



## CHRISTI CARTER URSCHER FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER **Transitioning to College**

### Getting Started

1. Your **high school guidance counselor** can provide additional resources and information as well as support during the application process.
2. Your **Scottish Rite for Children social worker** is also a resource for transitioning tips. The **Family Resource Center** is also available for you.
3. *Ask ADVi*  
[askadvi.org/](http://askadvi.org/)
  - Access ADVi, a virtual advisor, by creating a profile on ApplyTexas – [applytexas.org/](http://applytexas.org/) – and selecting “Yes” to receive messaging.
4. *My TX Future*  
[mytexasfuture.org/middle-high-school/](http://mytexasfuture.org/middle-high-school/)
  - Create a college and career action plan. Learn about ways to pay for college.
5. *Texas OnCourse*  
[texasoncourse.org/](http://texasoncourse.org/)
  - Complete online career and college exploration using tools and games made for middle school and high school students.
6. *Texas Reality Check*  
[texasrealitycheck.com/](http://texasrealitycheck.com/)
  - Complete lifestyle and occupation calculators. Learn about occupations and the salary you will need.





## Testing for College Admission

Some colleges may require the ACT or SAT for admission. Contact the colleges where you plan to apply and ask about each school's requirements.

### 1. *ACT College Testing*

[act.org/](http://act.org/)

- Prepare, register and access scores for the ACT. Apply to ACT Fee Waiver Program.

### 2. *College Board (SAT)*

[collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)

- Prepare, register and access scores for the SAT and PSAT.
- Get information about AP (Advanced Placement) courses, exam preparation and colleges that accept AP credits.
- Explore careers, plan for college and learn about how to pay for college.

## Comparing Colleges

### 1. *College Scorecard, U.S. Department of Education*

[collegescorecard.ed.gov](http://collegescorecard.ed.gov)

### 2. *U.S. News & World Report*

[usnews.com/best-colleges](http://usnews.com/best-colleges)

### 3. *National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)*

[nces.ed.gov/](http://nces.ed.gov/)



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## Applying for Financial Aid

1. *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from the U.S. Department of Education*  
[studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)
  - The FAFSA form is free to complete and is used to seek financial aid from the federal government to help pay for college.
  - Some states and colleges also use FAFSA information to award their own grants, scholarships and loans. Some private aid providers may use your FAFSA information to determine whether you qualify for their aid as well.
  - The FAFSA form is available by October 1 each year for the following academic year.
2. *Students & Financial Literacy*  
[annuity.org/financial-literacy/students](http://annuity.org/financial-literacy/students)
  - Financial information written for students about topics including needs based vs. merit scholarships, federal vs. private student loans, credit cards and savings.
3. *Texas Tuition Promise Fund*  
[texas tuition promise fund.com](http://texas tuition promise fund.com)
  - Texas Tuition Promise Fund accounts let families lock in current undergraduate tuition and required fees at Texas public colleges and universities by saving and prepaying tuition.

## Transitioning to Higher Education with a Disability

1. *Texas Colleges and Universities Disability Services*  
[tcdd.texas.gov/resources/higher-education-resources/](http://tcdd.texas.gov/resources/higher-education-resources/)
  - Contact the Office of Disability Services at 2- or 4-year college(s) of interest. Speak to a representative to learn about the college's services and support for students with disabilities.
2. *Texas Workforce Commission Vocational Rehabilitation Program*  
[twc.texas.gov/programs/vocational-rehabilitation](http://twc.texas.gov/programs/vocational-rehabilitation)
  - Contact your school's guidance counselor for more information or call your local Texas Workforce Commission office.
  - The Vocational Rehabilitation Program can help Texans with disabilities who want to work or continue their education.



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3. *Entry Point! AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science)*  
entrypoint.org
  - Nationwide internships for students with disabilities who are pursuing a STEM career in science, engineering, mathematics, computer science or business.
  - The application process is competitive for these 10-week, paid positions.

## Scholarship Information

1. *Legacy Scholarship Program*  
legacyscholarshipprogram.org/
  - Former and current Scottish Rite for Children patients can apply for a Legacy Scholarship.
  - Applicants must be applying for or accepted into an accredited undergraduate program or approved technical training program.
2. Contact your future institution's *Office of Financial Aid* for specific scholarships, aid or student work-study information unique to that campus.
3. *Fastweb*  
fastweb.com
  - Create a personal profile to be matched with scholarship opportunities.
4. *Scholarships.com*  
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  - Create a personal profile to be matched with scholarship opportunities.

