

# REFUGIO HIGH SCHOOL



## SENIOR QUICK GUIDE FOR POST SECONDARY INFORMATION

# 2020-2021

# REFUGIO HIGH SCHOOL

212 W. Vance St.  
Refugio, Texas 78377  
Ph: 361-526-2344

Brandon Duncan, Principal

Samantha Meza, Counselor

July 17, 2020

Dear Senior and Senior Parent/Guardian:

The purpose of this guide is to aid students and parents with the career and college planning process. Deciding on a career and college path can feel like it has been placed upon students and parents/guardians abruptly when entering the senior year of high school. However, a career is a “way of life”, and decisions made during the high school years tend to establish the basis for the lifestyle an individual will lead during the ensuing years.

Many career options are available beyond high school. The counselor is an excellent resource for all students in exploring all possible avenues. The emphasis should be centered on what is the best fit for the student’s interests and abilities. Individuals should assess their own strengths and weaknesses, establish long-term goals, and discipline themselves accordingly for success. In any decision-making process, gathering information is key.

Additional information of importance regarding college visitation days, scholarship information and career opportunities will be made available to you through notices posted in classrooms, announcements and individual appointments.

This guide is not intended to take the place of a conference with me. I have provided information in this guide to help students and parents make informed decisions about educational and career goals. I hope that you find it useful. If you have any questions or need any assistance, you are encouraged to see me and every effort will be made to assist you.

Sincerely,

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**ASSURANCE OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

It is the policy of (Refugio ISD) not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national Origin, sex, age or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972: and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Es norma de (Refugio ISD) no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo repusieron el Título VI de Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda: el Título IX de las Emendaciones en la Educación, de 1972, y la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

## SENIOR CALENDAR CHECK LIST

### AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- \_\_\_\_\_ **CHECK** your schedule of classes for the fall semester.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **MEET** with the counselor to review your records, if you have any questions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **SUBMIT** a resume to the counselor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **REGISTER** to take the SAT or ACT, if you have not done so, or if you wish to retake the test in hopes of making a higher score.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **REDUCE** your preliminary college list to approximately five schools: 2 safety schools, 2 realistic schools and 1 reach school.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **COMPLETE** the Texas Common Application at [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org) or the appropriate admissions application to the college(s) of your choice. Most universities suggest applications be submitted by Thanksgiving.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **CHECK** college catalogs or go on line for deadline dates for applications, admissions, housing, financial aid, required entrance exam (ACT/SAT) and acceptable financial aid forms (FFS or FAF and FAFSA).
- \_\_\_\_\_ **BEGIN** processing appropriate forms listed above.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **FILE** your application in time to meet deadlines. If you are a candidate for early decision for college admissions, meet those deadlines. Also be sure to check the last acceptable test date for an early decision candidate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **SCHEDULE** college visits. Call or write ahead of time for an appointment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **APPLY** for a PIN number at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). for financial aid. One parent or legal guardian and the senior apply for a PIN #.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **ASK** your parents for their income tax information for **2019!** (*can be uploaded directly to FAFSA using IRS upload link.*)

## OCTOBER

- \_\_\_\_\_ **MAKE** sure that you sign and date your federal financial aid application and send it in as soon as possible after **October 1<sup>st</sup>**. **Financial Aid Workshop** date to be determined.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **If your college application(s) require a transcript, teacher or counselor recommendation**, be sure to request these items from the appropriate person **at least two weeks** before the college(s) require them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **If college is not in your career plans**, you should begin procedures for other placement options. Prepare a resume for job placement and interviews.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Take the **ASVAB** (November 17, 2020 at the Community Center).
- \_\_\_\_\_ **REGISTER** for other college entrance tests as needed. (TSI)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Start looking for scholarships if you haven't already done so.  
(fastweb.com, school specific scholarships, internet search, etc.)

## NOVEMBER

- \_\_\_\_\_ **WATCH DEADLINES** for college admissions, housing, and financial aid applications.

