

CHS Counselors

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Financial Aid Night – primarily seniors

- Mark your calendar for our Financial Aid Night set for November 9th at 6:30 at Wakeland HS.
- Parents and Students

Comparing College Characteristics

- Highly Selective Colleges
 - Students must be ranked in top of class
 - SAT 1300+ (Critical reading and math combined)
 - ACT 30+
 - May need SAT II's (a.k.a. Subject Tests)
 - Interview
 - Recommendations
 - Essays
 - Acceptance rates often under 10%
- Examples: Harvard University, Rice University, Princeton University, and Duke University

Comparing College Characteristics

- Selective Colleges

- Top 10-25% of your class
- SAT 1100+ (critical reading and math combined)
- ACT 24+
- THEA (Texas public colleges)
- Essays

Examples: University of Texas Austin*, Texas A & M, Southern Methodist University, Austin College, University of Texas Dallas, University of Oklahoma

*Top 9% rule for class of 2012

Comparing College Characteristics

- Less Competitive Colleges
 - Top 10-50% of your class
 - SAT 1000+
 - ACT 21+
 - THEA (Texas public colleges)

Examples: Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston University, Midwestern, Tarleton, and Texas State University

Comparing College Characteristics

- Open Admission Colleges
 - Require a high school diploma or GED
 - No SAT or ACT needed
 - THEA (Texas public schools)
 - Examples: Collin County Community College, Tyler Junior College, Navarro College, and Texas State Technical College

Graduation Plans

- You must be on the Recommended or Distinguished Achievement Plan in order to gain admission to most Texas Public Universities as a freshman.
- Students on Minimum Plan will need to start college at the community college level and transfer later to the university level.

What Counts in Admissions? (factors students can control)

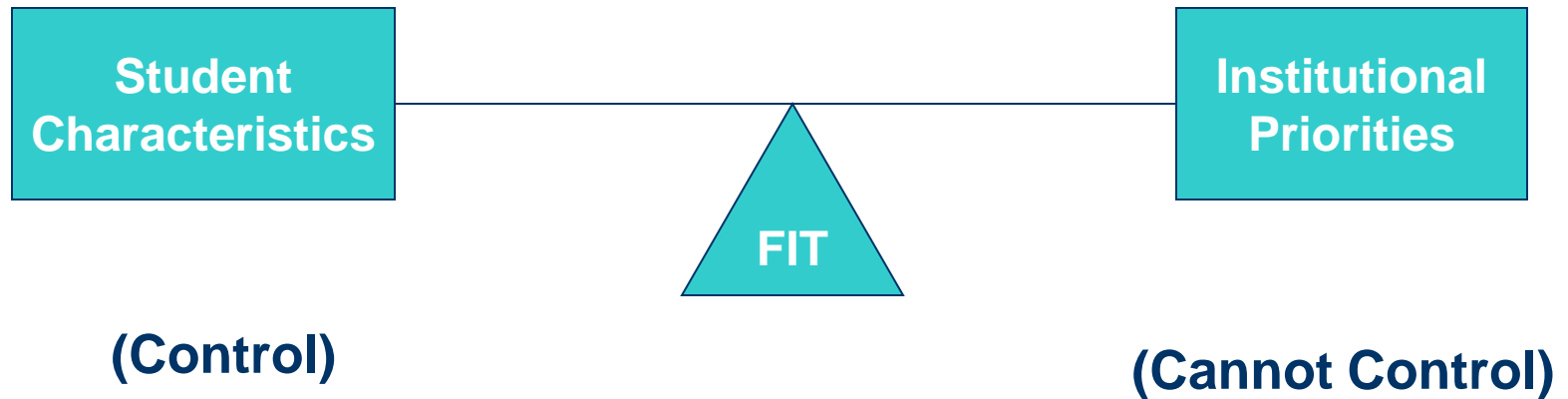
- ❖ Grades and coursework
- ❖ Standardized test scores
- ❖ Recommendations
- ❖ Class rank
- ❖ Depth of extracurricular activities
- ❖ Student essay
- ❖ Leadership
- ❖ Breadth of extracurricular activities
- ❖ Demonstrated level of interest in the college in question.

What Counts in Admissions (importance determined by the institution)

- Gender
- Alumni legacy (becoming less common)
- Athletic ability
- Major specific interest
- Ethnicity
- Domestic diversity
- International diversity
- Early Decision, Early Action, or Regular Decision
- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/the-application/104.html>
- Maturity or quality of character

Admissions Decisions = Fit

- Balance!



Ways to Get Admitted

- Guaranteed Admission (top 10% rule)
- Assured Admission (test score needed depends upon rank in class)
- Holistic Review
- Transfer Admission

Pathways for College Admission

- If you have your heart set on a particular school and are not admitted as a freshman, you have other options:
 - Community college for 2 years, then meet transfer criteria (articulation agreements at certain ones)
 - “Branch” school (ie. UT Arlington, A&M Commerce) – specified hours and GPA will guarantee sophomore admission – this may only apply for certain colleges within the university

TESTING, TESTING, TESTING!

