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Top 10 Reasons to Apply Early…

10. Preparation… Give yourself plenty of time to make the decisions that will map your college career. These websites are useful tools: www.collegeboard.com and www.act.org

9. Scholarships… You will be eligible to apply early for most scholarships. www.utsa.edu/scholarships and www.fastweb.com

8. Money… The earlier you apply for admissions, the earlier you can be admitted and receive financial aid awards. www.utsa.edu/financialaid

7. Opportunity… You will be among the first students from the application pool to be considered for both merit scholarships and financial aid funds.

6. Classes… You will be one of the first students to register for orientation, where you schedule your classes. www.utsa.edu/orientation

5. Support… Early admission will give you access to programs with limited availability that help you adjust to campus life.

4. Events… UTSA hosts a number of on-campus events-UTSA Day, Come 2 Class Day before the academic year begins. www.utsa.edu/visitor

3. Housing… You must apply for admission before applying for housing. On-campus housing is assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. www.utsa.edu/students/housing

2. Nerves… The earlier you’re admitted, the less time you’ll have to worry.

1. And the No. 1 Reason to Apply Early…

... 
...
... It’s UTSA—Why would you want to wait!
Attention Class of 2007!
Are you trying to narrow down those college choices?

Juniors all over America that have graduated in May/June and are now faced with the challenge of figuring out what colleges they will apply to their senior year. This can be a daunting task! However, with some early planning and good use of time management, the experience can be made less overwhelming.

The key to making a student’s college career a success is all about finding the right match. A student may meet a college’s admissions requirements, however, the question the student must ask him/herself is, “Does the college campus provide the right environment for him/her to grow in?”

Here are some basic characteristics you should take into consideration:

Location
Where is the college located? Do you want to visit home often or experience a whole new part of the country? Do you want to experience an urban setting with malls, museums, and a variety of food choices or would you rather opt for a small town in a peaceful setting with access to hiking, canoeing etc. UTSA offers the best of both worlds. The Downtown campus is located in the heart of San Antonio and offers an urban setting making it ideal for students that enjoy the hustle & bustle of the city. The 1604 campus is located on the outskirts of San Antonio closer to the Texas hill country & offers a more traditional college atmosphere, with residence halls and a recreation center.

Academic Programs
What are you interested in studying? Research the colleges you are considering to make sure that they offer the degree program you are interested in. Once you know what you are interested in studying, take a close look at the reputation of the academic department for your major. Don’t be alarmed if you’re undecided. It’s okay, pick a college that offers a range of majors & programs. UTSA has 62 undergraduate degrees to choose from and a Career Services Office that can assist students with counseling. However, we are well known for business, education, architecture, engineering and the biological sciences.

Size
Do you prefer a small, medium, or large campus setting? Size often impacts: extracurricular activities offered, class sizes, and range of academic majors offered. UTSA offers the best of both worlds. With a student body totaling 27,000, the 1604 campus has 21,000 students and the downtown campus has 6,000 students. Therefore, students can choose to have either a medium or small campus feel with a wide variety of majors. Although, many UTSA students comment on the “small campus feel” regardless of which campus they attend.

Campus Life
A huge part of college life is learning beyond the classroom. A student should aim for a balance between academics, activities, and social life. These are some of the questions you should learn the answers to: What kind of student organizations are there on campus? Is on-campus housing available/required? Does the community around the college offer interesting outlets for students? What extracurricular activities, athletics, and special interests groups are available? UTSA has over 200 organizations to get involved in that range from academic & social to athletic. Students are not required to live on-campus; however, it is highly recommended for first-time freshmen. The university is located in San Antonio where you have access to great food, culture, shopping, the Texas hill country and much more! There is something to do for everyone. Visit www.utsa.edu/sa for more information.

Cost
The price tag of a college education is one of the top considerations for many students and parents. Much of the cost can be defrayed by applying for financial aid and scholarships early. However, UTSA is a good buy in comparison to other colleges & universities. To explore financial aid and scholarship opportunities, please visit: www.utsa.edu/financialaid/, www.utsa.edu.scholarships/ and www.texascollegemoney.org