## DECEMBER

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Take and pass the appropriate STAAR test** if you have not already done so.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **CHECK** your second semester schedule. Be sure you are meeting requirements for high school graduation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **LOOK** over your timeline to be sure you have completed each step in the college admissions process. Your application(s) should be mailed before January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **REQUEST** your SAT or ACT scores be sent to all colleges to which you have applied. If you did not list them when you registered for the test, fill out the special form for additional college scores. These forms are available online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) and <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/scores>

## JANUARY

- \_\_\_\_\_ **COMPLETE** scholarship and college entrance applications.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **REGISTER** for college placement test, if you have not already done so.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **CHECK** with the counselor about college, scholarship and financial aid Applications.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete Senate Bill 30 graduation requirement with Sgt. Silvas.

## FEBRUARY

- \_\_\_\_\_ **AVOID SENIORITIS!! Grades are still very important.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **WATCH** deposit deadlines for college. Be sure that you mail your deposit ahead of time so that it will reach the college by the deadline.

## MARCH

- \_\_\_\_\_ **LISTEN** for announcements and check the senior bulletin board for **local scholarships**. Be sure to visit the counseling office to get the applications for scholarships.

## APRIL

- \_\_\_\_\_ **COLLEGES** begin sending admissions decisions and the financial aid awards. Most selective colleges will announce their admissions decisions in April. Carefully review all admissions acceptance and financial aid award notices and call the colleges if you have any questions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **NOTIFY** the counselor of any scholarship received for recognition at graduation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **CHECK** with your counselor and the RISD website/FB page for local scholarship information as it becomes available.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make sure that you have completed CPR certification.

## MAY

- \_\_\_\_\_ **MAKE** final college choices, if you have not already done so.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **NOTIFY** the counselor of your final college choice and whether you have been awarded any scholarships or grants (academic, artistic, drama, or musical).

- \_\_\_\_\_ **PREPARE** and study for final exams.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **REQUEST** a final transcript be sent to your college choice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **REQUEST** college transcripts to be sent to your college choice. (Dual Credit students)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Graduate** high school and continue to plan your postsecondary future.

## COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Most colleges require that students take a college entrance exam. Standardized college admissions tests assist colleges in evaluating students who come from various sections of the country and schools with diversified marking systems and standards. Most colleges require one or more of the following tests:

**\*ACT or \*SAT I: Reasoning Test with Writing**

**\*SAT II: Subject Test**

Register on line: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

\*Fee waivers are available for qualifying students. Students on free/reduced lunch, ward of the state, receiving public assistance, TRIO students, are a few of the qualifying criteria. Check with your counselor for further eligibility criteria.

### **AND**

#### **TSI Assessment**

The law requires all entering college students to be assessed for college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing. However, students may not have to test if they fall into any of the following categories, although each institution may have additional requirements. Contact your current or prospective Public University, Community College, State College, or Technical College if you think you may qualify.

Students who meet qualifying standards on certain tests are TSI exempt:

- **ACT**            **23** composite, minimum **19** on both the English and Math
- **SAT**            a minimum score of **480** on the Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) will exempt a student from both the TSI reading and writing requirements; a minimum score of **530** on the mathematics test will exempt a student from the TSI mathematics requirements.

**STAAR scores are valid for five years from the date of testing.**

**SAT and ACT scores are valid for five years from the date of testing.**



## COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM DATES

2020-2021

### ACT TEST DATES

Test Dates in the U.S., U.S. Territories, and Canada

### 2020-2021 Test Dates (National)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 12, 2020 September 13, 2020 (Sunday) September 19, 2020	August 14	August 15 - August 28
October 10, 2020 October 17, 2020 October 24, 2020 October 25, 2020 (Sunday)	September 17	September 18 - 25
December 12, 2020	November 6	November 7 - November 20
February 6, 2021	January 8	January 9 - January 15
April 17, 2021	March 12	March 13 - March 26
June 12, 2021	May 7	May 8 - May 21
July 17, 2021*	June 18	June 19 - June 25

**\*All fees are nonrefundable unless otherwise noted.**

**Test Fees:**

ACT (No Writing) \$50.50

Includes reports for you, your highschool, and up to four college choices (if valid codes are provided when you register).

ACT (Plus Writing) \$67.00

Includes reports for you, your high school, and up to four college choices (if valid codes are provided when you register). The Writing Test fee is refundable, on written request, if you are absent on test day or switch to the ACT (No Writing) before testing begins.

Register at: [www.actstudent.org/start](http://www.actstudent.org/start)

**ACT FEE WAIVER**

ACT—fee waivers are available see Mrs. Meza for eligibility criteria or visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

**College Entrance Exam Dates  
2020-2021  
SAT TEST DATES**

SAT Date	Registration deadline	Late registration deadline	Deadline for changes
August 29, 2020	July 31, 2020	August 18, 2020	August 18, 2020
September 26, 2020	August 26, 2020	September 15, 2020	September 15, 2020
October 3, 2020	September 4, 2020	September 22, 2020	September 22, 2020
November 7, 2020	October 7, 2020	October 27, 2020	October 27, 2020
December 5, 2020	November 5, 2020	November 24, 2020	November 24, 2020
March 13, 2021	February 12, 2021	March 2, 2021	March 2, 2021
May 8, 2021	April 8, 2021`	April 27, 2021	April 27, 2021
June 5, 2021	May 6, 2021	May 26, 2021	May 26, 2021

**\*\*\*School Day SAT will be offered at RHS in the Spring. See Mrs. Meza for further information.**

**Test Fees:**

SAT Registration without essay	\$47.50
SAT Registration with essay	\$64.50

Includes reports for you, your highschool, and up to four college choices (if valid codes are provided when you register).

Register at: [www.sat.org/register](http://www.sat.org/register)

**SAT FEE WAIVER**

SAT—fee waivers available for qualifying students. See Mrs. Meza for eligibility criteria or visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

## FINANCIAL AID

[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

The key to completing a FAFSA with your parent when you aren't together is something called the **Save Key**. The Save Key is a short, temporary password you can give someone when it is time for them to work on your FAFSA. Here's how it works:

1. Start a FAFSA at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov). Click on **Start Here**.
2. On the "Login" page, you can start a FAFSA with your FSA ID (on the left) or your parent can start it with your name, Social Security Number and date of birth (on the right).
3. Whoever starts the FAFSA will be prompted to create a Save Key. Make a note of it.
4. Whenever the first person is done with their part, save the FAFSA and close out of it.
5. Give the other person the Save Key. Then that person can use the Save Key to get into the partially completed FAFSA and do his or her part. A parent can get in by entering your (the student's) identifiers on the right side of the "Login" screen and never needs to use your FSA ID.
6. When everyone is done with their parts of the FAFSA, be sure to click **Submit My FAFSA Now** at the bottom of the "Signature Status" page. You are not done until you see the "Confirmation" page, which you should read and save for your records. If your parent has another child in school, there is a link on the "Confirmation" page to start a new FAFSA for that child, allowing your parent to transfer much of their information and save time.

It is very important that you and your parent create and use your own FSA IDs. The **FSA ID acts as a legal signature** and should not be shared. Letting someone else create your FSA ID is not allowed and can create problems and delays with your financial aid. For more information or to create your own FSA ID, go to [StudentAid.gov/fsaid](http://StudentAid.gov/fsaid).

If your parent does not have a Social Security Number, he or she will not be able to get an FSA ID. In that case your parent will print, sign, and mail in a paper signature page.

## FINANCIAL AID

Recognizing the critical necessity of having well-educated citizens to make society and the economy prosper, federal and state governments and colleges provide financial aid to help qualified students. Keep in mind that you can afford to go to college and you can find a way. The keys are to begin early and to understand the process.

1. Determine the total cost of attending each of the colleges you are considering. This includes:
  - ✓ Tuition and fees
  - ✓ Books and supplies
  - ✓ Room and board
  - ✓ Transportation and trips home
  - ✓ Personal expenses (laundry, clothing, etc.)
2. Investigate all possible resources of financial aid:
  - ✓ Parents
  - ✓ Savings
  - ✓ Summer earnings
  - ✓ Scholarships
  - ✓ Grants
  - ✓ Work-study
  - ✓ Loans
3. Be aware that at many colleges the payment plan is gradual and can be spread out over the semester.
4. Secure necessary financial aid forms and meet all deadlines. All colleges require the Free Application For Federal Student Aid Form (FAFSA). This application is available on the web at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
5. The application should be completed as early as possible after October 1st of the senior year. Colleges use the information provided on the form to determine a student's financial "need", the difference between what a student and his/her parents are expected to contribute toward the student's education and the total cost of the education

## FINANCIAL AID

6. A Financial Aid Workshop will be conducted at the high school library during the month of October for all parents.
7. Scholarships are also an important part of the financial aid package that may be offered to a student. Some sources which should be investigated for scholarships include:
  - ✓ Specific departments of a university (engineering, drama, computer science, business, etc.)
  - ✓ The athletic department of a specific institution.
  - ✓ **LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS** become available during the spring of the students' senior year (February-April).

