



Class of 2025: Senior Symposium

McKinney Education Foundation

College Advisors
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McKinney Education Foundation

| College Advisors | Scholarships for Seniors | Teacher Grants |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides a college advisor at each high school campus to assist students through the college application, scholarship, and financial aid processes• Helped the Class of 2023 to find more than \$25 million in outside scholarships | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides seniors in McKinney ISD with the opportunity to receive a scholarship• Class of 2023 was awarded over \$637,500 in scholarships | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides teachers in McKinney ISd with the opportunity to receive a classroom grant or a professional development grant.• Last year we awarded over \$126,230 to support our teachers |

Types of Colleges & Degrees



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Types of Colleges & Degrees

| Technical/Vocational | 2-year colleges | 4-year colleges |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completion Varies• Certification Programs• Examples of Schools: Many 2-year colleges have technical and vocational programs• Examples of Programs: HVAC, auto mechanic, cosmetology | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students earn an Associates Degree• Students can transfer to a 4-year college• Associates of Applied Sciences - designed to get you into the workplace• Examples of colleges: Collin College, Dallas College, Grayson College | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student earns a Bachelor's Degree• Example of Schools: University of Texas, Texas A&M University, University of North Texas, Rice University, & Baylor University |

Selecting a College to Apply to

What matters to you?
What to submit and when!



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Selecting a College

Look for fit

- Academic Programs
- Cost of Attendance
- Location
- Size
- Social Environment
- Scholarships

Be intentional in your list

1-2 Reach-based off merit/selective admissions/academic averages may be slightly out of reach

2-3 Target-grades and/or test scores allow you to “match” to the average accepted student

1-2 Safety/likely-schools where your GPA and test scores easily hand you an admission

Standardized Testing

SAT, ACT, and admissions
policies



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College Admission Testing

- ACT - www.act.org - Cost \$63.00
- SAT - www.collegeboard.org - Cost \$60.00
- Fee Waivers available for eligible students
- Test Prep Available through various resources
 - Khan Academy - SAT prep - free
 - See their websites for more information
- Students need to request test scores to be sent through the testing agencies.
MISD will not send scores for students.

Admission Testing Options

Colleges and Universities have different admission testing policies

- Test Required/Mandatory
 - Test scores are required to be considered for admission to the university
- Test Optional
 - Test scores are optional to submit
 - Student gets to choose whether to submit SAT/ACT scores
- Test Blind
 - Test scores will not be considered

Many colleges will remain TEST OPTIONAL for the Class of 2025. So scores may not be required. Some colleges are again requiring a test score for scholarship purposes.

See [Fairtest.org](https://www.fairtest.org) for a full list of colleges that are test optional/test blind.

College Applications & Admission Review

Types of Applications,
Deadline Types, and other
admission criteria



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Demonstrated Interest: Showing Intention in your Application

Demonstrated interest is the degree to which you show a college you are sincerely interested in coming to their school.

This is an important, subtle tool that colleges use to efficiently and accurately enroll.

Show demonstrated interest by:

Visiting a campus in person or taking a virtual tour

Visiting with admissions officers when at a college fair or at your school

Exploring the universities websites; and digging deeply into the parameters of your major

Types of Applications

- ApplyTexas - www.applytexas.org
 - All Texas public schools and most Texas private schools, and community colleges are on this
- CommonApp - www.Commonapp.org
- Coalition for Access and Affordability - www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org
- Common Black Application - <https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/>
- School Specific Application - use the colleges individual website
 - Oklahoma State University, Baylor University, University of Arkansas have their own applications, Georgetown

Admissions Deadlines & Styles

- Early Decision I
 - You can only apply to 1 school Early Decision
 - This is a BINDING agreement. If you are accepted = you must attend this school
- Early Decision II
 - You can only apply to 1 school Early Decision
 - This is a BINDING agreement. If you are accepted = you must attend this school
- Early Action
 - Apply early = Find out early
- Priority- increased consideration of application over regular admissions applications
- Regular Admission
- Rolling Admission

Texas Top 10% Admission Policy

- Looking to attend a Public College or University in the State of Texas there are benefits to being in the Top 10% of your high school class.
- Rank in the Top 10% of your senior graduating class and receive auto-admission to the university.
- Yes.....You still need to apply.
- Yes....You still need to complete the application process by the application deadline.
- Admission to the university is guaranteed, **admission to your specific program IS NOT GUARANTEED.**

- EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE:
 - The University of Texas at Austin (UT) only does this for the the Top 6% of the senior class, NOT the top 10%

Holistic Review

- Holistic Review Admission Practices include committees reviewing all information and considers the “whole applicant”
- This includes but is not limited to:
 - Academics
 - GPA, Rank, Test Scores
 - Extra-curricular Activities
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - Life experiences
 - Future Plans/Chosen academic area(s) of study

Honors Colleges/Honors Programs

- Most Honors Colleges will require a separate application for this type of program
- Some offer additional scholarship opportunities
- Benefits of an Honors Program
 - Opportunity to challenge yourself
 - Smaller class sizes
 - Hands-on learning opportunities
 - Research opportunities
 - Additional opportunities for study abroad, networking, and other honors program exclusive experiences

Provisional Admission Programs & Admission

| University of Texas System | Texas A&M System | Texas Tech System |
|---|---|--|
| CAP Program (Coordinated Admissions Policy) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Option offered at UT System Schools• Earn 30 college hours with a 3.2 GPA• Not all UT Systems Schools participate! | PSA (Program System Admission) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend a Texas A&M System School• Earn 30 college hours with a 3.2 GPA• Not all A&M System Schools participate! | Gateway Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• During first summer school session (right after graduation) complete 6 college hours with a 2.5 GPA |
| PACE Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-Enrollment with Austin Community College (ACC) and UT Austin• 2.0 UT GPA and 3.2 ACC GPA | Blinn Team <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-Enrollment with Blinn Community College and Texas A&M• 3.0 GPA | TTAP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tech Transfer Acceleration Program• Co-Enrollment with South Plains Community College |

College Application Materials/Required Documents

What to submit and how to
submit it



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4-year College Application File

Required Materials

- Application (Do NOT forget to submit it)
- Application Fee or Application Fee Waiver
 - See your MEF College Advisor for this information
- Official High School Transcript
- Official Test Scores - Depends on the school you are applying to. Could be required for a program or scholarship opportunity. See MEF College Advisor if you have questions.

“Optional” Materials

- Essay(s)
 - Personal Statement
 - Supplemental Essay
 - Short Answer Questions
- Resume
- Letter(s) of Recommendation
- Portfolio/Audition/Interview

High School Transcript & How to Request

- Official Transcript vs. Unofficial Transcript
 - Official comes from MISD
- All transcript requests should go through Naviance!
- Login to Naviance through your MISD SSO
 - Request transcript through Naviance under the “Colleges” tab
- Double check your schools transcript rules/policies because each school has a slightly different policy.
 - See your MEF Advisor for more information

Essays

- This part of the application, where you can talk about something that we cannot learn about you through any other part of the application.
- The essay is written by the student and is about the student.
- Multi-draft process - requires lots of editing. Your first draft will not be the draft you submit.
- What colleges are Looking for in your essay:
 - Does it answer the prompt?
 - Does it show your writing abilities?
 - Does it tell a story about you?
 - Is it captivating?

Resumes

- You can create a resume in Naviance under “Resume Builder”
- You can submit your resume online or submit a separate one through an application portal
- Items to list on your resume:
 - Student Name and Date of Birth
 - Student High School Name (list all high schools attended)
 - Extra-curricular information - clubs, organizations, sports teams
 - Summer Programs
 - Work Experience
 - Volunteer Experiences
 - Family Obligations

Letters of Recommendation

- Ask teachers, counselors, or community members to write these
- Select who you ask wisely....they should know you well
- Request letters of recommendation with 3-4 weeks notice
- Letters of recommendation are NOT always required
- Double check your schools transcript rules/policies because each school has a slightly different policy.
 - See your MEF Advisor for more information
- Students and Parents should not be given the letters of recommendation.
- If using the CommonApp, Do NOT request teacher or counselor letters through CommonApp. This can mess up their MISD access through Naviance

Additional Steps

Naviance, CommonApp, and
Athletic Recruitment



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Naviance

- McKinney ISD uses Naviance for the following information:
 - Managing the process
 - Sending transcripts
 - College Information & College Research
 - Scholarship Information

****Students use their McKinney ISD SSO to access Naviance****

CommonApp & Naviance

- CommonApp and Naviance work together
- Students using CommonApp, need to Match their Accounts together
- And Waive their FERPA
 - This is required to receive letters of recommendation in MISD.

