score 340 and Essay 4
TSIA 2.0 CRC = College Readiness Classification	ELAR (English Language Arts & Reading) CRC >= 945 AND Essay >=5 OR CRC < 945 AND Diagnostic Level >=5 AND Essay >=5	CRC >=950 OR CRC <950 AND Diagnostic Level = 6	
SAT (Prior to March 5, 2016)	500	500	Combined critical reading and mathematics scores of 1070
SAT (After March 5, 2016)	480	530	NA
ACT	19	19	23 Composite



SAT - register at collegeboard.org

Upcoming Dates

- **August 27**
- **October 1** - THS is a host site
- **November 5**
- **December 3**
- **March 11**
- **April 12** - Given during the school day at THS to all Juniors for FREE!
- **May 6**
- **June 3** - THS is a host site

Prepare for the SAT using Khan Academy - a FREE online resource



ACT - register at act.org

Upcoming Dates

- **September 10**
- **October 22**
- **December 10**
- **February 11**
- **April 15**
- **June 10**
- **July 15**

Prepare for the ACT using ACT Academy - a FREE online resource

*Test fee waivers for students that qualify AND waivers for 4 college application fees

*Students with College Board approved accommodations need to select to use them when registering.

NEXT STEP: TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSIA2)

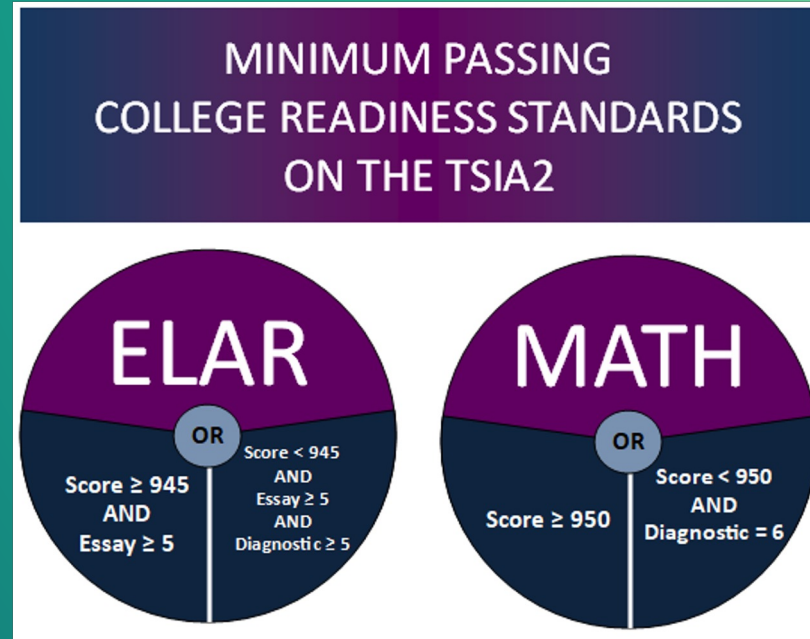
The TSI Assessment is part of the Texas Success Initiative program.

If you are an incoming college student in Texas, you are required to take the TSI Assessment - unless you are already exempt (see chart)

-to determine if you are ready for college-level course work in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics.

Based on how you perform, you may either:

- 1) be enrolled in a college-level course and/or
- 2) be placed in the appropriate developmental course or intervention to improve your skills and prepare you for success in college-level courses.



**TSI Testing
Monthly - register
with Mrs.
Hortenstine**

**Yes, It is required
for Trade Schools
and Community
Colleges**

TSI Math Prep Class

Great opportunity to improve your math skills to prepare for college and career!
This class will “fill in the gaps” students missed during Covid.

If/when you go to college / trade school, if you do not hit the TSI / College Readiness benchmarks you will have to take developmental math classes which costs you MONEY and TIME.

The TSI Math Prep Class is FREE and in high-school, and counts as your 4th math -
THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

We need ALL our students to be College and CAREER ready!

