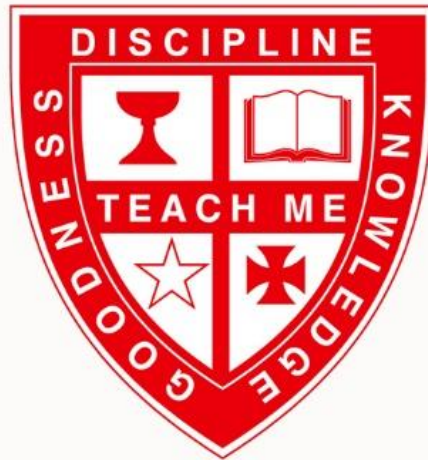


College Application Night



ST. THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE



SEPTEMBER

- **Meet with counselors** – They will give valuable perspective about schools.
- **Narrow your list** – somewhere in the neighborhood of 4-6 schools. Three categories: reach, match and safety.
- **Complete Teacher & Counselor questionnaires for recommendations ASAP**
- **Finalizing essays should begin in earnest** – should have moved beyond reflection and planning phase.
- **Senior grades DO MATTER!!!** – Get off to a good start
- **Register to take 2nd or 3rd SAT and/or ACT**

UPCOMING TEST DATES AND DEADLINES

SAT - <https://sat.collegeboard.org/register>

OCTOBER 6 Regular Deadline – SEPT. 7 Late Deadline – SEPT. 26

NOVEMBER 3 Regular Deadline – OCT. 5 Late Deadline – OCT. 24

DECEMBER 1 Regular Deadline – NOV. 2 Late Deadline – NOV. 20

ACT – <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/>

OCTOBER 27 Regular Deadline – SEPT. 28 Late Deadline – OCT. 14

DECEMBER 8 Regular Deadline – NOV. 2 Late Deadline – NOV. 19

FEBRUARY 9 Regular Deadline – JAN. 11 Late Deadline – JAN. 18

OCTOBER

- **Tour colleges** – A great chance to see classes in session. You can meet with a professor and/or sit in on a class.
- **Visit with college reps at STHS and at college fairs** – Houston Catholic Schools Fair is 6:30 on October 2nd at Strake Jesuit.
- **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the CSS/Financial Aid Profile, if required** – Both become available on October 1st.
- **Decide if you are applying early** – Early Decision, Early Action, and Priority applications **MUST** be finished in October. Deadlines are typically November 1st or 15th.

NOVEMBER

- **Submit completed applications** – It is the goal of counseling dept. to have all students done by Nov. 1st.
- **Testing** – Nov. is still within the normal window to take a repeat SAT and/or ACT.
- **Grades** – This is a critical month for your high school classes. Now is the time to get serious about finishing strong!
- **Financial aid** – Become familiar with financial aid/scholarships at the colleges you applied to. Discuss, as a family, how much each school will cost you because aid packages can differ a great deal from school to school.

DECEMBER/JANUARY

- **Testing** – December is likely your last opportunity to retake either the SAT or ACT in order to make an impact on an admissions decision.
- **Grades** – Schools may ask to see your fall grades before they make a decision. Inform your counselor if this is the case **OR** if you decide on your own to send them. Any upward grade trend could make a significant impact on your chance to get in.
- **Early acceptance** – If you applied early decision/action, you will likely receive a decision at this time. Discuss the result/s with your counselor so that they can help you with the next step.

FEBRUARY/MARCH

- **Decision letters** – Acceptance, rejection and waitlist letters may start arriving as early as February or in March by the latest. Discuss the result/s with your counselor so that they can help you with the next step.
- **Plan an initial or return visit** - Consider planning a trip to visit all schools that you are accepted to if you have not seen them yet. Visiting as an accepted student is often a different and fun experience.
- **Financial aid** – You should receive a Student Aid Report, or SAR, from the FAFSA. Review this carefully and discuss its implications as a family. Financial aid offer letters from colleges typically arrive shortly after an acceptance letter if not at the same time.

APRIL/MAY

- **Make your final decision** – You will have now heard from all of the schools to which you applied. With the help of counselors and family, weigh all of your options before making a final decision. Schools typically expect a decision (and possibly a tuition deposit) by May 1st.
- **Grades** – Finish strong! A noticeable dip in grades to finish the spring semester may cost you a scholarship or even an admission offer.
- **Get acclimated to your future school** - Be sure to stay on top of information and expectations regarding Freshman orientation, housing arrangements, class scheduling, etc.



WHAT IS IT?

