

PASSPORT TO COLLEGE



REV. 01/17



PASSPORT TO COLLEGE



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BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY



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GETTING STARTED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Explore your college and career options:
www.texasrealitycheck.com
www.rgvlead.com (see the labor market report that is accessible there)
www.achievetexas.org
www.gentx.org
- With help from your parents and your counselor, create a high school college-and-career graduation plan.
- Select an Endorsement for your high school graduation plan (endorsements are options under the Foundation High School Program—for additional information, see the Graduation Toolkit at tea.texas.gov/communications/grad_toolkit/booklet.pdf).
- IMPORTANT:** All good jobs require an excellent academic foundation—study hard! (For free tutoring, check out the Khan Academy website, a free resource available online—www.khanacademy.org.)

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CONTINUING IN HIGH SCHOOL

- Use your time and experiences in the 9th grade to explore your career goals.
- In 9th grade, begin creating a portfolio—document any volunteer work, summer camps, awards, academic achievements, employment, and essays written for classes that might be updated for college applications, etc.
- Continue referring to the websites shown above, and study the available AchieveTexas graduation plans, endorsements, and articulated and dual-credit course offerings. Select a career pathway and endorsement to follow and communicate with your counselor to ensure you're on the right track.
- Investigate options for RGV LEAD Scholars and other graduation honors.
- Learn more about the college admissions process and ways to pay for college--helpful websites: www.applytexas.org; www.collegeforalltexans.com; www.comparecollegetx.com; and www.fastweb.com.
- If you must work to support your family, explore your options for pursuing education and work together, earning certificates and degrees as you need them for career success.

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COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL AND MOVING FORWARD

- Learn more about careers through job shadowing, career fairs, volunteerism, and other experiences—your goal is to identify a career about which you can be passionate.
- Learn about the types of college-credit courses available to you in high school, and discuss your options with your parents. The type of college-level courses you need to take in high school depends on the type of college/university graduation plan you want to earn in college. **It's important for you and your parents to understand the difference because college transcripts created in high school are permanent college records!**
- Review your graduation plan and endorsement every year, making changes as necessary and always moving toward your college-and-career goal.
- Take advantage of opportunities to earn college credits in high school: articulated credits, dual credit, concurrent enrollment, and AP. But before you begin, be sure you have a plan and know what you're doing!
- Make plans to graduate as an RGV LEAD Scholar!
- Grades for dual credit courses appear on your permanent college transcript. Understand what you're doing with dual enrollment courses and the impact if you fail the dual credit courses!

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Entries/Entrées

Visas

Departures/Sorties

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* CARD ② is to be submitted to the Immigration of your departure from Japan.

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TO TAKE UP ANY EMPLOYMENT

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POLYNÉSIE FRANÇAISE
M 006

BRITAIN
POSTAGE
0478

مملكة البحرين
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
ENTRY 42
27 AUG 2008
WELCOME TO
BUSINESS
friends

GRADUATION PLANS AT A GLANCE

TYPE OF COLLEGE GRADUATION PLAN	NUMBER OF SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS FOR COMPLETION	TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSI) REQUIREMENTS	HOW DUAL AND/OR CONCURRENT COURSES COUNT	HOW AP/ATC COURSES COUNT	WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU HAVE COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSES YOU DO NOT NEED
Certificate Level One	15 – 42	Passing TSI is <u>not</u> required for certificates.	Dual and/or concurrent credit courses will help you finish faster IF those courses are included in the college graduation plan.	AP / ATC courses could help you finish faster IF those courses are included in your college degree (certificate) graduation plan. AP and ATC courses DO NOT appear on permanent college transcripts until you request credit for those courses at your college of choice. If the courses fit into your college degree plan, then you must remember to request credit for those courses at your college of choice. Meet with a college representative well in advance, before classes begin, to be sure that they do.	You need to have a plan and know what you're doing! Remember: college transcripts created in high school are permanent college transcripts! Graduating from high school with a college transcript that shows courses you do not need in college could cause problems with financial aid or academic standing in college.
Certificate Level Two	43 – 59	Passing TSI is required for certificates.	Dual and/or concurrent credit courses will help you finish faster IF those courses are included in the college graduation plan.		
Associate Degree	Various types (AA, AS, AAS, AAT) – all require two years of full-time study at the college	Meeting TSI requirements is required for degrees.	Dual and/or credit courses will help you finish faster IF those courses are included in the college degree plan.		

