

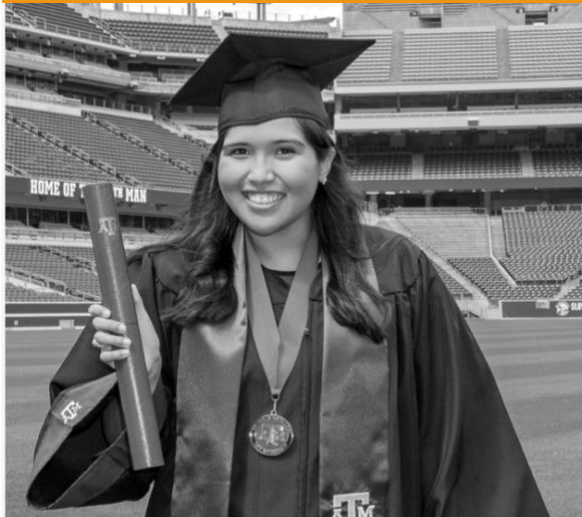


1 COLLEGE APPLICATION



GeoFORCE

Mission: GeoFORCE Texas aims to inspire the next generation of geoscientists, foster increased diversity in the U.S workforce, and raise awareness of the importance of geoscience in the communities the program serves.



2 FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLASHIPS



3 CAREER READINESS



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GEOFORCE T E X A S JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES



GeoFORCE Texas is an outreach program designed to increase the number and diversity of students pursuing STEM degrees and careers, especially geology. We believe that the world's greatest resources are its young people and that the high achievers among them have a right to recognition and personal development. However, the journey of GeoFORCE students does not end after high school; the GeoFORCE college program is designed to help students transition as they graduate from high school and move on through college and into the workforce. The program encompasses: summer academies, GeoFORCE Challenges, GeoFORCE Family, Math & Science Institute, Transition to College, and College to Career.

Provide students information and tools to prepare them to major in STEM fields, especially the geosciences



Broaden students' knowledge of Earth resources and physical, biological, and chemical processes.



Provide college students with support to pursue post-baccalaureate degrees and careers in industries and government agencies related to Earth Resources.



COLLEGE CHECKLIST

APPLICATION

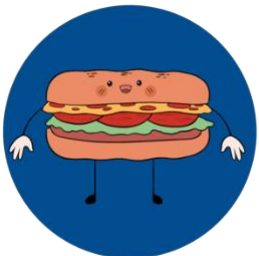
- High School Transcript
- Letters of Recommendations
- ACT or SAT Scores (Optional)
- Activities List
- Personal Statements
- Apply Texas Essays (3 Prompts)
- Application Fees – Waivers
- FASFA Application
- CSS Profile (if applicable)



FINANCIAL AID

- Students Social Security Number (Guardians SSN if applicable) and driver's license (If applicable)
- Alien Registration Number (If you are not a U.S citizen)
- Federal Income Tax Returns, W-2s and other records of money earned. (IRS 1040)
- Bank statements or records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- FSA ID to sign electronically

[Read More](#) ►



SUB ALERT: Hello, my name is FORCE. I will help give tips, advice, and puns throughout the guidebook. For example, these checklists can help you navigate your applications. Make sure to begin gather all important documents before your senior year begins, this will give you enough time to submit the required documentation on time.

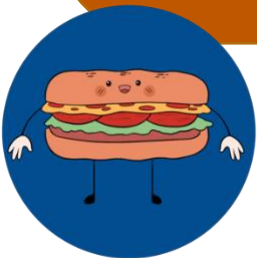
“EDUCATION IS
THE MOST
POWERFUL
WEAPON WHICH
YOU CAN USE TO
CHANGE THE
WORLD”

NELSON MANDELA



HELPFUL LINKS

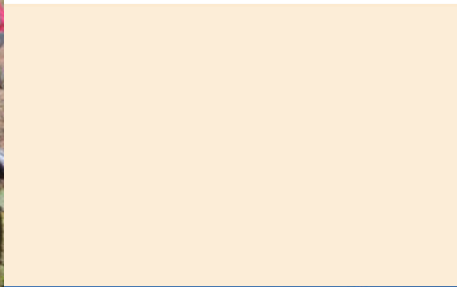
1. [Apply-Texas: Many Schools One Application](#)
2. [Common App: Navigate your entire college application journey](#)
3. [College Board: College Search](#)
4. [College Board: SAT and ACT](#)
5. [ACT Registration](#)
6. [Federal Student Aid \(FASFA\)](#)



