



BRAZOSPORT
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

College Information Handbook

2009 - 2010

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go;
I will counsel you with My eye upon you. Psalm 32:8*

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Preparing for College

Freshman Planning Calendar

Fall

- Plan your academic courses with college in mind. Remember that your official transcript will include your grades from 9-12th grades.
- Take the PSAT. It will be given at BCS in October to all 9th-11th grade students.
- Begin your resume. You'll need this information for college applications. It will be easier to keep up with the information as you go, rather than trying to remember later. Start a file now in your computer. List the activities by year and in the following four categories (the same four categories on the college application). See the "Applying to College" section in this handbook for more specifics.
 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Community or Volunteer Service
 - Talents/Awards/Honors
 - Employment/Internships/Summer Activities

Winter

- In December or January you will be given the PSAT test results at BCS. The test results are mailed to BCS, not your home. After you receive the test results, go to www.collegeboard.com, create your User ID and Password and complete the Student Profile if you haven't already. **You must keep this User ID and Password safe and remember it for all of your high school years.** After you have set up your account, go to www.collegeboard.com/quickstart and access the PSAT online Score Report and SAT test prep information. To access QuickStart, you must enter the access code printed on your PSAT Score Report. QuickStart is a free online personalized planning kit for all PSAT test takers. It presents the data in 4 main parts: (1) Online Score Report - an enhanced score report that allows students to review each test question, the student's answer and the correct answer with answer explanations. (2) SAT Study Plan - a customized SAT study plan based on their PSAT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice. (3) College Matches - a starter list of colleges based on the student's state and indicated choice of major. (4) Major & Career Matches - major & career matches that are compatible with the student's general interests & personality type.
- Begin to think about your extra curricular time. You will need a resume filled with activities, volunteer work, jobs, leadership positions, etc. for college. Think about where you can serve. Remember that you will need activities outside of church and school. Public universities want to see what you've done in the community, not only in your church and school. Keep a weekly/hourly record.

Spring

- Think about what classes you want to take next year.
- How are you going to spend your summer? Get a job, volunteer, attend an academic camp or one that fits your interests or possible future career goals.

Summer

- Look for an opportunity to do some job shadowing in the career you are interested in.

Sophomore Planning Calendar

October

- Take the PSAT. It will be given at BCS in October to all 9th-11th grade students.

November

- Update your resume. You'll need this information for college applications. It will be easier to keep up with the information as you go, rather than trying to remember later. Start a file now in your computer. List the activities by year and in the following four categories. See the "Applying to College" section in this handbook for more specifics.
 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Community or Volunteer Service
 - Talents/Awards/Honors
 - Employment/Internships/Summer Activities

January

- In December or January you will be given the PSAT test results at BCS. The test results are mailed to BCS, not your home. After you receive the test results, go to www.collegeboard.com, create your User ID and Password and complete the Student Profile if you haven't already. You must keep this User ID and Password safe and remember it for all of your high school years. After you have set up your account, go to www.collegeboard.com/quickstart and access the PSAT online Score Report and SAT test prep information. To access QuickStart, you must enter the access code printed on your PSAT Score Report. QuickStart is a free online personalized planning kit for all PSAT test takers. It presents the data in 4 main parts: (1) Online Score Report - an enhanced score report that allows students to review each test question, the student's answer and the correct answer with answer explanations. (2) SAT Study Plan - a customized SAT study plan based on their PSAT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice. (3) College Matches - a starter list of colleges based on the student's state and indicated choice of major. (4) Major & Career Matches - major & career matches that are compatible with the student's general interests & personality type.

February

- Start looking at colleges. Check the "Internet Resources" in this handbook for sources to help you find a college. Identify the characteristics of a college that matter to you: size, how far away from home do you want to be, academics, majors offered, etc... College admissions requirements change each year, so look over the admissions requirements each year for changes.
- Plan official college visits. The BCS "College and Career" website lists official college visitation weekends.

March

- Check SAT and ACT Registration Deadlines for the May and June test dates. If you plan to attend a competitive four year university you may want to take the SAT or ACT in May or June of your Sophomore year.

April

- Think about what classes you want to take next year.

June

- How are you going to spend your summer? Get a job, volunteer, attend an academic camp or one that fits your future career goals. In what area is your resume lacking?
- Look for an opportunity to do some job shadowing in the career you are interested in.

Junior Planning Calendar

September

- Plan to take the SAT or ACT this fall. Registration deadline is usually one month prior to the test date so register now. Some colleges require specific SAT/ACT scores for automatic acceptance. If your SAT/ACT score is below your college's requirement, you may want to retake the SAT/ACT. Colleges take the highest composite score from one date. It is to your benefit to take the SAT or ACT in the fall in order to have the opportunity to retake it in the spring, depending upon your score.
- Get serious about your schoolwork if you haven't already.
- Continue looking at colleges. Check the "Internet Resources" in this handbook for sources to help you find a college. Identify the characteristics of a college that matter to you: size, how far away from home do you want to be, academics, majors offered, etc. College admissions requirements change each year, so look over the admissions requirements each year for changes.
- Plan official college visits during your Junior year. Many colleges plan "event" weekends in the fall of your Junior year. Check specific college websites for dates. The BCS "College and Career" website lists official college visitation weekends. Visiting the campus and participating in programs demonstrates an interest and commitment to the university. Add these visits to your resume. There will be a place on the application to put college visits.
- Talk to your parents about any limits – geographic or financial – they may set on where you attend college.
- Talk with your parents about how you will finance your college costs and how much they expect you to pay. Remember: A private school that seems more expensive on paper may actually be more affordable than a public school once you figure in financial aid.
- Students wanting to participate in Division I or II sports should start the NCAA certification process in their Junior year.
- Students interested in the military academies and the ROTC scholarship programs must begin the process in their Junior year.