- College Admissions Tests- Needed for four year schools -- Fall for Seniors, Spring for Juniors (see handout for deadlines)

ACT - www.act.org (writing test optional)

SAT- www.collegeboard.com



CEEB Code: 442 633

THEA

- Placement test required by Texas public, colleges and universities (2 & 4 year schools)
- This is not an entrance exam.
- Passing grade on THEA in order to take college credit bearing classes.
- Take during senior year, if needed.
- www.thea.nesinc.com

Texas Higher Education Assessment

- Students who meet the qualifying standards may be exempt from taking the THEA
 - TAKS (exit level) – 2200 math and/or 2200 in ELA with a writing subscore of at least 3.
 - You can check your score in Family Connection**
 - **SAT**- combined score of 1070 on critical reading and math with a 500 or better on the math and CR.
 - **ACT**- a composite score of 23 with a 19 on the math and English sections

College Application Steps, 12th grade

- Take college exams
- Take THEA if needed
- Apply on-line
- Send in application fee
- Send test scores to the college from testing agency
- Request transcript at Family Connection
- Apply for housing
- Apply for PIN number for FAFSA now
- Apply FAFSA on-line after Jan 1
- Compare offers in spring
- Notify schools of your decision

What to do now- Seniors Apply!

- Consider email address and Facebook: do they reflect what you want colleges/employers to know about you?
- Visit colleges
- Apply to top 3-5 by Thanksgiving!

Schools keep moving up their deadlines. (UT is now Dec 1st)

- Apply to three places:
 - Reach school
 - Reality school
 - Safety Net school

Timeline

- Fall of senior year- You can begin to apply now. Set Thanksgiving as your goal to have all applications completed and mailed. Submit PIN # request at www.fafsa.ed.gov (both student and parent must request PIN #s).
- Spring of senior year- Focus on financial aid (file FAFSA after January 1) and scholarship applications.

How to get applications

- Texas Common Application- for all public Texas schools www.applytexas.org
- Common Application- single application for 400 private schools (Rice, SMU, Brown, Princeton, etc) www.commonapp.org
- If your school does not use either of these applications, go online and apply at the school site or download the application or write to the school.
- www.collegefortexans.com – great site, download a paper copy of the common app here for practice/preview
- SCHOOLS PREFER ELECTRONIC APPS!

Process

For most schools, you can send in sections separately- transcript, app, test scores. A file will be created for you once an item is received.

Complete application,
mail in the fee and
send test scores (SAT/ACT) to school if not sent when you registered

After you have mailed off your application
request transcript on Family Connection and update “My Colleges” link,
moving the school to “Applied”

If you need a letter of recommendation
(private schools and selective schools usually),
follow the directions at Family Connection

College Visits

- Call the school for an appointment
- Check web for Preview Days
- Go when students are in session, if at all possible
- Bring a list of questions (see FC for ideas)
- Get paper documentation
- Two visits allowed per year as excused absences (Juniors and Seniors)

NCAA

- Athletes wanting to play sports at a DI or DII college need to complete their NCAA Clearinghouse paperwork at the close of junior year or beginning of senior year.
- Sept 29th meeting at 8:15 or 4:15. Be sure you attend one.
- Go to www.eligibilitycenter.org to register with the Clearinghouse.
- Check with your counselor that you are in the NCAA approved classes.

Things to be doing now.....

- 9th: take challenging courses and make good grades, take personality tests and career inventories to narrow down career fields, volunteer, get involved in extracurriculars
- 10th: all of the above, plus take PSAT (10/12) and PLAN (11/12)
- 11th: all of the above (minus PLAN), plus college searches (see Family Connection) & campus visits, take ACT or SAT in the Spring

Community Service Reminder

- Students with 100 hours of documented community service by April 1 of senior year are recognized at graduation.
- You will find the community service form in the counseling office and at Family Connection.
- Turn in the form to Mrs. Davis in the attendance office.

October 12th Morning Activities

- 9th-11th graders will take the PSAT
- 12th graders will attend a presentation regarding graduation followed by time in the computer lab to work on college applications

Students who qualify for Free or Reduced Price Meals can receive the following:

- Free or reduced price meals (9-12)
- Free or reduced tuition for summer school courses (9-12)
- Two free fee waivers for the SAT Reasoning Test (11-12)
- Two free fee waivers for the SAT Subject Test (9-12)
- Four free Request for Waiver of College Application fees (11-12)
- Two free fee waivers for either the ACT (11-12)
- Reduced fees for AP testing (9-12)
- Free application fee for the NCAA Clearinghouse
- Free Collin College tuition for all dual credit courses taken (12)

First Generation Students

- There are special programs for students whose parents did not attend college.
- If your mom and dad did not attend college, please let your counselor know by email.

Family Connection

Students and parents can do the following at the site:

- Comprehensive college search
- Organize college applications
- Download important forms from the counseling center
- Request transcripts
- Sign up for in-house college visits
- Take a personality test and get feedback on career suggestions
- Learn of scholarship opportunities
- Send an email to your counselor

Logging on to Family Connection

- Link from CHS website (www.friscoisd.org/chs)
- If you have registered before, please be sure to update your email address if it has changed.
- If you have never registered, see one of the counselors for your code.

Why Your Child Should be in the Driver's Seat

- They are capable & prepared.
- They are in training.
- Your relationship is evolving.
- It makes an impression to the college.
- You're still in the car, but as a support.