**REMEMBER: No one will offer you a scholarship unless they know you want or need the money. YOU MUST APPLY. It is your responsibility to listen to the daily announcements and check with the counselor's office regularly for any type of scholarships available.**

### INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN COLLEGE SPORTS?

(All students must register with NCAA to check eligibility status.)

Registrants may access the site at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). From the home page, click on "Enter Here" for NCAA college-bound student-athletes, then on the "New Account" link in the upper right corner. From there, they simply follow the prompts

Print the transcript request pages (2 pages) and give both pages to the counselor.

Register to take the ACT, SAT or both and use the NCAA Eligibility Center Code "9999" as a score recipient.

Fee Waivers are available, see Mrs. Meza for more information.

## **COLLEGE ADMISSIONS**

Entrance requirements vary from college to college. It is **YOUR** responsibility to determine the admission criteria of the college you are interested in attending. Entrance requirements for any college are readily available in the college catalogues, on line, or from your counselor. Common admissions criteria may include one or more of the following:

- Graduation from an accredited high school
- College Entrance Exam (ACT or SAT) score
- Subject area tests in specified areas of study (SAT II)
- Completion of specific courses in high school

Once you have made a decision regarding which college you wish to attend, you will need to initiate your admission process. The COMMON APPLICATION is used for most Texas four year public colleges or universities. This application is available on line ([www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)), with a list of which colleges accept it, criteria that must be met, as well as financial aid information.

**APPLY EARLY!  
BE ACCURATE AND COMPLETE!  
MEET DEADLINES!**

The following is a brief summary of the steps to follow in the admissions process:

- ✓ Accurately complete the admission application. Watch for deadlines.
- ✓ Include the application fee, if required. Since this fee is non-refundable, it is advisable to narrow your choices before applying.
- ✓ Request an official transcript from the counseling office to mail with the application fee.
- ✓ Take the appropriate college entrance exams.
- ✓ Apply for housing as this often requires a separate application.
- ✓ Apply for financial aid (after January 1st).
- ✓ Fee waivers are available. See your counselor for criteria.

## ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Colleges and universities have varying admission practices. Information pertaining to the policy of a prospective school will be found in its publications. Some of the most frequently mentioned practices are:

- **EARLY DECISION** - Students who have demonstrated sound academic ability apply for admission to their first choice college during the summer or very early in their senior year. Notification of admission is given usually in December or January. Restrictive policies vary with each school and must be checked carefully to see if early decision works to the individual's advantage.

This plan is binding. **If you apply for an early decision, you also sign a commitment to attend if accepted and withdraw all other applications.** You should apply under an early admission plan only if you know that you can make a well-reasoned, first-choice decision.

- **EARLY ACTION** - This plan does not require a commitment to matriculate. There are certain schools that have single choice early action (Stanford, Yale, and Harvard). If you apply to those schools, you must adhere to their restriction about applying early to other schools. This plan allows the applicant to compare admissions and financial aid offers.
- **WAIT LIST** This process allows institutions to initially delay an offer or deny admission. If you are on a wait list you are extended the possibility of admission in the future.
- **REGULAR DECISION** This is a plan in which institutions review most of their applications before notifying the majority of candidates of their admission. Colleges set a deadline for completing applications and respond to completed applications by a specified date.
- **ROLLING ADMISSIONS** This application process allows colleges to review applications as they are received and offers decisions to applicants as soon as the application has been processed.
- **DEFERRED ADMISSION** High school seniors are guaranteed admission to college a year after graduation.
- **OPEN ADMISSION** Students are accepted upon application (usually community colleges). Some programs in these same schools may have more selective admissions.



