

WICHITA FALLS ISD

COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

COUNSELORS AND COLLEGE FACILITATORS

Hirschi High School

Mrs. Stevens (A-L)

Mrs. Newsome (M-Z)

Ms. Conkling, College & Career Facilitator

Ms. Sewell, CCF Assistant



Rider High School

Mrs. Johnson (A-C)

Ms Russell (D-He)

Mrs. Palmore (Hi-Me)

Mrs. Rogers (Mi-Sc)

Mrs. Lauck (Se-Z)

Mrs. Harvey, College & Career Facilitator

Ms. Burlison, CCF Assistant



Wichita Falls High School

Mrs. Rannila (A-D)

Mrs. Kirby (E-Li)

Mrs. Holmes (Lj-Ri)

Mrs. Schelter (Rj-Z)

Mrs. Gossom, College & Career Facilitator

Mrs. Hamlin, CCF Assistant



Harrell Alternative Learning Center

B.J. Clossen

Information Sites

- www.fafsa.ed.gov
- www.collegeboard.com
- www.act.org
- www.applytexas.org
- www.careercruising.com
- www.cpa.state.tx.us/scholars/schools/
- www.wfisd.net/hirschi
- www.wfisd.net/rider
- www.wfisd.net/wfhs



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WE CAN HELP	2
THINKING ABOUT COLLEGE	3
APPLY TO COLLEGE	4
COLLEGE VISITS	4
SENIOR SLUMP	4
FINAL DECISION	5
CHECK LIST	5

WE CAN HELP

Counselors and College Facilitators are some of your best resources in helping you through the college process. It is in your best interest for you to visit them regularly. They can help you with the following:

- Begin the admissions process with you by identifying the questions and finding honest answers. Questions such as “Do I want to stay near home?”, “Does the college have my major?”, “How important is the size of the campus?”
- Review your academic record, suggest areas that need improvement and recommend courses needed to qualify for admission.
- Help you with information for taking required admissions test (SAT/ACT/THEA) and applying for admission.
- Provide specific information on your high school performance. Items such as class rank, test scores and grade point average are all details that schools ask for when a student applies.
- Provide the necessary web or postal addresses for you to apply for information, admissions or financial assistance.
- Clarify or explain terms, ideas and experience for you that you can expect to encounter during your campus visits or interviews with campus representatives.
- Write a letter of recommendation for admission or scholarships. There is a packet you must complete along with your request for a letter of recommendation.
- Offer the emotional support, warmth and encouragement that you will need during one of the most important periods of your life.

ACT

Registration Date	Test Date
November 7, 2008	December 13, 2008
January 1, 2009	February 7, 2009
February 27, 2009	April 4, 2009
May 8, 2009	June 13, 2009

SAT

Registration Date	Test Date
November 5, 2008	December 6, 2008
December 26, 2008	January 24, 2009
February 10, 2009	March 14, 2009
March 31, 2009	May 2, 2009
May 5, 2009	June 6, 2009

Graduation announcements and class rings can be purchased through Graduate Sales. Your cap and gown **MUST** be purchased through them.

Graduate Sales

906 Denver

723-8866

Schedule senior pictures early. Senior year book pictures are taken during the spring.

Lifetouch

5612 Seymour Hwy
Wichita Falls, TX 76310
940-692-9691



SAT fee waivers are available from your counselors. Those who qualify for and use the SAT fee waiver are also eligible to waive up to four college application fees.

Thinking About College

What do you want to be when you "grow up" and how will college help you get there? High school is an excellent time to identify what you expect from college. Career Cruising is a service offered by WFISD and is a great way to identify your strengths and possible career paths.

