

WHY GO TO COLLEGE?

{Does it make a difference?}

Choices you make during the next few years will affect the choices you have for the rest of your life. By preparing now to attend college, you will be more focused on what you need to do all through high school.

WHY SHOULD COLLEGE BE YOUR GOAL?

A college education is an investment in your future. It can provide you with many opportunities in life and work.

MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

More and more jobs, especially high tech jobs, require education beyond high school. A college education gives you more career choices. It also makes changing jobs or careers easier.

MORE MONEY

People who go to college generally earn more than people who don't. Over a lifetime of work, a college graduate can expect to earn almost twice as much as someone with only a high school diploma, and someone with a professional **degree**, such as a doctor or lawyer, can make almost four times as much (2000, U.S. Census Bureau, Lifetime Earnings Estimates).

GREATER KNOWLEDGE

A college education will help you understand the world around you, think critically, express thoughts clearly in speech and in writing, and make wiser decisions.

INCREASED POTENTIAL

College provides you with opportunities to explore your interests, discover new areas of knowledge, consider lifelong goals, and become a responsible citizen.

WHAT STEPS SHOULD YOU TAKE TO REACH YOUR GOAL?

The most important way to prepare for college in high school is to take college preparatory courses. They provide the necessary background for a college education.

The State of Texas has a Recommended High School Program that serves as a guide for college-bound students. By taking the recommended courses, you will



meet or exceed the course requirements for Texas colleges and universities. The RHSP is currently the default curriculum. In other words, it will automatically be chosen for you unless you have parental and counselor approval to select a less rigorous alternative in a Texas public school. Discuss the recommended courses AND your course selections with your parents, teachers, and counselors.

If you are interested in going beyond the Recommended High School Program, the Distinguished Achievement Program has additional requirements.

If you complete one of these programs and demonstrate financial need, you may be eligible to receive the TEXAS Grant, which can help you pay for college expenses.

Students interested in technical programs may consider Tech Prep Articulated Programs during high school. Students could earn up to 15 hours of **tuition** free college credit toward an **associate degree**. These classes are designed to fulfill the requirements for associate degree programs and may transfer to state universities. Tech Prep students are required to complete the Recommended High School Program, but may be able to substitute classes directly related to their area of interest. Check with your school counselor about requirements.

Where can you find additional information about goal setting, college preparatory courses, and going to college?

www.collegefortexans.com

Where can you find additional information about Tech Prep?

www.southplainscollege.edu/techprep

AM I COLLEGE MATERIAL?

YES! Again, the answer to this question is an emphatic YES! Anyone who desires to attend college is “college material.” Everyone deserves a chance to attend college and strive toward the goals they have set for themselves. The faculty and staff on college campuses are dedicated to helping you be successful in college.

DO I HAVE TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I WANT MY MAJOR TO BE BEFORE I ENROLL IN COLLEGE?

Many students don’t have a clear idea of the **major** they want or what career they want to pursue. You and your advisor can determine together the courses you will need each semester.

Students are also provided assistance from Career Counselors in choosing a career direction. These services are provided free of cost and continuously throughout your college career.

AM I WILLING TO DEVOTE THE TIME NECESSARY FOR SCHOOL?

Full-time enrollment at most colleges and universities is 12 credit hours, which means you will be attending classes 12 hours per week for the semester. Classes are offered mornings, afternoons, and evenings. You can choose classes that are offered at a convenient time and day for you. The “rule of thumb” is to allow two hours of study time for each hour of class. It’s important to make this commitment of time to be successful.

WILL THERE BE OTHER STUDENTS LIKE ME AT COLLEGE?

Definitely! Most colleges and universities have a very diverse population of students. Students come from all walks of life, differing backgrounds, and have various educational experiences. What this brings to you is an opportunity to interact with a variety of individuals who can provide ideas and information you may have never even considered. Opportunities to participate in multicultural events and student activities provide additional contact with other students. You might even form some life-long friendships with the people you meet while in college.