

Direct Admissions for Counselors and Advisors Toolkit



THE HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Our purpose is to strengthen Texas through higher education.

By making higher education accessible to a wide range of people, we can ensure Texas remains one of the world's most innovative, valuable educational systems. By bringing together data, policymakers, and institutions, we can inform sensible policies that make education beyond high school available to every person in our state, improving lives, communities, and our shared economy.



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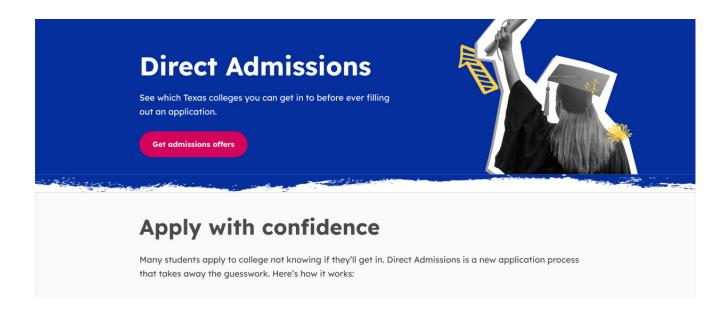
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Introduction to Direct Admissions

The Direct Admissions Program accelerates the state's work to make the college admissions process more efficient and effective for Texas students, helping more students achieve their educational goals while meeting the demands of our fast-growing economy.

My Texas Future seeks to support students in the college admissions process through Direct Admissions. This takes the guesswork out of the admissions process and helps to answer the question, "How do I know whether I'll be accepted if I apply?"



What is Direct Admissions?

Direct Admissions is a statewide initiative that allows eligible Texas students to receive automatic college admissions offers based on their academic achievement. My Texas Future makes it easier for students and families to understand, compare, and act on their admission opportunities. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Office of the Governor launched Direct Admissions in Fall 2024. Direct Admissions was created to make an impact in the following areas:

 Access & Opportunity: Direct Admissions expands pathways to higher education by guaranteeing college admission for qualifying students.



- Clarity & Confidence: Students receive clear admission offers without the stress of traditional application uncertainty.
- My Texas Future as the Hub: Students and families can use My Texas Future to explore college options, financial aid, and career pathways.



Direct Admissions focuses on proactive reassurance and reducing steps to receive and confirm admission offers. Key components include providing simple and clear criteria to students to identify student eligibility, accessibility, clear communication on admission or eligibility, opt-in processes, timely information, and proactive information.

Since each institution sets its own admission criteria, the task of researching programs and building a college list may feel overwhelming to students. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) created Direct Admissions to support **12th grade students** in this process by making the research, application, and college admission more streamlined.

How does Direct Admissions work?

The THECB works with colleges and universities in Texas to compile their admission criteria into My Texas Future where students receive an accurate personalized list of institutions that may offer them admission. Admission criteria is updated annually so that students can be sure that their list is accurate for the academic year that they are applying for admission. Essentially, students are guided through the following steps:



- 1. Eligibility: Students sign in to My Texas Future, share their self-reported academic details like class rank, GPA, and test scores, and agree to share this information with participating schools.
- 2. **Notification:** Eligible students immediately see which universities will accept them based on those academic details.
- **3. Student Action:** Students can review their offers and compare schools by location, cost, and programs using My Texas Future.
- **4. Application:** My Texas Future and ApplyTexas have a single sign-on experience, so students can follow up with their admissions applications seamlessly.



The Direct Admissions list created in My Texas Future doesn't guarantee admission to specific majors or programs of study. Colleges and universities may require students to meet additional admission criteria to be admitted to some competitive programs, so students interested in those majors should follow up with the institution to get more information.

Students should also know that just because a college may not appear on their Direct Admissions list, it doesn't mean they can't apply there. Many colleges and universities will consider applications through a holistic review process, and if a student would like to be considered for admission, they should apply!

This toolkit equips educators, counselors, and community partners with resources to guide students through the Direct Admissions process.





How can schools help students meet the Direct Admissions graduation requirement?

Texas Senate Bill 2314 (89th Legislature, 2025) establishes My Texas Future, which is designed to help public high school students research and apply to Texas institutions of higher education. My Texas Future integrates with ApplyTexas. Public schools and open-enrollment charter schools must annually notify students and parents/guardians about creating a My Texas Future profile. The bill also requires students to make an opt-in election on sharing their records for Direct Admissions as a condition for graduation beginning in the 2026–2027 academic year.