- Naviance Student is a web-based resource for students and parents that supports career and college planning and provides information and statistics that are specific to St. Thomas High School.
- Allows us to track college admissions related data and to send student transcripts and letters of recommendation to colleges **ELECTRONICALLY.**

HOW TO GET TO IT

- ❖ Go to the St. Thomas Homepage – **www.sths.org**
- ❖ Click on **Counseling** from the **Academic** drop down menu.
- ❖ Click on the 9th option: **Naviance** then click **Log in to Naviance.**
- ❖ The Username is the student's school email address and the Password was set by them. Parent accounts are also available.

Teacher Letters of Recommendation



Teacher Letters – Student Role

- Personally speak with the teacher FIRST- Respectfully touch base with the teachers that you like to have write for you as soon as you can and ask if they are willing.
- Then go onto Naviance to:
 1. Formally send them a request to write the letter so you will be added to their list.
 2. Complete the Teacher Questionnaire on your Naviance account.

*Counselors can help you if you are not sure how to find these things on your account.

Completing the Application – Student Role

The Objective Part - Basic Factual Information

The Subjective Part - Personal Statement

- * Extracurricular Activities/Community Service/Employment or Internships

- *Essays

Test Scores – Have the SAT and/or ACT score that you wish to submit sent electronically to your colleges through the SAT and ACT websites.

The Common Applications



THE COALITION

Requesting Transcripts



Transcript Requests– Student Role

Complete and submit your portions of the admissions application before making a transcript request- this will ensure that our electronic submission of the transcript and your letters of recommendation will be properly matched to your application file at the college.

Then go onto Naviance to:

Formally add the transcript request to your Naviance account.

*Counselors can help you if you are not sure how to find where to do this on your account.

Info and Updates



TEXAS

The University of Texas at Austin

Texas A&M

DECEMBER 1st Application Deadline **BUT** you want to get application in as soon as possible. Late September/early October.

OCTOBER 15th priority deadline for A&M Engineering Program.

Ways of gaining admittance:

- Automatic Admission – Top 10% in Graduating Class
- Academic Admission – rank in the top quarter of your graduating class and have:

SAT: Total score of 1360 with at least 620 Math and 660 Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW)

ACT: Composite score of 30 with at least 27 English and 27 Math

Holistic Review– Student application is reviewed 2-3 times by different reps. This is where essays and a thorough and extensive activities resume play a crucial role in helping a student gain admittance.

Texas A&M

41, 761 Total Applications last year

23,733 Admits

Of those admitted:

11,159 Top 10%

4646 Academic

4115 Holistic Review (out of 27,000+)

Texas A&M

Updates:

Essay A is the only one required and considered

Now takes either the Coalition or the ApplyTexas App

We can now upload transcripts directly to student portal

Will only look at FIRST 2 optional LORs received

Prefer that you utilize the resume section on the common app

Texas A&M

Additional Admission Opportunities:

Summer Gateway to Success Program (only 200 offers)

Blinn Team (1200 offers, 500 enrolled)

Engineering at Blinn-Bryan or Galveston

The Higher Education Center at McAllen

Program for System Admission (PSA) – A&M schools

Program for Transfer Admission (PTA) – Community Colleges

UT - Austin

DECEMBER 1st Application Deadline **BUT** they have a **NOVEMBER 1st** Priority Deadline. (hear by Feb. 1) Otherwise hear back by March 1st.

Ways of gaining admittance:

- Automatic Admission – Top 6% of graduating class.
- Holistic Review – In addition to grades and scores, this is where essays and a thorough and extensive activities resume play a crucial role in helping a student gain admittance.

ALL STUDENTS go through some form of a Holistic Review. Even Auto Admit.

UT - Austin

50,557 Total Applications last year

19,381 Admits (75% were in the Top 7%)

4845 Holistic Review Admits

38.3% Admit Rate

74.5% were given 1st choice major

76.7% were given 1st choice school of study

UT - Austin

Updates:

Essay A is required along with 3 short answer topics

Now takes either the Coalition or the ApplyTexas App

We can now send transcripts using Naviance!!!!

No separate scholarship app but separate app for Honors

Recommend that you send an extended resume

Extended score deadline of Dec. 31 if apply before Dec. 1

UT - Austin

Additional Admission Opportunities:

Coordinated Admissions Program (CAP)-600 transfer in each year

**Path to Admission through Co-Enrollment (PACE) - Austin
Community College (only 100 students each year)**

***Denials are usually exclusive to out-of-state students.**

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday September 26th – College Financing Night

Thursday October 25th – College Admissions Case Study Night



THANK YOU!