October

- Take the PSAT. It will be given at BCS in October to all 9th-11th grade students. The Junior year score is used for National Merit Scholarship qualification.
- Have you considered your college major? What are you interested in? When you look at colleges you will want to look at those schools that are strong in your interest areas? Check the "Internet Resources" in this handbook for sources to help you identify a potential major or career interest.

December

- Update your resume. You'll need this information for college applications. It will be easier to keep up with the information as you go, rather than trying to remember later. Start a file now in your computer. List the activities by year and in the following four categories (the same four categories on the college application). See the "Applying to College" section in this handbook for more specifics.
 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Community or Volunteer Service
 - Talents/Awards/Honors
 - Employment/Internships/Summer Activities

January

- In December or January you will be given the PSAT test results at BCS. The test results are mailed to BCS, not your home. After you receive the test results, go to www.collegeboard.com, create your User ID and Password and complete the Student Profile if you haven't already. You must keep this User ID and Password safe and remember it for all of your high school years. After you have set up your account, go to www.collegeboard.com/quickstart and access the PSAT online Score Report and SAT test prep information. To access QuickStart, you must enter the access code printed on your PSAT Score Report. QuickStart is a free online personalized planning kit for all PSAT test takers. It presents the data in 4 main parts: (1) Online Score Report - an enhanced score report that allows students to review each test question, the student's answer and the correct answer with answer explanations. (2) SAT Study Plan - a customized SAT study plan based on their PSAT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice. (3) College Matches - a starter list of colleges based on the student's state and indicated choice of major. (4) Major & Career Matches - major & career matches that are compatible with the student's general interests & personality type.
- If you hope to play a sport and may qualify for an athletic scholarship, contact coaches at colleges you're considering. Read the NCAA information provided in this handbook.

February

- Plan official college visits during spring break. Plan to visit while classes are in session if possible.

March

- Check SAT and ACT Registration Deadlines for the May and June test dates.

April

- Think about what classes you want to take next year.
- Check SAT and ACT Registration Deadlines for the June test date. There are no test dates during July and August.

May

- AP exams are administered this month at BCS if you are taking an AP course.
- If you haven't already decided on a college, plan to visit colleges during the summer. Check the college's websites for tour information.
- How are you going to spend your summer? Get a job, volunteer, attend an academic camp or one that fits your interests or possible future career goals. In what area is your resume lacking?

June

- Do as much work as you can during the summer on selecting a college and determining what will be needed by your college for your application. The fall will be busy with academic courses, finalizing the application and sending it in.

July

- Look for an opportunity to do some job shadowing in the career you are interested in.
- Check SAT and ACT Registration Deadlines for the fall test dates if needed.

Senior Planning Calendar

August

- All Texas public colleges and universities accept the Apply Texas Application at www.applytexas.org. The application is not available online until August 1st. See the “Applying to College” section in this handbook.

September

- Update your resume. You'll need this information for college applications. It will be easier to keep up with the information as you go, rather than trying to remember later. Start a file now in your computer. List the activities by year and in the following four categories (the same four categories on the college application). See the “Applying to College” section in this handbook for more specifics.
 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Community or Volunteer Service
 - Talents/Awards/Honors
 - Employment/Internships/Summer Activities
- Order Graduation announcements and cap and gown from Herff Jones representative. He/she will come to BCS to take orders. You are not required to order announcements from Herff Jones; you are required to order the cap and gown from Herff Jones.
- If necessary, register to retake the SAT or ACT. Some colleges require specific SAT scores for automatic acceptance. If your SAT score is below your college's requirement, you may want to retake the SAT. Colleges take the highest composite score from one date.
- If your colleges require SAT Subject Tests, sign up for those too. When you register for the tests, request that your test results be sent to your colleges.
- Review your final list of colleges.
- Check the application deadline for your particular college. You will find the deadlines posted on the www.applytexas.org website or the college website.
- Request your official high school transcript to be sent in with your application. Fill out a “Transcript Release Form” and turn into the Secondary Office. This form is found on the website and in this handbook. Fill in the college name and the College Admissions Office address on the release form. The school will then mail the transcript directly to the college. Allow one week for the transcript to be printed and mailed. Do NOT request the transcript at the last minute.
- If you have not made any official college visits, do so prior to submitting your application. Visiting the campus and participating in programs offered at the college, demonstrates an interest and commitment to the university. Provide this visit information in your online application in the “shoebox questions” section.
- Begin working on the application essays if required. The essay topic(s) will be listed on the Apply Texas Application at www.applytexas.org. Check your college's requirements for essays.
- Check the Early Application deadlines for your colleges.

October

- Check the Application deadlines for your colleges.
- Finish writing your essays if required. Have them proofread by a parent or teacher.
- If your college requires letters of recommendation, be thinking about whom you want to write one for you. Give that person a request in writing for the letter. In the letter let them know the date you need the letter by and the address to send it to. Give them a self-

addressed stamped envelope addressed to the college. Allow the person at least one week to write the letter. Be considerate of others time, especially if you want them to say something nice about you.

- For schools with rolling admissions, the sooner you send in your application the better.

November

- Submit college applications by the deadline.
- If you applied early, verify that all your application materials have been received.
- Begin working on financial aid. Check with your college for any college specific scholarship application deadlines. Some colleges have online applications with December deadlines. Your college choice may accept the scholarship application that is available on www.applytexas.org. If so, continue filling out the information required at the end of your college application on www.applytexas.org. If your college does not accept the www.applytexas.org scholarship application, find out what is required from the college website.

January

- Get an electronic PIN in January of your Senior year. To sign your FAFSA electronically, both the parent and student need U.S. Department of Education PIN numbers. Apply at www.pin.ed.gov. See “Steps for Completing the FAFSA” in this handbook.
- Begin working with your parents on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Apply at www.fafsa.com after January 1st. See “Steps for Completing the FAFSA” in this handbook.
- Check into all local scholarships that you are eligible for. Deadlines for local scholarships are in March and April. The BCS College Counselor will have information on these local scholarships in January to distribute to Seniors. The Scholarship Handbook is updated annually. The Local Scholarship Handbook is located on the BCS website under “College and Career”. The Scholarship Application is also located on the BCS website.
- Verify that all your application materials have been received.
- Request your official transcript with your final first semester grades, if needed, to send off to your colleges. Fill out a “Transcript Release Form” and turn into the Secondary Office. This form is found on the website.

