

Creekview High School

SENIOR SUMMIT

A Senior's Guide to Life After High School

CEEB #441144



Graduating Class of 2009-2010

Life After High School

Recommended Program:

DEPARTMENT	# OF CREDITS	CLASSES
ENGLISH	4.0	English 1, English 2, English 3, English 4
MATH	3.0 (in grades 9-12)	To include Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2
SCIENCE	3.0	IPC, Biology, Chemistry, Physics (Maximum of 1 from each of the 4 areas.)
SOCIAL STUDIES	4.0	World Geography, World History, U.S. History, Government, Economics
HEALTH	0.5	Health
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1.5	P.E., Athletics, or Waiver
TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS (See the course guide for a complete listing of classes.)	1.0	BCIS, Web Mastering, Computer Science, Multimedia, Desktop publishing, Technology Systems, etc..
SPEECH	0.5	Communications Applications
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	2.0	Levels 1 and 2 of the Same Language
FINE ARTS	1.0	Art, Music, Theatre, Dance
ELECTIVES	3.5	
	24 Total	

Distinguished Achievement Program:

**Recommended Program
With 3 Levels of a Foreign Language
Plus 4 Advanced Measures**

ADVANCED MEASURES	# ALLOWED	APPROVAL
Score of 3 or above on an AP exam. AP exams taken during the senior year will be verified after graduation.	1-4	None
Original research/project of professional quality as judged by a panel of experts APPLICATION REQUIRED	1-2	Prior
PSAT Commended Scholar, Semi-Finalist or higher, National Achievement Hispanic Scholar	1	None
Grade of A or B in college course	1-4	Prior



**Recommended Program
plus 2 of the following**

- Research Project with Presentation
(Must be individual work, not a class assignment.)
APPLICATION REQUIRED
- Portfolio with Presentation
(Must be individual work, not a class assignment.)
APPLICATION REQUIRED
- A Score of 3+ on an Advance Placement Test
- Successfully Completing a Dual Enrollment Class

Policies and Procedures

Regarding Attendance:

State and federal guidelines require that a student must be in attendance 90% of the time in a class in order to receive credit. Students can have no more than 9 absences in any class period and still gain credit.

Students will be notified when credit has been denied due to attendance. Credit denied may be regained only through the last day of the following grading period.

Regarding Schedule Changes:


Schedule change requests will be accepted during the posted schedule change days. All level changes will be processed on an individual basis. A level change request must be accompanied by a Parent Waiver form.

Regarding Credit by Exam:

All credits by exam will be offered through Texas Tech University. Tests will only be given in accordance with the district testing schedule which is available in the counseling office. Credit by exam does not meet NCAA clearinghouse requirements.

Regarding Transcript Requests:

Official transcripts **MUST** be sent directly from institution to institution. Students who are requesting a counselor recommendation need to also request an official transcript with instructions for the registrar to give the transcript to his/her counselor. The registrar must be given a minimum of three days to prepare and mail your transcript. Requests should be made well in advance of deadlines and the request form filled out completely. Transcripts cost \$5 each, and this fee is due when the order is placed.



Surviving Senioritis

Important Facts:

- Commonly known as senioritis, taking it easy your senior year may seem like a nice break but is likely to do more harm than good. According to recent reports, incomplete high school preparation can contribute to academic problems in college.
- As many as half of all college students do not have adequate academic preparation and are required to take remedial courses.
- More than one quarter of the freshmen at 4-year colleges and nearly half of those at 2-year colleges do not even make it to their sophomore year.
- Not only does senioritis jeopardize your chances for success later on in college, it can also affect your grades – and college admission officers pay close attention to your performance during your senior year.
- The senior year – the entire senior year – is actually of particular interest to colleges.
- Many college applications (including the Common Application) require you to list your senior courses, including information about course levels and credit hours. It will be very obvious to the admission officers if you've decided to “take the year off”.
- Many college acceptance letters include warnings to students such as "Your admission is contingent on your continued successful performance." This means colleges reserve the right to deny you admission should your senior year grades drop.
- Changing or dropping some of the more rigorous courses listed on the original application can result in a college withdrawing their offer for admission.

Source: collegeboard.com

College Entrance Exams

Why Should Students Take These Tests?

Most colleges require applicants to take one or more standardized tests prior to admission. Test scores are part of the student's application and are one factor colleges use to predict success.

When Should Students Take These Tests?

Most students take standardized tests late in the spring of their junior year or early in the fall of their senior year in high school.