As a result of the new legislation, school districts are already preparing their students and families for college and career exploration using My Texas Future, and Direct Admissions is continuing to develop and expand each year. The THECB and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will be working together to collaborate on the opt-in process required for graduation, and required forms will be available to educators before the start of the 2026–2027 school year.

How can students prepare for Direct Admissions before senior year?

Beginning as early as 9th grade, students can take important steps such as working with a counselor on their graduation plan, understanding how GPA and class rank affect college options, participating in advanced coursework, and exploring career and college pathways. Building a strong academic record, staying on track with graduation requirements, and exploring future opportunities early ensures that by senior year, students are ready to create their Direct Admissions list and take full advantage of the opportunities available to them.



<u>View Recommended Activities by Grade Level</u>



Direct Admissions

Recommended Activities by Grade Level

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9th (9 th Grade	10 th (10 th Grade	11 th (11 th Grade
Direct Admissions Prep	College Application and Enrollment Prep	Direct Admissions Prep	College Application and Enrollment Prep	Direct Admissions Prep	College Application and Enrollment Prep
Learn what Direct	Attend college fairs.	Review vour transcript with	Attend college fairs.	Preview how ApplyTexas	Understand the different
Admissions is and how it	campus visits and tours to	vour counselor to stay on	campus visits, or tours	and My Texas Future	types of financial aid like
works.	see what different	track for graduation and	Talk with admissions reps	work with Direct	grants, loans, work-
	programs and schools	college admission.	to see what each school	Admissions.	study, and scholarships,
Work with your school	have to offer.	(offers and start building		so you'll know your
counselor to build or		Learn how colleges use	your college list.	Check your GPA and	options.
update your high school	Join clubs, volunteer, or	your grades, GPA, and test		class rank and learn how	
graduation plan.	try new activities to	scores when making direct	Learn what makes a	they affect your	Use My Texas Future's
	discover your strengths	admission offers.	college the right academic	admission options,	Program Explorer to find
Take advanced classes	and interests.		fit for you, like majors	including automatic	majors that match your
like Advanced Placement		Learn the difference	offered, admission	admission in Texas.	career goals and
(AP), Dual-credit, or	Use My Texas Future tools	between direct admission,	requirements, and support		compare what different
Honors. These boost your	like the Interests Quiz,	automatic admission, and	services.	Try "what-if" scenarios to	colleges offer.
GPA, prepare you for	Skills Quiz, and Career	holistic review to		see how your GPA, rank,	
college, and help you to	Explorer to find careers	understand your college	Join summer programs,	and test scores could	Visit campuses, attend
stand out when you	and pathways that fit your	options.	clubs, or community	affect offers.	college fairs, and talk to
apply.	goals.		activities that connect to		admissions reps to help
		Explore reach, match, and	your interests. These	Register for the	build and narrow your
Learn how GPA and class		safety schools and learn	experiences will strengthen	PSAT/NMSQT to	college list.
rank are calculated at		how test scores or test-	your resume and	practice for future exams	
your school and how		optional policies affect	applications.	and qualify for	Take on leadership roles
Texas automatic		college admissions.		scholarships. Take (or	in clubs, activities, or
admission policies, like			Keep a record of activities,	retake) the SAT, ACT, or	community service.
graduating in the top		Take the PSAT 10 or	awards, jobs, and	TSIA2 as required by the	These experiences
10%, can open doors.		PreACT when offered to	responsibilities to include	colleges on your list.	strengthen your
		prepare for the ACT or	in your resume and		applications.
Take the PSAT 8/9 or		SAT. Remember, you may	applications.	Prepare for applications	
PreACT, if available, and		also need to take a college		and know what's	

			TSIA2 may affect your college options.	understand how exams like the ACT, SAT, and
		make applying to college easier.	Talk with your family about how direct admission can	readiness exam like the TSIA2.
			time as your goals may it change, and new careers might catch your eye.	Retake career interests or skills quizzes from time to
Know when direct admission opens. You can start receiving offers as early as August 1 of your senior year.	like applying for financial aid and housing, and enrolling.	Learn the difference between being admitted and accepting the offer; Direct Admission offers	transcripts, and test scores.	required, like essays, recommendation letters,
or mentors who can write strong letters of recommendation for your applications and scholarships.		Practice writing strong essays that show who you are and why you'd	and responsibilities in your My Texas Future profile or resume.	Keep a record of your activities, awards, jobs,

Creating an account on My Texas Future offers several benefits to students navigating their educational and career pathways. Learners will receive a differentiated experience based on whether they explore as a middle or high school student or an adult or college student. Middle and high school students will find information about exploring their college and career interests, succeeding in high school, and succeeding in college.



