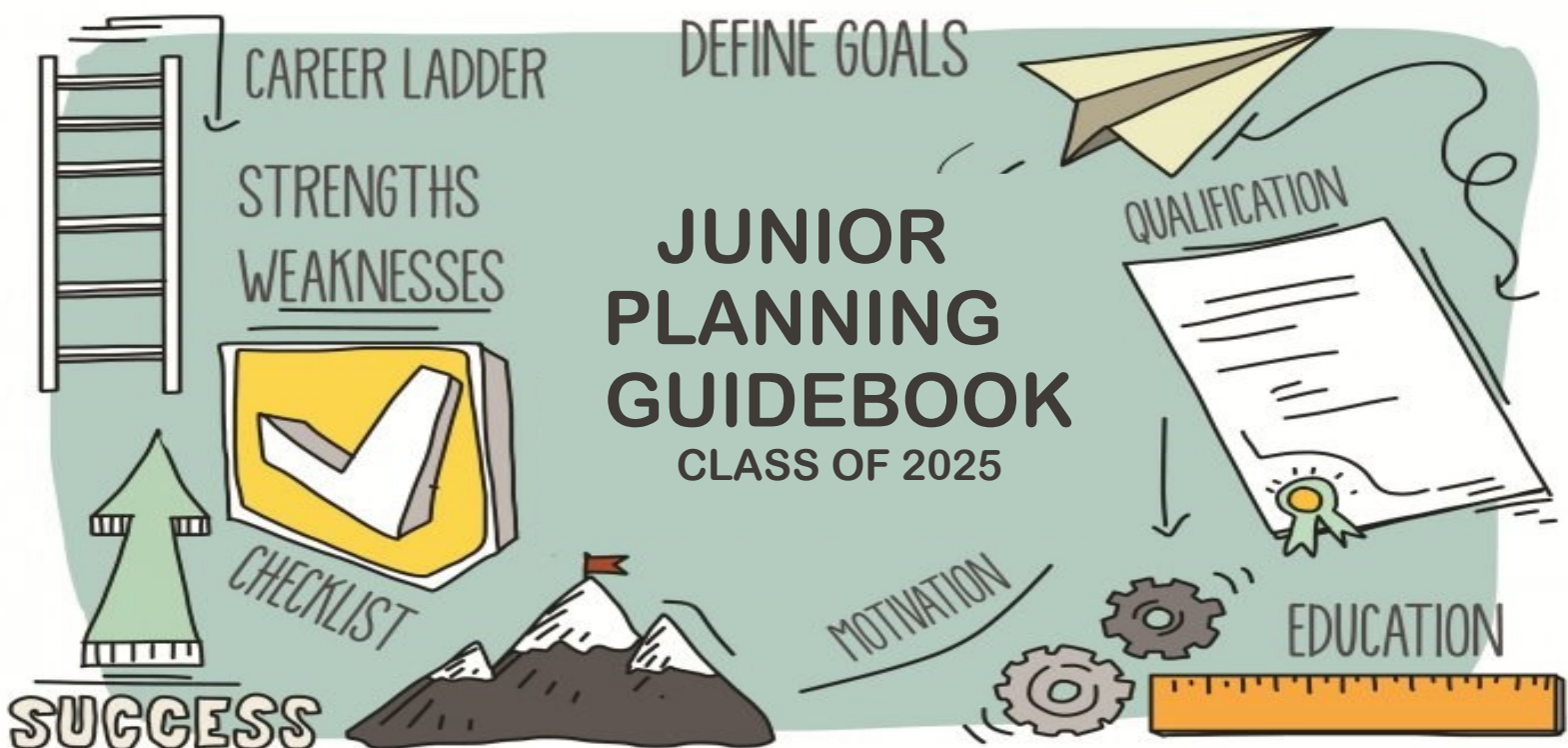


# O'Connor High School



# IT'S YOUR JUNIOR YEAR—

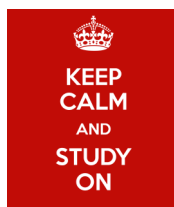
*Now is the time to start thinking seriously about college. In many ways, what you do this year will determine which colleges you have a chance to get into next year. Here are some things you can do this year to stay on track for college.*

## Extracurricular Activities

College admissions are about more than grades and test scores. Make sure you're involved in activities outside of your classes. Seek out experiences that will be meaningful to you and that will give you opportunities to develop leadership roles. Whether you're involved in theater, music, athletics, or community service, your extracurricular activities show a college that you're a passionate, engaged, and well-rounded individual.