Bachelor's Degree	Various types (BA, BS, BAT, BBA, etc.)—all require four years of full-time study at the college	Meeting TSI requirements is required before you will be allowed to enroll in courses that count for graduation with this degree	Dual and/or concurrent credit courses will help you finish faster IF those courses are included in the college degree plan.	ATC courses are not part of bachelor's degree programs. AP courses could help you finish faster IF those courses are included in your college degree graduation plan. AP courses do <u>not</u> appear on permanent college transcripts until you request credit for those courses. If the courses fit into your college degree plan, then you must remember to request credit at the college.	You need to have a plan and know what you're doing! Remember: college transcripts created in high school are permanent college transcripts! Graduating from high school with a college transcript that shows courses you do not need in college could cause problems with financial aid or academic standing in college.
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Graduate degrees

Graduate degrees, such as master's, doctorate, etc., come after bachelor degrees. Plan first to complete the related bachelor degree program.



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THE TOP TEN LIST

THE TOP 10 LIST: WHAT EVERY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SHOULD KNOW WHEN ENROLLING FOR DUAL-CREDIT CLASSES

“Are you READY for Dual Enrollment Classes?”

1. In order to take dual/concurrent enrollment coursework, a student must meet enrollment eligibility requirements.
2. High school dual enrollment students are considered college students: you need to (1) know college vocabulary, (2) learn how to follow scholastic/financial aid policies and procedures, and (3) meet college deadlines for registration and drops. (Check with the Dual Enrollment office at the college or university offering the dual-credit courses to learn more.)

One Size DOES NOT Fit All – Knowing Your Career Path and College Goal Is Vital!

3. Explore careers and talk with counselors early in high school so you can select dual credit classes that align with your desired career path.
4. The type of college-level courses you need to take in high school depends on the type of college/university graduation plan you want to earn in college. **It's important for you and your parents to understand the difference because college transcripts created in high school are permanent college records!**
5. Select an endorsement and enroll in courses that align to your college degree plan and are transferable to a college or university of your choice.
6. Dual credit courses will impact the balance of courses you take each semester in college. Having an Achieve Texas graduation plan with an appropriate endorsement serves as a road map that will help you balance your choice of courses. **Think Ahead!**

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Dual Credit Courses ARE Different

7. Dual enrollment credit is recorded on both high school transcripts and permanent college transcripts.
 - 1) Credit for dual enrollment courses must meet high school graduation requirements.
 - 2) Dual credit and concurrent credit courses should align with a college/university degree plan.
 - 3) Look into a specific degree plan at a college or university. Every college/university has its own, unique requirements.
 - 4) College credit and college grades are recorded on a permanent college transcript. **NOTE: Don't forget to request that your college transcript be sent to the college or university, along with your high school transcript.**
8. College grades and credits you receive in high school will have a permanent impact on your college academic status. (Good Scholastic Standing, Scholastic Probation, or Scholastic Suspension).
 - College grades and credits you receive in high school will have a
 - 1) permanent impact on future college/university admission,
 - 2) scholarships, and
 - 3) financial aid.
9. Dual enrollment courses are considered the foundation for upper-level coursework. If you are not serious about studying at a college level, you won't be developing the foundation you need for the next level of college work.
10. Once you graduate from high school, be ready to take coursework at the level of your college classification.
11. Ensure you have a college/university degree plan. **Be Ready to Study Like a COLLEGE Student!**

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TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE

TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE: COMPLETE ALL SEVEN STEPS!

Step 1: APPLY FOR ADMISSION

- Apply at the Student Recruitment Office or online at the college of your choice.
- If you took statewide-articulated-credit career and technical education courses (Advanced Technical Credit [ATC] courses) in high school, ask the college to review your high school transcript, and request that the articulated credits you earned in high school be posted to your college transcript. Remember: you have 15 months to claim these credits! (see <https://www.atctexas.org/students>). After that time, credits are lost and cannot be claimed for college credit.
- If you took AP courses and earned a score that could qualify you for college credit, bring documentation to the Admissions Office and ask for credits to be posted.
- If you took dual or concurrent credit courses in high school, talk with an admissions advisor or recruitment specialist in the admissions office to discuss your degree plan.
- If you are planning to begin at a two-year college, then transfer to a university, talk with an advisor from the university you plan to attend and develop a long-term graduation plan. College staff care, but cannot advise you about majors and graduation plans at other colleges and universities. Talk with your parents and develop your own plans now!