Learn more about My Texas Future Learner Profile and create an account

Senior year milestones and timeline for Direct Admissions

By the start of senior year, students should have a clear understanding of their graduation plan, GPA, class rank, and test scores. This is the year Direct Admissions becomes actionable – students can view their personalized admissions list, respond to offers, and begin applying to colleges.

Key milestones guide students through completing applications, submitting financial aid forms, and preparing for their transition to college. To help stay on track, the Direct Admissions Timeline outlines what to do each semester – from updating Learner Profiles and responding to offers to finalizing enrollment.



Download the Direct Admissions Timeline

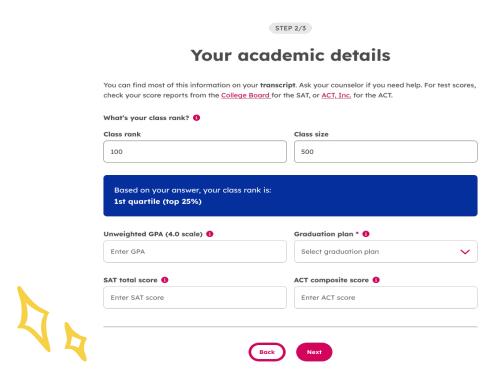


Student Data

To generate a personalized Direct Admissions list in My Texas Future, students provide basic academic information. This data is matched against the admission criteria colleges and universities submit each year to the THECB.

Information students enter includes:

- Class Rank: Students enter their placement within their graduating class (e.g., 50 out of 400). This is typically reported on their transcript.
- Grade Point Average (GPA): Students enter their unweighted GPA on a 4.0 scale. If they are unsure, students are encouraged to check with their counselor to confirm or help calculate it.
- **Graduation Plan:** Students select the graduation plan they will complete, as reported on their high school transcript. Options include:
 - Foundation High School Program
 - Foundation High School Program + Endorsement
 - · Distinguished Level of Achievement
 - Equivalent accredited private or charter program with a curriculum aligned in content and rigor to Distinguished Level of Achievement
- **Test Scores (SAT/ACT):** Students enter their highest SAT or ACT score, if available. If they haven't tested yet, they can leave this blank.





Institutions submit their Direct Admissions criteria to the THECB each year. These criteria can be set in different combinations, and there are eight total ways an institution may define eligibility.

Students only need to provide their graduation plan plus one additional piece of academic information (class rank, GPA, or test score) in My Texas Future to generate their personalized Direct Admissions list. The system will then match their information to the criteria submitted by institutions.





Student scenarios

These sample student stories show different ways students may qualify, or pursue other options, based on their academic information and goals. These examples highlight pathways such as improving test scores, being admitted through holistic review, qualifying directly through GPA and rank, or starting at community college.



View Example Direct Admissions Student Scenarios



Meet Diego

Diego dreams of being the first in his family to attend a four-year university. At first, he didn't qualify for any direct admissions offers.

Academic Information

- Class Rank: 400/500 4th quartile
- SAT (first attempt): 800 → (second attempt): 1110
- Grad Plan: Foundation High School Program + Endorsement

How He Got In: Improved Test Scores



Meet Sofia

Sofia wants to pursue college options close to home but worried her GPA and test scores wouldn't be enough.

Academic Information

- Class Rank: 120/200, 3rd quartile
- Grad Plan: Foundation High School Program
- Extracurriculars: Volunteered at local health clinic, parttime job caring for younger siblings

How She Got In: Holistic Review



Meet Marcus

Marcus has always been focused on getting into college. He wants to study engineering and is confident in his academic preparation, but unsure of which college he wants to attend.

Academic Information

- Unweighted GPA: 3.6
- Class Rank: 70/350 Top 25%
- ACT: 24
- Grad Plan: Distinguish Level of Achievement

How He Got In: Academic Information



Meet Elena

Elena wants to save money, stay close to family, and eventually transfer to a university.

Academic Information

- ACT: 15
- Grad Plan: Foundation High School Program

How She Got In:Community College Pathway

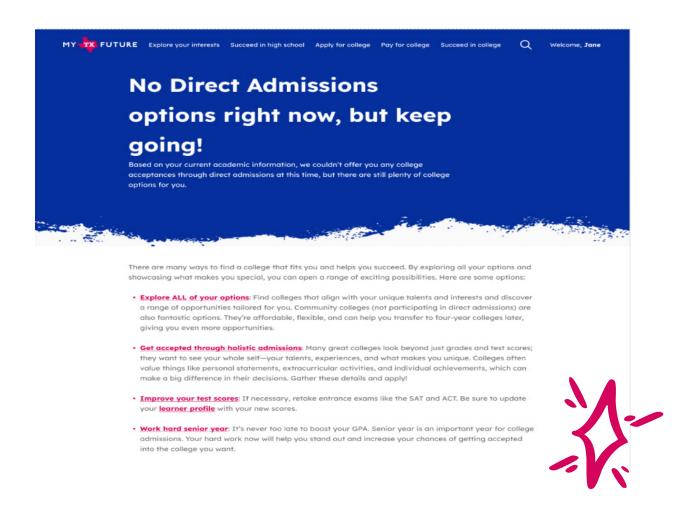


Advising Tips

What if a student receives no admissions offers?