## Grades & Taking Challenging Courses

Grades matter from the beginning of 9th grade until the end of 12th grade. College may seem a long way off when you're in your first year of high school, but those grades will affect your GPA and class rank. If you want to get into a top school and be well-prepared for college, you should choose challenging coursework.



## College Research & Campus Visits

Use junior year to start college campus visits. You are allowed two excused school business days for visits. The more schools you visit, the better informed your choices will be. Learn about college admission requirements, majors, cost, housing, campus life, etc.



## Prepare for the SAT/ACT

Use the feedback from your PSAT scores to improve your test-taking skills. The KHAN Academy offers free personalized SAT prep. If studying solo isn't your strength, consider taking a test preparation course. All juniors will take the SAT during the school day in April. Since you're allowed to take the tests more than once and most colleges consider only your highest scores, it's wise to take the test at least twice. Sign up at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) and/or [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

# LOOKING AHEAD TO SENIOR YEAR—

## Grades & Challenging Senior Schedule

Senior year isn't the time to slack off – most colleges reserve the right to overturn an admissions decision if an applicant's grades take a sudden nosedive.

## College Visits

Early in senior year, you'll have to start figuring out which schools will best match your personality and interests. The more schools you visit, the better informed your choices will be. Be sure to get the most out of your campus visit. Remember, you are allowed two excused school business days for visits.

## College Applications

Look at all of the admission requirements early so that you know what's required of you. The sooner you submit your applications, the better. Make sure your application is complete and polished. Know the deadlines for college admissions and scholarships. Apply at [applytexas.org](http://applytexas.org) or [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

## Admissions Essay

Don't put off your essay until your application deadline is looming. In the summer or early in senior year, start thinking about the essay questions for the schools you're interested in applying to. Your admissions essay should be the most thoughtful and polished piece of writing you've ever produced. Allow lots of time to write drafts and get feedback from teachers and counselors. You are able preview applications through [Apply Texas](http://ApplyTexas)

## SAT / ACT

To meet application deadlines at most competitive schools, you may need to have taken the SAT and/or ACT by early in your senior year. Also, if you took the SAT/ACT in your junior year but are not happy with your scores, the fall of senior year is your last chance to try again. Keep track of the SAT/ACT test dates and registration deadlines.



## Letters of Recommendation (if required)

Your teachers, counselor, and mentors are busy people, so be sure to give them plenty of time to write your letters of recommendation. Also, try to spend some time talking with your recommenders before handing them the forms – you'll get the best letters from people who understand your interests and ambitions.

# COURSE SELECTION / DUAL CREDIT

## Plan for Senior year Course Selection

As you plan for senior course selections, make sure that you utilize all resources available and information from your teachers, parents, and online course catalog. [ohscatalog.weebly.com](http://ohscatalog.weebly.com)

## Thinking about Dual Credit for next year??

### NEW APPLICANTS:

What do you need to do?

1. Complete the Apply Texas Application by 3/1/24
2. Create login for ACES account
3. Complete modules and student orientation in ACES
4. Submit parent consent form
5. Submit qualifying TSI test scores

### RETURNING DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS:

1. Complete a Parent Consent Form
2. Retest the TSI or a portion of the TSI (if needed)

Use the following links for step by step instructions:

[OC Dual Credit Page](#)  
[Dual Credit Deadlines](#)  
[TSI Information](#)  
[Dual Credit Checklist](#)



STEM

## Sign Up for Important Class Reminders!

Sign up for updated Class 2025 Remind groups. Due to group limits, we ask that you sign up to your corresponding alpha group by last name. Sign up by texting to **81010** and use your message below.

A-B-- @bg9fag  
C-F-- @4acc3b  
G-K-- @46c9bg9  
L-N-- @489f63  
O-R-- @g9ge37  
S-Z-- @e9f4g4  
Parents- @3ea9ad7

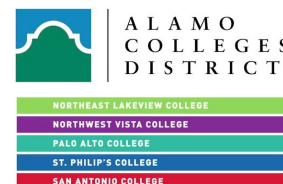


Standard text messages rates may apply

# CAMPUS VISITS

JUNIORS, THIS IS YOUR TIME TO VISIT COLLEGE CAMPUSES BEFORE YOU APPLY NEXT FALL!  
JUNIORS ARE ALLOWED 2 COLLEGE VISITS PER SCHOOL YEAR WHICH WILL NOT BE COUNTED AS AN ABSENCE.  
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT, AND ASK QUESTIONS OF YOUR PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE.