Visit
If possible, visit the college campus you are considering. Each campus has its own culture. The UTSA New Student Admissions Center always encourages students to visit so that they may get a firsthand look at what our university campus is really like. There is nothing like the excitement of envisioning yourself as part of a college campus that may be your home for the next couple of years. Look out for open houses and other visit opportunities set-up for prospective students. To find out more about a variety of events prospective students may attend at UTSA please visit: www.utsa.edu/visitor
Part of UTSA’s Admissions criteria is a standardized test score. Students may take either the SAT or ACT. The scores from the writing section of the SAT or ACT exam are now required as part of the UTSA application process. However, for the immediate future, this will be supplemental information for internal research purposes only. Writing scores will not be considered in the admissions decision for the class of 2007. Students are encouraged to take either/both exams more than once, unless they have scored a perfect score! This increases their chances for admission & scholarship opportunities. At UTSA, we will only take the score from a single sitting. Please refer to UTSA’s admissions criteria for test score requirements at: www.utsa.edu/admissions/ (for the SAT, the score only refers to the math & verbal sections only).

What is the difference between the SAT and ACT? They’re both standardized tests and they both factor into the college admissions process. To learn about the differences between the two tests and how they compare, take a look at the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>When is it administered?</strong></td>
<td>Seven times per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is the test structure?</strong></td>
<td>Ten-section exam: Three Critical Reading, three Math, three Writing, and one Experimental. The Experimental section is masked to look like a regular section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is the test content?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Math</strong>: up to 9th grade basic geometry and Algebra II. <strong>Science</strong>: none. <strong>Reading</strong>: sentence completions, short and long critical reading passages, reading comprehension. <strong>Writing</strong>: an essay, and questions testing grammar, usage, and word choice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is there a penalty for wrong answers?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How is the test scored?</strong></td>
<td>200-800 per section, added together for a combined score. A 2400 is the highest possible combined score.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Are all scores sent to schools?</strong></td>
<td>Yes. If a student requests a score report be sent to specific colleges, the report will include the scores the student received on every SAT taken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Are there other uses for the exams?</strong></td>
<td>Scholarship purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best time to register?</strong></td>
<td>At least <strong>six weeks</strong> before the test date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart resource: www.princetonreview.com

**Got Admissions Questions?**

Don’t know how to apply to UTSA or have other admissions related questions and you don’t know where to start? Then you need to “connect” with a UTSA Admissions Counselor assigned to your area via the following web link: www.utsa.edu/admissions/UTSA_Counselors/index.cfm
College Fairs Coming to a High School Near You.
It’s that time of year again when admission counselors hit the road to travel to local high schools to give students the opportunity to explore various universities, give away pens, and allow students to ask questions they have been so eagerly waiting to have answered. Here are a few tips to get the most out of your college fair experience.

**College Fair Tip #1:** If available, obtain a list of universities attending the college fair. Visit with your top choices, but also pick several universities that you know nothing about and make it a point to visit those universities as well. What better way to learn about something you don’t know anything about than to visit with the representative and ask questions?

**College Fair Tip #2:** Ask specific questions. Questions like, “How is your band program?” will not get the in-depth answer you are looking for. Instead, ask questions such as, “What kind of music does your orchestra play? What scholarships are available to band members? What awards or special recognition has your band program received?” Do internet research on various universities before the college fair so you can develop informed questions.

**College Fair Tip #3:** Make your mark the easy way. Do a little footwork before the program and make yourself some labels with your full name and address. These labels will come in handy when you are requesting the universities to send you information.

**College Fair Tip #4:** Get to know the admissions counselors at universities you are interested in attending. Admission Counselors are great resources and can give you helpful information on applying to their university.

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**Need Money for College?**

Try out www.fastweb.com

- Fastweb is a comprehensive resource for scholarships, with over 1.3 million scholarships worth over $3 billion.
- Students get matched up to scholarships, internships, part-time jobs & more.
- Students get a customized experience & tools to stay organized.
- Best of all, this service is free! You may set-up an account at: www.fastweb.com

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**Interested in Visiting UTSA?**

Campus Tours are available!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1604 Campus</th>
<th>Downtown Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Tours available Monday - Friday 10 a.m. or at 2 p.m.  
*Tours available on Saturdays at 11 a.m. only  
(No appointment necessary)  
Admissions Presentations are scheduled at 9:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. before each campus tour Monday - Friday | Tours available Monday – Friday Only  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
(By appointment only)  
Call 210.458.2000 to schedule a tour! |

*Saturday tours available fall and spring semesters only.

Parking is free for visitors when a permit is obtained at any Visitor Booth. For more detailed information about visiting campus, call 210.458.5142 or visit www.utsa.edu/visitor. To access a campus map visit: www.utsa.edu/maps/1604.
# College Admissions Checklist

## TEST
- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Check the websites for the latest information on the ACT or SAT dates, test registration procedures and deadlines, test preparation information, college search engines, scholarship search sites, and a host of other helpful FREE resources. Tests should be taken by Christmas of your senior year, at the latest.