Location

- distance from home

Environment

- type of school (2-year or 4-year)
- school setting (urban, rural)
- location & size of nearest city
- co-ed, male, female
- religious affiliation

Size

- enrollment
- physical size of campus

Admission requirements

- deadline (contact school for dates)
- tests required
- average test scores, GPA, rank
- special requirements

Academics

- majors offered
- special requirements
- student-faculty ratio
- typical class size

College expenses

- tuition, room & board
- estimated total budget
- application fee, deposits

Financial aid

- deadlines
- required forms
- % of student population receiving aid
- scholarships
- part-time employment opportunities

Housing

- residence hall requirements
- availability
- types and sizes
- food plans

Facilities

- academic
- recreational
- other

Activities

- clubs, organizations
- sororities/fraternities
- athletics, intramurals

Campus visits

- when to visit
- special opportunities



College Visits: Questions to Ask

- What activities and services are available to help students get settled (academically and socially) during their first year?
- How big are the classes?
- What is the total cost of attending the college?
- What types of financial aid does the college offer and how do I apply?
- Are all freshmen assigned to an academic advisor?
- Where do most freshmen live?
- Can I take a tour?
- What activities are available for students?
- How successful are the college's graduates in finding jobs?
- What is there to do on weekends?

Apply to Colleges

The application process at each school is unique. Schools may have different requirements, application deadlines and fees.

Start early.

It takes time to get ACT/SAT scores tabulated and sent. Schedule a time to meet with your school counselor for help in getting all necessary transcripts, records, test scores, and applications sent to prospective schools.

Make the most of personal references.

- Ask people who know you and can support the recommendation well.
- Prepare a neat and legible reference form.

Give your references plenty of time—a school counselor isn't likely to write glowing recommendations for last-minute requests! Allow at least two weeks before application deadlines.

Write an outstanding essay.

Most college applications require an essay, so spend time creating a good one.

Be ready to interview, audition, or submit a portfolio.

Some colleges also require a personal interview or examples of work in special areas such as art or music.

Keep a copy of all your application materials.

Senior Year—No Time to Slack off

It's your senior year and you deserve to slack off, right? Wrong! Just because a college has accepted you does not mean they are not watching. Some selective colleges have withdrawn offers of admission to students who have dropped college prep classes or began earning low grades.

Final Decision

Many schools mail notifications to applicants by April 1, and most require acceptance by May 1. Admissions materials and financial aid applications list the date by which decisions will be made. Don't expect to be notified much sooner.

Once admissions notices are received, it is time for you to decide. Make your choices carefully and thoughtfully. A college education is a valuable investment in your future. Be sure you keep the lines of communication open with all of the schools that have sent offers of acceptance. Remember to be courteous and inform them if you do not plan to attend their school.

August – December

- Visit with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements
- Attend Financial Aid Night
- Consider taking courses at a local university or community college
- Take SAT/ACT/THEA tests
- Keep working hard all year; second semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility
- Ask for personal references from teachers, school counselors, or employers early in the year or at least two weeks before application deadlines.
- Visit with admissions counselors who come to your high school
- Attend a college fair, **2008 College Fair will be held at WFHS, November 20th : 6:00-7:30pm**
- Begin your college essay(s)
- Apply for admission: All Texas colleges use www.applytexas.org
- Find out if you qualify for scholarships at each college you have applied to
- Start the financial aid application process. Get Parent and student PIN now at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- See your school counselor for help finding financial aid and scholarships

January – May

- If you need it, get help completing the FAFSA
- Attend Financial Aid Night
- Decide which college to attend, and notify the school of your decision
- Continue to look for scholarship opportunities
- Ask your guidance office in January to send first semester transcripts to schools where you applied. In May, they will need to send final transcripts to the college you will attend
- Advanced Placement Testing is in May
- Schedule Senior pictures
- Call to order graduation announcements and Cap and Gown
- WFISD Senior-Send Off March 10th at MPEC
(**mandatory** attendance for all WFISD high school seniors)
- Keep track of important financial aid and scholarship deadlines
- Watch the mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR)—it should arrive four weeks after the FAFSA is filed
- Compare financial aid packages from different schools
- Sign and send in a promissory note if you are borrowing money
- Notify your college about any outside scholarships you received

WICHITA FALLS ISD

Class of 2009

