



Junior Survival Skills
for
College Admissions

Review Your Course Plan

- Meet with your Guidance Counselor.
- Review general admissions for your preferred colleges. (see <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/msp/applying>)
- Add Dual Credit and/or AP courses.
- Start thinking about reference letters.



Continue to Work Hard

- Stay focused on your courses and academics.
- Keep volunteering.
- Continue extracurricular activities



**School Plays
Musicals**

**Class
Boards**

**Cheerleading/
Dance/
Poms**

**Extracurricular
Activities**

**Service
Clubs**

**School
Clubs**

**Athletic
Teams**

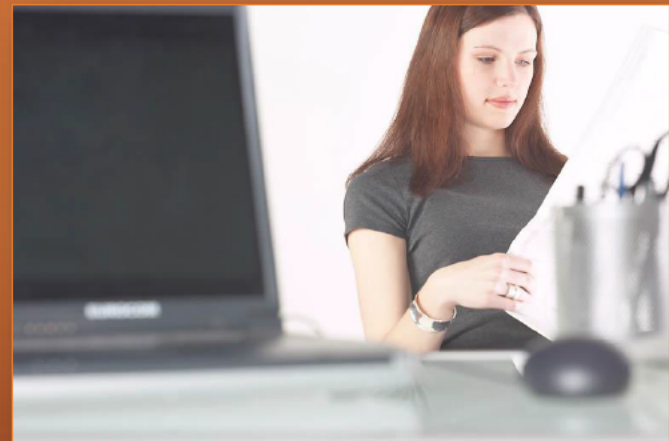
Those Pesky Tests

- PSAT® , NMSQT® , SAT® — <https://www.collegeboard.org>
- ACT® — <https://www.act.org>
- Visit the websites and stay in touch with your counselor.
- It is recommended that Juniors start taking the ACT/SAT in the spring of their Junior year. Talk to your counselor.



Keep Reading

- Read Daily— include a variety of material.
- Keep up with current events, nationally and world-wide.



College Fairs and Financial Aid Nights

- **Attend!** Both you and your parents.
- Listen carefully, ask questions and take notes.
- Pick up information.
- Use collected materials to narrow your list of possible colleges.



“Spring Things” To Do

- Contact the colleges on your “short list”.
- Pay attention to admission requirements and deadlines for admissions and financial aid.
- Ask about scholarship application procedures for ALL types—general, unique, targeted, departmental, etc.



Build Your Resumes

- For college acceptance or for people writing letter of recommendation include your name, address, phone number, email address, ACT score and GPA if applicable on Resume. (see example next slide)
- Include a cover letter.
- Use your resume listing of extracurricular activities, awards, honors, work experience, leadership positions and volunteer activities.
- Sample resume for employment is also included. (see example slide)



Sample Resume for College Acceptance or Letters of Recommendation

GPA: **Class Rank:** **Contact Information:** (cell #, email, address, etc.)

Activity	Grades	Offices Held/Awards Received
Yearbook	11, 12	Section Editor (11, 12); Co-editor in Chief (12)
School Newspaper	12	Editor-in-Chief (12)
National Honor Society	11, 12	Treasurer of local chapter (12)
UIL Prose Interpretation	11, 12	Second place-district, fourth place-regional, first alternate-state (11)
Academic Medals (highest average in class) and Certificates (second highest average in class)	9, 10, 11, 12	Medal-Honors English I, Certificate-Honors Biology I (9); Medal-Microcomputers, Certificate-Chemistry, Certificate-Honors English II, Certificate-Art II (10); Certificate-Honors Biology II, Certificate-Art III, Certificate-Theater Arts (11)
UIL Journalism	9, 10, 11, 12	fourth place-Editorial Writing--District, first alternate-Editorial Writing--Regional (9); fourth place-Feature Writing--Practice UIL Meet (10); sixth place-Feature Writing--District (11); first place-Feature Writing--Canadian Practice UIL Meet (12)
Mock Trial	10, 11, 12	Member of second place team--district (10); member of second place team--regional (12)
Sons of the American Revolution/Joseph S, Rumbaugh Oration Contest	12	Local winner, Chapter (Regional) winner, State winner
Elks Most Valuable Student	12	Local Winner
DARE Role Model	12	
Rotary Club Student of the Month	12	
Volleyball	9, 10, 11	Team Captain (10, 11)
YMCA Volunteer	11, 12	5/6 grade volleyball coach
Special Olympics Volunteer	10,11, 12	
Presidential Classroom Scholar	11	



Sample Resume for Employment

JANE SMITH

*1313 Smalltown Lane
Yourtown, TN 37701
(555) 555-5555
jane.smith@myemail.com*

AREAS OF MAJOR EXPERIENCE _____

Childcare Provider

Caring for children ages 6 months to 12 years.