Additional Application Requirements

⇒ **Letters of Recommendation**

- Begin identifying potential recommenders
- If required: Colleges typically want letters from teachers of academic subjects (core and language) who know you best
- If optional: Student can usually ask for a letter from a coach, program director, elective teacher, employer, etc – but not from a family member
 - It's a good idea to include letters of rec even if they are optional.
It's one more way you can tell colleges more about you!
- Complete a [Student Brag Sheet](#) and give it to the teachers, counselor, and/or principal you are requesting the letter from.
- Always ask teachers first, in person (if possible), and write a “Thank You” note later
- Give your recommender at least two weeks advance notice.

Additional Application Requirements

⇒ *Essays*

- Optional essays aren't really optional. Many colleges use essays to make admission decisions. It can mean the difference between being accepted and being denied.
- Be sure your voice comes through – your essay should sound like you
- Tell a story or share an insight on how something impacted your life (what you learned and why) that cannot be picked up on from your application or resume – Applicants are more than their GPA and test scores
- It's okay to be creative
- College admissions representatives read thousands of essays a year, so strive to make yours memorable

Additional Application Requirements

⇒ **Resumes**

- It should highlight accomplishments and or activities not shown (or elaborated on) in the application
- Be concise; the resume should not be more than two pages
- Be sure to explain activities that might be unique to Taylor High School
- For ApplyTexas, your child likely will need to upload into the Go Apply Texas portal as he/she is submitting the application)
- For CommonApp, resumes are uploaded as part of the application

What influences admission decisions?

- ⇒ Class Rank: In the state of Texas, the top 10 percent of the senior class gets automatic admission to any public university (University of Texas is top 6%)
- ⇒ Transcript: GPA and grades
 - Did the student challenge himself in subjects of interest and aptitude?
 - This does NOT mean that all courses should be PreAP and/or AP
 - Do her electives reflect interests she already has or show that she has been exploring possible interests?
- ⇒ Standardized Test Scores (SAT and ACT) *However, some colleges are not requiring these scores for 2023 admission*
- ⇒ Resume or list of activities
- ⇒ Essays
 - These can reveal the applicant's personality and suggest how he or she might fit in and contribute to the campus culture
- ⇒ Overall, they are looking for authenticity – who are you and why do you want to attend their college?
- ⇒ Recommendation Letters – when they add to something to the application

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Prepare to Pay for College or Trade School

3 Ways to Pay for College

1

Family Contributions

2

Scholarships & Grants

3

Parent & Student Loans



1

Family Contributions

- Talk to your parents!
- Fill out [FAFSA Calculator](#) to get an estimate of your EFC (Expected Family Contribution)
- Do the math! Cost of school - EFC = What You Need

2

Scholarships & Grants

- Scholarships & Grants are FREE MONEY!
- Scholarships are usually merit-based or needs-based.
- Grants are need-based.
- [Taylor High School Scholarship Website](#)
 - THS Local Scholarships sponsored by Taylor area businesses / organizations or former students or in memory of former students. In 2022, there were over 70 local scholarships valued over \$120,000 awarded to THS seniors.
 - Outside Area Scholarships - National Scholarship search engines as well as outside scholarships sent to notify our seniors. Most submitted directly to the scholarship organization.

3

Student & Parent Loans

- Federal & Private Loans
- Loans must be paid back on time!
- **Complete the [FAFSA](#) online - Opens October 1**

What you can do this summer..

⇒ ***Outline your financial aid plan***

- Use the financial aid calculators found on individual college websites
- Create a list of all the financial aid options you plan to pursue along with the deadlines for each.
- <https://www.goingmerry.com/blog/ultimate-financial-aid-guide/>

⇒ ***Apply for traditional scholarships***

- Many seniors apply to more than 30 scholarships
- Don't shy away from local options or ones that require essays. Since fewer students apply for these, you often have a better chance.
- Begin applying between junior and senior year and continue throughout the school year
- Most local scholarships open to seniors in the spring

→ [THS Scholarship Website](#)



US Military



ASVAB Test

ASVAB stands for Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). Regardless of which branch of the military you are interested in, you must take the ASVAB.

The ASVAB is a timed, multiple choice test, that helps to determine whether you are a good fit to join the service, but also which service branch you might be best for and even what military jobs you can hold after you finish basic training or boot camp. The better your ASVAB score, the broader your options.

