

I WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE

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- NOW WHAT?

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## STEPS IN THE PROCESS:

Step 1: Admissions testing

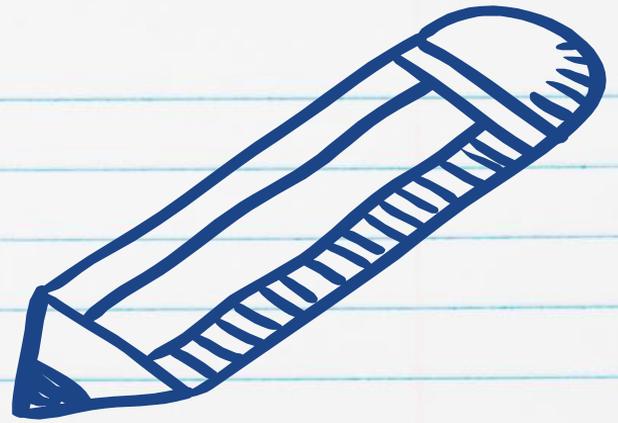
Step 2: Narrow your list of schools

Step 3: Complete applications

Step 4: Request teacher recommendations (and counselor's if needed)

Step 5: Request transcripts

Step 6: Complete FAFSA





## BEFORE WE GET STARTED - LET'S TALK TIMING

- Most college applications open August 1st, some as early as July 1st.
- Some deadlines to apply are as early as October!
- Check your schools' websites for deadlines
- The earlier you apply the better - especially for competitive schools
- Remember we won't start sending transcripts until we return in late July.



## Step 1: Admissions Testing

- Take the ACT &/or SAT if you haven't already or need to improve your score
- Register here:
  - ACT - [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
  - SAT - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEND TEST SCORES TO COLLEGES VIA THE TESTING COMPANY'S WEBSITE.**



## Step 2: Narrow your choices

- College applications can be expensive - usually \$50-\$75!
- We recommend applying to 3-5 schools
  - 1-2 Safety schools (you know you can get in)
  - 2-4 Match schools (you have a good chance of getting in)
  - 1-2 Reach schools (more of a challenge to get in)
- Visit campuses (you get 2 excused absences for college visits with proper paperwork from the college)



# Step 3: Complete Applications

- 3 most common ways to apply:
  1. ApplyTexas - [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org) (all 2 & 4 year Texas public schools and some private schools in Texas)
  2. Common Application - [www.commonapp.com](http://www.commonapp.com) (mostly private and out of state schools)
  3. Individual college application - via the school's website



\*\*\*You should use a personal email address for all college correspondence & applications. Do not use your NISD email.\*\*\*

# APPLICATION RESPONSE TIME OPTIONS



*Regular Decision* 

Response received on or around a specific date

*Rolling Admission*

Applications processed and decisions received as applications come in



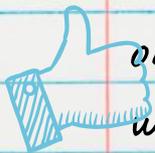
*Early Action*

Response received earlier than regular decision - no commitment required

*Early Decision*

*ALERT - Binding Agreement!*

Response received early- can only apply to one school ED! Check with counselor first!



## Step 4: Request Letters of Recommendation

- Check deadlines! Give recommenders at least 15 school days to complete letters!
- You should politely ask for recommenders to write you a letter. Provide them with a resume or give them details about all of your activities.
- You will request recommendations for Common App schools via the Common App application.
  - *NOTE: In addition to the request via Common App - send an email to the recommender just in case they don't receive the request - Do not assume they know!*
- You will request recommendations for all other schools directly with the teacher or staff member. Provide them with an updated email to send the letter directly to admissions.



STEP 5!

## Step 5: Request Transcripts

\*\*\* Make sure you have submitted your application to the college BEFORE requesting a transcript

\*\*\* The transcript request process for Common App applications is different than non-Common App applications!

### Common Application Transcript Process:

- Request via the Common Application.
- Make sure you put in the correct email address for your counselor
- Email your counselor to let them know to be on the lookout for the request
- Counselors handle these requests

The logo for The Common Application, featuring the text "THE COMMON APPLICATION" in white, uppercase letters on a dark red square background.

THE COMMON  
APPLICATION

## All Non-Common Application Transcript Requests:

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- This year, we will be using Parchment:

<https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/253104/account>

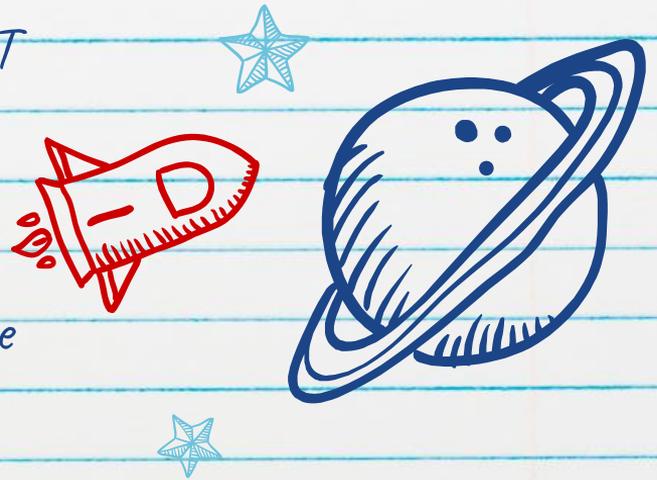
- Create a New Learner Account

- Register with an email address other than your NISD email address so that you can use the same account after graduation.

- There is no cost for current students to order/send transcripts.

# DID YOU TAKE DUAL CREDIT COURSES, ONRAMPS OR AP EXAMS?

- Dual credit transcripts must be sent directly from TCC or NCTC
- OnRamps transcripts must be sent from UT Austin
- AP Scores are sent from College Board
- Contact these institutions to have this information sent to the university you will be attending.



STEP 6!

## Step 6: Apply for Financial Aid

See our website for more info!



- The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opens October 1!
- The sooner you complete the application the better your chance of receiving aid.
- Complete even if you think you won't qualify for aid - many colleges use this information to determine college scholarships and aid
- Scholarships can come directly from your school or from private organizations
- It is worth the time to research and fill out many applications!