

**COLLEGE BOUND  
TO DO LIST  
FOR THE CLASS OF 2022  
AND BEYOND**

**(SOME ITEMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE FOR UNDERCLASSMAN)**

**GUIDANCE & COUNSELING DEPARTMENT**

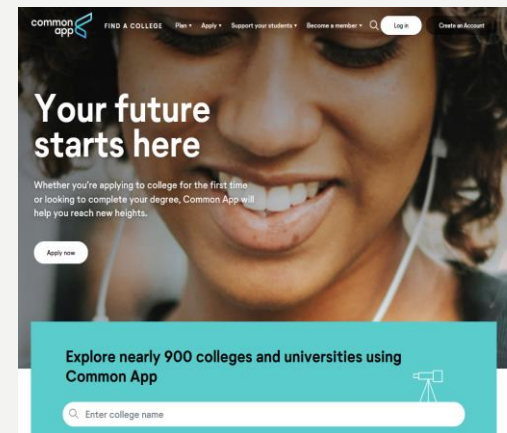
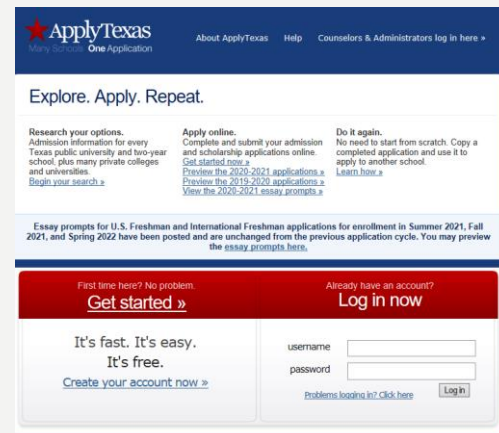
# PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- **Always ask for your parent's permission to utilize social media and internet based platforms for downloads and access.**
- BISD provides students with assistance for college planning activities such as college applications, financial aid applications, and scholarships year round at the school campuses.
- Every high school has a college access GO Center classroom that is equipped with a full-time college advisor and university staff to assist all students to apply for colleges, apply for financial aid, apply for scholarships and register for college tests such as SAT, ACT and TSIA2.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to meet with the GO Center staff and BISD Counselors to assist with questions regarding college planning.

# #1 BEGIN DRAFTING COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAYS

- **Apply Texas:** college application used to apply to 2 or 4 year colleges and universities in Texas  
[www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)
- **Common Application:** application for out of state and private college and universities  
[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

***HINT:*** Research College Application Deadlines and Scholarship Deadlines



# APPLY TEXAS ESSAY PROMPTS A, B AND C FOR U.S. FRESHMAN AND INTERNATIONAL FRESHMAN APPLICATIONS

**ESSAY WORD LIMIT: 800 (500-700 RECOMMENDED)**

Each college/university application will state which essays are required.

- **Essay 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?*
- **Essay B:** *Most students have an identity, an interest, or a talent that defines them in an essential way. Tell us about yourself.*
- **Essay C:** *You've got a ticket in your hand – Where will you go? What will you do? What will happen when you get there?*

# COMMON APP ESSAYS

## 250 -650 WORD LIMIT ON ESSAYS

**Each college/university application will state which essays are required.**

- 1. *Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, please share your story.*
- 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, and what did you learn from the experience?*
- 3. *Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?*
- 4. *Reflect on something that someone has done for you that made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you? -*
- 5. *Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.*
- 6. *Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging 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?*
- 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 design.*

# TIPS TO WRITING YOUR BEST COLLEGE ESSAY

- Present your most authentic self in your essay
- Write about genuine experiences that have impacted your life
  - Write about what you are passionate about
- Your essay should reflect your unique perspective
  - Maintain a positive attitude

# **#2 UTILIZE COLLEGE BOARD BIG FUTURE AND OTHER COLLEGE PLANNING PLATFORMS**

[HTTPS://BIGFUTURE.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG/](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/)

**LET YOUR MOUSE HOVER OVER THE SQUARE BELOW FOR THE VIDEO WINDOW TO APPEAR –  
CLICK TO START**



# #3 CONSIDER REGISTERING ON COLLEGE & SCHOLARSHIP PLATFORMS:

- Texas OnCourse: <https://texasoncourse.org/students-and-families/>



- Raise Me: <https://www.raise.me/>



- The College board Opportunity Scholarship: [cb.org/opportunity](https://cb.org/opportunity)