Here are some links for visitation information. (For your respective school, visit their website.)



### Visiting Centers

- [Northeast Lakeview](#)
- [Northwest Vista](#)
- [Palo Alto](#)
- [St. Philip's College](#)
- [San Antonio College](#)

When you schedule your campus tour, please pick up your request form from the attendance office .

Also take advantage of visiting local certification programs.





As you approach the end of high school, there are a number of paths – join the workforce, enlist in the military, go to college or technical school. You may want to play college athletics or work during school. By now you may have some ideas about what you'd like to do, but as you research you may realize there are some many options than you can even imagine. Deciding what to do after high school and how to do it can be confusing.

Texas OnCourse empowers you to make decisions that will help you, your child, or your student succeed after high school.



### Built by educators

Texas OnCourse is the result of educators, employers, and state agencies working together. Thousands of educators, employers across the state, and three key state agencies work with the Texas OnCourse team to develop our resources.



### One-stop shop

Texas OnCourse is about as close as it gets to being an instruction book for guiding educators, students, and their families step-by-step through the entire process of planning for what happens after high school.



### Free, digital, on-demand

Texas OnCourse is available to any parent, student, or educator in Texas – for free and whenever you need it.



### Making what's complex simple

The post-high school planning process is complex, with a lot of room for error and misunderstanding. Texas OnCourse is the first and last word in career and college planning..



## MILITARY SERVICE

### Benefits of Military Service

- Education Benefits
- Advanced and Specialty Training
- Option for full-time or part-time service
- College Loan repayment or college tuition assistance
- Leadership opportunities

**Service Academy Information**  
Please contact Mrs. Vaughn  
irma.vaughn@nisd.net



### Navy

[www.navy.com](http://www.navy.com)  
O'Connor Contact:  
PO1 Heidi Salazar  
[heidi.salazar.mil@us.navy.mil](mailto:heidi.salazar.mil@us.navy.mil)  
(210) 737-1587



### Army

[www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)  
O'Connor Contact:  
SSgt Holden Rangel  
SSgt Jose Romo  
(210) 681-8040 (office)  
[holden.j.rangel.mil@mail.mil](mailto:holden.j.rangel.mil@mail.mil)  
[jose.d.romo4.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jose.d.romo4.mil@mail.mil)



### Coast Guard

[uscg.mil/join/](http://uscg.mil/join/)  
O'Connor Contact:  
(210) 590-9760  
abdiel.bermudez@uscg.mil



### Air Force

[www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil)  
Air Force Recruiting Office  
SSgt James Dykes  
[james.dykes.3@us.af.mil](mailto:james.dykes.3@us.af.mil)  
(210) 681-8952



### Marine Corps

[www.marines.mil](http://www.marines.mil)  
O'Connor Contact:  
Sgt Henry Medina  
(210) 684-1296 (office)  
[henry.medina@marines.usmc.mil](mailto:henry.medina@marines.usmc.mil)

# WHAT DOES COLLEGE REALLY COST?

The average cost are based on 15 college credit hours for both fall and spring in 2023-2024.



**Community College** (Out-of-District rates used for Blinn & ACC)



School	Tuition/Fees	Books	Room/Board	Transportation	Other	Total
Alamo	\$3,412	\$500	\$11,512	\$2,732	\$2,428	\$20,584
Blinn	\$6,350	\$1,365	\$11,514	\$3,287	\$2,822	\$25,338
Austin CC	\$8,580	\$1,200	\$18,240	\$1,824	\$3,584	\$33,428



## 4-year Public University

School	Tuition/Fees	Books	Room/Board	Transportation	Other	Total
UTSA	\$11,396	\$1,000	\$10,449	\$3,524	\$2,088	\$28,457
TAMU	\$11,610	\$900	\$11,780	\$2,034	\$3,360	\$29,684
TX TECH	\$11,852	\$1,200	\$11,303	\$2,731	\$2,176	\$29,262
UT-Austin	\$10,858	\$724	\$14,840	\$1,682	\$3,352	\$31,456