February

- Continue to look for sources of financial aid. Check the “Internet Resources” in this handbook for additional sources.

April

- By now you should have most of your decision letters. The national confirmation date is May 1, which is the time colleges will expect you to notify them of your intent to enroll or not. Note all reply deadlines. Decline offers of admission from remaining colleges. If you’ve been wait-listed, contact the admissions office to show interest.
- Study financial aid offers; you need to decide by May 1.

May

- Check the dates for summer orientation. Make plans to attend the earliest one possible if class registration is involved.
- AP exams are administered this month at BCS if you are taking an AP course.
- Take a stamped addressed envelope to the Secondary Office before graduation so that your final transcript can be sent out after graduation to the college you are attending.

June

- Check due dates for tuition and housing.
- After class registration, request the list of required textbooks from the professors. Check out Internet sites to see if you can purchase the textbooks used, online and at less cost.

College Admission Tests

SAT

Check the College Board website at www.collegeboard.com for information on SAT test dates, test sites and registration information. *Brazosport Christian School's Code is 443968.* Not all test dates are offered at all test centers. Check the website for specific dates the test is offered at the local testing centers.

Local SAT Testing Centers are

- Brazosport High School in Freeport, center code 44420
- Angleton High School, center code 44133.

SAT Subject Tests

SAT Subject Test Dates can be found at www.collegeboard.com

ACT

Check the ACT website at www.actstudent.org for information on ACT test dates, test sites and registration information. Take the writing section even if it is optional. *Brazosport Christian School's Code is 443968.* Local ACT Test Center is Brazosport College, Center Code 040670.

Should I take the SAT or ACT?

All colleges, public and private, in state and out of state, accept either the SAT or ACT. Go to the BCS "College and Career" website for comparison information on the SAT vs the ACT.

Test Preparation

Following are some of the companies that offer SAT and/or ACT test preparation:

PSAT Quickstart	www.collegeboard.com/quickstart
SAT (free & for purchase)	www.collegeboard.com
ACT	www.actstudent.org
TOPCAT (free)	www.collegefortexans.com
Princeton Review	www.princetonreview.com
Kaplan	www.kaptest.com
Test Masters	www.testmasters.com
Sylvan	www.educate.com

Standardized Testing Definitions

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)

This preliminary SAT is administered every October to 9th-11th graders at BCS. Results are useful in forecasting the student's future scores. The Junior year score is used for National Merit Scholarship qualification.

SAT

This test is similar to the PSAT in format and is designed to measure verbal, writing, and mathematical reasoning ability. Many colleges require the SAT for admission. We highly recommend students take it at least twice, in the spring of the junior year and early fall of the senior year. Sophomores may take it in the spring of that year.

ACT (American College Testing Program)

Many colleges require the ACT for admission. The ACT is composed of four 35-question sections in the areas of English, math, reading, and science reasoning. The test is curriculum based, so ACT recommends students take it in June of their Junior year or in the early fall of their Senior year.

SAT Subject Tests

Some highly competitive colleges require up to three subject tests. These are offered on several dates; be sure to check the subject availability on each testing date in order to complete all tests required by the college. Not all subject tests are offered in the same sitting. Most colleges do not require these tests for admission, although many schools use these for placement.

AP (Advanced Placement) Tests

In May of each year, these examinations are given to students who have completed an AP course. Often when a student scores at a certain competency level, the college will grant credit or advanced placement for that college course. Check college websites for specific information.

CLEP (College Level Examination Program)

The student may elect to take these subject matter tests where he will be enrolled. This is an exam offered in various subjects. If the student can demonstrate proficiency in the subject, he can receive college credit or advanced placement. Most students take CLEP exams at college orientation programs after high school graduation. The tests are completely computerized. Each college determines if, and how much, credit will be awarded by a CLEP exam. There are CLEP Prep books available for purchase. Check the website of the college you plan to attend for their requirements.

Choosing a College

College Comparison Worksheet

College or University	Middle 50% of 1 st Yr Students SAT scores	Middle 50% of 1 st Yr Students ACT Composite	Number of Undergrads enrolled	Visitation Day
TEXAS PUBLIC COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES				
Sam Houston State Huntsville www.shsu.edu 936-294-1828	Reading:420-530; Math:430-540	17-22	14,149	Saturdays @ Sam
Stephen F Austin Univ Nacogdoches www.sfasu.edu 936-468-2504	Reading:430-540; Math:450-550	18-23	10,106	Showcase Saturday
Texas A&M College Station www.tamu.edu 979-458-1808	Reading:520-630; Math:560-670	23-28	36,580	Aggieland Sat, SEAL, SLOT, Whoopin Weekend
Texas A&M Galveston www.tamug.edu 409-740-4414	Reading:460-590 Math:490-600	20-25	1,565	Sea Aggie Preview
Texas A&M Corpus Christi www.tamucc.edu 800-482-6822	Reading:420-520; Math:400-520	19-23	6,889	Island Day
Texas State University San Marcos www.txstate.edu 512-245-2364	Reading:480-580; Math:500-590	21-25	24,038	Bobcat Days
Texas Tech Lubbock www.ttu.edu 806-742-1480	Reading:480-580; Math:500-610	21-26	23,021	University Day
University of Houston Main Campus www.uh.edu 713-743-1010	Reading:460-570; Math:490-600	19-24	27,572	Cougar Fridays, Cougar Preview
University of North Texas Denton www.unt.edu 800-868-8211	Reading:490-600; Math:500-600	20-25	27,242	North Texas Preview
University of Texas Austin www.utexas.edu 512-475-7399	Reading:540-670; Math:570-700	23-29	37,037	Longhorn Saturday
University of Texas Dallas www.utdallas.edu 800-889-2443	Reading:540-670 Math:580-690	24-29	9,266	Scholars' Day

