



Cedar Creek High School Counseling Department

COUNTDOWN TO GRADUATION – SENIOR CHECKLIST

1) COLLEGE RESEARCH & COLLEGE VISITS

- Research colleges and universities during your Junior year and the summer before your Senior year. Try to visit colleges and have a solid list of your top four choices by the start of your Senior year. Good websites for college searches:

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

<https://colleges.niche.com>

<http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

<http://find.onlinecolleges.com/>

<https://myredkite.com>

- Juniors and Seniors are allowed 2 visits each year. To get absences excused, students must turn in a form letter from the institution or the CCHS College Visit form, which can be obtained from the attendance office, to Mrs. Cervantes in the attendance office.

2) *APPLY TO COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

APPLY TEXAS APPLICATION (for state schools)

- Application opens August 1.
- Accepted by most 4-year and 2-year universities/colleges in Texas

https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c_start.WBX

COALITION APPLICATION

- You will need to create an account. You begin uploading your information beginning 9th grade year.
- Used by most private and public institutions.

<http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/mycoalition-intro.html>

COMMON APPLICATION

- Application opens August 1
- Accepted by most private universities nationwide

<http://www.commonapp.org/>

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE APPLICATION

- Application opens August 1
- Application is free.

<http://www.austincc.edu/>

3) TESTING: ACT/SAT/TSI

- Take a college entrance exam: *ACT (American College Testing) and/or *SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)
SAT and ACT Prep

Test prep is important. See your counselor or visit the College & Career Center for SAT/ACT Prep classes in the area.

Practice SAT and ACT questions online at:

www.number2.com

www.actstudent.org

www.sat.collegeboard.org

www.khanacademy.org

ACT testing dates

Register on-line @ <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration deadline</u>
September 8, 2018	August 10, 2018
October 27, 2018	September 28, 2018
December 8, 2018	November 2, 2018
February 9, 2019	January 11, 2019
April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019
July 13, 2019	June 14, 2019

SAT testing dates

Register on-line @ www.collegeboard.org.

Note: Register for the SAT Reasoning test. Subject tests are only required by specific colleges/universities & certain majors

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration deadline</u>
August 25, 2018	July 27, 2018
October 6, 2018	September 7, 2018
November 3, 2018	October 5, 2018
December 1, 2018	November 2, 2018
March 9, 2019	February 8, 2019
May 14, 2019	April 15, 2019
June 1, 2019	May 3, 2019

TSI (Texas Success Initiative)

- If you are incoming college student in Texas (includes Dual Credit courses at the high school), you are **required** to take the **Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment** – unless you are already exempt - to determine your readiness for college-level work. To determine if you are exempt, in need of the TSI assessment, or for more information, stop by the College & Career Center. Test prep can be found at: <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/accuplacer-texas-success-initiative-assessment-sample-questions.pdf>

***FEE WAIVERS**

- If you receive free or reduced lunch, you qualify for a fee waiver for the SAT, ACT, and college applications. Stop by the College & Career Center to obtain one.

4) FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS: Apply for grants, scholarships, and loans

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- Application opens October 1.
- Prior-prior tax year (PPY): Students are allowed to report tax information from a prior-prior tax year allowing tax information from two years ago. This allows students and their families to fill out the FAFSA form earlier in hopes to have their financial aid packages before making college decisions.

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

TAFSA (Texas Application for State Financial Aid)

Financial aid application for students who are non-citizens and classified as Texas residents. If you are a foreign student or non-citizen, you may be eligible to be classified as a Texas resident for tuition purposes.

<http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/index.cfm?objectid=d465d848-ea0f-c0ea-5209bc8c89262877>

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are many national scholarships offered to students. Criteria for them vary. Check scholarship book in December.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- Visit the College & Career Center for local scholarships offered by our community. Over \$4,000,000 was awarded last year.

5) GRADES & CLASS RANK

- You can check grades on Skyward family access at:
<https://skyward.bisdtx.org/scripts/wsisa.dll/WService=wsstu/fwemnu01.w>
If you are not registered, please call the school for assistance.
- If you are in the Top 10 Percent of your class at the end of the 6th semester, you qualify for automatic admittance to any Texas public university or college (except for UT Austin, which will be top 6 percent for this year).
- For Automatic Admission to UT Austin and TX A&M, 6th semester rank (end of Junior year) is used for such purpose.
- Final rank is determined by board policy. Please see the Bastrop ISD Course Selection Guide.

6) RÉSUMÉ AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Work on Community Service Projects in the summer to boost your résumé and to potentially receive a service cord. Get involved in school. Join a club or activity and become a leader.

7) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Always request your letter at least 2 weeks in advance. Pick up and fill out a template to give to your recommender. Templates are available in the College & Career Center.

8) NCAA

- If you are considering participating in college athletics, you must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>
- Complete the form and pay the fee by credit card, unless you qualify for a *fee waiver.
- Be sure to request a transcript to be sent to them at the following 4 times:
when you register, at the end of your Junior year (6th semester), after the first semester of your Senior year, and a final transcript.
- For more information and how to get started, go to the following site: [NCAA INFORMATION](#)

9) COLLEGE FAIRS

- Attend College Fairs:
- Fall: B.E.S.T. College Night on September 26th at Bastrop High School

10) SENIOR TIMELINE: bit.ly/Srs2019

This document is shared on the CCHS Homepage and will be updated with important senior info.

CONTACTS:

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