Direct to Institution/ApplyTexas - you will not be asked to Match your Accounts

Athletic Recruitment

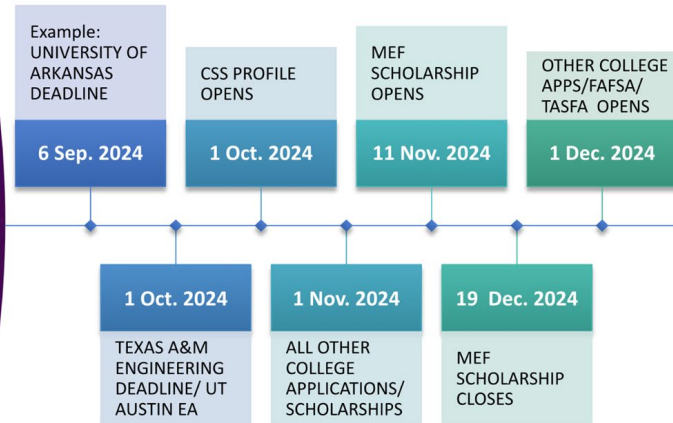
If you are interested in playing a sport competitively in college, then you need to be on the following networks/websites

- NCAA - www.eligibilitycenter.org
 - Use code 9999 when registering for the ACT/SAT
- NAIA
 - <https://www.naia.org/student-athletes/index>
- Know and understand the differences between Division I, Division II, and Division III athletics
 - Division III cannot provide athletic scholarships

Timeline & Important Dates

APPLICATION DEADLINES

MARK IN YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN BACKWARDS!



Target MISD Deadline for College Applications:
October 1st

Financial Aid & Scholarship Information

Financial Aid Applications,
Scholarship Workshops



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Types of Financial Aid

- Grants
 - Based on a student/families financial need. Provided by Federal and State Government or University
 - Students do NOT have to pay back this money
- Work-Study
 - Based on a student/families financial need. Allows student to have a job on a campus
- Loans
 - Federal Student Loans or a Parent-Plus Loan
 - Subsidized or Unsubsidized
 - Private loans through your personal bank or credit union are also available

Financial Aid Application

CSS Profile

- \$25 for 1st application. \$16 for each one after that
- Required at some colleges/universities (mostly private schools)
- Required in addition to FAFSA
- Opens October 1st

TASFA

Texas Application for State
Financial Aid

- Free application
- Online application
- Students who are undocumented or have DACA status
- Opens in December

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal
& Student Aid

- Free application
- Online application
- Students who are US Citizen, permanent residents
- Student & Parents will need an FSA ID.
- Opens in December

Financial Aid - Prepare now to be ready later

- FAFSA & TASFA open December 2024
- Families can begin to gather their 2023 tax return (1040)
- Parents and Seniors can create their FAFSA accounts, set up their FSA-ID and be ready to apply when it officially opens
- It is a State of Texas Graduation Requirement to Apply for Financial Aid

Scholarships

Outside/Community/Third Party Scholarships

- These can be found in various locations including Naviance.
- Scholarship resources and websites are located in Naviance Documents section

Local Scholarships (Example: McKinney Education Foundation)

- Every senior in McKinney ISD is eligible to apply for the MEF Scholarships!
- I will have Workshops to assist with this application!
- The application opens mid-November.

University Based Scholarships

- These are scholarships directly from the university.
- May use a separate application process/portal than general application
- Typically the most money students receive come directly from the university itself.

Tuition Assistance

****IF FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE****

- Colleges may cover your tuition if your family income qualifies
 - School income requirements vary - list of college requirements has been uploaded in Naviance
- Most public colleges and universities in Texas
- Must file the FAFSA by the college or university Priority Application Deadline AND Priority Financial Aid Deadline
- Deadlines vary

Upcoming Events & Contact Info



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Upcoming Important Events

- McKinney ISD College Night - Monday, September 16th @ McKinney North High School
 - 6 - 8 p.m.
- Financial Aid Presentations & Financial Aid Workshops, later in fall and early spring

Contact Information

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|---|--|--|
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