College or University	Middle 50% of 1 st Yr Students SAT scores	Middle 50% of 1 st Yr Students ACT scores	Number of Undergrads enrolled	Visitation Day
University of Texas San Antonio www.utsa.edu 800-669-0919	Reading:440-550; Math:460-570	18-23	24,705	Discover UTSA, UTSA Day
University of Texas Tyler www.uttyler.edu 800-888-9537	Reading:460-580; Math:490-590	20-25	4,958	Patriot Preview Day
TEXAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES				
Abilene Christian Univ Abilene www.acu.edu 800-460-6228	Reading:480-610; Math:490-620	20-26	3,996	Preview Weekend or Showcase
Baylor Waco www.baylor.edu 800-229-5678	Reading:550-650 Math:560-660	23-28	11,902	Sic 'em Day Premiere Day
East Texas Baptist Univ Marshall www.etbu.edu 800-804-3828	Reading:430-540; Math:440-560	18-23	1,308	Tiger Day or Shadow Day
Hardin Simmons University Abilene www.hsutx.edu 877-464-7889	Reading:460-570 Math:470-580	19-25	2,030	Preview Days
Houston Baptist Univ www.hbu.edu 800-969-3210	Reading:470-590; Math:480-590	19-24	1,992	Husky Highlight, Preview Saturday
Howard Payne University Brownwood www.hputx.edu 800-880-4478	Reading:440-540 Math:440-550	18-23	1,370	Preview Days
LeTourneau University Longview www.letu.edu 800-759-8811	Reading:510-640 Math:520-650	22-28	3,597	Preview Days
Lubbock Christian Univ www.lcu.edu 800-933-7601	Reading:440-550 Math:450-530	17-24	1,718	Experience LCU
Schreiner University Kerrville www.schreiner.edu 830-896-5411	Reading:430-540 Math:450-560	18-23	942	Experience Schreiner
Southwestern Assemblies of God University Waxahachie www.sagu.edu 888-937-7248	Reading:420-520 Math:410-510	16-23	1,543	Campus Days

College or University	Middle 50% of 1 st Yr Students SAT scores	Middle 50% of 1 st Yr Students ACT scores	Number of Undergrads enrolled	Visitation Day
Texas Christian University Fort Worth www.tcu.edu 800-828-3764	Reading:530-620 Math:530-640	23-28	7,382	Monday at TCU
Texas Lutheran University Seguin www.tlu.edu 830-372-8000	Reading:450-550 Math:460-580	19-24	1,375	Visit Days
U of Mary Hardin-Baylor Belton www.umhb.edu 800-727-8642	Reading:450-560 Math:460-570	20-24	2,494	Fall or Spring Preview
JUNIOR COLLEGES				
Alvin Community Alvin www.alvincollege.edu 281-756-3500				
Blinn College Bryan www.blinn.edu 979-830-4000				
Brazosport College Lake Jackson www.brazosport.cc.tx.us 979-230-3000				
Wharton County Jr College Wharton www.wcjc.edu 800-561-9252				

Resource: www.collegeboard.com Find a College>College Search>Quick Finder. Revised 5/29/2008

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

Many college sports are regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization that has established rules on eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid. If students are applying to college and plan to participate in Division I or Division II sports, they must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse analyzes academic information and determine if students meet the NCAA's initial-eligibility requirements.

Specific academic and college entrance exam requirements for Division I and Division II sports can be found on the NCAA website at www.ncaa.org. When taking SAT/ACT, students should list the NCAA Clearinghouse site (9999) on the score reporting section of the registration form in order for their test scores to be sent to NCAA. Fee waivers are available.

Students wanting to participate in Division I or Division II sports should start the certification process in the junior year. A free copy of "The Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete" is available by calling 800-638-3731 or by visiting the website at www.ncaa.org for more information.

Criteria for Narrowing the Choices

- Majors offered
- Extracurricular Interests
- Reputation and Quality
- Distance from Home
- Size of School
- Cost
- Support System for Spiritual Walk
- Community Service Opportunities
- Campus Ministry Organizations
- Visit Local Churches
- Faculty to Student Ratio
- Personal Attention
- Career Development Services
- Personal Preferences

College Visitation Days

The most current attendance policy for college visitation days can be found in the Student Handbook.

- Many schools have special weekend events and tours. Check the college's website for information.
- Allow sufficient time for a college visit, preferably a full day.
- Take a guided campus tour.
- Tour on a weekday when classes are going on. Visit classes and talk with students.
- Tour the housing facilities.
- Eat in the student's dining hall.
- Pick up a copy of the college newspaper.

College Day Absence Request Form

Student's Name: _____

Date of Request: _____ Grade: _____

List ALL Teachers: _____

Date & Days of Planned Absence: _____

Name of College/University: _____

Name of College Event: _____

Note to Parents: If practical, the teacher will give you assignments prior to this requested absence. **This is at teacher discretion.** It is expected that the completed work will be turned in on the first day the student is back in school. Failure to do so may result in penalties being assessed for late assignments.

If the teacher is unable to give assignments to be completed during the requested absence, the student will be responsible for contacting appropriate teachers upon return to school and completing the assignments under normal excused absence procedure.

Tests, if they were announced prior to the dates of the above absence, will not be rescheduled for a later date due to this absence. If the student returns to school on the day of the test, he/she will be expected to take the test with the rest of the class. If the test is given during the student's requested absence, the make-up will need to be on the first day the student returns.

Parent's Acknowledgment

I understand the conditions under which this absence request is to be granted, and will insure that my child completes appropriate assignments and/or prepares for tests to be taken immediately upon return to school

Parent

Principal

Military Academies and ROTC Programs

Students interested in the military academies and the ROTC scholarship programs **MUST** begin the process in their Junior year to insure they receive the fullest consideration.

