

You May Be Eligible for These Two Programs!

The Automatic Admissions Policy

This program provides certain students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class with automatic admission into Texas public colleges and universities. Ask your school counselor about eligibility requirements.

The TEXAS Grant Program

This program provides grant money to eligible students, so they may attend public and private nonprofit colleges and universities in Texas. Eligibility requirements for this program include:

- ◆ Texas residency;
- ◆ Financial need;
- ◆ Registration for the selective service or exemption from this requirement;
- ◆ Completion of the recommended high school program or higher;
- ◆ Enrollment at least three-quarters time in an undergraduate degree or certificate program within 16 months of high school graduation, unless an allowable exemption is satisfied; and
- ◆ No conviction of a felony or crime involving a controlled substance, unless certain conditions are met.



**For more information,
please contact:**

Texas Financial Aid Information Center

Toll-free number: 877-782-7322
The Texas Financial Aid Information Center (TFAIC) offers assistance in both English and Spanish. Operation hours are Monday through Thursday from 7 am to 7 pm (CST) and Friday from 7 am to 5 pm.

College for Texans

Students and parents are also encouraged to visit www.collegefortexans.com for current information about higher education.

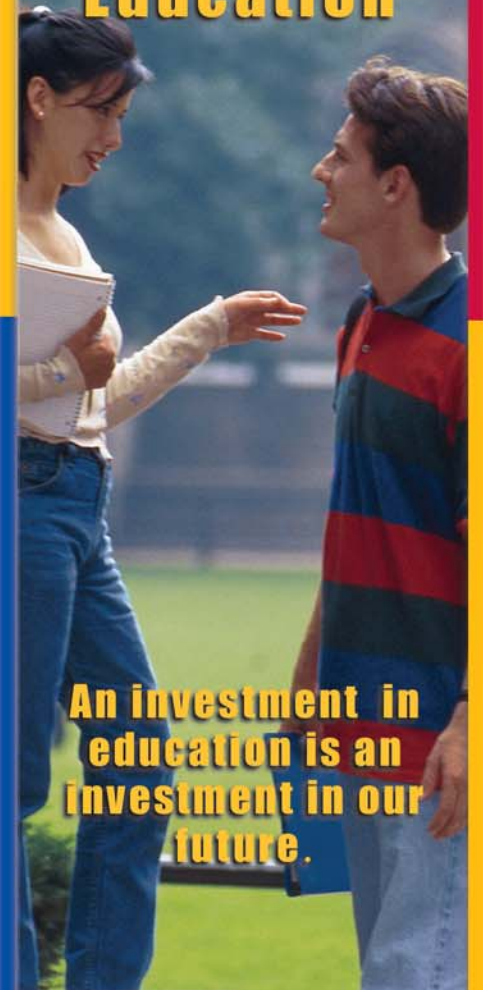


Texas Education Agency
Guidance and Counseling Unit
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701-1494

Phone: (512) 463-9498
Web site: www.tea.state.tx.us/guidance

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A Guide for Students and Parents about Higher Education



**An investment in
education is an
investment in our
future.**

Preparing for Higher Education



Higher education can help all students to be better prepared for many careers and to understand the world in which they live, work, and compete. Higher education furthers students' development and use of knowledge through advanced instruction and research. Higher education also provides students with more career choices and greater earning potential.

Higher education includes:

- ◆ Colleges and universities
- ◆ Junior and community colleges
- ◆ Technical schools
- ◆ Trade schools

As A Student, Which High School Curriculum Should You Complete?

There are many advantages to completing the recommended high school curriculum or higher. These advantages include:

- ◆ Opportunities for you to complete higher-level coursework, particularly in mathematics, science, social studies, and languages other than English;
- ◆ Increasing your readiness for higher education;
- ◆ Preparing you for additional advanced work and research;
- ◆ Allowing you to receive college credit for certain high school coursework;
- ◆ Increasing your eligibility for certain financial aid programs; and
- ◆ Enabling you to receive a transcript noting completion of a program beyond the minimum high school program.

What About Financial Aid?

There are many different types of financial aid available to students wishing to pursue higher education. Ask your school counselor for information about: grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study. See the back of this brochure for information about the Texas Financial Aid Center, which can provide information on organizations offering financial aid, including federal and state government, civic or church groups, foundations, nonprofit organizations, parents' employers, and institutions of higher education.

What is the FAFSA?

The **FAFSA** is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The information contained in the FAFSA is used to calculate a student's need for financial aid.

ALL colleges require a completed FAFSA if a student is applying for financial aid. To apply for financial aid, you must submit a FAFSA, either in hard-copy or through FAFSA on-line. The FAFSA web site is www.fafsa.ed.gov. Your high school counselor will also have a copy of the FAFSA.

When to Fill Out the FAFSA

To receive financial aid, complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after you and your family complete your federal income tax return for the prior year or by the college's financial aid deadline, whichever comes first. Ask your high school counselor for assistance with the FAFSA application process.

Within four to six weeks after mailing the FAFSA (two to four weeks if completed on-line), you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR).

