

# *Senior Year College Application Checklist*

## **The College Playbook Class of 2023**



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under Longview High School**

## **Timeline for College Admissions**

**Register today for the Longview High School Class of 2023 Remind Group so that you get all text messages about college admission, scholarships, and all other information for seniors only!**

**If you ever have any questions at any time in this process or want any advice, visit the College and Career Center.**

**We are here to help you!**

It is MANDATORY that you join Longview High School Class of 2023 Remind group so you can receive messages about college admission, college admission tests, college admission officers' campus visits, volunteer opportunities, and opportunities to serve on student boards, and times of parent and student information sessions. Mrs. Ray will send messages throughout the year about events important to juniors only.

Longview High School will also use the Remind system to notify you and your parents of possible school closures or other unexpected circumstances.

To join, send a text to 81010; in the message space, type @6b84kkb and then follow the directions sent to you.

**Joining the Remind group is your best way to receive important information! Your parents can join too.**

### ***Your Reputation:***

Many colleges and universities (and certainly employers), scholarship donors, sororities, and fraternities search your name on the internet to learn more about you. They are looking for your activity on Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, YouTube and other social media platforms.

Your online reputation is often all these institutions have to base their decision upon as most do not conduct personal interviews. No institution or employer wants anyone who is not an asset. Your online reputation and postings say so much about you and the people you surround yourself with, and the wrong postings and online pictures and videos

of yourself could cost you the very things you have worked so hard for, including scholarships worth thousands of dollars. It can all be gone in an instant because you made bad choices or allowed others to draw you into toxic situations. **Think, think, and think again before you post.**

## **FALL OF SENIOR YEAR**

✓ **In September, gather the financial data needed for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).**

- ***The FAFSA application opens on October 1, 2022, for seniors who will attend college in 2023-2024. Please note the date!***  
**[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**
    - Your parents will need their 2021 tax information in order to complete the application.
    - Even merit based scholarships may require that you submit a FAFSA in order to be considered.
    - Check with your college to see what their deadline is for submitting the FAFSA.
    - Colleges and even different scholarships at the same college will have different deadlines.
  - **Students whose parents are undocumented can file the TASFA (the Texas Application for State Financial Aid) at [www.collegeforalltexans.com](http://www.collegeforalltexans.com)**
    - There is no risk to undocumented family members as it is against the law for the personal information to be shared with anyone other than the universities designated.
    - The form can be completed in English or Spanish.
  - ***Attend LHS FAFSA Drives conducted with the assistance of UT Tyler's and Kilgore College's financial aid officers. Dates and times will be announced.***
- ✓ **Visit Mrs. Beall for assistance with the FAFSA or other financial aid**
- Call the college or technical institute you plan to attend and seek financial aid there.
  - Colleges offer a variety of scholarships, grants and work/study opportunities. They will work with you if you ask for their help.

- Visit your prospective college's website to learn about the scholarships it offers and the requirements. Call or visit the financial aid office on the college campus.

- ✓ **If you have not taken either the SAT or ACT or both for college admission, you need to test IN EARLY FALL. A schedule of all test dates and fees is available in the College and Career Center and is posted on the LHS College and Career Center's website.**
- ✓ **Register and take the free ACT to be given at LHS during the school day at LHS on Thursday, October 5, 2021, and March 8, 2022. Seniors will get the first seats for this test, but then juniors will fill the rest. (For college admission, no senior should be testing on March 8. You should have tested by then.)**

**\*\*VERY IMPORTANT THIS YEAR! Some BUT NOT ALL college and universities no longer require ACT and SAT scores PLEASE check with your prospective college or university to find out IF YOU NEED a test score FOR ADMISSION OR TO BE CONSIDERED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS! While you MAY not need a score for admission, you VERY LIKELY MAY need one to qualify for scholarships the college or university offers. CALL and ASK your college admissions office or carefully CHECK the college's website so you know exactly what your school requires! Do not just assume you don't need a test score!**

**While a college or university may not require a test score, all have said a good test score gives the admissions officers another valuable piece of information that will help you gain admission.**

- ✓ **You MUST check to see if your prospective college or university REQUIRES the essay on the ACT. The essay is optional, BUT that does not mean it is not required by some colleges and universities. Ask before you register for either for the ACT.**
  - Seniors, LHS advised you to register for and take either the ACT or SAT or both, whichever test your college or technical school requires, *during the SPRING of your junior year*. If you did not test as a junior, you must test in early fall to be ready to meet early admission deadlines in November and December. Colleges begin often begin notifying students of admissions in December but only if you have applied and have all the requirements in place during the first semester of your senior year.
  - The College Board has suspended the SAT optional essay.