Write the specific academy to request a Precandidate Questionnaire:

Admissions Office
U.S. Military Academy
West Point, N.Y. 10996

Admissions Office
U.S. Air Force Academy
U.S.A.F. Academy, CO 80840

Admissions Office
U.S. Naval Academy
Annapolis, MD 21402

Admissions Office
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Kings Point, NY 10024

Write to each of your senators and your congressman asking for an application for a nomination. Indicate your first, second, third, and fourth choices for academies (e.g., Air Force Academy #1, Naval Academy #2 etc.) as well as providing the following:

Name, address, and telephone number
Date of birth
Social security number
High school name and year of graduation
Names of your parents

The Coast Guard Academy has a different admissions policy than the other academies but similar to other highly competitive colleges. There is no nomination process required. Write directly to the academy for an application:

Admissions Office
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
New London, CT 06320

ROTC scholarship programs involve a competitive application process as well. In addition to the written application, candidates must undergo a physical examination, formal interview, and a physical abilities test. The first step in the process is to write for an application:

Air Force ROTC/RRUF
Maxwell Air Force Base
Alabama 36112-6663

Army ROTC
Box 9000
Clifton, NJ 07015

Navy ROTC
Box 3060
Hyattsville, MD 20784

College Admission Vocabulary

Admissions

Early Admission accepts students for college study before they receive their high school diploma. **Do not confuse this with *Early Decision* or *Early Action*.**

Early Decision allows students to apply in the fall of their Senior year, usually in November, to their FIRST CHOICE SCHOOL and to receive an answer by early winter. Early decisions are binding; students must contract to attend if admitted. Students can only apply to one college for early decision.

Early Action also allows students to apply in the early fall; however, if admitted, students are not obligated to attend.

Regular Admission involves the usual application schedule for applying to schools in the late fall or winter and receiving an answer in the spring.

Rolling Admission reviews applications as they are received and notifies students within a few weeks.

Deferred decision postpones the decision on admission to be reviewed again at a later date.

Denial is the admission committee's decision to deny admission to that particular school. This decision may be appealed and overturned in some cases.

Wait Listing places students who were not accepted initially on a list for possible acceptance later.

Common Reply Date occurs May 1, the date by which candidates under regular decision must inform colleges of their intention to enroll. A deposit typically must be sent.

Double Deposit occurs when a student sends enrollment deposits to more than one college. This is **unethical** and damages the student and high school's relationships with the institution. **Do not do this.**

Open Admission is the policy whereby the school will accept anyone who meets the basic requirements.

Matriculation is the student's enrollment at a particular institution.

Transcript is the official record of a student's academic achievement. The final transcript after graduation records a student's completed courses, grades earned, GPA, cumulative numeric average, and credits earned. Only unofficial transcripts are available to students; official transcripts are forwarded to the college in a sealed, stamped envelope prepared by the BCS Secondary Office.

College Types

College is an institution that offers educational instruction beyond the high school level in a two-year or four-year program.

University is an academic institution which grants undergraduate and graduate degrees in a variety of fields and which supports at least two degree-granting professional schools that are not exclusively technological. It is composed of a number of “colleges,” each of which includes a general field of study such as College of Engineering.

Liberal Arts College is the four-year institution, which emphasizes a program of broad undergraduate education. Their curriculum is heavy in subjects that expose students to a broad spectrum of fields of knowledge in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and religion.

Christian Colleges are often split into two categories, Christian liberal arts colleges and Bible colleges.

Christian Liberal Arts Colleges offer a liberal arts curriculum that includes an integration of the Christian worldview into classes, as well as Bible courses. These colleges are typically members of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) www.cccu.org.

Bible Colleges serve as educational centers to help students become biblically literate, able to discern the truth, as well as capable servants in ministry. Most graduates enter ministry-related careers in churches, missions, and in a multitude of Christian parachurch organizations. These colleges are usually members of the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) www.abhe.org.

Community College is the two-year institution of higher education, which provides academic, career, and vocational curricula via a *terminal* and/or *transfer* program.

Terminal Program is complete in itself. A student who completes it may not be admitted to a four-year college without completing additional requirements.

Transfer Program is designed to lead into a four-year program at another college or university. The two-year graduate transfers as a junior to the four-year institution.

Military Academy prepares officers for the Air Force, Army, Navy, Merchant Marines, or Coast Guard. All but the Coast Guard Academy require recommendations and a nomination from a U.S. Senator or U.S. Representative. Upon completion of each academy’s four-year program, a student earns a college degree.