How Do I Know Which Tests to Take?

ACT (American College Test): The ACT assessment is a general standardized college admissions test. The highest total score on the ACT is 36. The student's score on the ACT is a good predictor of his or her freshman year grade point average. The score does not measure a student's intelligence, nor does it predict whether the student will graduate from college. The ACT consists of four sections (English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science) and offers a Writing section on certain test dates. Students who are not strong in math may want to consider taking this test. Your counselor can help you decide which test is best for you. Students should plan to take this test in the spring of their junior year.

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test): The PSAT/NMSQT is taken in 10th grade to help students prepare for the SAT. During the junior year, the PSAT/NMSQT also serves as the qualifying test for scholarships awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Program.

SAT (Standardized Admissions Test) I: Reasoning Test: The SAT will measure mathematical problem-solving, critical reading, and writing skills. Each section is reported on a scale of 200 – 800 points. Students should take this test no sooner than the spring of their junior year. The SAT does not measure intelligence, nor does it measure skills like motivation or creativity.

- Critical Reading Section - measures a student's ability to analyze language at the passage, paragraph, and sentence levels.
- Math Section - measures problem-solving skills in arithmetic, geometry, and Algebra I and II.
- Writing Section – measures a student's ability to apply rules of English Language and organize and support an argument in a short essay.

SAT II: Subject Tests: Subject tests are one-hour, mostly multiple-choice tests, that measure how much students know about a particular subject and how well they can apply that knowledge. There are 22 different tests in five general areas, English, history, science, mathematics, and foreign languages. Students should check with an admissions officer of their chosen college or university to determine if the SAT II is required.

THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment): The THEA Test is designed to provide information about the reading, mathematics, and writing skills of students entering public colleges, universities, and educator preparation programs in public and private institutions. Students may be exempt from this test based on ACT, SAT, or TAKS scores. Check with your counselor to see if you are exempt. If not, plan to take the test in the spring of your senior year.

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language): Students whose first language is not English may take this test. Admissions officers look carefully at TOEFL scores for these students, understanding that students whose first language is not English may have difficulty with verbal sections of the SAT or ACT.

ACT™ Assessment Test Dates

www.act.org

Test Date	Regular Registration Postmark Deadline (regular fee)	Late Registration Postmark Dates (regular fee plus late fee)
October 24	September 18	Sept. 17 - Oct. 2
December 12	November 6	November 7-20
February 6	January 5	January 6-15
April 10	March 5	March 6-19
June 12	May 7	May 8-21

SAT® Assessment Test Dates Program

www.collegeboard.com

Test Date	Regular Registration Postmark Deadline (regular fee)	Late Registration Postmark Deadline (regular fee plus late fee)
October 10	September 9	September 23
November 7	October 1	October 15
December 5	October 30	November 12
January 23	December 15	December 30
March 13	February 4	February 18



www.thea.nesinc.com

You do not have to take the THEA (TASP) Test if you:

- have an ACT composite score of 23, with a minimum of 19 on both the English and math tests;
- or
- SAT combined critical reading and math score of 1070, with a minimum of 500 on both the critical reading and math tests;
- or
- TAKS scores minimum of 2200 in math and/or 2200 in English Language Arts with a writing subscore of at least 3.

Senior Timeline

August

- Verify scheduled courses and credits that reflect graduation and college entrance requirements.
- Register to retake ACT/SAT if necessary.
- Plan ahead for any fall college trips.
- Make plans to attend a college fair in September.
- Select 3–5 colleges that you would like to apply to.

September

- Contact colleges of your choice for admissions information and applications. Up-to-date information and online applications can be found on the college Website. Most applications are due between September and January.
- Create a separate file for each college. Get organized! Create a personal calendar of events and deadlines.
- Fill out the Texas Common Application online at www.applytexas.org. Hard copies are available in the counseling office.
- Listen for announcements regarding visits from college representatives.
- Begin the first drafts of your college application essays where applicable.
- Complete the student profile prior to requesting recommendation letters.
- Apply for appropriate scholarships announced by Student Services.

October/November

- Visit colleges .
- Read all materials from schools and scholarships carefully. Pay attention to deadlines; mark them down on your personal calendar.
- Early admission deadlines are usually around November 15th. You have a better chance for acceptance if you apply by the early admission deadline.
- Register to retake ACT/SAT if necessary.
- Request letters of recommendation. Allow 2-3 weeks for completion.
- If college is not in your plans determine what career you would like to enter. Begin preparing a resume, visit your counselor to discuss options.
- Apply for appropriate scholarships announced by Student Services.
- Complete as many applications as possible before Winter Break. Many schools have a December 1st

December

- Apply for the appropriate scholarships announced by Student Services.
- Attend financial aid workshop.