You can start preparing now by taking free online ASVAB practice tests.

Each branch of the U.S. military has its own minimum standards when it comes to the ASVAB scores. The highest score that anyone can earn on the ASVAB is 99.

- Army - 31
- Marine Corps - 32
- Navy - 35
- Air Force - 36
- Coast Guard - 40

You will have the opportunity to take the ASVAB here at school starting your junior year.

COLLEGE & MILITARY

There are 2 main ways that students can get their college education before going into the military.

Those 2 methods are ROTC and Service Academies.

ALL branches of the military HIGHLY encourage all of their enlisted service members to take college classes and continue their education while they are serving their military contracts.

FIND OUT MORE

All branches of the US Military have websites where you can find out more information.

If you are interested in a military career after high school, you can start seriously talking to a recruiter your junior year.

During the year recruiters from the various branches will visit our campus.

<https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces>

Look for Informational Sessions during Fall 2022....

- Application Bootcamp
- College Admissions
- PSAT/SAT/ACT
- Financial Aid
- Career & Military Options

Taylor High School Important Dates

Date	Time	Information	Location
Monday, August 1	8 - 12:30	GoApply Texas College Application Workshop	Library
Thursday, August 4	10 am - 2 pm	GoApply Texas College Application Workshop	Mrs. Hortenstine's Room
Friday, August 5	10 am - 2 pm	GoApply Texas College Application Workshop	Mrs. Hortenstine's Room
Thursday, August 11	8:30 am - 11 am	Class of 2026 Freshman Experience	Taylor High School
Thursday, August 11	10 - 11:30 am	Temple College Dual Credit New Student Orientation (or attend August 11)	Temple College Taylor
Tuesday, August 16	1 - 2:30 pm	Temple College Dual Credit New Student Orientation (or attend August 16)	Temple College Taylor
Wednesday, August 17	6:30 AM	Senior Sunrise Breakfast at Taylor High School	THS Baseball Field
Wednesday, August 17	8:30 AM	First Day Classes at Taylor High School!	
Monday, August 22	5:30 - 8 pm	Meet the Ducks	THS Football Stadium
Thursday, August 25	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Junior & Senior Information Night - bring your school laptops / ipads	THS Cafeteria
Thursday, September 1	all day	Underclassman Pictures	
Friday, September 2		Deadline to register for SAT given at THS on Sat. October 1st - Students must register for and pay for this test date at www.collegeboard.org	
Wednesday, September 7	6 - 8 pm	College, Career & Military Fair at Pflugerville High School (provide your own transportation)	Pflugerville High School
Thursday, September 8		Seniors - Apply Texas workshop in English 4 Classes	
Saturday, September 10	8:30 - 12 noon	Central Texas US Service Forum at Cedar Ridge HS for 9th - 12 graders wanting to go into a Service Academy (Naval Academy, West Point, etc.)	Cedar Ridge High School
Tuesday, September 13		Herff Jones Representative to meet with Juniors to talk about class rings	
Tuesday, September 20	12 noon - 1:30 pm	Herff Jones Representative here to take orders for class rings	
September 22	TBA	THS Open House	

STAY CONNECTED



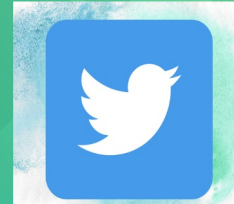
Facebook

@TaylorHSCounselors
@TaylorISD - Official Taylor ISD
@THS Class of 2023 Parents



Instagram

@TaylorHSCounselors



Twitter

@THSCounselor
@taylorducks - Official Taylor ISD
@TEEFoundation - Taylor Education Enrichment Foundation



Download the
Remind App and
Join Taylor High
School

CLASS OF 2023
[@4bb674](#)

CLASS OF 2024
[@k939g8](#)

CLASS OF 2025
[@h38hk3](#)

CLASS OF 2026
[@f78ek3](#)

Our website has a lot of great information: ths.taylorisd.org ...
click on Academics... click on CCMR