Remind students that Direct Admissions is a new feature and is expanding each year. Currently, there are over 30 colleges and universities that My Texas Future partners with that share their admissions requirements within the site. The list doesn't include community colleges, many of which are open enrollment. Highlight these topics when using My Texas Future to advise students:

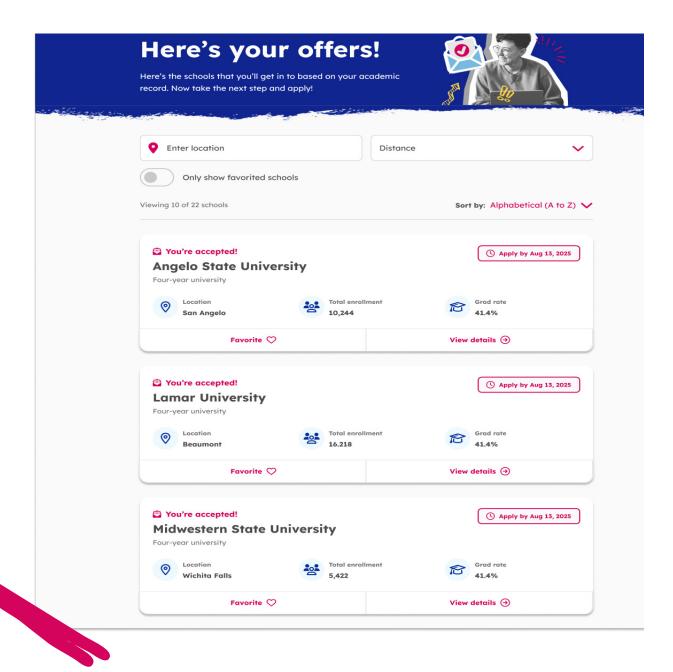
- Students are not out of options if they don't receive any matches right away.
- Students can still apply through the regular application process.
- Community colleges are a great place to start, and students can begin exploring the list of those colleges within the Program Explorer.





Encourage students to explore acceptances

When students receive acceptance at universities in Texas that they are not familiar with, this is a great opportunity to encourage students to do their own research. They can explore the institutions, the certificates, and degree programs they offer, and many more details about the Direct Admissions offers in their profile.



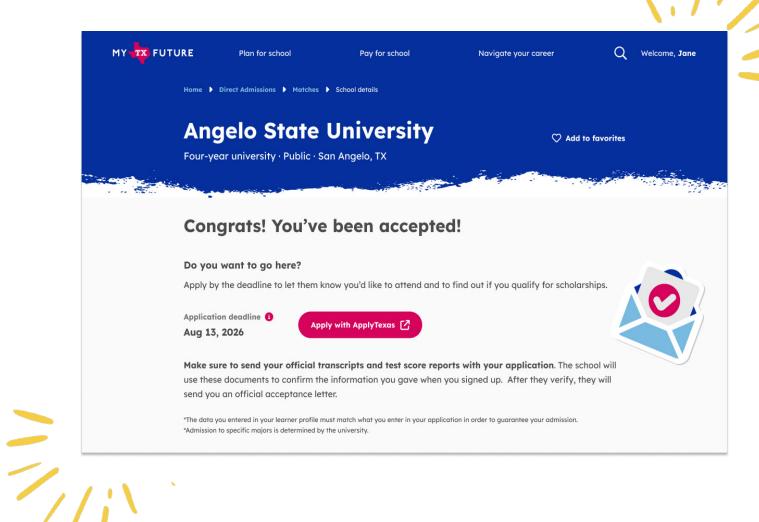


What to look for in an academic environment

When choosing a school, it's important to consider the academic environment. You might want to ask yourself:

- How do I compare with other students applying for admission?
- · What majors (or areas of study) does the school offer?
- What's the typical student-to-faculty ratio?
- Do I perform better in a virtual or in-person classroom?
- · Will this school help me reach my future goals?