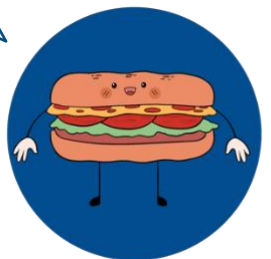
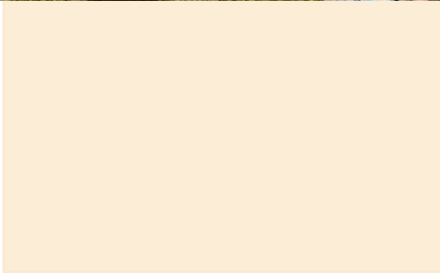
SUB ALERT: The links displayed above will help guide you through not only your college search (#3) but will give you information SAT/ACT test dates (#4). Link #1 will be used when submitting applications to Texas schools only. However, if you're interested in applying to out of state schools you will use link #2. Lastly, link #5 will be used if you will be applying to financial aid.

ACTIVITIES LIST

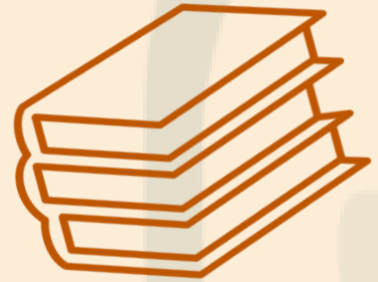
Activity Name	Position Held	Grade Level Involved	Description/ Accomplishments	Weeks/Year & Hours/Week
GeoFORCE	Summer participant	9,10,11,12		



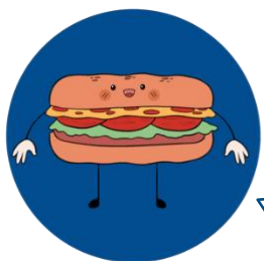
SUB ALERT: What's an activities list? An activities list allows you to show admissions officers what your passionate about, and the extracurricular activities your involved in while in high school. I've added an example above!



SUMMER CHECKLIST



- Draft: Personal Statement
- Draft: Apply Texas Essays – 3 Prompts
- GeoFORCE Scholarship Application
- SAT-Study Plan: Khan Academy
- Identify target schools
- Scholarships: Questbridge, Posse, etc.
- Research Fly-In programs
- Request Letter of Recommendations
- Register for SAT
- Register for ACT
- FASFA Applications
- CSS Profile (if applicable)



SUB ALERT: Although we understand summer is usually the three months everyone forgets about school, it important to work through your college checklist. Your senior year of high school will fly by! As you prepare for your last homecoming, pep-rally, prom, graduation etc. the college application deadlines remain. Take advantage of the summer to get some of the things on the list above completed.

ESSAY PROMPTS

APPLY TEXAS



Topic A: Tell us your story. What unique opportunities or challenges have you experienced throughout your high school career that have shaped who you are today?

Topic B: Many students have an identity, an interest, or a talent that defines them in an essential way. Tell us about yourself.

Topic C: You've got a ticket in your hand – Where will you go? What will you do? What will happen when you get there?

Topic D: *(Required for the following major: Architecture, Art, Art History, Design, Studio Art, Visual Art Studies/Art Education* - Personal interaction with objects, images and spaces can be so powerful as to change the way one thinks about particular issues or topics. Describe an experience where instructions in that area or your personal interaction with an object, image or space effected this type of change in your thinking. What did you do to act upon your new thinking and what have you done to prepare yourself for further study in this area?

LEARN MORE

ESSAY PROMPTS



COMMON APP

Topic 1: Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

Topic 2: The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, what did you learn from the experience?

Topic 3: Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

Topic 4: Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?

