

# TCHS

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS FAQs

### **How difficult is it to be accepted into a college or university?**

Almost anyone who graduates from high school can meet the admission requirements of a number of two-year colleges or four-year colleges and universities. Some of these institutions have open-door admission policies.

### **How early should I apply for admission to the colleges and universities of my choice?**

Applications must be submitted prior to the established deadline of each college. Many colleges have fall and winter application deadlines, but a few institutions will accept applications as late as mid-summer. It would be wise to consult the college website or admissions office about specific admissions policies of the institution in which you are interested.

### **Can I learn all I need to know about schools from respective websites?**

College and university catalogs contain important and useful information concerning the schools. You can compare the specific course offerings listed by each college for your proposed major field of study. However, your decision to attend a particular school should be based on more than information obtained by reading a catalog. Campus visitation, including interviews with college officials, discussion with students on campus, and classroom visitations in your interest area, should play a part in reaching your final decision as to which institution to attend.

### **When I am being considered for admission, does the Admission Director look only at my ACT or SAT scores?**

In considering admission applications, most admission directors are interested in reviewing high school courses taken, level of course (i.e., Regular, Pre-AP or AP), grade point average (GPA), ACT or SAT scores, and counselor or teacher recommendations and extracurricular, work and leadership accomplishments.. Individual schools have varying criteria for admission. You should check with the college website for information on entrance requirements.

### **What should I do if I need financial help in order to attend the college of my choice?**

Contact the Director of Financial Aid at the institution of your choice. This person can tell you what scholarships and other forms of assistance are available. Consult your high school counselor; your counselor has information on local, state, and national financial aid programs and scholarships. Most schools require that families complete a FAFSA and/or the Profile for Students to be considered for financial aid.

## **Are students in the top 10% of their graduating high school class automatically accepted at a Texas public college or university?**

Yes, if they meet deadlines and college admission guidelines. They must also graduate on the Recommended High School Plan or the Distinguished Achievement Plan or meet college readiness scores on SAT/ACT. The University of Texas may restrict their admissions to less than 10%.

## **Is it appropriate to apply to more than one college?**

It would be an excellent idea to apply to all the institutions which you are seriously considering, in case you are not accepted by your first choice. Although you apply to a school and are accepted, you are not obligated to attend that school.

## **Do all colleges require an application fee?**

Most colleges require a fee between \$25.00 and \$100.00. The fee must accompany an application for admission. In cases of financial need, this application fee is sometimes waived.

## **Are school grades important in being accepted into college?**

High school grades are extremely important to most colleges. Your grades, more than any other single factor, best predict your probable success in college. Colleges, however, do not consider only your grades in their admission process. The SAT scores, the kind of courses taken, the level of the courses (i.e., Regular, Pre-AP or AP), recommendations from your counselors, teachers, and principal, and your extracurricular record are all important factors in the college admission process.

## **What courses should I take before taking the SAT or ACT?**

You should take Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, plus English courses that are on or above grade level that include grammar and usage, composition, and literature. In addition, science and social studies courses are recommended because most of the reading comprehension questions deal with these subject areas.

## **When should I take the SAT or ACT?**

You should take the SAT and ACT in the spring of your junior year. It is recommended that all testing including SAT Subject Tests be completed by December of the senior year.

## **What do I need to be eligible to participate in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I athletics at college?**

Proposition 48 requires that a freshman student entering a NCAA Division I institution must complete a core curriculum with a minimum number of specific academic courses and receive a minimum established combined score on the SAT Critical Reading and Math sections or an established minimum sum of scores on the ACT in order to be eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics during the first year of attendance. NCAA Clearinghouse forms are available online at <http://www.ncaa.org/> (see below for more information).