You should explore the academic resources available to each college, including libraries, research facilities, and faculty qualifications.





What do colleges and universities recommend when using the Direct Admissions Program?

- Students are advised to use the tool to explore their postsecondary options available across Texas.
 The information provided in My Texas Future may broaden or narrow down a student's list of schools to visit and apply to.
- Since students are provided with direct admissions offers, they can spend more of their time
 preparing questions that help them make an enrollment decision or focus on scholarships and
 financial aid applications.
- An offer does not equal admission. Admission does not equal enrollment.
 - A student's self-reported information is verified via the official documents provided in the application submitted.
 - A student will be provided with next steps for enrollment after submitting an application.
 - Students should stay in communication with universities to ensure that important information is not missing. The Direct Admissions tool is the first step in this process, and then students need to apply and submit additional information.



How to promote Direct Admissions

Here's some sample language we encourage counselors and advisors to send out to inform students, families, staff members, and the community about Direct Admissions:

Direct Admissions is a new feature available within My Texas Future, the state's one-stop college and career advising website for Texans seeking to enter higher education.

With Direct Admissions, students can easily and immediately find out if they qualify for admission to institutions as early as the end of their junior year.

Direct Admissions has the potential to reduce student anxiety, save time, and increase transparency, encouraging Texans who might not otherwise consider college to take the next step.

Before students submit an application, My Texas Future matches their self-reported academic information with the admissions requirements of institutions within Texas and immediately notifies the student if they qualify for admission.

Once students know they qualify for admission, they can complete an application in ApplyTexas for their chosen major and receive scholarship and financial aid information.

How to advertise Direct Admissions on social media

With Direct Admissions, it takes only a few clicks to see if you qualify for admission to [Institution Name]! Find out more at MyTexasFuture.org!

Find out if you qualify for admission with [Institution Name] BEFORE you even submit an application! Find out more at MyTexasFuture.org.

Direct Admissions lets you approach your college application with confidence and clarity. Enter some simple academic information and know immediately if you qualify for admission!

Why stress over your college application? Direct Admissions lets you know immediately if you qualify for admission to [institution] before you even submit your application!

Save time and money on the college application process with Direct Admissions. Simply enter some standard academic information and know immediately if you qualify for admission.

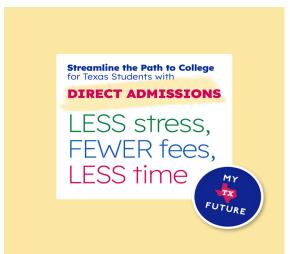


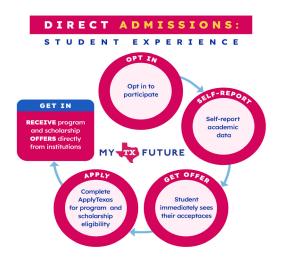
Suggested Social Media Graphics



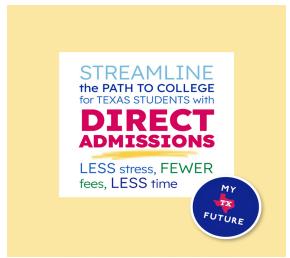
*Click to save images to your desktop and pair with suggested captions for better engagement! *

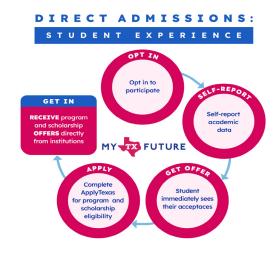














Frequently Asked Questions

My Texas Future Learning Institute

Direct Admissions Information Sheet

DIRECT ADMISSIONS



Take the Stress Out of the COLLEGE ADMISSIONS Process!

1. OPT IN.

Create a My Texas Future profile to opt in to Direct Admissions.

3. OFFERS RECEIVED!

You will immediately see your college acceptances.

2. ENTER INFO.

Self-report your academic information into your profile.

4. SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION.

Make it official and submit your applications using ApplyTexas for majors of choice and financial aid.

DIRECT ADMISSIONS is a brand-new feature available for high school students in My Texas Future, Texas's one-stop college and career advising website for students seeking to enter higher education. With Direct Admissions, you can **easily and immediately find out if you qualify** for admission to over 30 Texas universities, as early as the end of your junior year.

Knowing in advance where you qualify for admission can give you the confidence you need to navigate the college application process, reduce application fees and anxiety, and save valuable time!





HOW IT WORKS

Before even submitting an application, **MY TEXAS FUTURE** matches your academic information with the admissions requirements of participating Texas colleges and **immediately provides a list of schools** where you qualify for admission!

