

Spartan Senior Apply to College

STEP-BY-STEP [click for presentation.](#)
Electronic handout: <https://bit.ly/Sen24>

Websites & Resources

Anatomy of a College Application

[College and Career website Admission page](#)

1. Complete online application form.
2. Essay (if required)
3. Application fee or use a fee waiver.
4. Send college high school transcript.
5. Test scores if using ACT/SAT scores. (Test optional)
6. Letter of Recommendation (if required).
7. Academic Resume (if required)

Create a College List (Where do you want to apply?)

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
[HARN guide to freshman college admissions](#)

Select- Student Admission Resources/Guide

Research Admission Requirements (for each college)

Visit the university's website & search for: "Freshman Admission" or "Undergraduate Admissions" or "Future Students"

Located on the Admission page: required test scores or if the school is test optional. Make sure you are familiar with each university's admission policy because they often vary.

The Admission page will also tell you what application to use to apply to the university.

Take the Required Tests (SAT / ACT)

Cy-Lakes School Code: 443747

SAT: www.CollegeBoard.org
ACT: www.ACT.org

Free/Reduced Lunch Students: 2-SAT and 2-ACT Tests for FREE!
Email Mrs. Edwards: kim.edwards@cfisd.net for the test waiver.

Apply-online application forms

www.goApplytexas.org
www.CommonApp.org
www.CoalitionForCollegeaccess.org
Or, Institution-specific app on their website

Admission Essay

[Step by step guide to writing your college essay.](#)

You Tube channel: [College Essay Advisors](#)

Application Fee Waivers

Students who took SAT with Test Fee Waiver will receive 4 Application Waivers: print student College Board account to apply for FREE.
Need help with application fee waiver? [Click here](#)
Verify the types of application waivers that the school accepts. This information can be found on the university's admission page.

NACAC Waiver: <https://www.nacacnet.org/student/fee-waivers/>
Complete the top portion of the form. Send form to the grade level counselor to authorize waiver. Student then submits waiver to the university.

[Cy-Lakes Counseling team email addresses](#)

SUBMIT Application

A "SAVED" application is NOT the same as a "SUBMITTED" application!

Know your deadlines!
ALL required materials must be received by each college BEFORE their posted deadline.

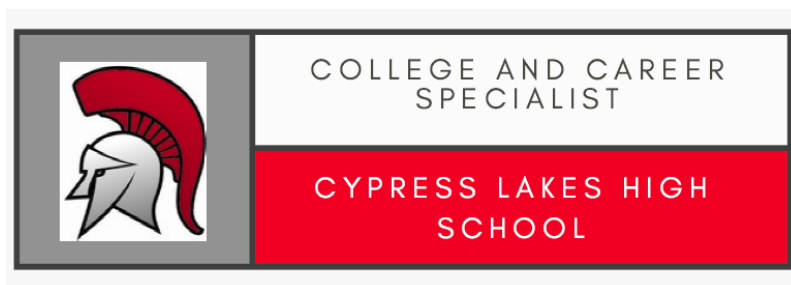
Important Information for Applicants:

- **CFISD GPA** is calculated on a **6.0 weighted** scale. GPA on 4.0 scale: information is provided by your counselor.
- **Class Rank** is **exact** and calculated on a **weighted** scale: this information is provided by your counselor.
- Dual Credit courses count as college hours from Lone Star College System – Woodlands
If anything changes in your application status, notify each university directly (class schedule, family living circumstances, class rank, etc).

Set-up Applicant Portal (Activate UIN - Unique ID #)	Once the application is submitted, each university will have a school portal to communicate with the applicant. Check once a week. Don't lose your LOGIN for each school! Application tracker for college
Request an Official Transcript (From the Cy- Lakes Registrar's Office)	How to Order your Official High School online For Lone Star College Transcripts
Letters of Recommendation Process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the Cy-Lakes brag sheet. Download and complete the brag sheet then email the brag sheet to your counselor. 2. Ask your recommender; provide the recommender with email address or the physical address to the university requesting the recommendation. Recommender will send the letter to the college. 3. Allow 2 weeks for the recommender to complete the letter. Send thank you note to recommender. Cy-Lakes Counseling team email addresses
FAFSA (Financial Aid) opens December 2023 <u><i>Everyone should complete the FAFSA</i></u>	www.fafsa.gov Complete the FAFSA in December, priority deadline for many colleges are in January. FAFSA information on Cypress Lakes College and Career web-site
Scholarships Scholarship season opens October and runs through April	Be aware of the scholarship application process and deadlines for each scholarship. University scholarships have early deadlines typically in December. Apply for other scholarships starting in October... many & often! CFISD Scholarship Bulletin www.FastWeb.com www.FinAid.org www.Scholarships360.org
Admissions Decisions & Financial Aid Offers	Usually mailed in February & March
May 1st DECISION DAY	Notify the college you'll be attending no later than May 1 st . Sign-up for New Student Orientation/Conference.