Topic 5: Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

Topic 6: Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

Topic 7: Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own ideas.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Personal Statement Tips

When writing a personal statement, it is your opportunity to speak to your unique experiences, qualities, and beliefs that are not represented in your application. It should be a brief overview, including your academic interest, personal interest, and experiences shaping who you are, which cannot be found on your resume or transcript.

1. **Start a draft without a word limit** - This will allow you to express yourself and be transparent. You can always revise your essay!
2. **Don't be afraid to share your story** - Your story is your personal strength and shows your authenticity. Focus on key experiences.
3. **Focus on what is important** - What did you learn from your experience? How did you grow from it?
4. **Use imagery** - Allow your audience to mentally step into your shoes through your writing.
5. **Proofread, Proofread, Proofread** - Take your time, read your essay out loud, and share it with friends, family, mentors, teachers, etc.
6. **Take home message** - Leave your audience with a picture of who you are, and your goals.

BE PROACTIVE! MAKE SURE TO PREPARE FOR THE SAT/ACT.



What is the SAT?

The SAT is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. The test is three hours long and consist of multiple-choice math, evidence-based reading and writing questions along with an optional essay portion.

Highest SAT Score - 1600
Average SAT Score - 1060

When should you to take the SAT?

Most high school students have the test during the spring of their junior year or the fall of their senior year.



What is the ACT?

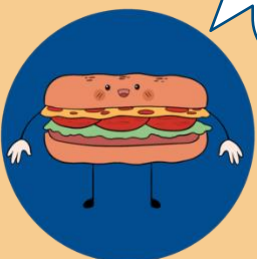
The ACT is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. The test is three hours long and consist of multiple-choice math, science, reading and English. There is an optional 40-minute writing test.

Highest ACT Score - 36
Average ACT Score - 21

SAT Practice: Khan Academy
[Learn More](#)

ACT Practice: ACT
[Learn More](#)

SUB ALERT:
Test-Optional
schools give
students the
options



SAT FEE WAIVERS

Check for eligibility!

SAT fee waivers are available to low-income 11th and 12th grade students in the U.S. Review the list below, if you can check any of those boxes then you qualify for a waiver.

- You're enrolled in or eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program
- Your annual family income falls within the "Income Eligibility Guidelines"
- You're enrolled in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income families
- Your family received public assistance
- You live in federally subsidized public housing or a foster home, or are homeless
- You are a ward of the state or an orphan

[Learn More ▶](#)

How to get a fee waiver?

- School counselor or representative of an authorized community-based organization.

How to register using a fee waiver?

- Enter the 12-digit fee waiver code under "Got a fee waiver code" once you sign in and click submit.

What fee waivers cover?

- 2 free SATs
- 2 free Answers Services

ACT FEE WAIVER PROGRAM

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Be currently enrolled in high school in the 11th and 12th grade.
2. Be testing in the United States, US territories, or Puerto Rico
3. Meet indicators of economic need listed above.

[Learn More ▶](#)



COLLEGE APPLICATIONS WAIVERS

As previously discussed, every income-eligible student who takes the SAT or SAT Subject Test with a fee waiver or as part of a district or state program while in high school can apply to **as many colleges** for free. The waivers will be delivered online to eligible students after taking their SAT.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. You may use as many college application fee waivers as you need
2. College application fee waivers do not require counselor approval
3. SAT Fee waivers allow you to register for the SATs free of charge, and a college application waiver allows you to apply to college without paying an application fee (normally, \$40.00 - 80.00)
4. Not all colleges accept fee waivers

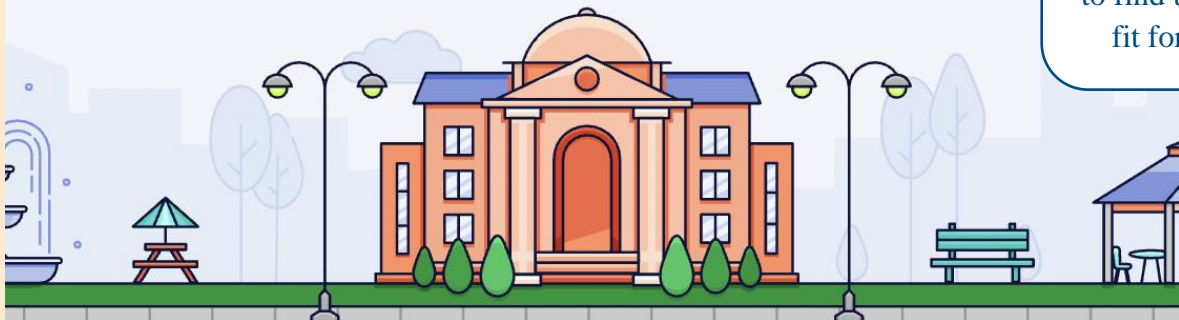
Choose a category to start exploring.