- Don't take the ACT or SAT unprepared. Going to take one of these tests "cold turkey" guarantees you a poor score. These tests are not like the STAAR or EOC tests; they are unlike any test you have seen before!
- A good score on the SAT or ACT test can exempt you from taking the TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Assessment that colleges require for course placement. **Texas law requires a TSI Assessment for all non-exempt undergraduate students entering a Texas public institution of higher learning for the purpose of placement. Students have to take the TSI Assessment or an approved alternative test prior to enrolling in any college-level course work. In accordance with HB 1224, TSI placement scores are under review and subject to change.**
- Read the test preparation packet for the ACT and/or SAT and take the practice test. You may get the test preparation packets in the College and Career Center.
- Visit the <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home> and register for the Question of the Day to be sent to your inbox. This provides great test practice. Other practice opportunities are available on this website, including a practice test.
- Visit the <http://www.actstudent.org> and register for the Question of the Day to be sent to your inbox. Other practice opportunities are available on this website, including a practice test.
- Visit the Khan Academy website at [khanacademy.com](http://khanacademy.com) for free test preparation. Practice questions and tests are available on this site.
- See Mrs. Beall for fee waivers. However, if you get a fee waiver, you are expected to test and not waste the fee waiver. **Be present on the day of the test!**
- **News from ACT about new superscoring of tests:** Students can now repeat a section(s) if they want to improve a section(s) without retaking the entire ACT. Your composite score is the average of the four subject scores (English writing, math, reading, and science) from one ACT test attempt. Your superscore is the average of your best scores from each subject from multiple test attempts. Your superscore is never lower than a single composite score. Superscoring gives you an opportunity to prepare intensely for a section(s) (you can only repeat three sections on a given test date) and then take that section(s) only. **While this new option allows you to show your test results to a college, university, or technical school, PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MUST ASK IF YOUR PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL WILL ACTUALLY ACCEPT A SUPERScore. Schools are not required to accept a superscore because colleges and universities set their own testing and admission policies.**

✓ **Check the websites of the colleges, universities, and technical schools that interest you to learn their deadlines for early decision and regular admission.**

- Early decision applicants may know by Christmas if you have been accepted.
- Early decision plans ARE BINDING. If you are accepted, you must go to that university!

## ✓ **APPLY! APPLY! APPLY APPLY! APPLY! APPLY! APPLY!**

- Fill out at least 5 applications! Applytexas.org opened on July 1, 2021 for some schools and August 1st for others.
- Applying should be done *before* Christmas break!
- If you use the applytexas or common application, you can use one application to apply to as many schools on the list as you want!
- If you cannot afford application fees, see Mrs. Beall about an application fee waiver. If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, a fee waiver will pay college admission application fees.
- Get a copy of “How to Write the College Essay” in the College and Career Center to get writing tips and the latest Apply Texas essay topics. (See attachment for topics for Apply Texas. Out of state college/universities and those in Texas may require completely different essays.)
- Ask Mrs. Ray or your English teacher to revise and edit your essay. Do not submit an essay without having someone else review it. Mrs. Ray will be glad to help you.

**PLEASE PAY ATTENTION ON THE APPLYTEXAS AND COMMON APPLICATION TO THE QUESTION ASKING YOU IF YOU WANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY. *If you don't check the box, you are automatically removed from consideration. Not checking the box has cost students scholarships. Again, PAY ATTENTION!***

## ✓ **Visit the campuses of the schools you have applied to.**

- Talk to the admissions representative.
- Visit the financial aid office.
- Request a tour of the campus and residences. For the 2020-2021 year, colleges and universities are offering virtual tours.
- Have questions prepared to ask such as class size, student to teacher ratio, study abroad and internship opportunities.

## ✓ **Listen carefully to the daily announcements, check the College and Career Center's website on the LHS page, and READ YOUR REMIND TEXTS!**

- The school will announce the scholarship applications that are available in the counseling office.

- The school will announce visits by college admission officers so you can visit with them either virtually or in person.
- Everything related to college **WILL BE communicated** to seniors and their parents who have signed up for the Remind Class of 2023. **This is the best, most reliable communication method to make certain you are informed.**

### ✓ **Check the LHS Counseling and Guidance Website**

- Check the website weekly for listings of scholarships and deadlines.
- Visit the College and Career Center and look in the Scholarship Drawer for scholarship applications.

### ✓ **Begin and/or Finalize your résumé**

- Get a copy of “How to Write Your High School Resume” in the College and Career Center.
- Use the resume template on the LHS College and Career website; download it and type directly into it for a good looking resume.
- List of all your school, church, and community activities, honors, awards, volunteer hours/ projects, work experience, and technology skills. Don’t leave out a thing.
- If your college or university expects a résumé, the application will tell you the format.
- If you need help with your résumé or are unsure about the format, bring it to Mrs. Ray in the College and Career Office for revision and editing help.