IMPORTANT: All information should be independently verified with the college(s) to which you are applying.

[Cypress Lakes College and Career website](#)
[CFISD College Knowledge website](#)



Spartan Senior Timeline

JULY/AUGUST

- Have your Senior yearbook pictures taken.
- Start online college applications!
- Finalize college application essays –PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD, AND PROOFREAD!

SEPTEMBER

- Check the College & Career Center website and Class of 2024 Schoology group often for information.
- Make a calendar of application & financial aid deadlines, test dates, etc.
- Prepare to submit your college application (Don't meet deadlines, BEAT deadlines!).
- If required by colleges, request letters of recommendation. Allow for a 2/3 week turnaround AFTER you talk to your recommender.
- Register for SAT and/or ACT, if required.
- Gather data needed for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid); apply for PIN number on www.fafsa.gov
- Register & pay for AP Exams in November.

OCTOBER

Don't Trick-or-Treat until You're Complete!

- Senior conferences with counselors.
- Participate in CFISD College Night.
- Take the SAT or ACT, if needed.
- Submit your college applications and all required information/documents BEFORE the deadline.
- Seek and apply for scholarships.

NOVEMBER

- Take the SAT or ACT if necessary.
- Seek and apply for scholarships.

DECEMBER

- FAFSA opens (new date) and should be completed as soon as possible!
- Check your emails & online college accounts DAILY and follow-up on any missing info. Watch your admissions file status!

JANUARY

- Continue to monitor applications online.
- Continue to seek and apply for scholarships from a variety of sources.

FEBRUARY

- Complete mid-year report and order an updated transcript, if required by your college(s).
- Continue to seek and apply for scholarships from a variety of sources.

MARCH

- Watch your email for decision letters and financial aid award letters; compare financial aid packages.
- Get vaccinated and upload to your student account
- Texas law requires the bacterial meningitis vaccine (or waiver) in order for a student to register for college classes.

APRIL

- Finalize college housing arrangements.

MAY GRADUATION:

- Inform your college of your acceptance of their offer of admission & financial aid by May 1st
- Take AP exams (May 2024)
- Write thank you notes to the people who wrote letters of recommendation for you.
- RSVP for your college's summer orientation session
- Request a copy of your final transcript to be sent to the school you choose to attend. Every college requires a final transcript to be sent AFTER graduation.
- Complete Senior Surveys.

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

- Take part in summer orientation programs for incoming freshmen, meet with an academic advisor & register for classes.

FAQ's about College Application process:

When should I start my application to college?

July and August of senior year is the best time to start. [Timeline](#)

How do I begin?

Find out [what goes into an application](#) and begin collecting the materials you need. Create a folder for each college you are applying to. At the front of each folder, put a [checklist](#) of what you'll need for the application and when it's due.

How many colleges should I apply to?

To increase your chances of getting in to a selective school, and to account for colleges you may not have considered before, we recommend a balanced list. A balanced list includes at least 3 *reach* colleges, 2 *matches*, and 1 *safety* school. They should all be colleges you'd be happy to attend.

What are reach, match, and safety schools?

Think about narrowing your colleges into three categories:

Reach: Your SAT or ACT score is lower than the average score range of last year's freshman class.

Match: Your SAT or ACT score is solidly in the same score range as last year's freshman class.

Safety: Your SAT or ACT score is higher than the average score range of last year's freshman class.

[How to choose a college](#) by the College Essay Guy

[College Essay Guy College List Builder Podcast:](#)

[Competitive test scores for college:](#)

[Cappex.com](#) – create an account, add your test scores, and then use scatter plot graph to see how your scores match with admitted student scores.