Applying to College

Application

- All Texas public colleges and universities accept the Apply Texas Application at www.applytexas.org. Institutions prefer that you apply online. The Application is not available online until August 1st.
- Go to the Apply Texas Application website at www.applytexas.org and click on “Create Your Account Now”. You can create your profile prior to August 1st. **REMEMBER YOUR APPLICATION ID NUMBER AND PASSWORD.** When you submit a completed application or save a partial application it will be assigned a unique ID number; you also will be asked to provide a password of your choice to protect online access to your application information. Both the application ID number and your password are required to retrieve an unfinished application, resubmit your application to another university and submit essays. **DO NOT LOSE** your user name and password or you won’t be able to access your application.
- In order to view the application in advance and be able to print it out, go to www.applytexas.org. Under “Apply Online” at the top, click on “Preview the 2010-11 applications” and click on “U.S. Freshman Application Plus Freshman Scholarships”.
- Check the application deadline for your particular college. You will find that on the www.applytexas.org website or the college website.
- After August 1st, go to www.applytexas.org and fill out the application. Fill out as much information as you can on each page. Save the page. Continue to the next page and complete as much information as you can. Save that page, etc... You can go back to a saved page and add more information later. You will need information from your parents for some of the application.
- You will be asked to fill out the college you are applying to. You can choose multiple colleges for the application to be sent to.
- You will be asked to choose a first and second choice of a major. Make this decision very carefully. Some majors or “schools” fill up early (example: School of Business, School of Engineering) so if you change your mind or apply late, you may not get the major of your choice. Check out the degree plans for each major on the college’s website to see if that major is a good match for you. If you are a poor Math student and the major you choose requires a lot of math, you may want to rethink your decision.
- You will be asked for your High School Code. It is 443968.
- You will be asked “To determine TEXAS Grant eligibility, will you graduate from a Texas public high school with the Recommended or Advanced High School Program? The answer is “yes” if you are graduating with more than the minimum requirements.
- You will be asked for the exact titles and credit values of high school courses you are taking during your senior year. If you don’t have this information, you will have to request an unofficial transcript from the secondary office. The transcript will list this information.
- Part II. Activities – is a very important part of the application. This is the “Resume” that I refer to in this handbook. It will take quite a bit of time to put this information together. Provide information in all of the four categories listed. Please list, in priority order, the organizations, activities, jobs, and internships that indicate your special contributions, talents, honors and abilities in the areas of extracurricular activities, service and work. Include service and work done in the summer. Please spell out the names and describe the organizations in which you have participated.

- Extracurricular Activities – sports played including positions held (captain), offices held in clubs, whether elected or appointed, year served (9th - 12th), description of activities, hours spent per week and per year (Example: 3/32 = 3 hours per week for 32 weeks of the year). Examples: basketball team, cheerleader, Student Council, Class Officer, NHS, etc...
- Community or Volunteer Service – name of organization, dates served (Example: 5/05 – 6/06), total hours served. Examples: Pregnancy Help Center, Habitat for Humanity, mission trips, etc...
- Talents/Awards/Honors – sports awards, cheerleading awards, musical ability, academic honors including TAPPS, or any type of awards or certificates received. Include description of honor received, year received (9th - 12th), include Region if applicable (Area, Regional, State, etc.) Examples: TAPPS State Competition, 2nd place in Advanced Math; Who's Who Among American High School Students, National Merit Scholar, sports awards (if you made the Area, Regional, or State team), if your cheerleading squad won Nationals, etc...
- Employment/Internships/Summer Activities – jobs, camps or internships that indicate special interests, abilities, challenges, or achievements. Indicate the name of the employer or sponsor, your specific role or job title, dates (Example: 5/05 – 6/06), and hours per week. Examples: foreign exchange program, any employment, National Youth Leadership Program, International Leadership Institute, leadership camps or programs, etc...
- You may submit a résumé in addition to this list if there isn't a place on the application for additional information. Attach it to your application and make a note that you have done so. Spell out names of organizations, clubs, honors, awards, etc.; do not use acronyms.
- **STUDENTS, DO NOT SUBMIT THE APPLICATION UNTIL YOUR PARENT has had a chance to review the application and make sure it is complete. DO NOT SUBMIT AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION.**

Essays

- Look at the essay topics at www.applytexas.org and begin to think about what you are going to write about. The questions typically aren't all that hard to answer. The process is just time-consuming. Start several weeks in advance and allow the essay to develop over time. Start on your first draft of the essay. Essays should be a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 500 words. It should not be over 2 pages. Check on the specific requirements for essays of the college you are applying to. Check on the college's website under "Admission Requirements". Check the web site at www.applytexas.org to see if your college or university requires an essay as part of the application.

College Admission Test Scores

- If you took the SAT, go to www.collegeboard.com and make sure you had your SAT scores sent to the college you are applying to. If you took the ACT, go to www.actstudent.org and make sure you had your ACT scores sent to the college you are applying to. If you have not already taken the SAT or ACT, REGISTER NOW.

Letters of Recommendation

- If Letters of Recommendation are not required, do NOT send them unless the letters describe something NOT already in the application. If Letters of Recommendation are required, be thinking about who you want to write one for you. Give that person a request in writing for the letter. In the letter let them know the date you need the letter by and the address to send it to. Give them a self addressed stamped envelope to the college so they can mail it in. Allow the person at least one week to write the letter. Be considerate of others time, especially if you want them to say something nice about you.

High School Transcript

- Request your official high school transcript to be sent to the colleges you are applying to. Transcripts should be mailed AFTER the online application has been sent. Fill out a “Transcript Release Form” and turn into the Secondary Office. This form is found on the website. Fill in the college name and the College Admissions Office address on the request form. If you use applytexas.org to apply, print out the “Document ID sheet” and submit it with your “Transcript Release Form”. The Document ID sheet is not mandatory but helps your application to be processed faster. The school will then mail the transcript directly to the college. Allow one week for the transcript to be printed and mailed. Do NOT request the transcript at the last minute.

BCS Transcript Release Form

I give permission to Brazosport Christian School to release my official transcript to the college/university listed below.

Student's Printed Name

Student's Signature

Graduation Year

Date of Request

College/University & Mailing Address

Deadline to be received at College/University (if applicable)

College/University & Mailing Address

Deadline to be received at College/University (if applicable)
(Deliver this form to the Secondary Office or email to jtravis@1bcs.org)

Financial Aid

Financial aid comes in several types: grants and scholarships, work-study, and loans.

Applying for Financial Aid

- Your college choices may accept the scholarship application that is available on www.applytexas.org. You must have filled out your college application on www.applytexas.org. If so, continue filling out the information required at the end of your college application on www.applytexas.org. Filling out the application portion does NOT mean the scholarship portion is automatically filled out and submitted.
- If your college does not accept the www.applytexas.org scholarship application, find out what is required from the college website.

Grants

The federal and state government offer several grants based on financial need. Grants do not have to be repaid. The FAFSA must be filed for all grant applications.

Scholarships

Colleges, corporations, and philanthropic organizations provide free money to students based on specific criteria. Scholarships do not have to be repaid.