January/February

- Complete federal financial aid forms and submit online or mail them early. Financial aid is given out on a first come, first serve basis. We recommend completing the forms by March 1st. You can apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Finish any other college applications.
- Plan ahead for any spring college visits.
- Request a copy of your mid-year transcript from the registrar.
- Watch for deposit deadlines for colleges to be sure that you have mailed your deposit in time.
- Complete and turn in the local scholarship application (February) and any other appropriate scholarship applications.

March/April

- Continue to check your status at colleges to which you have applied.
- Register for Advanced Placement tests if applicable.
- Register for the THEA test if necessary.
- Complete the appropriate scholarship applications announced by Student Services.
- Review your acceptance and financial aid offers carefully.
- If possible, visit colleges before making your final choice.
- Wait to hear from all colleges before you make your decision.
- Notify the college of your choice, national reply deadline is May 1.
- Provide documentation to your high school registrar of all scholarships you have been offered for recognition at Senior Awards Assembly.

May

- Notify schools you have decided not to attend.
- Take Advanced Placement tests if appropriate.
- Notify the records office where to send your final transcript.
- Relax and enjoy the last days of high school!

Narrow Choices Using the Internet

Great Sites on the Web:		
College Search	www.collegeview.com www.anycollege.com www.collegeboard.org www.universities.com	www.collegenet.com www.collegefortexans.com www.petersons.com
Scholarships & Financial Aid	www.fafsa.ed.gov www.ed.gov/studentaid www.collegefortexans.com www.finaid.org www.window.state.tx.us/scholars/schools	www.fastweb.com www.nasfaa.org www.wiredscholar.com
ACT and SAT Registration	www.actstudent.org	www.collegeboard.org
ACT/SAT Prep	www.collegefortexans.com	
College Applications	www.applytexas.org (for public Texas schools)	www.commonapp.org (for most private schools and some others)
Docufide Secure Transcripts	www.docufide.com	
Athletic Scholarships	www.ncaa.org	www.ncaaclearinghouse.net (to register)

Things to Consider

Think about who you are and what your interests are. You do not have to go in for heavy-duty analysis, but be honest with yourself. Choose a college that caters to your needs.

Do your homework. Do not base a decision on any one source; especially the materials from a college. Schools spend as much as a half million dollars to produce slick brochures and videos to entice you. Go to College Night. Visit the GO center in Student Services.

Consider geography and size. Location is something students often forget to think about. A rural setting is very different from an urban one, just as a large college has a different feel from a small one. Have you included the cost of car or plane trips home in your budget?

Visit the campus. Talk to students. Learn about academic programs. Make sure the college offers courses in the area you want to pursue.

Make College Visits Count

Dress neatly. To really get a feel for the school, you need to walk around the quad, sit in on a class, and visit the dorms. Call ahead and make arrangements with the campus visit coordinator. Avoid campus visits during holidays or breaks and finals week; visit when classes are in session. Many colleges offer planned campus visit days when you can attend planned group activities with other prospective students and their families.

Have someone at the college provide you documentation of your visit on college letterhead. If your visit is during a school day, this letter will prevent your absence from counting against your exemptions. You are allowed two college visit days in your senior year.

Visit general education type classes while on campus. Most colleges will be happy to arrange the visit in advance. If they offer the very large lecture classes, ask to sit in on one to see how you feel about being one of 300 in a classroom.

If you have a particular area of interest in which you want to pursue your degree, ask to meet with a professor in your field of interest. This gives you a chance to evaluate the quality of education you will be receiving. Don't just walk in cold; ask your admissions representative to set this up in advance of your visit. Have questions written out; be prepared to discuss the curriculum and your possible course options.

Meet with a financial aid counselor. Be sure to get his or her name and send a thank you note.

