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Higher Ed *Connection*

A community outreach service provided by Higher Education Servicing Corp.



Who We Are

Founded in 1978 as private, non-profit sister organizations, North Texas Higher Education Authority, Inc. (NTHEA) and Higher Education Servicing Corporation (HESC) have worked persistently to ensure student access to higher education by assisting lenders throughout Texas in providing billions of dollars in low-cost loans through the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), donating hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of scholarships to schools, providing industry leading repayment benefits to borrowers, and, over the last decade, administering over 600 college preparation and financial literacy outreach programs to more than 100,000 students and parents throughout Texas.

OUR MOTTO

Inspiring students to achieve a higher education by promoting a college-going culture through educational

this issue

- Evaluating Fin. Aid Award Letters **[1**
- Setting Students' Minds on Fire **[2**
- Monthly Mentions **[3**
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Quick Reference Guide to Evaluating Financial Aid Award Letters¹

Courtesy of FastWeb

What is a Financial Aid Award Letter?

The financial aid award letter provides prospective and current college students with information about the student's college costs and the financial aid available to help the student pay for these costs. The award letter may also include details on the college's calculation of the student's demonstrated financial need. The letter will provide a determination of financial aid eligibility and, if the student is eligible for financial aid, a detailed breakdown of the financial aid package according to the type, amount and source of financial aid. The award letter may also include information about the terms and conditions for the financial aid.

Financial aid award letters for prospective students typically arrive with or soon after the offer of admission (for most students this is late March or early April). Financial aid award letters for continuing students may arrive later. Some financial aid award letters will be provided online, through a secure web site.

Some colleges require students to accept or reject each source of financial aid. Others do not. If you reject one form of financial aid, such as loans or student employment, they will not increase other types of financial aid to compensate.

[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE](#)

Additional Articles of Interest

Texas to Get \$830M in Education Funding from Feds

Courtesy of Education News

Setting Students' Minds on Fire²

Courtesy of The Chronicle of Higher Education

Answering Students' most Common Financial Literacy Questions

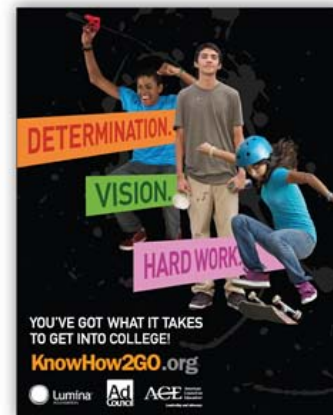
Courtesy of Adventures in Education

6 Ways Technology Can Help Tuned-Out Students Tune In

Courtesy of Huffington Post

Your Options After High School: Technical School

Courtesy of Generation Texas



outreach activities, services and community partnerships.

CONTACT INFO

If you have questions about any of our services or would like to schedule an event, please feel free to contact Phillip Wambsganss at phillipw@nthea.com or (817) 265-9158 ext. 4160.

Counselor Connect

We want your feedback! Is there an article you've recently read that you'd like to see in our next newsletter? Or some news that you believe other counselors in the area would benefit from? Send us an [email](#) with all of the details and we may just use it in our next newsletter!

Monthly Mentions³

Keep your students up-to-date with these helpful college planning tips

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• Continue to focus on your remaining high school classes and complete your transcript with a strong finish

- Study and prepare to take AP exams and finals
- Be aware of the last college exam test date and registration deadline of this school year
- Notify the college you will be attending of your intent to enroll - send in all required deposits
- Notify all colleges to which you were accepted but do not plan to attend
- Send in your college housing contracts and summer orientation registration materials in a timely fashion
- Continue to look for scholarship opportunities, including local organizations
- Contact the financial aid office at your selected college to check your status
- Review financial aid award letters and respond to colleges by the deadline provided by each school
- Create a calendar of important dates (dorm move-in, deposits, financial aid acceptance, et cetera)
- After graduation, order a final official transcript to be sent to the college you plan on attending
- If you have taken dual credit courses, make sure you have ordered a transcript from the college where you took the dual credit course and send the transcript to the college you will be attending in the fall
- Plan for college orientation
- Finalize college housing plans
- Start a list of everything you'll need to bring to school
- Plan a budget to figure out how much you should be spending and saving
- Make final plans for your summer job and/or volunteer work
- If you are on any admissions waiting lists and still waiting to hear about an opening, let those schools know you're still interested
- Send "thank you notes" to everyone that helped you plan and prepare for college

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• Focus on finishing the school year on a strong note – admissions decisions will more than likely be based on your grades through your junior year

- Register for the ACT to be administered in June
- Check with prospective colleges to determine if SAT Subject Tests should be taken, and if so, which tests are required or recommended
- Take the SAT or SAT Subject Tests
- Attend spring college nights or other events held at your high school or on college campuses
- Prepare for and take appropriate AP exams - do well on AP exams and receive credit, advanced placement or both at most colleges for qualifying scores
- Review course selections for next year
- Discuss summer school or summer plans with your counselor
- Get a summer checklist from your counselor to help prepare for the senior year
- Create a resume that includes items such as: school activities, community activities and services, sports, hobbies, awards and recognitions, internships, workshops, et cetera
- Finalize plans for your summer job, internship or volunteer work
- Identify school personnel or other adults who might agree to write letters of recommendation for you next year

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• Prepare for appropriate end-of-course exams
• Review course selections for next year

- Check your school record to be sure that any school fines and/or other obligations have been cleared
- Discuss summer school or summer plans with your counselor
- Plan to visit college campuses to get a feel for your options - start with colleges near you
- Finalize plans for your summer – look for a job, internship or volunteer position

Calendar of Events

2011 Advanced Placement (AP) Exams ⁴

AP Exams are rigorous, multiple-component tests that are administered at high schools each May. High school students can earn college credit, placement, or both for qualifying AP Exam scores. Each AP Exam has a corresponding AP course and provides a standardized measure of what students have learned in the AP classroom.

AP Exams will be administered over two weeks in May: May 2 through 6 and May 9 through 13. Coordinators are responsible for notifying students when and where to report for the exams. [Click here](#) for more information about AP courses and exams.

FACT: In May 2010, more than 1.8 million high school students at nearly 18,000 schools worldwide took AP Exams. The majority of U.S. high schools currently participate in the AP Program, and most four-year U.S. colleges and universities grant credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying AP Exam scores.

College Admissions Testing Schedule for ACT, SAT and SAT Subject Tests

ACT - To get more information about the ACT, access useful tools, or register, visit www.act.org.

SAT and SAT Subject Tests - To get more information on the SAT or SAT Subject Tests, access useful tools, or register, visit www.collegeboard.org.

Scheduled Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
Saturday, June 11, 2011	Friday, May 6, 2011	Friday, May 20, 2011
Saturday, June 4, 2011	Friday, May 6, 2011	Friday, May 20, 2011

Courtesy of Adventures in Education

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