University Scholarships – awards based on academic merit (outstanding SAT/ACT test scores, high GPA, athletic ability, etc.) in the majority of cases. Some require the applicant to show a calculated financial need. Ask about scholarships in the college financial aid office.

Work-Study

Work-study: The student's school arranges part-time work that helps to pay for college expenses. A student usually receives a bi-weekly paycheck from the school to use toward various expenses. In most cases, this money does not need to be repaid.

Federal Work-Study / State Work-Study – limited funds awarded to undergraduate students who show a calculated financial need and who request employment awards on the FAFSA. The funds are earned through on-campus employment. The FAFSA must be filed first to consider this option.

Loans

The bulk of financial aid falls in this category. This is money that makes up the difference between the cost of the education and any other financial aid (grants, scholarships, work-study) that the student receives. In order to qualify for any student loan, a student must complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The processing time of the FAFSA is a few weeks (quicker if you apply online). The result is a Student Aid Report (SAR). This sheet summarizes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Some schools also require that students complete the CSS at www.collegeboard.com.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and CSS Profile

The *FAFSA* and *CSS Profile* are two different instruments used by colleges and universities to help them determine financial aid. All schools require completion of the *FAFSA* in order for the student to be considered for financial aid; some schools require the completion of the *CSS* in addition to the completion of the *FAFSA* for the student to be considered for financial aid.

The *FAFSA* is used in determining distribution of federal loans, grants, and work-study programs. Although both you and the student may apply for your PIN numbers now, **do not complete the form before January 1st**; in fact, it is best to complete it simultaneously with your income tax forms because the information on the *FAFSA* is based on the previous fiscal year. Once you complete the form, send it in the preprinted envelope to the clearinghouse in Illinois. After receiving the form, the clearinghouse returns to you a summary, which you edit for accuracy. If you have specific questions about completing it, or if you prefer to apply online, there are both a Web site at www.fafsa.ed.gov and a phone number, 1-800-4FED-AID for you to use. One final hint: Make copies of the form and all income tax statements and keep them for subsequent years. Also note: Often the school will ask for the income tax form for verification.

The *CSS/Financial Aid Profile*, under the auspices of the College Scholarship Service committee of The College Board, is an instrument utilized by many private schools in their determination of financial aid. You will find a listing of these schools in the registration pamphlet. Once you register, *CSS* sends to you the actual form, which cannot be completed until you have gathered all your tax information. You may complete the hard copy, or you may complete it online at www.collegeboard.com. There are phone numbers on the front of the form if you have questions.

FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) (800) 433-3243 www.fafsa.ed.gov

CSS Profile (800) 778-6888 www.collegeboard.com

What You Need to Complete Your FAFSA

- Student's Social Security number
- Student's driver's license number
- Parents' Social Security number(s)
- Parents' W-2 forms
- Parents' federal income tax return
- Parents' current bank statements and records of stocks, bonds, and other investments
- Parents' records of other untaxed income received, such as Social Security or veteran's benefits
- Parents' business or farm records, if applicable
- Alien registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen

Use income records for the calendar year prior to the academic year for which you are applying for financial aid. For example: use your 2007 income information to complete the 2008-2009 FAFSA.

Steps for Completing the FAFSA

- Get a PIN in January of your Senior year. To sign your FAFSA electronically, both the parent and student need U.S. Department of Education PIN numbers. Apply at www.pin.ed.gov. At the PIN site, the PIN applicant (the student or parent) provides their name, date of birth and Social Security number. The site gives the applicant the choice of creating his or her own PIN or having the site generate one. If the applicant chooses to have the site generate the PIN, he or she is then given the option of viewing the PIN immediately on the screen, having it immediately emailed, or having it sent through the postal system. The PIN email contains a link to a web page that displays the PIN. The email link will be active for only 14 days. Check your Junk or Spam mailbox during this time for the PIN email. The applicant can link to this page only one time and therefore should make a note of the PIN for future reference. If no email address is provided, or if the link to the online PIN is not accessed within 14 days, a paper PIN mailer will be sent to the student and/or parent; the mailer should arrive within seven to 10 days. Your FAFSA will be processed faster if you sign using your PIN. You can use your PIN again next year. Your PIN (and your parent's PIN) will not expire at the end of the school year, and you can continue to use it in the future to renew your FAFSA while in college, sign loan contracts, etc. If your parent has more than one child in college, that parent can use the same PIN to sign FAFSAs for every child.
- Gather all the above financial information.
- Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov after January 1st of your Senior year. Print the pre-application worksheet to view what is in the online application.
- Enter the requested information online. Save your FAFSA as you work on it. Students do not have to complete the FAFSA in one sitting. At the beginning of the process, the student is asked to supply a password. If the student is interrupted or needs to leave the application before completing it, or if the site automatically logs the student off due to 30 minutes of inactivity, the information will be saved and will remain available via the password for 45 days. The student MUST REMEMBER THE PASSWORD. If the student forgets the password, they may call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 800-433-3243 to get a new password.
- Sign your application. If you have a PIN, you may sign it electronically.
- Submit the application electronically.
- Approximately two weeks after you submit your form, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) Information Acknowledgment in the mail.
- Review all of your answers on your SAR, make any corrections, and submit corrected form.
- Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov after submitting your FAFSA to check on the status of your application.