STEP 2: SUBMIT OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT(S)

- Submit your high school transcript to the office of admissions and records for review.

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- If you created a college transcript(s) in high school by taking dual credit or concurrent credit courses, then be sure to submit the college transcript(s) to the office of admissions and records, along with your high school transcript (paper or electronic).

STEP 3: SUBMIT PROOF OF BACTERIAL MENINGITIS VACCINATION

- Get your bacterial meningitis vaccination (take this in your senior year at high school) and submit verification to the office of admissions and records.

STEP 4: COMPLETE TESTING REQUIREMENTS

- Provide your scores for TSI (Texas Success Initiative) to counseling/advisement. (Some ACT/SAT scores can exempt you from taking the TSI exam.)
- Scores for SAT, ACT, or EOC/STAAR can be submitted if you have a high enough score to be exempt from taking certain courses.
- Submit your AP Exam Scores and make sure you visit the college website beforehand to determine which college courses you can get credit for and then meet with a college representative to get an official confirmation of those college credits.

STEP 5: APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID (FAFSA/TASFA), VETERANS BENEFITS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

- Apply for Financial Aid at the financial aid office or online at the appropriate website:
 - FAFSA: www.fafsa.ed.gov (federal financial aid for US citizens)
 - TASFA: (for non-US citizens who are Texas residents) Go to the College for All Texans website (www.collegeforalltexans.com); select "Students," then "Financial Aid," then click on the "financial aid application" link, then under "Your Financial Aid Application - TASFA or FAFSA?" complete the steps for TAFSA.

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TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE: COMPLETE ALL SEVEN STEPS!

STEP 5: APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID (FAFSA/TASFA), VETERANS BENEFITS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

- If you receive a Verification Form from Financial Aid, be sure to submit all required documentation as soon as possible to ensure that you receive your financial aid well in advance, before classes begin.
- Keep checking the student portal of the college to which you have applied to check on the status of your financial aid application! If you are awarded financial aid, you must accept the award online. Contact the financial aid office at the respective college for guidance.
- To determine whether you are eligible to apply for Veterans benefits, contact the college/university Veterans Center for more information on the application process. If you qualify for Veterans Benefits, apply!
- Submit your high school transcript to the office of admissions and records for review.

STEP 6: PARTICIPATE IN NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

- Register for and attend new student orientation.

STEP 7: REGISTER AT COLLEGE

- Register for classes by (1) logging onto the college website and (2) meeting with your college advisor.
- Be sure to confirm that tuition and fees have been paid (for example, financial aid, scholarships, loans, etc.)

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RESOURCES AND RGV HIGHER EDUCATION INFORMATION

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

www.achievetexas.org
www.applytexas.org
www.atctexas.org
www.comparecollegetx.com
www.collegeforalltexas.com
www.gentx.org
www.khanacademy.org
www.rgvlead.com
www.studentaid.ed.gov
www.texasgenuine.org
www.texasrealitycheck.com
www.va.gov
www.fastweb.com
www.collegeboard.org

COLLEGE CONTACT INFO

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

www.southtexascollege.edu
 (956) 872-8311

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE

www.tsc.edu
 (956) 295-3600 / (956) 295-3615

TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

www.tstc.edu/campuses/harlingen
 (800) 852-8784

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

www.utrgv.edu
 (956) 882-4026

It's not too early to
 START YOUR DESTINATION
 to college ... and career!

**BE
READY!**

ACADEMICALLY PREPARED
 FINANCIAL AID SECURED
 CAREER GOAL IDENTIFIED
 READY FOR COLLEGE LIFE



PASSPORT TO COLLEGE

Valid only for students who wish to expand their horizons and open new opportunities for their future.



Your Passport Card should be kept in its protective sleeve when not in use

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PASS SYSTEM

4USW3<<<RGV<LEAD<<PASSPRT<2<COLLEGE<<<<0501XQ<<M23USA<<0754
159>81021M23USA<<0754321122901<<STUDENT<<21XXV<<22312WWIX1
BE>>PREPARED>>>>X23129HU00150992>>>>1>2017RGV<<LEAD<<TS<1<