Four white rounded rectangular buttons with icons and text:

- Location**: Icon of a map of Texas.
- Major**: Icon of a diploma.
- Type**: Icon of a school building.
- Campus Life**: Icon of a house and a sun.

SUB ALERT:
Explore the College Board – College Search website to find the right fit for you.



[Click to Explore](#)

Choosing the right type of school for you

College

- Simpler institutional structure
- Undergraduate degree only
- Smaller class size
- Specialized training
- Majority are private funded

University

- Higher education and research
- Degrees in various disciplines
- Undergraduate and post graduate degrees
- Larger class sizes
- More opportunity for research
- Majority are publicly funded

Community college

- Smaller class size
- Affordable
- Convenient locations
- Interaction with professors
- Public 2-year schools that grant certificates and associates degree

Trade Schools

Hands-on training for a specialized career, classes do not include general courses, machine, tools, and equipment are used in training, offers associates and bachelor's degrees.

Reach schools - Also known as “Dream Schools” a school where your academic credentials fall in the lower end, or even below the school’s average range for the cohort of students accepted.

Target Schools - A school where your academic credentials (grades, ACT, SAT, and class rank) fall within the school’s average range for the most recently accepted class.

Safety School - A school where your academic credentials exceed the school’s range for the average first-year students.



SUB ALERT: Explore the web! Find schools and create your own ranks using your grades, SAT/ACT Scores, etc.

College Application Options

Early Decision: Binding - If accepted students must withdraw other applications and may have to sort out financial aid early. Applications are submitted in Nov and decision will be sent out in Dec.

- Apply early
- Agree to attend the college if accepted and offered financial aid package
- Only ED to only one school

Early Action: Non-Binding - If accepted students can still wait for acceptances from other school and will receive financial aid when regular decision students do. Apply Nov - Dec, decision will be sent out Dec - Feb

- Apply Early
- Consider accepted offer, you do not have to make a decision just yet
-

Regular Decision: Student have no commitment to the schools. Applications open between Jan.1 - Feb.1

[Learn More!](#)

SUB ALERT: Applying for college can be scary but choosing the right decision for you is super important.



Analyze your Award Letter



College Name	
Tuition & Fees	0
Room & Board	0
Books/Supplies	0
Mis Expenses (Health Insurance)	0
Total Cost of Attendance	0
Financial Aid	
Pell Grant	0
SEOG <small>(Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant)</small>	0
TPEG <small>(Texas Public Educational Grant)</small>	0
TSTG <small>(Texas State Tuition Grant)</small>	0
TEXAS Grant <small>(Toward Excellence, Access, and Success Grant)</small>	0
Other Grants/Scholarships	0
Total Gift Aid <small>(No need to be repaid)</small>	0
Loans	
Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan	0
Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan	0
Perkins Loan	0
Other Loan(s)	0
Total Loans <small>(Repaid with interest)</small>	0
Calculate your bill:	
Estimated Bill	0
Fall Estimated Bill	0
Spring Estimated Bill	0
Net Costs <small>(Estimated Bill + Loans)</small>	0



SUB ALERT: Use the excel document provided to calculate your financial aid packet! Replace the \$0 with the value on your packet.

