

PASSPORT TO COLLEGE





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.

Important: all good jobs require an excellent academic foundation—study hard! (Check out the Khan Academy website, a free resource available online—www.khanacademy.org.)

POLYNÉSIE FRANÇAISE
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CONTINUING IN HIGH SCHOOL

- Use your time and experiences in 9th grade to explore your career goals.
- Continue referring to the websites shown above, and study the available AchieveTexas graduation plans and dual-credit course offerings at your high school. Select a career pathway to follow and communicate with your counselor to ensure you're on the right track.
- Investigate options for Tech Prep Texas Scholars, and other graduation honors.
- Learn more about the college admissions process and ways to pay for college.
- 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.

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.
- Review your graduation plan every year, making changes as necessary and always moving toward your goal.
- Take advantage of opportunities to earn college credits in high school: articulated credits, dual-credit, concurrent enrollment, and AP.
- Make plans to graduate as a Tech Prep Texas 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!

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 course to learn more.)

One Size DOES NOT Fit All – Knowing Your Career Path Is Helpful

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. Enroll in courses that meet your desired major or that are transferable to a college of your choice.
5. Dual credit courses will impact the balance of courses you take each semester in college. Having an Achieve Texas graduation plan or road map will help you balance your

choice of courses. Think Ahead!

Dual Credit Courses ARE Different

6. Dual enrollment credit is recorded on both high school transcripts and permanent college transcripts.
 - Credit for dual enrollment courses must meet high school graduation requirements.
 - 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, along with your high school transcript.
7. College grades you receive in high school will have a permanent impact on your college academic status. (Good Scholastic Standing, Scholastic Probation, or Scholastic Suspension).
8. College grades and credits you receive in high school will have a permanent impact on future college/university admission, scholarships, and financial aid.

Be Ready to Study Like a COLLEGE Student

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.

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 (ATC courses) in high school, ask for a transcript review and request that statewide credits be posted.
- 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.

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.
- Scores for SAT, ACT, or TAKS/STAAR can be submitted if you have a high enough score to be exempt from taking certain courses.

STEP 5: APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID & VETERANS BENEFITS

- Apply for financial aid at the financial aid office or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- If you qualify for veterans benefits, apply!

STEP 6: PARTICIPATE IN NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

- Register for and attend new student orientation

STEP 7: REGISTER AT COLLEGE

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

Helpful Resources

www.achievetexas.org | www.allinbrownsville.org
www.rgvlead.com | www.gentx.org | www.va.gov
www.studentaid.ed.gov | www.khanacademy.org
www.missionedc.com | www.harlingenedc.com
www.bedc.com

College Contact Information

Read your college’s student handbook, which explains admission requirements, financial aid, and other policies. Handbooks can be found online:

South Texas College
www.southtexascollege.edu
(956) 872-8311

Texas Southmost College
www.TSC.edu
(956) 295-3456

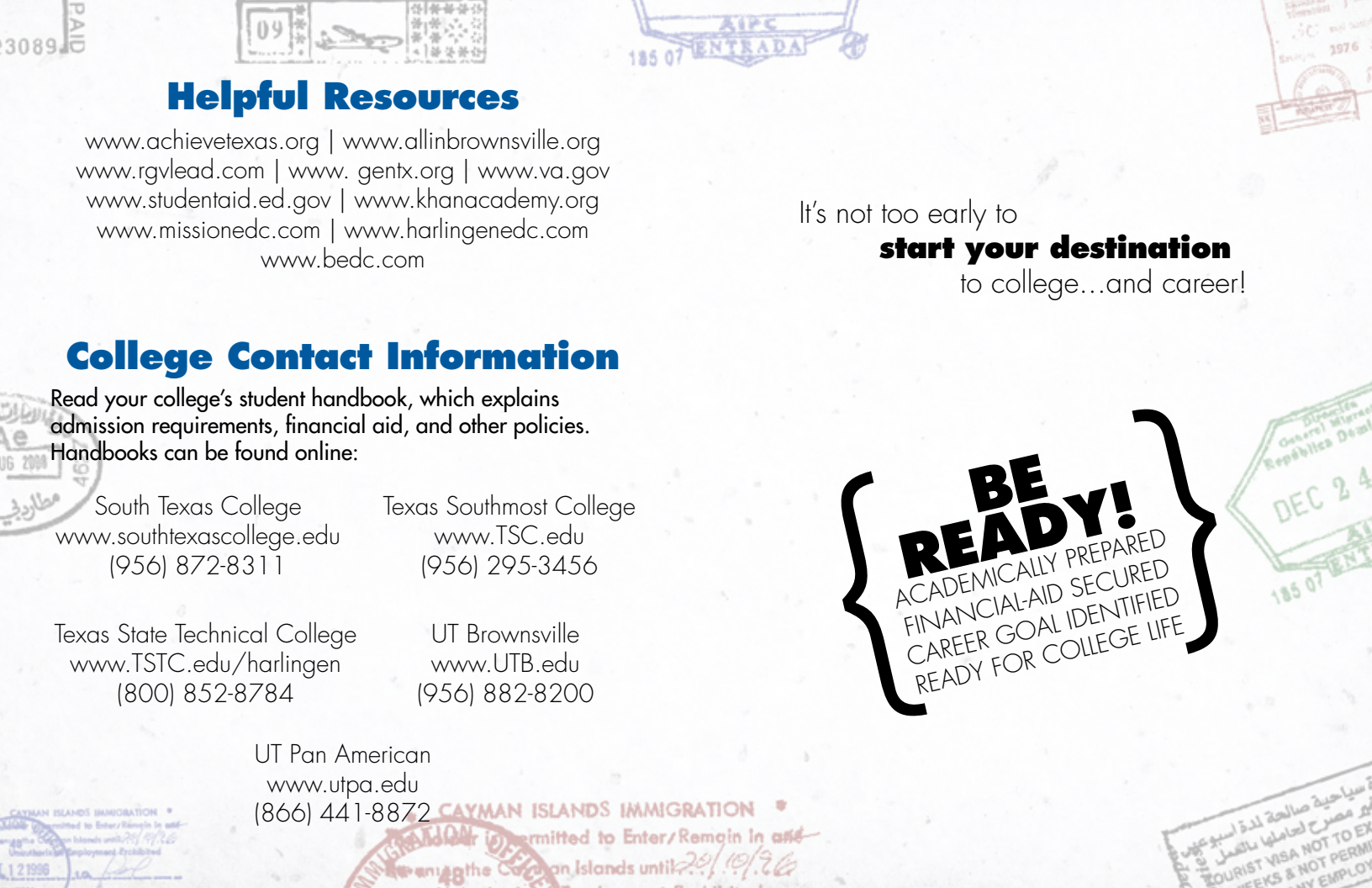
Texas State Technical College
www.TSTC.edu/harlingen
(800) 852-8784

UT Brownsville
www.UTB.edu
(956) 882-8200

UT Pan American
www.utpa.edu
(866) 441-8872

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





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Texas Southmost College

TRADITION • INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY