

2019-2020

***MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
JUNIOR PLANBOOK***



Table of Contents

High School Planning

<i>Junior Checklist.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>20 Quick tips for better time management</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Class Ranking Information.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Graduation honors and recognitions.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Dual Enrollment.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>UT OnRamps Dual Enrollment.....</i>	<i>7</i>

Post-Secondary Planning:

<i>College Entrance Exams.....</i>	<i>8-11</i>
<i>PSAT.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>TSI.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>SAT vs ACT.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>SAT & ACT Test Dates</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Volunteering and Internship.....</i>	<i>12-14</i>
<i>Stay Active and Involved all four Years of HS.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Resume Sample.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Narrowing your College Search.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>NCAA/NAIA.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Scholarship Websites.....</i>	<i>18-2</i>
<i>Additional Resources.....</i>	<i>22</i>

Junior Checklist

	<u>Fall Semester (Aug-Dec)</u>
	Meet with Counselor and College & Career Specialist.
	Know your Skyward login and password to track your academic progress.
	Prepare for PSAT. (taken on October 16, 2019)
	Get involved in extracurricular activities, clubs or organizations.
	Explore Post-Secondary universities, colleges and or vocational schools.
	Attend McAllen ISD College Night (Sept. 23, 2019).
	<u>Spring Semester (Jan-May)</u>
	Prepare for 12th grade pre-registration, check course requirements and endorsement plan.
	Pass all required State Assessments required.
	Know credit requirements and recover credits required for graduation.
	Update resume for university/college applications and scholarships.
	Register to take post secondary entrance exam. (SAT or ACT)

20 QUICK TIPS FOR BETTER TIME MANAGEMENT

01. Create a daily plan
02. Peg a time limit to each task
03. Use a calendar
04. Use an organizer
05. Know your deadlines
06. Learn to say "NO"
07. Target to be early
08. Time box your activities
09. Have a clock visibly placed before you
10. Set reminders 15 minutes before
11. Focus
12. Block out distractions
13. Track your time spent
14. Don't fuss about unimportant details
15. Prioritize
16. Delegate
17. Batch similar tasks together
18. Eliminate your time wasters
19. Cut off when you need to
20. Leave buffer time in-between

© Lifehack

<http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifehack/20-quick-tips-for-better-time-management.html>

McAllen Independent School District

Class Ranking



CALCULATION The District shall include in the calculation of class rank only grades earned in grades 9–12 for high school credit and only in certain courses in the following subjects: English, mathematics, science, and social studies, except as excluded in this policy. Failing grades in these courses shall also be included.

EXCLUSIONS The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in a course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned; in summer school; through credit by examination, with or without prior instruction; or through distance learning (including courses online). Exclusions for summer school not to include STC Academy students and Achieve Early College students.

CATEGORIES The District shall categorize and weight courses as Advanced, Honors, College Prep, and Standard, in accordance with the provisions of this policy.

ADVANCED COURSES Eligible International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB), College Board Advanced Placement (AP), and dual credit (DC) courses designated in the curriculum bulletin shall be categorized and weighted as Advanced courses.

HONORS COURSES Eligible courses locally designated as honors courses in the curriculum bulletin shall be categorized and weighted as Honors courses. (College Board Pre – Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program, other designated courses)

COLLEGE – PREP COURSES

Eligible courses locally designated as college-prep courses in the curriculum bulletin shall be categorized and weighted as College- Prep courses.



WEIGHTED NUMERICAL GRADE AVERAGE

The District shall assign weights to semester grades and shall calculate a weighted numerical grade average in accordance with the following scale:

CATEGORY	WEIGHT (POINTS ADDED)
Advanced College Board Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program and Dual Enrollment (DE) credit	Plus 13
Honors College Board Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP), IB Middle Years (MYP) Program, Courses designated in the MISD Curriculum Bulletin	Plus 10
College Prep Basic level for all core courses in MISD campus	Plus 5



Graduation Honors & Recognitions

There are many ways to showcase your hard work at graduation!

Rio Grande Valley Lead Scholar

- Did you complete at least one endorsement?
- Did you complete 2 or more Career & Technology Education classes for 3 or more credits?
- Were at least 2 of those CTE college level courses (Dual/Articulated)?



Advanced Placement Program Graduate

- Did you take at least 12 Pre-Advanced Placement / Advanced Placement/Pre-IB/IB courses with at least 4 courses being Advanced Placement/IB?



Performance Acknowledgements

Dual Credit

- Did you complete 12 college courses with a 3.0 or higher? **OR**
- Did you complete an associate's degree?



Bilingual & Bi-literacy

- Did you complete your English courses with a final grade of 80 or higher?
- AND**
- Did you complete 3 languages other than English with a final grade of 80 or higher? **OR**
 - Did you complete a 4th level of a course in a language other than English with an 80 or better? **OR**
 - Did you complete a core class in another language with an 80 or better? **OR**
 - Did you earn a score of a 3 or higher in an AP LOTE or a score of a 4 or higher in an IB LOTE?



AP or IB Exam

- Did you score at least a 3 or higher in an AP exam or a 4 or higher in an IB exam?



PSAT/ACT PLAN/SAT/ACT

- Did your PSAT score qualify you as a National Merit Commended Scholar or higher?
- Did you meet a college readiness standard on at least 2 of 4 subject tests on the ACT PLAN exam?
- Did you earn a 420 on the Evidence Based Reasoning AND a 520 on the Math section of the SAT?
- Did you earn a score of a 28 or higher (without writing) on the ACT?



Nationally or Internationally Recognized Business or Industry Certifications

Did you earn the following certifications?



PC Pro Certification - Adobe Dreamweaver/Flash/Photoshop/InDesign - American

Society - Precision Video Production - ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) -

Inventor OR SolidWorks - Animal Science & Veterinary Medical Application - Cosmetology State Operator - TNLA -

Livestock Selection & Evaluation - Certificate Medical Billing and Coding - Microsoft Office Specialist - NAED 911

Dispatcher & Security Level II - Pharmacy Technician - QuickBooks - Pro-Start A@ - Texas Substitute Certificate

Welding
Autodesk

DUAL ENROLLMENT (College and High School Credit)



High School students participating in concurrent/dual enrollment (college and high school credit) courses while still in high school will be expected to challenge themselves with high academic rigor and an opportunity to take one or more college level courses. Students need to devote the necessary extra hours of study time to be successful. Dual enrollment courses give students a clear understanding of the effort needed to excel in college.

McAllen ISD has collaborated with the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley, South Texas College, and University of Texas- Austin to offer opportunities for McAllen ISD students to participate in Dual Enrollment. Students can take advantage of high quality education at NO COST to them.

That's right, there will be no tuition charged for these courses, but any other possible cost associated with attending will be the responsibility of the student.



Students interested in Concurrent/Dual Enrollment should schedule a meeting with their high school academic counselor to discuss the procedures, explore options, and initiate the process.

Prospective students must:

1. Demonstrate college readiness as indicated by the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) or other approved testing instruments. **Specific eligibility requirements for college readiness can be viewed on the following page.**

2. Meet the entrance requirements for the college/university, including testing requirements.

3. Understand the final dual enrollment semester grade will be reflected on both their high school and college transcript. A=95, B=85, C=77, D=72, F=69

4. Understand for fall and spring semesters grades in the following courses: English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies will be included in the calculation of class rank.

5. Students enrolled in Dual Credit classes must adhere to the college add/drop dates, deadlines, and policies unique to the university or college.

6. Seniors will be required to provide a copy of their final university/college transcript to their high school academic counselor.





The University of Texas at Austin OnRamps

OnRamps offers distance education courses through a dual enrollment model. Using best-in-class resources, materials, and instructional strategies OnRamps also provides intensive, yearlong professional development and support that improves instructional quality in hundreds of classrooms throughout the state for a widespread benefit to Texas high school students.

Key outcomes of early exposure to postsecondary education include:

- aligning high school students to the academic and social expectations of college;
- accelerating student matriculation, retention and time to degree; and
- increasing the number and diversity of students who are fully prepared to follow a path to college and career success.

