

Choosing a College That is Right for You...



Step 1: Determine what you might like to study or major in at college.

Yes, many students enter college as “undecided,” and that's fine, but if you have some idea of a career or a major, that information can help in finding colleges that offer (and even specialize) in that field.

Take the short college major quiz and find your best fitting college majors!

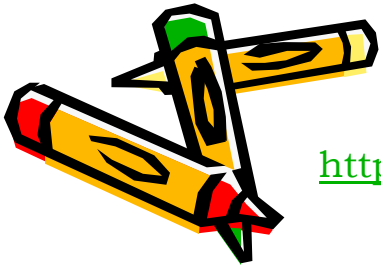
Link to: <http://www.mymajors.com/>

Step 2: Develop a list of criteria you want to use to evaluate and weed out colleges.

Do you want to live close to home, or far away? Do you want a large university or a small college? Does it offer your major? How about public vs. private, costs, social life, housing and admission requirements?

See the following site to rank your top five factors by importance. How you rank these factors will depend largely on your personal preferences and needs.

<http://www.actstudent.org/college/factors.html>



Follow this link to research colleges by majors offered

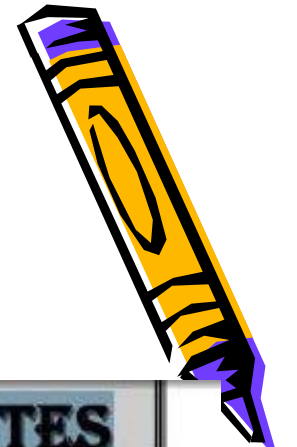
<http://www.mymajors.com/College-Search-by-Majors-and-states.cfml>



Remember that one of the criteria that you want to use to evaluate colleges is admission requirements.

For example *passing the THEA test or similar assessment is required before a student can take most classes at a Texas public community college- TVCC.*

All universities have varying admission requirements. For example, see the following link for UT-Tyler: <http://www.uttyler.edu/admissions/freshman.htm>



2010-2011 COLLEGE PREP TESTING DATES

1. Use **444410** for Mabank's High School Code so we can receive the test results for the SAT & ACT tests.

2. Request a **fee waiver** from your counselor if you are on free or reduced lunch. There are a limited number of these waivers so sign up for these early in the year.

3. If you cannot **register** online, see your counselor for a mail-in registration form.

4. **Practice tests** are available online or in the counselor's office.

5. Be sure to check the testing websites below for any **date changes**.

6. If you feel you may qualify for **testing accommodations** see your counselor immediately. Documentation may take several months since accommodations at school are not usually enough to qualify with SAT & ACT. See more info at ACT @ <http://www.act.org/aap/dlsab/index.html> & SAT @ <http://www.collegeboard.com/ssd/student/index.html>.

THEA

Texas Higher Education Assessment

*Passing the THEA test or similar assessment is required before a student can take most classes at a Texas public community college or university.

*Exemptions for the THEA include scoring 2000 on the TAKS Math & STAAR tests with a 3 or 4 on the composition; ACT composite score of 21 with a minimum score of 19 in English & Math; or SAT total score of 1070 with a minimum score of 500 in Reading & Math. If using TAKS scores, EXPT TAKS scores provide a percentage example for test and STAAR scores provide a category example.

*Register at <http://www.thea.net/nc/nc01r.cfm> or see your counselor for a mail-in registration (\$29 fee).

*Call TVCC at (903) 675-6363 if you need to take the **Quick THEA** given once per month for an extra \$20 fee.

Please mark these important dates on your calendar!

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline EXTRA FEE	Emergency Registration Deadline EXTRA FEE
16-Oct	17-Sep	6-Oct	13-Oct
26-Feb	28-Jan	16-Feb	23-Feb
23-Apr	25-Mar	13-Apr	20-Apr
18-Jun	20-May	8-Jun	15-Jun
23-Jul	24-Jun	13-Jul	20-Jul

SAT

•Register online at: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/index.html?student>

•Be sure to select the SAT Reasoning Test unless you know your college also requires a Subject Test.

2010-2011 Test Dates	Regular Registration Deadline (\$47 Fee)	LATE Registration Deadline (\$71 Fee)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9-Oct	10-Sep	24-Sep
8-Nov	8-Oct	22-Oct
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4-Dec	5-Nov	19-Nov
22-Jan	23-Dec	7-Jan
12-Mar	11-Feb	25-Feb
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7-May	8-Apr	22-Apr
4-Jun	6-May	20-May

SAT test given at Mabank High School. Use test center code 44661 to request MHS when registering.

ACT

•Register online at: <http://www.actstudent.org/>

2010-2011 Test Dates	Regular Registration Deadline (\$33 or \$48)	LATE Registration Deadline (Add \$21 Fee)
11-Sep	8-Aug	20-Aug
23-Oct	17-Sep	1-Oct
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11-Dec	5-Nov	19-Nov
12-Feb	7-Jan	21-Jan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9-Apr	4-Mar	18-Mar
11-Jun	8-May	20-May

ACT test given at Mabank High School. Use test center code 220190 to request MHS when registering.

ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) for Seniors

*PSAT (pre-SAT) for Juniors

PLAN (pre-ACT) for Sophomores

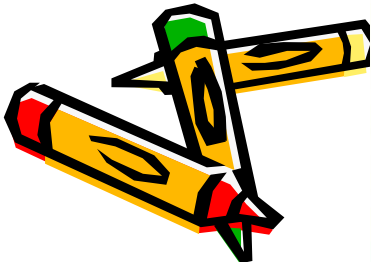
Registration is not necessary for the above tests on **October 13** unless 9th or 10th graders want to take the PSAT test. See your counselor for more details.

*Junior year results are used to qualify students for National Merit & some other scholarships.

AP Exams : May 3-7 & May 10-14

Ask your AP teacher or see the CollegeBoard website for specific testing dates for AP classes you are taking.

Testing info for these tests is available in the counselor's office or at www.collegeboard.com for the PSAT & AP tests, www.actstudent.org for the PLAN test and <http://www.military.com/ASVAB> for the ASVAB test.



Steps Continued...

Step 3: Compile your list of possible colleges and universities. With at least some idea of the criteria that are important to you, begin the gathering phase. You will surely get suggestions from family, friends, high school teachers, professionals in the field/major and guidance counselors. You have already attended our MHS College Day, where you were actually able to meet representatives from the schools, as well as gather important literature. How about checking college websites and internet searches?

For example College Confidential can help you narrow down your school choices. Search more than 3,000 colleges and universities by name, location, or area of study!

http://www.collegeconfidential.com/college_search/

Step 4: Now it is time to narrow your list of colleges to a manageable number.

This number will vary widely depending in part on how many you and your family can realistically visit. Most experts suggest narrowing the list to 10 or fewer. Once your list is narrowed down, you might want to complete this comparison sheet found on the counseling center website under the following title:

College Planning Calendars, Checklists, worksheets, newsletters and much more

- User Name: 2009, Password: SCORE (all caps)

Here is the link to the actual comparison worksheet:

<http://www.getin2college.com/Documents/Comparison-Worksheet.pdf>



Steps Continued...



Step 6: Visit the colleges on your list.

The best way to really get a feel for a college is by visiting the campus, taking a tour, meeting with students, attending a class, reading the campus newspaper, eating in the cafeteria, and spending the night in a dorm (if possible).

Here is a great campus visit checklist:

<http://www.getin2college.com/Documents/Visit-Checklist.doc>

Information about Senior Campus Visits and Preview Days

- * Seniors get **1 excused** campus visit **first semester** and **1 excused** campus visit **second semester**.
- * Seniors **must** complete a **College Visit Checklist** located in the counseling center before **requesting** a college visit with their **Assistant Principal**.
- * The request must be completed at least **1 day prior** to the planned absence.
- * Students will need to **return** this **completed form** including the Overall Impression Section and College Visit Checklist (back page) to **Mrs. Robertson in the attendance office** along with a signed & dated letter on college letterhead from the campus you visit.
- * If both are not returned, the absence will not be excused.

Some other great ways that students may visit college campuses is by taking advantage of the College Preview Days, weekend visits, summer visits, and even virtual tours. For example take a look at the website for Baylor University:

<http://www.baylor.edu/visit/index.php?id=54616>