## 4-year Independent University

School	Tuition/Fees	Books	Room/Board	Transportation	Other	Total
Baylor	\$55,044	\$1,438	\$14,594	\$2,260	\$2,224	\$75,560
Rice	\$58,128	\$1,400	\$15,900	\$700	\$2,850	\$78,978
St. Mary's	\$36,242	\$1,300	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$44,542
TCU	\$57,220	\$800	\$14,800	\$1,390	\$4,240	\$78,450

ABOVE INFORMATION WAS GATHERED FROM [WWW.COLLEGEFORALLTEXANS.COM](http://WWW.COLLEGEFORALLTEXANS.COM).  
PLEASE CHECK ACTUAL SCHOOL WEBSITES FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

# 12<sup>th</sup> grade College Application Timeline

Want to know if you are on track? This timeline provides a general timeline for the college application process.

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER—PREPARE

- Senior Conferences: Talk to your school counselor and CCMA about the college search and application process.
- College requirements: Make a list of the application, testing, and financial aid requirements for each college.
- Letters of recommendation (if needed): Decide who to ask and reach out to them early, so they have time to write good letters. If you have a résumé or list of accomplishments, be sure to send it to them.
- Application essays: Look over essays you've already written for inspiration. Share your ideas with parents, teachers, or other trusted adults, so they can help you craft the strongest essays possible.
- Register for the SAT®: If you haven't taken it yet, or would like to take it again, it's not too late! Sign up now, and be sure to send score reports to colleges.
- Attend NVC College Connections Presentation for application assistance.
- Complete the FAFSA, which opens October 1: It is necessary if you are applying for federal and state grants and loans. Funds are limited, so make sure to file by the financial aid priority filing dates.
- NISD College Night: Join us for the opportunity to get info on hundreds of private and public colleges and universities.

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER—APPLY

- Work on your applications: Some have deadlines as early as November and December.
- Send your SAT and AP® scores: This ensures that colleges have the most complete set of your information to review for admission, as well as scholarship awards, course placement, or selection to a specific program or major.
- Utilize college application services: Application systems like the Apply Texas, Coalition Application, Common Application, and Universal College Application let you complete one application online, and submit it to several colleges.
- Send transcripts: Ask for your transcripts to be sent to your chosen colleges.

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY—EXPLORE OPTIONS

- Compare award letters: After examining the financial aid packages you are offered, some schools may be more affordable than you thought.
- Continue to search for scholarships: Scholarships provide money for college that you don't need to repay. Remember, they're not just for academic superstars.

## MARCH/MAY—DECIDE

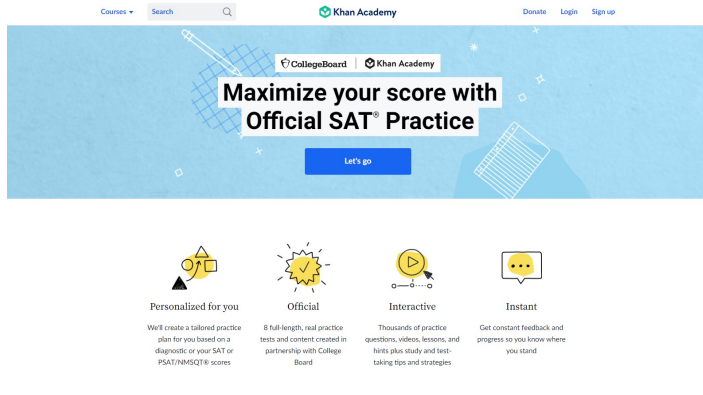
- Get information: Dig a little deeper to help you make the best choice for you. Ask questions. Create a list of any questions you still have about the colleges you're considering.
- Confirm with College or University: Go over TSI requirements /exemptions, placement exams, housing, and advising/registration.
- Review acceptance letters: Go over all offers of admission, consider the pros and cons of each school, and pick the college that fits you best.