Good test scores: <https://blog.prepscholar.com/sat-scores-for-colleges>

[College for All Texans](#)

What are the Coalition, Common, and Apply Texas Applications?

These are examples of college application services that provide standardized applications which allow you to apply to multiple schools with a single application. Instead of filling out eight different applications, you can simply fill out one and submit it to each college.

The [Coalition Application](#) is accepted by more than 90 institutions. The platform includes "The Locker," a private space for you to collect and organize materials throughout high school that you might want to share with colleges and universities. [Video](#) guide to completing the application.

The [Common Application](#) is a standardized application used by nearly 700 colleges. [Video](#) guide to completing the application.

[Apply Texas Application](#) is a standardized application used by public colleges in state of Texas. [Video](#) guide to completing the application.

Be aware that you may need to submit additional or separate documents to some colleges. You also still need to pay individual application fees for each college.

Help with College Essays: [see Writing the ApplyTexas Essays](#)

Letter of Recommendation: Does your college require a letter of recommendation? If you need to find that out, see the university's Freshman Admission page. Complete the Cy Lakes brag sheet and email it to your counselor. Next, ask recommender if they are willing to write a letter on your behalf and make sure you provide recommender 2-3 weeks to complete the letter. Then, provide the recommender with the link or physical address (if mailed provide envelope and stamp) to the university. Write a thank you note to the recommender.

How do I send a Transcript? High school transcripts can be requested online at [CFISD](#). A few things to know before ordering your high school transcript: Order ALL transcripts (official & unofficial) - the first 5 are free.

OFFICIAL transcripts are required by most colleges & universities when applying for admission. Please see the college/university website if this is required. In the online ordering system, select "Education Institution" for each college (these will be sent as OFFICIAL transcripts).

Order your HS transcript AFTER you submit your college application.

UNOFFICIAL transcripts can be ordered in the same system, at the same time.

PLAN AHEAD - it can take up to 3 school days to process your transcript request

Your transcripts must be RECEIVED by the college or university ON OR BEFORE THEIR APPLICATION DEADLINE. Please note college/universities have different applications deadlines.

Lone Star College Transcript for Dual Credit students can be requested in the student's Lone Star College account. Under the student tab click Academic Record.

Sending SAT or ACT Test scores: Students are responsible for sending all SAT, ACT and AP scores to the universities. Most schools want official test scores, and official scores must come from College Board or ACT. Sign into your account on [College Board](#) and [ACT](#) to send your scores.

How do I use College Application Waivers? To qualify for college application fee waivers students must have either taken an SAT using a test waiver or the student must be eligible to receive free/reduced lunch with completed School Café application. To receive free/reduced status all families must apply [online](#) and qualify for the service. If a student used a SAT test waiver, once the score becomes available in the account, then **4** college application waivers are uploaded into the student's College Board account. The student is responsible for filling out waivers and sending the waivers to the universities (mail or upload). [NACAC](#) is another opportunity to receive **4** college application waivers. Click NACAC, complete the top portion of the form electronically, then email the form to your [counselor](#), who will then verify free/reduced lunch status. Then either mail or upload the document to the university. *Remember you must complete payment for each application if payment is required. So, if you applied to 4 universities you will need to complete 4 application waivers.*

College Visits: All 11th and 12th grade student have 2 college visits each year. Before going on the college visit stop by the Cy-Lakes Attendance Office to pick up the College Day Attendance form. Return the form to the Attendance Office. Virtual college visits [click here](#).

How do I know how many college hours I have? This information is located in your Lone Star College account in the student tab, select Academic Record. Once in Academic Record, student can then select to view an unofficial transcript which will list all the college courses taken. Hours can be calculated by looking at the course number. For example, English 1301, the 3 indicates the course is a 3 hour course. Another example is MATH 2413. The 4 indicates the course is a 4 hour course. Another way to determine how many college hours is to login into myLoneStar account under the student tile, select the Academic Record and then select view Unofficial Transcript from the menu on the left side of the screen.

If I took Dual Credit classes am I considered First Time Incoming to College (FTIC) or applying as a freshman in college? You are considered First Time Incoming to College or a freshman.

Who is paying for college: "The talk" about college funding with your parents: [Click Here](#)