- Quest Bridge: <https://www.questbridge.org/>



- Fastweb: <https://www.fastweb.com/>



- College Greenlight to find scholarships: <https://www.collegegreenlight.com/>



**HINT:** Always visit your school website or campus Go Center for the latest local scholarship applications and deadlines



# #4 PRACTICE FOR THEIR TSIA2, SAT, ACT, ASVAB TESTS:

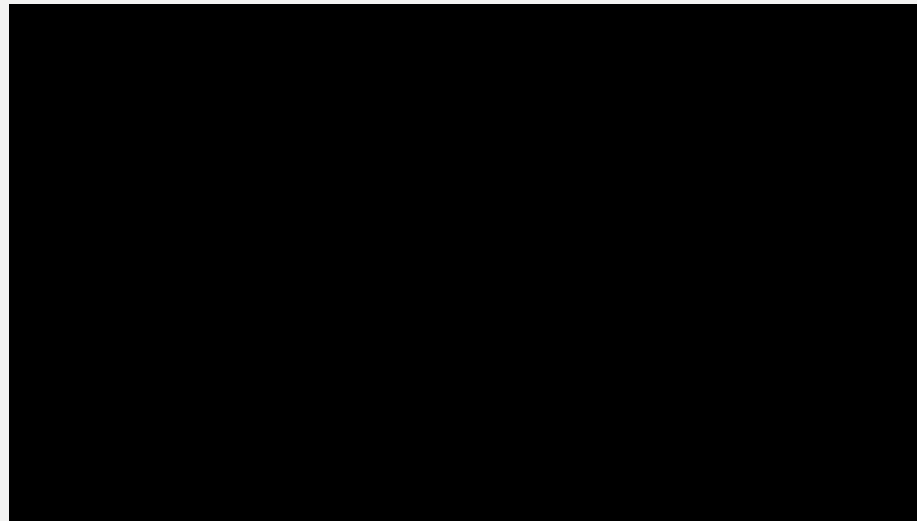


- [khanacademy.org/sat](https://khanacademy.org/sat) – download the APP

Link your PSAT score to Khan Academy to receive free online access to a personalized SAT review test.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=patbkNnnAQ4>

Let your mouse hover over the square below for the video window to appear –Click to start



# #4 PRACTICE FOR THEIR TSIA2, SAT, ACT, ASVAB TESTS:

Download the APPS or visit the practice sites:

ACT: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

TSIA2: <https://www.TSIA2practicetest.com/>

ASVAB: <https://www.officialasvab.com/>



# #4 MORE INFORMATION ON TSIA2, SAT, ACT, ASVAB TESTS:

- If you qualify for **testing accommodations**, visit with your Counselor or School Testing Coordinator to request assistance with registration for testing accommodations for the applicable tests. This must be done at least 6 weeks before the test date.
- Test dates and deadlines for the **SAT** and **ACT** test are posted on the **SAT** and **ACT** websites.
- Ensure you meet the registration deadline.
- Ask your Counselor about ACT / SAT School Day testing.
- Plan ahead for your testing dates to avoid conflicts with other activities.
- Meet with the Go Center Staff or your Counselor for your **SAT** and **ACT** test fee waivers.
- All high school campuses offer **TSIA2** testing on your campus.
- Ask your Counselor about registering for your **TSIA2** test.
- USA Military recruiters visit the high school campuses and can provide you with information on **ASVAB** testing. Ask your Counselor for the designated dates and times.

***HINT:** Always have a school or state picture ID with you on the date of the test.*

*You will not be allowed to test without a picture ID.*

# **#5 PARTICIPATE IN VIRTUAL COLLEGE VISITS AND FREE ONLINE COLLEGE FAIRS TO RESEARCH AND EXPLORE COLLEGES AND COLLEGE MAJORS**

- Visit university fly-in programs: [collegegreenlight.com/](https://collegegreenlight.com/)
- Virtual College Tours  
<https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/>
- NACAC National College Fairs: [www.nacacfairs.org](https://www.nacacfairs.org)