14 Steps to Follow

1. Visit Colleges/Finalize SAT/ACT Testing
2. Complete and Return Student Profile Packet
3. Prepare Resume
4. Sign up with NCAA (for Athletes)
5. Request Recommendation Letters, Transcripts, Reports (2 weeks ahead of time)
6. Obtain and Complete College Applications
7. Write Essay (when required)
8. Mail Applications
9. Follow up with the College to make sure they received all necessary documents.
10. Follow up with Registrar and Counselor to ensure all documents were sent.
11. Check with College to Confirm Receipt of Online Document
12. Complete the FAFSA (Financial Aid) in January
13. Pursuit of Scholarships
14. Create a professional web-address for college applications

Applying Online

3 Ways to Apply:

Texas Common Application <http://www.applytexas.org>
(also available in the counseling office)

Common Application <http://www.commonapp.org>
(for specific schools outside of Texas)

Campus Websites Freshmen Admissions Link

Important Tips:

- Neatness definitely counts.
- Print out a copy of your application before you send it.
- Have several people proofread your application before you send it.
- Make sure you include as much information as you can. Details count. For example, if you are an Eagle Scout, don't just list Eagle Scout. Also list all of the community service and leadership activities associated with being an Eagle Scout.
- Have a professional email address to use for applications.

Resume Tips

- ◆ Make it easy to read.
- ◆ Always begin with your personal information.
- ◆ Use a chronological format beginning with most recent year.
- ◆ List school and related activities and leadership positions.


Checklist for Essays

- √ Be Concise = 500 words or less
- √ Be Honest = no “gimmicks”
- √ Be an Individual = set yourself apart from peers
- √ Be Coherent = make sense and address the topic
- √ Be Accurate = error free writing

Early Decision vs. Early Action

Early decision is binding, which means you must attend that college or university if it accepts you and gives you a reasonable financial aid package. It is not a good idea to apply if you're worried about financial aid or if you're curious about other schools.

Early action has no real disadvantages. Admitted students have no obligation and may still apply to other schools. A decision to accept admittance does not have to be made until May 1st.



Recommendation Letters... Step by Step

Complete and return your senior profile.

Give teachers and your counselor at least 2-3 weeks to write recommendation letters and complete their portions of the applications.

Provide complete information including your full legal name and social security number.

Make sure your part of the application is complete...signatures, etc..

Request official transcripts if needed with letters.

Give teachers a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Check frequently to make sure the recommendation writer has all needed information.

Application Process...Final Thoughts

Apply early-many colleges want applications before Thanksgiving.

Create a file for each college you apply to. Make copies of everything you send to each college and keep these in your files along with any information they send you.

Make several contacts with the school of your choice. The more you email admissions, advisors, and student affairs, the more interest you show.

Visiting the school of your choice can also show interest. Dress to impress and have questions ready. Visit more than once if possible.

Proofread everything you send to the colleges. Paperwork is all the admissions office knows you by at this point.

If essays or extra opportunities are offered through the application as optional, do them.

Military Academies

If you're considering a service academy or military college, start planning early. Speak to recruiters, your guidance counselor and students at the school. Research the physical, academic and post-graduate commitments expected of you. Apply for nomination in the spring of your junior year.

Military schools combine a top-notch education with the opportunity to develop valuable leadership skills. Students who choose to attend a military institution become part of a tradition of national service and principle.

By attending a service academy, you have also committed to fulfilling a service requirement in that branch of the military. Your service time begins after graduation and varies among the armed forces branches.

United States Military Academy
Building 606
West Point, NY 10996-1797
www.admissions.usma.edu

United States Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80840
www.usfa.af.mil

United States Coast Guard Academy
15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CN 06320
www.dot.gov/dotinfo/uscg

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024
www.Usmma.edu

Reserve Officer Training Corps

ROTC scholarships can be a great way to pay for college. ROTC programs are available at over 1,000 colleges and universities. A service commitment is required upon graduation.

ROTC can offer:

- √ Tuition and Fees
- √ Monthly Stipends
- √ Leadership Skills
- √ Real-World Training
- √ A Job after College Graduation

Sources of Financial Aid

Financial aid comes from four major sources:

1. Institutional
2. State
3. Federal
4. Private

Types of Aid

Free Money:

Grants Based on Financial Need

Scholarships Based on Talent/Merit

Loans:

Subsidized Loans (The government pays the interest while the student is in school.)

Unsubsidized Loans (The student pays the interest.)

College Work Study:

Part-Time Jobs (Jobs provided by the college.)



Applying for Financial Aid

SOME GENERAL HINTS

Since your financial aid situation can change from year to year, you **MUST** apply for financial aid each year. Always keep copies of forms you submit to the school, government or lender during the financial aid process.