From that personalized list, you can then complete an application to apply to your chosen major and receive scholarship and financial aid information.

Don't worry if you don't see your dream school on your list or don't have all your academic information on hand. You can still apply through the regular, holistic process or come back and add additional academic information later!

NEW GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, students will be required to opt in to Direct Admissions as a graduation requirement! Texas Senate Bill 2314 (89th Legislature, 2025) establishes My Texas Future, which is designed to help public high school students research and apply to Texas institutions of higher education. My Texas Future integrates with ApplyTexas. The bill requires students to make an optin election regarding sharing their records for Direct Admissions.



Interested in learning more?

Scan the QR code or visit the Direct Admissions webpage.





Social Media Promotion

Direct Admissions - Social Media Promotional Toolkit

Sharing the new Direct Admissions feature in My Texas Future

About Direct Admissions

Direct Admissions is a new feature available within My Texas Future, the state's onestop college and career advising website for Texans seeking to enter higher education.

With Direct Admissions, students can easily and immediately find out if they qualify for admission as early as the end of their junior year.

Direct Admissions has the potential to reduce student anxiety, save time, and increase transparency, encouraging Texans who might not otherwise consider college to take the next step.

Before students submit an application, My Texas Future matches their self-reported academic information with the admissions requirements of your institution and immediately notifies the student if they qualify for admission.

Once students know they qualify for admission, they can then complete an application in ApplyTexas to apply to their chosen major and receive scholarship and financial aid information.

Suggested language for social media - captions

- With Direct Admissions, it takes only 3 clicks to see if you qualify for admission to [Institution Name]! Find out more at MyTexasFuture.org!
- You could qualify for admission with [Institution Name] BEFORE you even submit an application! Find out more at MyTexasFuture.org.
- Direct Admissions lets you approach your college application with confidence and clarity. Enter some simple academic information and immediately know if you qualify for admission!
- Why stress over your college application? Direct Admissions lets you know immediately if you qualify for admission to [institution] before you even submit your application!



Save time and money on the college application process with Direct Admissions.
 Simply enter some standard academic information and know immediately if you qualify for admission.

Suggested Social Media Graphics

Click to save images to your desktop and pair with suggested coptions for better engagement!



Link to Direct Admissions Feature in My Texas Future

https://www.myteresfuture.org/middle-high-school/direct-edmissions/.





My Texas Future Create an Account and Learner Profile



My Texas Future

Creating an account and learner profile

1

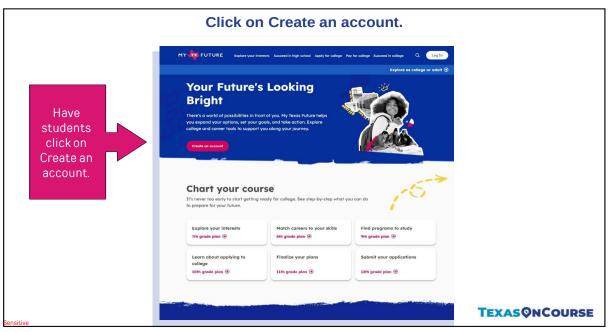
Navigate to www.myTexasFuture.org and click on Middle and high schoolers.

If your Tomorrow STARTS ToDAY

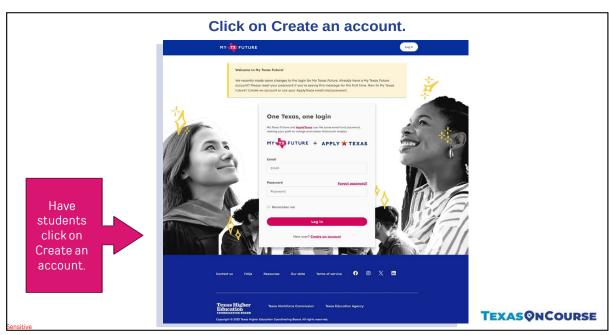
We find the right fools for you.