## WINTER/SPRING

**As soon as possible, you must get a bacterial meningitis shot that is now required by Texas state law for all students attending college!**

***Enjoy your Christmas Break! You will be busy when you return to school.***

### ✓ **Check for scholarships offered locally or by your university**

- There are over 125 **local** scholarships given each year, some of which are for Longview High School students only!

- There are *thousands* of national scholarships for students based on anything you can think of from your height to your religious beliefs.
- Different scholarships have different requirements
  - Some require specific essays; others require transcripts.
  - **All REQUIRE that everything you submit be neatly printed in ink (No pencil) or typed without mark outs of any kind. The impression you make is very important if you expect to receive money.**
- The school will announce the scholarship applications that are available in the counseling office.
- Read your Remind texts about scholarship opportunities.
- Regularly check the LHS College and Career website for listing of scholarships and deadlines.
- Come to the College and Career Center **OFTEN** to see what scholarships have arrived.

✓ **Pay attention to scholarship application deadlines. Mrs. Ray will gladly mail your applications for you as long as you submit them to her NO LATER THAN noon on the due date listed on the application so that she can meet the LISD mailman and get the applications postmarked on time.**

✓ **Continue to visit Mrs. Beall for assistance with the FAFSA or other financial aid**

- Call the college or technical institute you plan to attend and seek financial aid there.
- Colleges offer a variety of scholarships, grants and work/study opportunities. They will work with you if you ask for their help.

✓ **Pay your enrollment fees and dormitory fees on time**

- The college website will give you deadlines for these fees
- This will ensure your place in the freshman class.

✓ **Write thank you notes to scholarship donors and to people who wrote letters of recommendation for you.**

**End your senior year happy because you are headed for the college, university or technical school of your choice, ensuring yourself a bright future!!!!**



**Colleges and universities are very serious about deadlines.** They don't accept excuses from applicants about why they missed deadlines. Deadlines indicate the date the college must receive your application, not when you mail it!

### **Other resources:**

[www.Texasrealitycheck.com](http://www.Texasrealitycheck.com) gives students an idea what salary they need for their chosen lifestyle;

[www.Texasgenuine.org](http://www.Texasgenuine.org) offers an assessment test for skills and interest toward careers and technical programs;

[www.bls.gov.k12](http://www.bls.gov.k12) has statistics for students on the economy and job market nationwide and locally.

#### Financial Aid Websites

All scholarship/financial aid searches on the internet should be free of charge.

- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)
- [www.ed.gov/finaid.html](http://www.ed.gov/finaid.html)
- [www.collegexpress.com](http://www.collegexpress.com)
- [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)
- [www.mappingyourfuture.org](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org)
- [www.ScholarshipHunter.com](http://www.ScholarshipHunter.com)
- [www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com)
- [www.scholarships4students.com](http://www.scholarships4students.com)
- [www.yourgocenter.com/scholarships.html](http://www.yourgocenter.com/scholarships.html)
- [www.schoolsoup.com](http://www.schoolsoup.com)
- [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation [www.everychanceeverytexas.org](http://www.everychanceeverytexas.org)
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University of Texas: <http://bealonghorn.utexas.edu/freshmen/admission/requirements>

University of Texas at Tyler: <http://www.uttyler.edu/admissions/freshman/>

University of Texas at Arlington: [www.uta.edu](http://www.uta.edu)

Texas A&M University: <http://admissions.tamu.edu/freshmen/default.aspx>

Baylor University: <http://www.baylor.edu/admissions/index.php?id=80266>

Stephen F. Austin University: <http://www.sfasu.edu/admissions/freshmen/>

Texas Christian University: [www.tcu.edu](http://www.tcu.edu)

Texas Tech University: <http://www.admissions.ttu.edu/freshman/requirements/default.asp>

University of Oklahoma: <https://www.ou.edu>

University of Arkansas: [www.uark.edu](http://www.uark.edu)

Prairie View A&M University: [www.pvamu.edu](http://www.pvamu.edu)

Jarvis Christian College: [www.jarvis.edu](http://www.jarvis.edu)

LeTourneau University:

[http://www.letu.edu/opencms/opencms/\\_Admissions/before-you-apply.html](http://www.letu.edu/opencms/opencms/_Admissions/before-you-apply.html)

Kilgore College Admissions page: <http://www.kilgore.edu/sitemap.asp?Landing=483>

Panola College Main page: <http://www.panola.edu/>

East Texas Baptist University: [www.etbu.edu](http://www.etbu.edu)