SUBSIDIZED LOAN

- Based on financial need
- Only for undergrads
- The U.S. Department of Education pays the interest:

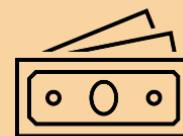
- While you're in school
- For the first 6 months after you leave school
- During a period of deferment



UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN

- Available to undergraduate and graduate students
- You are fully responsible for paying the interest on a Direct Unsubsidized Loan during all periods
- If you do not pay the interest while you are in school, during grade periods, deferments and forbearance, your interest will accumulate and be capitalized (Interest will be added to principal amount)

FASFA



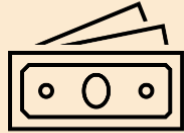
The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the form that determines your financial aid from the government and most colleges.

The application gathers personal and financial information from students and parent to determine your Expected Family Contribution or EFC.

How Financial Aid Works

1. Start Planning Early – Develop your game plan to pay for college
2. Fill out the FASFA Form – Reference the Financial Aid Checklist on page # of this guide to identify necessary resources
 - Create an FSA ID - [Here](#)
 - If you're a dependent student, one of your guardians whose information is reported on the FASFA form will also need an FSA ID so they can sign your application electronically.
3. Review Your Aid Offer – Compare the aid each school is offering
4. Get Your Aid – Aid goes to your student account first
5. Repay Your Loans (If applicable)

[Apply Here](#)



CSS Profile

The CSS Profile is an online application that gathers information used by colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal aid. Some colleges may require the CSS Profile from both biological/adoptive parents in cases of divorce or separation.

- A list of participating colleges can be found on the CSS Profile Homepage.
- The initial application is \$25 for additional reports \$16.
- First-time domestic college applicants may receive CSS Profile Fee Waivers if the student qualified for an SAT waiver.

How the CSS Profile Works

1. Sign-in – Use your College Board username and password.
2. Complete the Application
3. Submit the Application
4. Review Your Dashboard – (IMPORTANT) You will need to submit your documents to IDOC

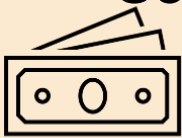
[Apply Here](#)

GEOFORCE

SCHOLARSHIP

UT – Undergraduates

\$2,500 Scholarship per year to every GeoFORCE student at the Jackson School for up to 4 years.



UT - Graduates

Chevron

- \$2,00/yr for any Alumni of GeoFORCE pursuing a Master's degree at the Jackson School

Caughey

- Supporting 1 full-time, graduate student (GEO or EER) for duration of their graduate degree

FLY-IN PROGRAMS



*Find a program
that fits your
interest*



List of Programs



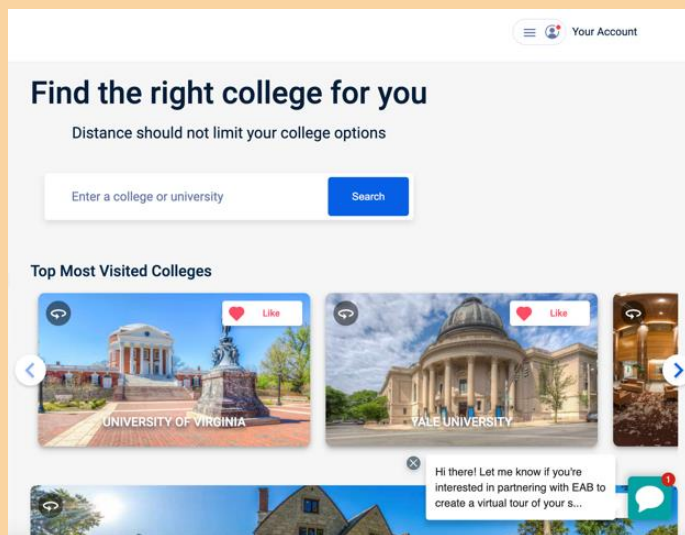
Fly-in programs are usually a two-to-three-day college tour for prospective or admitted students from underrepresented backgrounds. The program allows students to imagine life as a college freshman, and You will also have the opportunity to meet personally with financial aid and admission officers and ask questions! Particular school will also allow you to interview and attend lectures! Schools will often cover all the transportation, food, and housing expenses for students during their visits.