How On Ramps Dual Enrollment Works

1. On Ramps students are enrolled in a yearlong high school course facilitated by a high school teacher who is trained and certified by On Ramps to teach the course on their local campus. Students are enrolled in the high school course and will enroll and receive credit in a college course. Students must earn a grade of 75% or better on the UT assignments to be dually enrolled in the university course.

2. During the first half of the course, On Ramps students complete a series of required assignments that are designated by an Instructor of Record at the university to determine eligibility to be dually enrolled in the university course. Certain assignments and assessments are required and determine the college credit. Student may drop the college enrollment course at any time without penalty.

3. Students who successfully complete the high school version of the course receive credit from their local high school. In addition, students who successfully complete the spring college course receive three core credits from the university guaranteed to transfer to any public college or university in Texas. These courses are awarded on a UT Austin transcript.

Post-Secondary Planning

About the PSAT Test

The PSAT/NMSQT is the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The PSAT is a great primer for the SAT, and even the ACT, but it's more than just a trial run. PSAT scores are used to identify National Merit Scholars and award merit scholarships. More than 3.4 million high school students (mostly juniors and sophomores) take this nationwide, multiple-choice test every year.

PSAT Quick Facts:

Frequency: 1 time / year

Duration: 2 hours, 45 minutes

Sections: Math, Evidence-Based Reading & Writing

Max Score: 1520

What is the PSAT and why is it important?

The PSAT won't count towards your college admissions applications, but it is the qualifying test for the [National Merit Scholarship](#). Some of the highest scoring students may win scholarship money, so while you shouldn't stress out about the PSAT, you certainly shouldn't ignore it either. Use the PSAT as practice for the SAT and ACT and an important guidepost on your college admissions journey.

When is the PSAT?

The PSAT is offered nationally every year in **October**. Ask your school counselor about when your class is scheduled to take the PSAT. View upcoming [PSAT test dates](#).

What does the PSAT test?

The PSAT has two sections: Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing. You'll encounter passage-based questions—sometimes accompanied by tables, graphs, and charts—and math problems drawing upon algebra, geometry, and a little trig.

How is the PSAT scored?

Each section is scored on a scale of 160–760, making a “perfect” score 1520. There are also test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores. Find out more about [PSAT scoring](#).

How should I prepare for the PSAT?

The PSAT and SAT tests are almost identical: the PSAT is 15 minutes shorter, does not include an essay, and has a slightly different scoring scale. By prepping for the SAT, you are prepping for both tests! For a limited time, get our PSAT prep (a \$299 value) for free when you enroll in a comprehensive SAT course or tutoring program. [Learn more today.](#)

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college/psat-nmsqt>

TSI stands for “Texas Success Initiative”

All students attending Texas Public Institutions of higher education must be in compliance with the Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

What does this mean: All students entering college or taking college courses while in high school are required to take the TSI exam to demonstrate college readiness in **reading, mathematics, and writing** unless the student qualifies for an exemption.

TSI Passing Scores

READING	WRITING	MATH
351-390	Essay Score of 4-8 & Multiple Choice of 340-390 Or Essay Score of 5-8, Multiple Choice of 310-339, and ABE Diagnostic level is 4-6	350-390

TSI Exemptions

STAAR EOC For Dual ONLY	ACT	SAT Administered BEFORE March 5, 2016	SAT Administered ON OR AFTER March 5, 2016
English, Level II - 4000	English - 19	Verbal - 500	Evidence Based Reading & Writing - 480
Algebra II - 4000	Math - 19	Math - 500	Math - 530
	Composite - 23	Composite - 1070	

SAT vs ACT

Many students and parents begin the college prep process by comparing the ACT and SAT. Two of the most common questions they ask are:

- Is the ACT easier than the SAT?
- Do colleges prefer scores from the SAT or ACT?

The [SAT](#) and [ACT](#) generally test the same types of content. Both ACT and SAT scores are used for college admissions and merit-based scholarships. The biggest differences between the tests are that the ACT has a Science Test, and there's one SAT Math Section for which you cannot use a calculator. Colleges don't prefer one over the other, so explore both tests to decide which one is right for you.

	<u>SAT</u>	<u>ACT</u>
Why Take It	Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.	Colleges use ACT scores for admission and merit-based scholarships.
Test Structure	Reading Writing & Language Math Essay (Optional)	English Math Reading Science Reasoning Essay (Optional)
Length	3 hours (without essay) 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)	2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay) 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)
Reading	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
Science	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge)
Math	Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis	Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry and Trigonometry
Calculator Policy	Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator.	You can use a calculator on all math questions.
Essays	Optional. The essay will test your comprehension of a source text.	Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues.
How It's Scored	Scored on a scale of 400–1600	Scored on a scale of 1–36

2019-20 Test Administration Dates

Deadlines expire at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, U.S

ACT Test Dates & Deadlines

www.actstudent.org

Test Date	Registration Deadline	ACT Scores Available
July 13, 2019	June 14th	July 23rd
September 14, 2019	Aug. 16th	Sept. 24th
October 26, 2019	Sept. 20th	Nov. 5th
December 14, 2019	Nov. 8th	Dec. 23rd
February 8th, 2020	Jan. 10th	Feb. 18th
April 4th, 2020	Feb. 28th	Apr. 14th
June 13, 2020	May 8th	June 23rd

SAT Test Dates & Deadlines

www.collegeboard.org

Test Date	Registration Deadline	SAT Scores Available*
August 24, 2019	July 26th	Sept. 6th
October 5, 2019	Sept. 6th	Oct. 18th
November 2, 2019	Oct. 3rd	Nov. 15th
December 7, 2019	Nov. 8th	Dec. 20th
March 14th, 2020	Feb. 14th	Mar. 27th
May 2nd, 2020	Apr. 3rd	May 15th
June 6, 2020	May 8th	July 15

*Pick up your SAT or ACT testing waiver at the Go Center

*You could be eligible for TWO SAT & TWO ACT waivers during your high school term

*Testing with a waiver QUALIFIES YOU for 4 College Application FEE Waivers
(can waive the fee at the end of your Apply Texas or Common App; if the university accepts waivers)

NEED PRACTICE?

<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat>

Keep in mind that most college and universities accept scores from both exams.

It is in your benefit to test on both multiple times if needed.

Remember, you are not just testing for admission purposes, but also for scholarships.

Volunteering

Volunteering is a way to gain a lot of skills that can be transferred into a workplace. These skills include; confidence, communication, responsibility, teamwork and innovation. Becoming a volunteer will also provide you with experience which is great for personal growth, but it will also be a good addition to your resume as it will help you to stand out, as it has allowed you to network and meet new people and more opportunities.

Most importantly, from the process of volunteering, young people will gain a sense of personal satisfaction gained by assisting another person which will enhance their social awareness.



Link: <http://www.volunteersotx.org/>

United Way

Link: <https://www.unitedway.org/get-involved/volunteer>

VOLUNTEER MATCH OPPORTUNITIES:

Link: <https://www.volunteermatch.org/#>



American Red Cross

Link:

<http://www.redcross.org/find-your-local-chapter>

McAllen Public Library Volunteering

Volunteering gives you an opportunity to change people's lives, including your own! The McAllen Public Library has volunteer opportunities for adults and teens (16 years or older). Examples of possible volunteer opportunities include:

- Work in the library bookstore
- Be involved in the McAllen Book Festival
- Read to Seniors in Assisted Living Environments
- Shelf library materials in proper order
- Teach a craft class
- Assist with library programs and events, such as the Summer Reading Program
- Help process materials, such as cleaning DVDs and CDs

• Link: <http://mcallenlibraryblog.com/>

• McAllen Public Library • 4001 N. 23rd St. McAllen, TX 78504
• Ph: (956) 681-3000



Link: <http://www.foodbankrgv.com/stay-in-contact>

Grade: _____

[illegible]

Thank you

STAY ACTIVE AND INVOLVED ALL FOUR YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL

Join an organization you're passionate about and stick with it throughout your high school years. Examples include: UIL, spirit club, fine arts, sports, clubs, CTE organizations and church organizations.