**HINT:** Research College Application Deadlines and Scholarship Deadlines

# #6 WORK ON CREATING YOUR EXPANDED RESUME FOR COLLEGE AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS:

- Here are some examples to guide you: [tinyurl.com/ExpandedResume](https://tinyurl.com/ExpandedResume)

***HINT:** Be sure to create and use an appropriate email address that reflects your professional self*

***HINT:** Think about 2-3 people who will be able to write a strong recommendation letter for you.*

*Give them your resume and a bullet list of things they should know about you and may consider mentioning in your letter of recommendation.*

# **#7 MAKE SURE YOUR PARENTS KEEP THEIR TAX RETURN IN A SAFE PLACE! YOU'LL NEED IT FOR YOUR FAFSA/TASFA APPLICATION!**

- The college financial aid application (FAFSA) portal opens on October 1<sup>st</sup>: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid>
- You and your parents will need to apply for an FSA ID which you will use to access your FAFSA account: <https://fsaid.ed.gov>
- Submit your college applications and FAFSA by the Priority Deadline of your Senior year to get the most financial aid you are eligible for!
- Beginning with the graduating class of 2022, all graduates must complete an application for FAFSA/TASFA or Opt-Out form as a graduation requirement.

**HINT:** *The GO Center staff will assist all students with their FAFSA and TASFA applications.*



# #8 ARE YOU A FUTURE COLLEGE ATHLETE?



- Visit the NCAA official site: [ncaa.org](https://ncaa.org)
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center here: <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>
- Visit the NAIA portal here: <https://play.mynaia.org/>
- Register with the NAIA Eligibility Center:  
<https://www.naia.org/registrars/eligibility-center-resources>
- Work closely with your high school coaches for recruiting opportunities

**Hint:** Visit with your School Counselor to keep track of required course credits and grade point average for NCAA and NAIA eligibility. Practice your SAT and ACT tests

# #9 CONSIDER USING ASK ADVI:

- ADVi -The TX Higher Education Coordinating Board's newest technology resource to answer any questions you have about college planning

[askadvi.org](http://askadvi.org)



How do I get started?



How do I apply to college?



Is college for me?



Where should I go to college?



## Who is ADVi? Is ADVi a person?

ADVi is a chatbot, powered by artificial intelligence, who is available 24/7. ADVi doesn't know everything, but they have a lot of information about applying to college, completing the FAFSA (or TASFA), college readiness, and more!

## What can I ask ADVi?

You can ask ADVi all questions related to attending a public college or university in the state of Texas, including things like how financial aid works, what tests you need to take, how to transfer credits, and how to access campus resources. ADVi provides general information but can also connect you with advisers at specific colleges if you have a college or university in mind.

## How do I ask ADVi a question?

To ask ADVi a question, click on the 'chat' icon in the lower right-hand corner of our website. ADVi also chats via SMS text message, but right now, that option is only available to select audiences. Stay tuned!


## What if ADVi can't answer my question?

Don't worry, we've got your back! If ADVi does not know the answer to your question, a live college adviser will step in to assist you with your question within 48 hours.



# #10 LEARN HOW MUCH YOUR FUTURE LIFESTYLE WILL COST

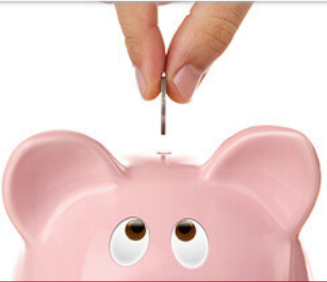
Texas Reality Check's Lifestyle Calculator: [texasrealitycheck.com](https://texasrealitycheck.com)

**TEXAS**  
Reality Check

FAQ Feedback

## Will you be able to afford the lifestyle you want?

It's difficult to predict the future, but it's never too early to start planning for it. Texas Reality Check will show you how much your living expenses will cost, and the amount of money you will need to earn to pay for them.