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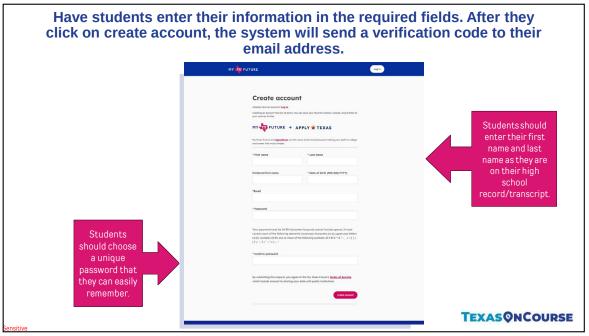




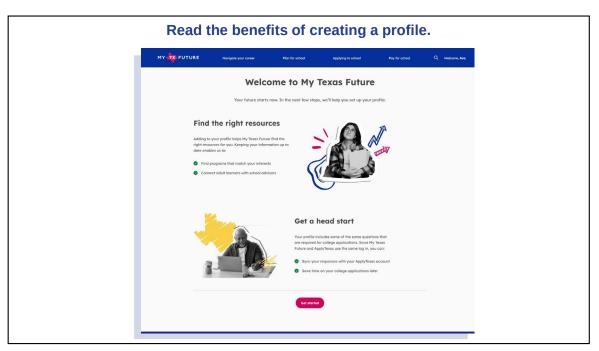
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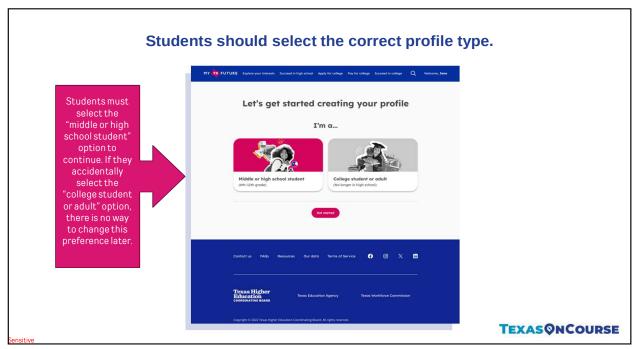




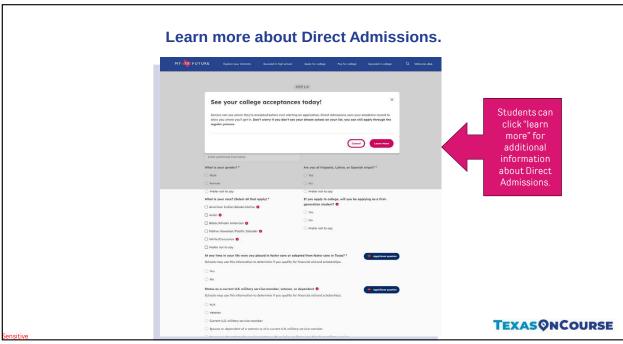
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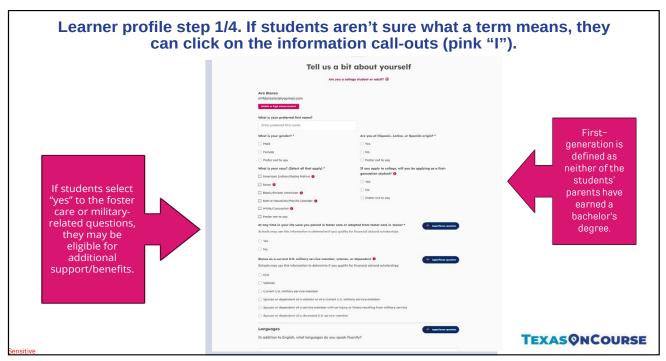




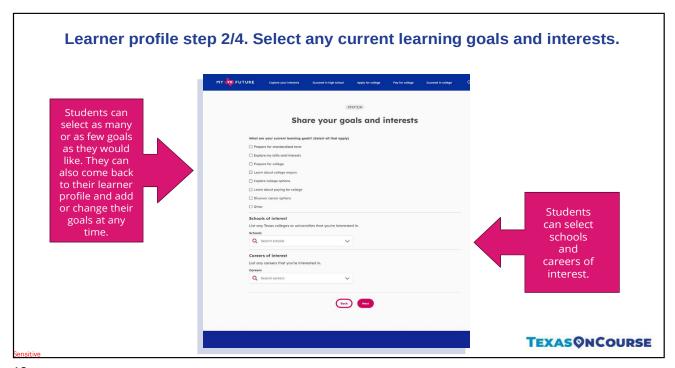
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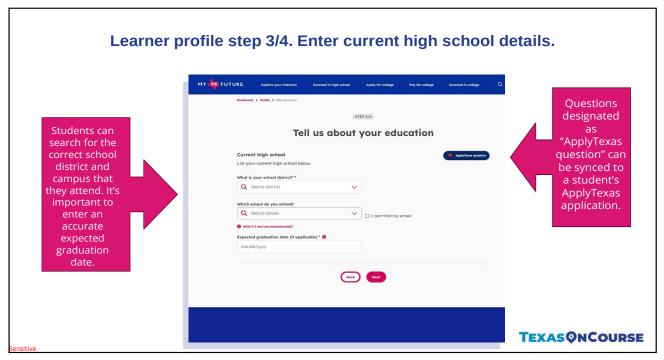