Developing activities for play time and preparing healthy snacks.

Meeting with parents to discuss their child's experiences.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE _____

*February 2009 to
Present*

Small World Daycare, Yourtown, TN 37701
Daycare Assistant

*May 2008 to
September 2008*

Private Family, Smithville, TN
In-home Daycare Provider

EDUCATION _____

May 2011

John Mills High School, Yourtown, TN
Diploma

OTHER INTERESTS _____

Running on the Cross Country team.

Acting in school plays with the Drama Club.

Teaching Sunday School to 5th graders at church.

SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS _____

Certified in CPR and First Aid.

FSA ID

- Your username and password are essential when you are applying for your FAFSA. This FSA ID is your digital signature.
- Apply at <https://studentaid.gov>
- Student and one parent will each need an FSA ID. The parent and student must have independent email addresses as well as cell phone numbers.



Why October 1st

- The FAFSA will become available October 1st of each year
- As a senior next year, you will need to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1
<https://fafsa.gov>
- Completing the FAFSA is also a High School Degree requirement.



Beware

- Make certain you are using fafsa.gov
- If not, you may be charged a fee, if you use any other site.
- **Never** pay for financial aid advise and **Never** pay someone to complete the FAFSA for you.
- The ***official*** FAFSA site is:
 - **<https://fafsa.gov>**



Letters of Recommendation

- You will most likely need three letters of recommendation.
- Ask a variety of people to write them for you. Don't use only teachers. Ask pastors, AG/Extension officers or employers to write recommendation letters.
- Make sure and give those people you are asking time to write letters for you! At least two to three weeks.
- When asking for a letter of recommendation, include a cover letter which should include your future plans, where you plan to attend college, what your plan to do with your education and how you plan on using the scholarship money. You may also attach your resume. This will allow the person writing the letter know more about you and your strengths and qualities.



Scholarship Searches

- Continue your search for scholarships.
- Pay close attention to qualifications and application deadlines.
- Use free searches.
 - **Adventures in Education free search**
 - <https://www.aie.org/Scholarships/index.cfm>
 - **College Board search**
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>



Scholarship Resources

- Don't forget to look locally.
 - Civic clubs, booster clubs at your high school, non-profit organizations.
- Always use free scholarships searches.
 - **Never** pay for scholarship searches or financial aid advice.
- Search free at:
 - **Fastweb**
 - <https://www.fastweb.com>
 - **Careeronestop**
 - <http://www.careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch>





Campus Visits

- Plan visits to the schools on your short list.
- Work with your guidance counselor for contact information and for advice in setting up the visit.
- Check out the college Website Home Page for “Virtual Tours” possibilities.
- Schedule visits to key departments: admissions, financial aid, housing, and academic departments.



Web Resources

- <http://www.collegeforalltexans.com>
Supported by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/msp/>
Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation—Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar. Sponsored by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.
- <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/>
College 529 savings plans.
- <https://www.aie.org/>
Adventures in Education-Trellis Corp. supported site.
- <https://going2college.org>
Another AIE site containing information.





Transition is a
process.....

.....**NOT** an Event!

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1. Be prepared. You are going to be busy your Senior year!
2. As parents help your student with their schedule. Allow them to be as independent as possible but deadlines will be most important to stay on top of.
3. Stay involved in extra curricular activities.
4. Apply early and do your research on degrees and colleges.
5. Work on scholarship essays.
6. Study for required entrance exams.
7. Enjoy every minute of your Senior year!



Panhandle-Plains Higher Education Foundation

- For more information visit: www.pphef.org
 - Click on the “student” or “parent tab” for helpful planning information.