## TIPS FOR COMPLETING COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

As you think about your folder circulating among an admissions committee, consider the following:

Be aware that along with your application, colleges review:

- ♣ Your academic transcript for grades 9-11 as well a list of your senior course load. Special attention is given to your grades, your grade pattern, your overall grade point average, the courses you have taken, and your class rank.
- ♣ ACT/SAT performance can be helpful in supporting your academic record. (Check your colleges requirements.)
- ♣ Some consider extracurricular activities, recommendations, the applicant's personal essay, personal interview, alumni connections, and personal strengths.
- ♣ Read every word of the directions before you even print your name.
- ♣ Make a Xerox copy and use as a work sheet.

Applying on-line:

- ♣ Always print a copy of your application prior to sending it online.
- ♣ Give a copy to your counselor with the forms she needs to complete.
- ♣ Avoid filing on-line the week before the application deadline. This is the most risky time to file because of volume and likelihood of system failure.
- ♣ Always call or email the college within 14 days to verify receipt of your on-line application.
- ♣ Demonstrate your best work -something of which you are proud.
- ♣ Essays should be error-free, thoughtful, logical and organized. Use comfortable vocabulary. Be yourself. The essay should say something the rest of the application doesn't say - elaborate on a talent, an interest, and thoughts on a world or local problem, a personal accomplishment. Stay within the length limit for the essay. Admissions officers have limited time, and lots of essays to review.
- ♣ Do not write what you think the admissions office wants to hear. The committee reading your application wants to know you - whatever you think and do. No matter how ordinary you may feel your folder represents a different individual from all others.
- ♣ Use specific examples when describing your interests and achievements. Explain your involvement - why things you chose to discuss are important to you. It is better to emphasize the degree of involvement in a few activities than a long list of superficial interests.
- ♣ Why are you going to college? To learn? To learn what? Why? A college should be convinced that you truly want an education. Avoid simplistic answers and reasons. If you want to be an engineer, for

example, cite some experience from your own life and thought that led you to this present choice.

- ♣ If humor is a part of your style, feel free to use it. Avoid sarcasm.
- ♣ Typing or printing is acceptable. In some cases, you will be required to write an essay in your own handwriting. Neatness and legibility are obviously essential.
- ♣ Proofread. Spelling errors are unacceptable.

**!Proofread again!**

## THE ETIQUETTE OF ASKING FOR A RECOMMENDATION LETTER

1. Ask the teacher in person.
2. Ask in such a way that the teacher is free to decline your invitation if he/she feels a strong, positive letter is not possible. (Would you be willing to write a college letter of recommendation for me?)
3. Ask the teacher as soon as possible: Oct. 1 for early applications and Oct. 15 for regular applications, at the latest. You do not have to have a finalized list before you ask. Ask your teachers to write a letter for you and then attach a copy to whatever form(s) you eventually provide.
4. Make sure you fill out the student section of the form before giving the form to the teacher.
5. You may help the writer by suggesting a theme or focus for the letter and providing a list of your activities.
6. Provide a resume for your counselor and others from whom you request a letter of recommendation. (See the sample resume)
7. **Make sure you provide a form and a stamped, addressed envelope for each letter you want sent.** (The occasional exception involves the Common Application. Some teachers want you to provide a copy of the form for each college. Others, however, prefer to fill out the form only once and then copy it themselves. Ask the teacher how he/she would like the Common Application forms.)
8. Write a note of thanks to the writer of your recommendation(s).
9. When you hear from the colleges, make sure you inform the teachers who wrote for you the results of your application. Remember that they have something invested in your college process.
10. Above all, remember that writing a good letter of recommendation requires a significant amount of time, time that is above and beyond the call of duty. Make sure that you stay on top of deadlines and paperwork, so that you do not make unnecessary work for the teacher and so that writing of the recommendation is as uncomplicated as possible.

(Sample Resume format)

**YOUR NAME  
YOUR ADDRESS  
YOUR PHONE NUMBER**

**Educational Background**

**2015-2019**

Refugio High School, 212 W. Vance, Refugio, Texas 78377 (If you have attended other high schools also list them with dates you attended.)

**College and Career Plans**

**Basic Educational Statistics**

GPA:

Class Rank:

Graduation Date:

ACT/SAT score:

**Academic Achievements**

**2015-2016**

Examples: Honors and AP classes enrolled in; research projects completed; special academic contests, etc.