SEEK LEADERSHIP ROLES

Run for officer or captain of your organization. Learn leadership abilities and gain experience.



VOLUNTEER

Volunteer to help improve your community. Create an account on Volunteer South Texas to learn about opportunities for community service in our area.

John Doe (Sample Resume)

1234 Ash Ave.
McAllen, Tx. 78501
956-682-0123
john.doe @sample.com

Goal: Attend a four-year university and major in biology.

Academic Information:

High School	McAllen High School 2021 La Vista Avenue McAllen, Tx. 78501 (956)632-3100
Graduation Date:	June 2, 2017
GPA/Class Rank:	3.75 Top 25%-25/595
Test Scores:	SAT Verbal-600 / Math-610 ACT Read-26/Math-28/Comp-27

Senior Schedule:

AP English IV	AP Calculus
Physics AP	AP Eco/Government
Band IV	Food Science
Economics	Athletics

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Football	9th-12th grade	10hrs/wk/36
Basketball	9th-12th grade	6hrs/wk/36
National Honor Society	11th-12th grade	4hrs/wk/20
School Ambassador	12th grade	4hrs/wk/26

Community Service:

Boys & Girls Club Tutor	10th-12th grade	2hrs/wk/35
Humane Society Foster	11th-12th grade	5hrs/wk/30
Interact Club	9th-12th grade	5hrs/wk/25
Food Bank	9th-12th grade	2hrs/wk/20

Awards & Honors:

National Honor Society	11th-12th grade
1st Team All District Football	11th & 12th grade
MVP Basketball	11th & 12th grade
BPA State Finalist	11th grade

Employment:

HEB Cashier	August-Present
Boys & Girls Club Referee	July-Present

Special Skills:

Fluent in Spanish
Computer Literate (MS Word, Excel, Power Point)
CPR Certified

Narrow your College Search



Choosing a college

- 1.) Determine your criteria:
- 2.) Do a college search – search online for the colleges that meet your criteria

Write down anything that's important to you in college...

Type of School:	Size:	Academic Program:	Location:	Tuition Cost:	Admissions Requirements:
					Test scores required:

3.) Research Colleges

Create a list of at least 5 colleges that meet your criteria.

Research further and learn as much as you can about these colleges. Check out their websites, talk to your college and career specialists to be included in college fairs and college visits.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

NCAA/NAIA

 NCAA Eligibility Center

ONE OPPORTUNITY. LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.

If you want to play sports at an NCAA Division I or II school, start by registering for a Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org. If you want to play Division III sports or you aren't sure where you want to compete, start by creating a Profile Page at eligibilitycenter.org.

Grade 11

Study

- Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate on time.
- Take the ACT or SAT, and make sure we get your scores by using code 9999. • At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your official transcript.

www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org

Check out NAIA schools

The NAIA has hundreds of campuses in the U.S. and Canada. Find one that's right for you.

Attend a Showcase



NAIA Showcase events are one-day, one-stop recruiting opportunities to showcase your skills in front of NAIA coaches.

NAIA Eligibility Center

Register today to determine if you're eligible to play in the NAIA.

Get in the Game!

Make sure you complete the *Big Three!* Sign-in above to get in the game:

1. *Submit* your profile at PlayNAIA.org.
2. *Send* all required [documents](#) to the NAIA Eligibility Center (double-check they are *received*).*
3. *Secure* a spot on your school's [Short List](#).

www.naia.org

SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES

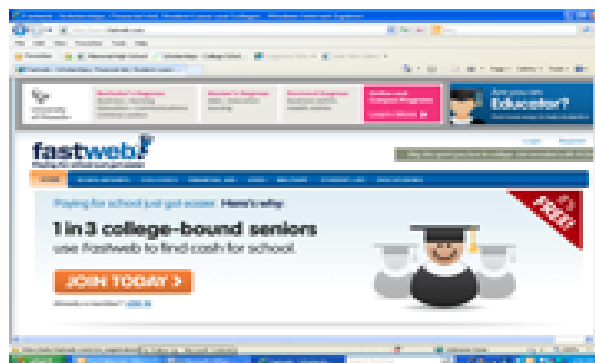
You should start... NOW! Where can you look?