**It's time for a Reality Check.**

# #11 LEARN ABOUT CAREERS YOU MIGHT BE WELL SUITED FOR BASED ON YOUR INTERESTS

- Learn about careers you might be well suited for--based on your interests--using O\*Net Online's Interest Profiler: [mynextmove.org/explore/ip](https://mynextmove.org/explore/ip)

The screenshot shows the 'My Next Move' Interest Profiler interface. At the top, the logo 'MY NEXT MOVE' is displayed alongside the 'o-net in-it' logo and navigation icons for HOME, SEARCH, INDUSTRIES, and INTERESTS. The main heading asks 'What do you want to do for a living?'. Below this, three columns offer different search methods: 1. 'I want to be a ...' with a key icon, 'Search careers with key words', a text input field with examples 'doctor, build houses', and a 'Search' button. 2. 'I'll know it when I see it.' with a factory icon, 'Browse careers by industry', a dropdown menu showing 'Administration & Support Services', and a 'Browse' button. 3. 'I'm not really sure.' with a person icon, 'Tell us what you like to do', a description of a questionnaire, and a 'Start' button. At the bottom, there are links for 'Still not sure?' (Bright Outlook, Interests, Job Prep) and a section for veterans ('Are you a veteran looking for work?') with a link to 'My Next Move for Veterans'. A Spanish version is also mentioned ('¿Hable español? Mi Próximo Paso'). A footer banner reads 'FIND THE APPRENTICESHIP THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU APPRENTICESHIP.GOV'.

— MY NEXT MOVE — o-net in-it HOME SEARCH INDUSTRIES INTERESTS

**What do you want to do for a living?**

**"I want to be a ..."**

**Search careers with key words.**

Describe your dream career in a few words:

Examples: doctor, build houses

**Search**

**"I'll know it when I see it."**

**Browse careers by industry.**

There are over 900 career options for you to look at. Find yours in one of these industries:

Administration & Support Services

**Browse**

**"I'm not really sure."**

**Tell us what you like to do.**

Answer questions about the type of work you might enjoy. We'll suggest careers that match your interests and training.

**Start**

**Still not sure?** Check out careers in these groups:

Bright Outlook Interests Job Prep

**Are you a veteran looking for work?**

My Next Move for Veterans helps you find a civilian career similar to your military job.

**¿Hable español?**

Mi Próximo Paso incluye tareas, aptitudes, información sobre salarios y más de 900 carreras diferentes.

**FIND THE APPRENTICESHIP THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU APPRENTICESHIP.GOV**

# #11 LEARN ABOUT CAREERS YOU MIGHT BE WELL SUITED FOR--BASED ON YOUR INTERESTS

Use the Occupational Outlook Handbook research tool to continue researching your career interests: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Get the Career Info app for IOS and Android devices

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Occupational Outlook Handbook. At the top is the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics logo and a navigation bar with links like HOME, SUBJECTS, DATA TOOLS, PUBLICATIONS, ECONOMIC RELEASES, STUDENTS, and BETA. Below this is a search bar and a section titled 'OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK'. The main content area includes a 'Home' section with a link to the CareerInfo app, a 'SELECT OCCUPATIONS BY' section with dropdown menus for Median Pay, Entry-Level Education, On-the-job Training, Number of New Jobs (Projected), and Growth Rate (Projected), and a 'FEATURED OCCUPATION' section highlighting 'Chemists and Materials Scientists' with a description and a 'view profile' link.

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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OOH HOME | OCCUPATION FINDER | OOH FAQ | OOH GLOSSARY | A-Z INDEX | OOH SITE MAP

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Search Handbook Go

Occupational Outlook Handbook >

Home

Get the CareerInfo app for the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), available for [iOS](#) and for [Android](#) devices.

OCCUPATION GROUPS

- Architecture and Engineering
- Arts and Design
- Building and Grounds Cleaning
- Business and Financial
- Community and Social Service
- Computer and Information Technology
- Construction and Extraction
- Education, Training, and Library
- Entertainment and Sports
- Farming, Fishing, and Forestry
- Food Preparation and Serving
- Healthcare
- Installation, Maintenance, and Repair
- Legal

SELECT OCCUPATIONS BY

2019 Median Pay Entry-Level Education On-the-job Training

Number of New Jobs (Projected) Growth Rate (Projected) GO

FEATURED OCCUPATION

**Chemists and Materials Scientists**

Chemists and materials scientists study substances at the atomic and molecular levels and analyze the ways in which the substances interact with one another.

[view profile >](#)

# #12 STAY CONNECTED

- Ensure you are following the REMIND 101 and other school and district social media to receive up to date information and announcements from your Counselors and campus news about college activities, events, scholarships and more!
- Visit your high school GO Center at least 2X a week

Always ask for assistance

GET READY TO SOAR!