**2016-2017**

**2017-2018**

**2018-2019.**

**Awards, Achievements, and Honors**

**2015-2016**

List: Academic Awards  
Leadership Awards  
Music Awards  
Sports Awards.

**2016-2017**

**2017-2018**

**2018-2019**

**Extracurricular Activities**

**2015-2016**

List: Clubs, Sports, etc.

**2016-2017**

**2017-2018**

**2017-2019**

**Religious Activities (if applicable)**

**2015-2016**

Example: Church membership, nursery worker, youth group, etc.

**2016-2017**

**2017-2018**

**2018-2019**

**Community Service**

**2015-2016**

Example: Christmas baskets, blood drive, etc

**2016-2017**

**2017-2018**

**2018-2019**

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## QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGE REPS

Consider taking a college day to tour your prospective campus. Use the following list of questions to gain more information about the school you wish to attend.

### Admission

- Am I eligible for admissions?
- What tests are required?
- What are the deadlines?
- What high school course preparation is needed?
- What academic demands can I expect to find? How intense is the academic atmosphere (average hours spent studying, library full on weekends, avg. SAT, ACT scores)?
- What high school credits in advanced courses qualify you for advanced placement?
- What scores are needed?
- What percentage of students return after their freshman year?

### Cost

- How much will it cost?
- What kind of financial aid is available and how do I apply?

### Majors and Study Programs Available

- Does the school offer the major I want?
- Is the school strong in science, fine arts, the humanities, my areas?
- How many students are in my area of interest?
- What courses are included in a typical freshman program?
- If I am undecided, will I have the chance to explore some areas of interest?
- Does the school have any kind of internship program, co-op, etc.?

### Social Life

- What is the dorm life like?
- What extracurricular activities are available?
- Is the college a part of the surrounding community or set apart from it as a self-contained unit? If rural, how far to the nearest town and how do students get there?
- What method of transportation do students use to get around campus?

### Housing

- How difficult is it to get on-campus housing?
- Do all freshmen live in dorms?
- What is the cost?
- How do I apply? Is it a separate process from the admission application?

## CAREER OPTIONS

If selecting another option rather than college after graduation, the following information should be helpful for you.

### ♣ BEGINNING THE SEARCH

Visit the library or the web to discover the opportunities that are available to you which do not require a four-year college degree.

### ♣ SOME POSSIBLE CAREER OPTIONS NOT REQUIRING A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE:

#### ✓ MILITARY CAREER

The military is not an alternative to an education. It is a means to an education. It has something to offer almost anyone. Whatever your goals or plans for the future, whether they be medical, mechanical, administrative, or technical, whether those plans involve college for a career or going right into a career out of high school, the military-active or reserve-could help you achieve these goals.

#### ✓ CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Area junior colleges (Del Mar and Coastal Bend College) offer a number of specialized programs that can be completed in less than two years. These are designed for the person who is not planning to complete a college degree but wants to learn a marketable skill and secure immediate employment. Many of these can be used as the first step to an Associate Degree:

APPLIANCE REPAIR	DRAFTING TECHNOLOGY
AUTO BODY REPAIRS	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIALIST
AUTO MECHANICS	MACHINE SHOP
CLERK TYPIST	RESPIRATORY THERAPY
COSMETOLOGY	SURGICAL THERAPY
DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY	VOCATIONAL NURSE EDUCATION
DIESEL MECHANIC	WELDING

#### OTHER POSSIBILITIES:

APPRENTICESHIPS  
ON-THE-JOB MANAGEMENT TRAINING  
VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOOLS (ITT, TSTC)  
EMPLOYMENT/WORK

## **SURVIVAL STRATEGIES**

The following are some hints that might prove helpful in completing the admissions process:

- ✓ Keep your grades up your senior year. All college acceptances are conditional on the successful completion of your second semester.
- ✓ Remember, the published "average ACT or SAT scores" are just that—"average." If you feel your academic record is solid, do not let fear of rejection stop you from applying to the school of your choice.
- ✓ If you are dissatisfied with your ACT or SAT scores, try again. Colleges usually accept your highest score.
- ✓ Investigate the possibility of attending community colleges as a preliminary step to your education.