*Visit to see if the
college fits you!*

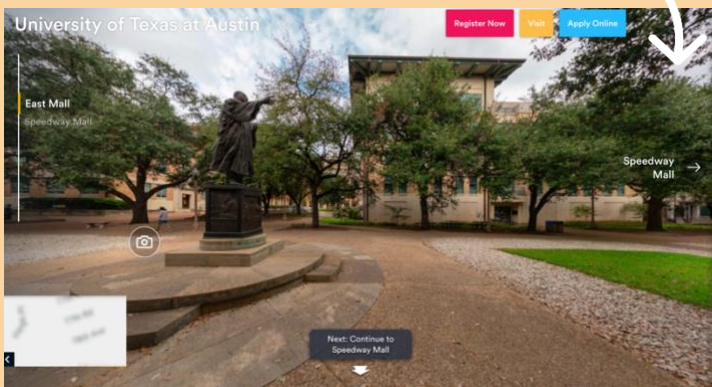
ONLINE VIRTUAL TOUR OPTIONS

Virtual tours provide students an opportunity to visit the campus from home. The link below provides tours for most schools.

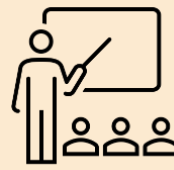


College Tour Search

Jackson School of Geosciences



UT Virtual Tour



CAMPUS TOURS

Campus tours provide students an opportunity to visit the school ahead of time. A lot of colleges provide both in person tours and virtual tour options that may help answer questions regarding the layout of all buildings. In person tours allow students to ask questions pertaining to campus life, campus culture, and amenities.

- Become Familiar with the campus
- Ask questions
- Get a sense of what college life will be like

Question & Answer



Q: I want to drive to campus, what will I need? Will it be free?

A: A lot of campus will require students to purchase a student parking permit to park their vehicle in a campus owned property. The price of the permit will vary depending on the school you attend. Smaller campuses will sometimes limit the number of first years who have a vehicle on campus.

Q: Do I need to have health Insurance if I am staying on campus?

A: While some students will be able to use their parent's Health Insurance other student will have to purchase their own health insurance. Schools offer affordable health insurance plans - however you should check with the admissions office to determine if health insurance coverage is **required**.

Q: Can I transfer from a community college to a four-year university?

A: Yes, the process varies for each school, so it is best to target the four-year institution early and determine what courses you would need. Community colleges offer lower costs, and easier admission policies.

Q: How can I travel abroad?

A: Study - Abroad is a chance to pursue your college studies in a foreign country. It's important to contact your international study officials early in efforts to plan according and make your abroad experience possible.

Q: Can I refrain from sending my SAT/ACT scores?

A: Yes, some schools are test-optional, which allows the student to decide whether they want to submit test scores with their application. Ex: Yale, Harvard, Rice etc.



August 2022

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 TIER Your schools and identify safety schools	2	3	4	5 Complete Personal Statement DRAFT	6
7	8	9 STUDY FOR SAT/ACT	10	11 Research Scholarships	12 Complete Essay (A, B OR C) DRAFT	13
14	15	16 STUDY FOR SAT/ACT	17	18	19 Complete Activity Section	20
21	22	23 STUDY FOR SAT/ACT	24	25 Research Fly-in Applications	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Notes

The earlier you start on your college essays the less overwhelmed you will feel as your senior year starts!



September 2022

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5 Request letters of recommendation	6	7	8	9 Complete Final Drafts of Essays	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Finish Fly-in Applications	17
18 Finalize Apply Texas Essays	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Submit Apply Texas Applications	26	27	28	29	30	

Notes

Early Decision: Binding - If accepted students must withdraw other applications and may have to sort out financial aid early. Applications are submitted in November and decision will be sent out in December.

Early Action: Non-Binding - If accepted students can still wait for acceptances from other school and will receive financial aid when regular decision students do. Apply Nov - Dec, decision will be sent out Dec - Feb

Regular Decision: Student have no commitment to the schools. Applications open between Jan.1 - Feb.1



October 2022

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sign up for college interviews and prep.	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Early Decision Deadline Nov 15	30
31						

Notes

November: 1) Submit your test score to schools 2) Submit your applications to school in your Apply Texas list
December: 1) Log into each college portal to submit institutional documents 2) Calculate Financial - Aid package

This guidebook would not have been possible without the following resources.

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