## APPLY
- [www.collegefortexans.org](http://www.collegefortexans.org)
- [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)

The application for admission is the first “official” step in the application process. Submit a carefully completed application to each college or university that you have determined to be your top choices; this includes back-up schools, “dream schools”, and/or the hometown favorite. Applications should be submitted by Christmas of your senior year.

**NOTE:** Be sure you are familiar with the admissions requirements of all the schools to which you are applying. [www.utsa.edu/admissions/](http://www.utsa.edu/admissions/)

## VISIT
- [www.utsa.edu/visitor](http://www.utsa.edu/visitor)

Most colleges or universities have a webpage that outlines their tour times, on-campus events, and other visitation options. Just as one should never purchase a car without a test drive, a college decision should not be made without a quality visit to the campus. UTSA’s tour information, for both campuses, and planned on-campus events are available at this website.

## TSI
- [www.utsa.edu/testing/thea.cfm](http://www.utsa.edu/testing/thea.cfm)
- [www.thea.nesinc.com](http://www.thea.nesinc.com)

The Texas Success Initiative is a provision in Senate Bill 286 that requires public colleges & universities in Texas to assess the academic skills of each enrolling first-time freshman in math, reading, and writing. Unless a student is EXEMPT (consult websites for exemptions), a THEA test score must be on file with the school prior to attending orientation or registering.

**NOTE:** Your high school transcript does NOT reflect your THEA score.

## Financial Aid
- [www.utsa.edu/financialaid/](http://www.utsa.edu/financialaid/)
- [www.collegefortexans.org/paying/](http://www.collegefortexans.org/paying/)

Complete and send (electronically, if at all possible) the most recent FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) as soon as possible after January 1st. A FAFSA must be on file with each school to which you have applied in order to be considered for any form of federal or state assistance; Pell Grant, TEXAS Grant, Work Study employment, Stafford loans. Many scholarships also require that the FAFSA at least be filed, regardless of the need. (UTSA’s code number is 010115)

## Housing
- [www.utsa.edu/housing/](http://www.utsa.edu/housing/)

At many schools, including UTSA, the housing application process is totally separate from the admissions application. On-campus housing is mandatory at some schools, but only highly recommended for first-time students at UTSA. Check out the three housing venues at the 1604 campus, as well as on-campus dining facilities. Completing the housing application process shortly after applying for admissions is the recommended procedure. Housing applications should be completed by February.

## Scholarships
- [www.utsa.edu/scholarships](http://www.utsa.edu/scholarships)
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Scholarships are the most sought-after form of financial assistance. Scholarships are not awarded through the government, but through the colleges and hundreds of other organizations, agencies, companies, and the like. Therefore, a thorough scholarship application process will involve completing many separate scholarship applications. Beware of scholarship scams that promise you a fast-track guarantee to scholarship dollars; such a thing does not exist. UTSA does have one general scholarship application that will serve as the application for most general scholarships at the university. Consult the UTSA website for that application, as well as a complete listing of all our scholarships. The other sites provide reputable scholarship search sites that are free.

UTSA’s General Scholarship Deadline is February 15th.

## Orientation
- [www.utsa.edu/orientation](http://www.utsa.edu/orientation)

Most colleges and universities require some form of orientation program for first-time students. Orientation is the transition from the application process to the enrollment process. Time is spent familiarizing students with the campus, exposing them to the catalog, advising, and ultimately registering students for classes. UTSA’s Roadrunner Roundups are held for three days throughout the summer for fall enrollment. Registration for the events is through the website and is on a first-come, first-serve basis.
Money for College!

Across
3. Acronym for: Free Application for Student Aid
4. Financial aid program that provides jobs for undergraduate & graduate students
6. Acronym for: Expected Family Contribution
7. Form of financial aid, doesn't have to be repaid
8. Are not awarded through the government, but through colleges & hundreds of other organizations, agencies & companies (it involves completing many separate applications)
9. A free on-line comprehensive source for scholarships

Down
1. Assistance given by the Federal Gov't to pay for college
2. should fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after this date to maximize chances of receiving aid
5. Money you borrow for your education & must pay back

Editor’s Corner

Have an idea or a question for the Roadrunner Update? Please contact Marisol Sanchez.

Email: Marisol.Sanchez@utsa.edu
Telephone: 210.458.4599