THE PROCESS:

1. File a FAFSA online as soon as possible after January 1st. You may not apply before this date.
2. Find out your college's priority dead line for applying for aid.
3. Contact the college financial aid office to make sure it receives all information it needs.
4. You will receive a summary statement [SAR]. Review it carefully. If necessary make corrections and return to processor OR mail corrected SAR to financial aid office of the college you are interested in attending.
5. The college will review your SAR and put together the package of financial aid it can offer. You will be informed via an award letter.
6. If you wish to accept the offer, sign the award letter and return. [Keep a copy!] If you wish to decline, notify the college immediately so the financial aid can be offered to other applicants.

CONTACTING THE COLLEGE:

Write to the financial aid officer to inquire whether the college has its own financial aid form that must be completed in addition to the FAFSA. Be sure to ask about general scholarship information

Write to the chairman of a given department in a college to ask the application procedures for departmental scholarships.

USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES

If you have questions about the FAFSA
www.studentaid.ed.gov

FAFSA online:

www.fafsa.ed.gov

General Info:

www.theccb.state.tx.us

www.collegeboard.com

www.studentloan.com

www.collegefundingco.com

www.studentservices.com

Scholarships

The guidance office posts available scholarships on a regular basis in the office, on the Creekview home page, on the morning announcements, in the Go Center scholarship drawer, in Senior Chat, and through distribution to your English Teacher. Some scholarships are posted in specialized classes such as Drama, Art, and Music. The scholarships are usually based on one or more of the following criteria: high grade point average, enrollment in a specific university, plans to major in a specific field such as engineering, financial need, high SAT or ACT scores, ethnic background, residence, letters of recommendation, community service, demonstrated leadership potential, or essay writing ability.

Protecting Yourself From Scams

- ▶ If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- ▶ Never invest more than a postage stamp.
- ▶ Legitimate foundations do not charge application fees.
- ▶ Spend the time, not the money. You have access to the same information scholarship search services provide.

Career Planning

There are many alternatives after high school if you have determined a 4-year college program is not for you:

* **Apprenticeship—**

An apprentice learns a skill by combining classroom instruction with on-the-job training. Most apprenticeship programs are conducted by labor unions or businesses and can be completed in two to six years. An apprentice earns while he learns under the supervision of a skilled craftsman. Carpenters, machinists, bricklayers and electricians are some of the workers who may be trained through an apprenticeship program.

* **On-The-Job Training—**

On-the-job training is provided for some jobs which require relatively short training periods. Workers who may be trained on-the-job include grocery checkout clerks, shoe repair persons and sales workers.

* **Military Training—**

Branches of the military offer training in almost 1500 different jobs. Many are the same jobs available in civilian life.

* **Community, Junior and Technical Colleges—**

These two-year colleges offer a large number of programs designed to prepare students for many different careers. Costs vary a great deal from school to school. Community, junior and technical colleges offer programs which train auto mechanics, computer programmers, commercial artists, medical assistants, nurses and more. High School graduation or the equivalent is an admission requirement.

* **Business, Trade and Technical Schools—**

Programs at these schools usually train students for specialized jobs such as secretary, bookkeeper, welder and cosmetologist. These programs can range from one month to two years in length.

Job Applications

Application Suggestions:

1. When applying for a job be sure to take a black pen, your Social Security card, a valid driver's license and birth certificate.
2. Have at least 3 personal references available. Be prepared to give their names, addresses, phone numbers and occupation.
3. Try to know something about the company and the job for which you are applying. It shows the employer you are interested.
4. A prepared resume is helpful. It shows the employer you are organized and prepared, as well as interested in securing the job.

Interview Tips:

1. Dress appropriately. Go to the interview alone. Arrive on time. Take your prepared resume with you.
2. Speak clearly and distinctly. Keep good eye contact. Meet your interviewer with a firm handshake.
3. Be prepared to ask questions about the job and the company. (Ex: What do you enjoy most about working for this company? If I were hired, what would your expectations of me be?)
4. Be prepared to talk about yourself and your record of activities, interests, accomplishments, etc.
DO NOT EMBELLISH OR OVERSELL.

How to Write a Resume:

Your resume is YOUR personal advertisement. The purpose of a resume is to make you interesting enough to a potential employer to secure an interview. It should be brief, visually attractive and informative. It should create an interest in its product: in this case, you are the PRODUCT! Your resume should include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| * Full name, address, telephone number | * Special Skills |
| * Educational background | * Job objectives |
| * Foreign languages spoken fluently | * Hobbies or special talents |
| * Job experience | * An offer to provide references upon request |

CREEKVIEW HIGH SCHOOL