www.fastweb.com



www.collegeforalltexans.com



Popular Mega Scholarships:


- Coca-Cola Scholars
www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org
- Dell Scholarship
www.dellscholars.org
- Baumberger Scholarships
www.baumbergerendowment.com
- HSF Scholarships
www.hsf.net
- Gates Millennium Foundation Scholarship
www.gmsp.org

Popular Specialty Scholarships:

- Questbridge
www.questbridge.org
- The University of Texas Dallas: McDermott Scholars Program
www.utdallas.edu/mcdermott/
- The University of Texas: Texas Exes Forty Acres Scholars Program
<http://scholarships.texasexes.org/>
- Terry Scholars

Tips

Remember to avoid scams; you should NEVER pay for scholarship help. Check out the website below if your scholarship seems 'too good to be true.'



Turn Your Efforts Into Scholarships

The College Board has launched a new scholarship program with \$5 million of scholarships each year, beginning with the class of 2020.

[Earn Scholarships](#)

<https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/>

The Scholarships

The more effort you put in, the more opportunities you have to earn a scholarship. Complete all six, and you're eligible to earn \$40,000. Scholarships will be awarded through monthly drawings to students who complete each action.

1. Build Your College List: \$500

Get started by [exploring colleges](#) you're interested in.

2. Practice for the SAT: \$1,000

Use [Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy®](#) to get ready for test day.

3. Improve Your Score: \$2,000

Show how practice pays off by improving your SAT score.

4. Strengthen Your College List: \$500

Make sure your college list has a mix of academic safety, match, and reach schools.

5. Complete the FAFSA: \$1,000

Fill out the free government form to apply for financial aid.

6. Apply to Colleges: \$1,000

Apply to the schools you want to attend.

7. Complete Your Journey: \$40,000

Complete all six scholarship steps to be eligible for a \$40,000 scholarship.



<https://www.raise.me/>

How RaiseMe works

1. Add your achievements

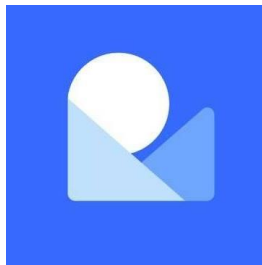
- Add your course grades, clubs, sports, volunteer activities, and more to your portfolio.

2. Earn Scholarships

- For each achievement, you'll earn scholarships from colleges, which you'll be awarded when you attend that college.

3. Discover Colleges

- Follow colleges you want to learn more about and find which ones are the best fit for you.



Additional Resources

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION	WEBSITE
Texas Career Check	Assess interests, explore job and education options	www.TexasCareerCheck.com
Reality Check	Evaluate the cost of lifestyle choices, check out jobs and education requirements to support those choices	www.texasealitycheck.com
Texas Occupational Wages	Pay data for over 800 jobs by region in Texas	www.texaswages.com
Texas CREWS	Education outcomes, jobs, earnings, debt by major and public college	www.txcrews.org
Texas Labor Market & Career Information	State, regional and local labor market information	http://www.lmci.state.tx.us/
Texas Internship Challenge	Research statewide internship opportunities	https://www.txinternshipchallenge.com/vosnet/Default.aspx
Career Outlook Interest Assessment	Additional career interest assessment	http://www.careeroutlook.us/assessment/short.shtml
Career One Stop	Additional career research tool	https://www.careeronestop.org/
O*Net	Additional career research tool	https://www.onetonline.org/
Occupational Outlook Handbook	Additional career research tool	https://www.bls.gov/ooh/
ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)	Additional career exploration program	http://www.asvabprogram.com/
SWAP (Strategic Workforce Assessment Program)	State occupational and industry projections and research tool	http://www.texasindustryprofiles.com/apps/swap/