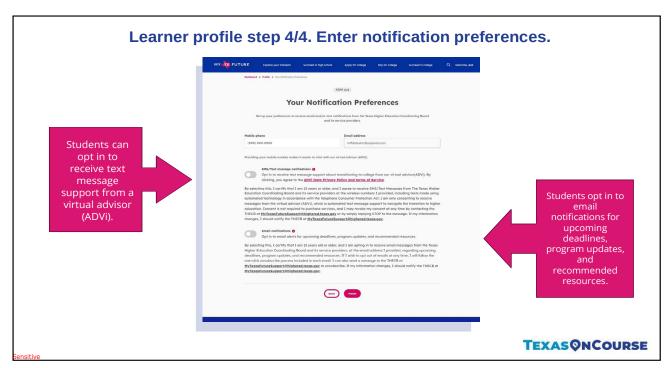


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Other considerations

- Students may update their learner profile at any time. We recommend reviewing and updating it a few times a year to reflect their current goals and achievements.
- In the sections where "ApplyTexas" is seen next to a question, the information students enter will feed directly into their college application through ApplyTexas. Make sure it is accurate and thorough.
- The more information students enter in their account and learner profile, the more specialized information and assistance that they may be able to receive.

TEXASONCOURSE





Direct Admissions Timeline

Senior Year Timeline for Direct Admissions

Use this timeline to view a personalized admissions list, respond to offers, and begin applying to colleges.

	AUGUST - SEPTEMBER
	Create or update your My Texas Future learner profile. Add academic details like high school graduation plan, class rank, GPA, ACT/SAT scores. (Note: a high school graduation plan plus at least one additional piece of academic information is needed for Direct Admissions offers)
	Opt-in to Direct Admissions – Opens every year on August 1
	Review any Direct Admissions offers available to you
	Begin your ApplyTexas applications, syncing from My Texas Future, where possible
	OCTOBER - DECEMBER
	(Free College Application Week is the 2nd week in October)
	Respond to Direct Admissions offers by completing the college's application process
\bigcirc	Submit an application through ApplyTexas
	Send high school transcript
	Send ACT/SAT scores (if needed)
	Send any additional supplemental documents (letters of recommendation, application fee waiver, etc.)
	Submit FAFSA or TASFA and other financial aid forms
	Continue applying to other colleges of interest
	JANUARY - MAY
	Review and compare any admission and financial aid offers
\bigcirc	Make your college decision and notify schools by their deadlines
	Complete enrollment steps (housing, new student orientation, pay enrollment deposit, send final high school transcript)





Meet Diego

Goals

Diego dreams of being the first in his family to attend a four-year university. At first, he didn't qualify for any direct admissions offers.

Academic Information

- Class Rank: 400/500 4th quartile
- SAT (first attempt): $800 \rightarrow$ (second attempt): 1110
- Grad Plan: Foundation High School Program + Endorsement

How He Got In: Improved Test Scores

"I thought college wasn't an option for me, but raising my SAT score opened new doors."

Diego retested, raised his scores, and unlocked multiple direct admission offers.



"I'm more than just numbers—my story mattered."

Meet Sofia

Goals

Sofia wants to pursue college options close to home but worried her GPA and test scores wouldn't be enough.

Academic Information

- Class Rank: 120/200, 3rd quartile
- Grad Plan: Foundation High School Program
- Extracurriculars: Volunteered at local health clinic, part-time job caring for younger siblings

How She Got In: Holistic Review

Although she didn't qualify with her current academic information, her dedication and experiences helped her get admitted.

Meet Marcus

Goals

Marcus has always been focused on getting into college. He wants to study engineering and is confident in his academic preparation, but unsure of which college he wants to attend.

Academic Information

- Unweighted GPA: 3.6
- Class Rank: 70/350 Top 25%
- ACT: 24
- Grad Plan: Distinguish Level of Achievement

"I worked hard in school, and it paid off with direct

How He Got In: Academic Information

"Starting at community college makes sense for me—it's the right first

admission offers."

Marcus's GPA, rank, and test scores qualified hi

Marcus's GPA, rank, and test scores qualified him for direct admissions right away.



Academic Information

Elena wants to save money, stay close to family, and eventually

Goals

transfer to a university.

Meet Elena

- ACT: 15
- Grad Plan: Foundation High School Program

How She Got In: Community College Pathway

Elena didn't receive direct admissions offers but chose community college to build her foundation before transferring.