Printed Resources

College Bound: What Christian Parents Need to Know About Helping Their Kids Choose a College

By: Thomas A. Shaw

Publisher: Moody Publishers

How to Stay Christian in College

By: J. Budziszewski

Publisher: NavPress

Internet Resources

General info and Testing

www.collegeboard.com

www.actstudent.org

www.wiredscholar.com

www.collegeview.com

www.gocollege.com

www.kaptest.com

www.xap.com

Test Preparation

www.collegeboard.com

www.actstudent.org

www.princetonreview.com

www.kaptest.com

www.testmasters.com

www.educate.com

www.ets.org/

SAT

ACT

Princeton Review

Kaplan

Test Masters

Sylvan

ETS

Pre-College Planning

www.allaboutcollege.com/

www.college411.org/

Find a College

www.naccap.org

www.findachristiancollege.com

www.collegeboard.com/csearch (see College Quickfinder and College Matchmaker)

www.collegefortexans.com

www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/choosing

www.YesLetter.com

www.destination-u.com

www.newsweek.com play the college match game

www.campustours.com

www.collegeispossible.org

www.christiancollegementor.org
www.xap.com
www.princetonreview.com
www.petersons.com
www.collegenet.com
www.collegeview.com
www.schoolsintheusa.com
www.campuslifecollegeguide.com/
www.clas.ufl.edu/au/ American Universities by Alphabet
www.globalcomputing.com/university.htm American Universities map
www.collegiate.net/

Institution Types

www.aascu.org	State Universities
www.aacc.nche.edu	Community Colleges
www.aihec.org	Tribal Colleges
www.cga.org	Coast Guard Academy
www.nadn.navy.mil	Naval Academy
www.usmma.edu	Merchant Marine Academy
www.usma.edu	West Point
www.usafa.af.mil	Air Force Academy
www.naicu.edu	Nat. Assoc. of Independent Colleges and Universities
www.cccu.org	Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
www.abhe.org	Association for Biblical Higher Education (Bible colleges)

Find a college offering your desired major

www.christiancollegementor.org
www.collegenet.com
www.petersons.com
www.collegeview.com
www.princetonreview.com
www.schoolsintheusa.com

Study Abroad

www.studyabroad.com/

Apply Online

www.applytexas.org
www.commonapp.org

Financial aid

www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.pin.ed.gov (Apply for electronic PIN which is needed to sign FAFSA)
www.nasfaa.org
www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov
www.finaid.org
www.fastweb.com
www.parentanswerservice.com/newsweek
www.loantolearn.com

www.collegeboard.com use free Scholarship Search tool under “For Students” heading
www.princetonreview.com/college/finance/efc/
www.collegelink.com/

Financial aid estimators

www.finaid.org
www.princetonreview.com/college/finance/efc

Scholarships

www.nationalmerit.org
www.fastweb.com
www.findtuition.com
www.scholarshipexperts.com
www.scholarships.com
www.princetonreview.com/college/finance/

Campus ministry organizations

www.campuscrusadeforchrist.com/locator/

Jobs and Internships

www.internships.com
www.internweb.com
www.globalexperiences.com

Career Guidance: Free for BCS Students

<http://www.careerdirectonline.org/login/> Career Direct Guidance System is the assessment currently being used at BCS. For non-BCS students the cost is \$80.00

Career Guidance: For a fee

www.humanesources.com/ Human eSources' Do What You Are[®] program is a unique and powerful web-based career development and advising solution based on the proven science of Personality Type. This program provides staff and students with critical information needed in the student's decision-making and counseling process. \$12.95 online purchase
www.thecallonline.com/ “The Call”, Focus on the Family’s online career assessment for \$80.00
<http://about-u.com/discoveringmypurpose.php> Online Assessment for \$299.00.
www.jocrf.org Johnson O'Connor Research Foundation Inc. in Houston, TX provides aptitude testing of natural abilities to find out strengths and give information in different fields. The fee is \$600.00. 713-462-5562. 14 years is minimum age to test.

College Rankings

www.usnews.com/usnews/home.htm U.S. News & World Report, America’s Best Colleges and America’s Best Graduate Schools, online edition

Leaving For College

College Take List

Electronics & Accessories

- Computer & mouse
- Printer
- Paper for printer
- Cell phone & wall charger
- Ethernet cable
- Flash Drive
- TV
- DVD player
- iPod & charger
- Stereo or CD player
- Computer speakers (if using computer as stereo)
- Blank CDs (if your computer has a CD burner)
- Refrigerator
- Microwave
- Camera & charger
- Alarm clock
- Lamp
- Outlet strips, Extension cords, Surge protector
- Fan

Linens/Bedding

- 2 sets of sheets twin XL
- pillow cases
- blanket
- throw blanket
- pillows
- mattress pads

Storage

- storage crates-under bed-bathroom
- bathroom caddy
- hangers
- small containers for drawers

Decorations

- wall decorations
- framed photos
- bulletin board
- dry erase board

Laundry

- measuring cups
- laundry hamper
- laundry soap
- roll of quarters
- garbage can

Cleaning Supplies

- Clorox cleaning wipes

Kitchen Items

- can opener
- coffee mug
- leftover containers
- Ziplocs

Clothing

- Undergarments
- Jeans
- T-shirts
- Sweatshirts
- bathing suit
- Church clothes
- Jacket
- Nice & casual shoes

Medicine Cabinet Items

- Cold/cough medicine
- Pepto Bismol, Roloids, Immodium
- Tylenol, Advil
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Band-aids
- Paper/plastic products: spoons, forks, plates, bowls, cups

Entertainment

- DVDs, CDs
- Books
- Bible & devotional books

Important Papers

- Social Security Card
- Copy of birth certificate
- Insurance card
- List of allergies

Toiletries

- Soap
- Razor
- Shaving cream
- Deodorant
- Kleenex
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Comb, brush, hairdryer
- Q-tips
- Swim ear
- Dental floss
- Nail clippers
- Contacts, solution, case, glasses
- First aid kit
- Cotton balls

School supplies

- Calendar
- Message board
- Post-it-notes
- 3-ring binders (one for each class)
- spiral notebooks (one for each class)
- pens, pencils, stapler, pencil sharpener, highlighters, scissors
- calculator
- hole punch
- caddy for desk
- iron & ironing board
- coffeemaker & coffee

Miscellaneous

- Backpack
- Tools
- Poster tape/ticky tac
- Duct tape
- Earplugs
- Bike & Bike Lock
- Flashlight
- Sewing Kit
- Stamps
- Umbrella