\* Make sure to check early deadlines that may alter this general timeline

# COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Many 11th grade

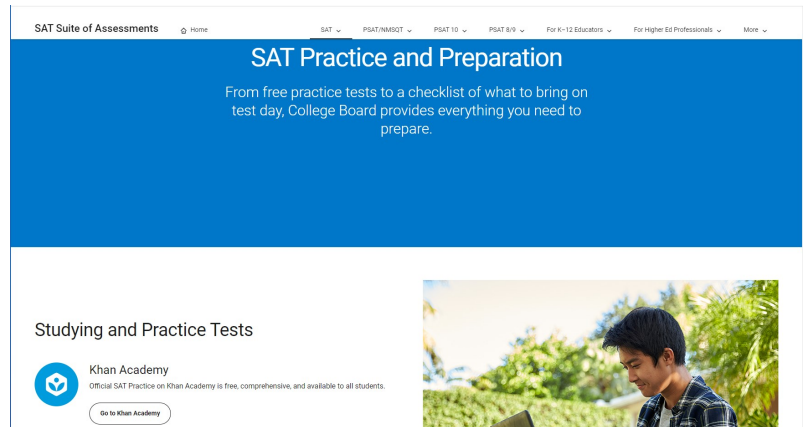
students take an admissions exam in the spring, so they can get a head start on planning for college. 11th grade NISD students will have the opportunity to sign-up and take the SAT on **April 17th. (UPDATED)** The SAT will be administered at no cost to students during the school day and proctored by NISD teachers.



- College Board and Khan Academy have partnered to offer free, personalized practice for the SAT. Students can visit Khan Academy at [satpractice.org](https://satpractice.org)
- Students can also visit [sat.org/practice](https://sat.org/practice) to access a free official SAT practice material.

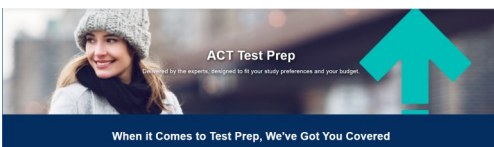
- If you choose to take the SAT for a second time, you can register at [sat.org](https://sat.org)
- The following dates will be available for the spring and fall of 2024.

	March 19	May 4
June 1	Aug 24	Oct 5
Nov 2	Dec 7	



\* **Fee Waivers** Eligible students who demonstrate financial need can receive up to 2 fee waivers for SAT registrations. Visit [collegeboard.org/feewaiver](https://collegeboard.org/feewaiver) for the most up-to-date information.

More than 1.4 million students in the US high school class of 2023 took the ACT test



## Test Prep - Do your best on test day

ACT offers additional ways to prepare

- ACT Online Prep
- The Official ACT Prep Guide
- Sample Test Questions

For more information visit:

[ACT Test Prep](https://acttestprep.com)



- The ACT exam can also be used for college entrance.
- If you choose to take the ACT, you can register at [www.act.org](https://www.act.org)
- The following dates will be available for the spring and fall of 2024.

April 13	June 8	July 13
Sept 7	Oct 26	Dec 7

- ACT does not require the writing portion, **but** some colleges will. Check with your prospective colleges.

# Online Career & College Resources

**BE INFORMED! Gather information! Research your options!**

## BigFuture by The College Board

[www.bigfuture.org](http://www.bigfuture.org)

### Career Finder

Guides families – step by step – in preparing for, finding and enrolling in college

## Texas OnCourse

[www.texasoncourse.org](http://www.texasoncourse.org)

Step-by-step guide through the entire process of planning for what happens after high school.

## OHS Counseling Website

[oconnorcounseling.weebly.com](http://oconnorcounseling.weebly.com)

Academic planning information, college visit forms, SAT/Act info, scholarships, career planning

## Texas Workforce Commission

[www.TexasCareerCheck.com](http://www.TexasCareerCheck.com)

Research career & colleges by occupation titles, career clusters, states, programs of study

## Choices 360 Career Exploration

[www.Choices360.com](http://www.Choices360.com)

Build personalized plans by comparing, connecting, and choosing career & education options

## College for All Texans

[www.collegeforalltexans.com](http://www.collegeforalltexans.com)

College research & planning, cost calculator, applying for college, financial aid & testing

## Adventures in Education

[www.aie.org](http://www.aie.org)

Planning & paying for college, finding a career, managing your money, financial aid

## Own Your Own Future

[www.ownyourownfuture.com](http://www.ownyourownfuture.com)

Why go to college? Prep for college, find a college, pay for college

## Occupational Outlook Handbook

[www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)

Career information/outlook/searches—fastest growing, highest paying, etc