

Educator and Administrator Toolkit



THE TEXAS 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.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section I: Introducing My Texas Future.....	04
New Graduation Requirement	05
Section II: How to Use This Toolkit	06
College and Career Readiness Curriculum Connection	06
College and Career Readiness Curriculum.....	07
Setting up a My Texas Future Account and Profile	09
Student Dashboard	11
Section III: Career Exploration Roadmap	13
College and Career Action Plans.....	14
Section IV: Suggested My Texas Future Resources for the Fall	18
Section V: Suggested My Texas Future Resources for the Spring	20
Section VI: My Texas Future Classroom Activities.....	22
Activity 1: College and Career Vocabulary	23
Activity 2: My Texas Future Scavenger Hunt.....	25
Activity 3: Career and College Match	26
Appendix	28
Texas OnCourse Academy: My Texas Future Learning Module.....	28
College and Career Action Plans.....	29
College and Career Readiness Vocabulary Words.....	35
Scavenger Hunt Handout.....	36
Direct Admissions	37
Free College Application Week	39

SECTION I

Introducing My Texas Future

My Texas Future is a one-stop shop for all Texans to prepare for higher education. Texans can explore career interests, identify in-demand occupations in their region, and explore related majors at Texas colleges to achieve their goals. Launched by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in 2022, this digital platform provides resources tailored to the needs of middle school and high school students, college students, and working-age adults. Students must be 13 years or older to use the platform.

My Texas Future connects the career planning experience to students' goals and aspirations while guiding their decisions through practical information, like real-world earnings and regional job demand.

This toolkit has been developed as a resource to support educators and administrators integrating the My Texas Future platform in schools and classrooms at the middle and high school level. Each component of the toolkit contains relevant supporting activities and guidance for educators in their role in students' postsecondary readiness, preparation, and success.

Many high school graduates do not feel prepared to make college or career decisions.





New Graduation Requirement

Texas Senate Bill 2314 (89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025) established My Texas Future as a platform that helps Texas high school students explore college and career options and navigate the college application process through integration with ApplyTexas. Public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools must annually notify students and parents or guardians about creating a My Texas Future profile. Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, students must, during their senior year of high school, either opt in to sharing their academic information for Direct Admissions through My Texas Future or submit an [opt-out form](#) to meet this graduation requirement.

As schools implement this requirement, counselors and advisors can support students and families in understanding their options. Help students create or access their My Texas Future learner profile and make an informed decision about whether to opt in to sharing their academic information for Direct Admissions or submit the Texas Education Agency (TEA) opt-out form. Students who opt in can then view and explore their Direct Admissions opportunities. Schools should retain documentation in accordance with TEA guidance and local district procedures.

SECTION II

How to Use This Toolkit

This toolkit is designed to help classroom educators integrate My Texas Future into instruction in meaningful and manageable ways. While counselors and advisors lead much of the college and career advising process, educators play a critical role in reinforcing exploration, goal setting, and planning through everyday classroom experiences.

Pedagogical insight: Begin by developing a high-level understanding of the Career Exploration Roadmap and the core philosophy behind My Texas Future. The platform is built to help students connect interests, academics, and real-world opportunities over time. This guide supports that approach by offering strategies and activities that align with how students learn and grow across grade levels.

Planning check: Review the 7th–12th grade College and Career Action Plans, which outline key milestones students should reach each year. These action plans help educators visualize student priorities by grade level and identify natural connections to classroom instruction, projects, and discussions.

Lesson considerations: This toolkit includes suggested lessons and activities drawn from the Texas OnCourse College and Career Readiness Curriculum. These activities can be adapted for core content classes, advisory periods, or project-based learning and are designed to reinforce skills students need for postsecondary success.



College and Career Readiness Curriculum Connection

This toolkit is designed to be used alongside the [Texas OnCourse College and Career Readiness Curriculum](#). While My Texas Future provides interactive tools and planning experiences, the College and Career Readiness Curriculum offers structured, classroom-ready lessons that deepen student understanding and reinforce key concepts introduced through the platform. The lessons below offer practical starting points that can be easily adapted to fit different grade levels, content areas, and instructional settings.

Lesson 1.2: My Vision - Reflecting on What I Want: This activity encourages self-reflection and goal setting, crucial skills for students as they begin to envision their future paths. The creation of vision boards provides a visual and tangible representation of their aspirations, fostering motivation and a sense of ownership over their goals.

Lesson 1.4: Myself - Intrapersonal Skills Development: This lesson delves into essential intrapersonal skills like self-concept, self-efficacy, self-regulation, and growth mindset. The jigsaw activity format promotes active learning and peer teaching, enhancing student engagement and understanding of these critical concepts.

Lesson 2.3: Space Journal: By incorporating the [MiddleGalaxy](#) game, this lesson gamifies career exploration, making it interactive and enjoyable for students. The Space Journal activity encourages reflection and critical thinking about the skills and education required for different careers.

Lesson 2.5: Personal Portfolio: This culminating activity allows students to showcase their learning and growth throughout the unit. Creating a personal career portfolio encourages them to synthesize their knowledge about career pathways, skills, and educational requirements, fostering a sense of preparedness for their future endeavors.

Lesson 3.2: The Value of a Four-Year Degree: This lesson provides valuable insights into the benefits of higher education, going beyond just financial gains to include broader societal and personal advantages. The use of data visualization and analysis helps students develop critical thinking skills while exploring the impact of education on various aspects of life.

Lesson 3.3: Types of Colleges and Degrees: This lesson provides a comprehensive overview of different postsecondary options, including universities, community colleges, liberal arts colleges, and more. It also covers various types of degrees, such as associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees. This knowledge is crucial for students as they begin to narrow down their college choices and consider potential majors. The interactive card-matching activity makes the learning process engaging and helps solidify understanding of key terms and concepts.

Lesson 3.4: Financial Aid: The spring semester is a prime time for students to explore financial aid options and prepare to apply for scholarships. This lesson introduces various types of financial aid, including grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study programs. The group activity and presentations encourage collaboration and in-depth research, empowering students to take ownership of their financial aid journey.

Lesson 3.5: Navigating College Life: As students prepare for the transition to college, this lesson helps them develop the interpersonal and intrapersonal skills necessary for success in a new environment. The focus on self-advocacy, resourcefulness, and emotional preparedness equips students to navigate the challenges and opportunities of college life.

Lesson 3.6: My Pennant: This culminating activity allows students to creatively express their postsecondary aspirations and reflect on their learning throughout the unit. Creating a pennant representing their college or career goals provides a visual reminder of their plans and reinforces their commitment to achieving them.

Lesson 4.3: Understanding the Five High School Endorsements: This lesson introduces students to the concept of endorsements and their connection to future careers. The expert group activity encourages collaboration and in-depth exploration of different endorsement options, empowering students to make informed choices about their high school pathways.

Lesson 4.5: Find My Path: This lesson uses the MapMyGrad platform to guide students in creating a personalized graduation plan. The spring semester is an ideal time for students to finalize their course selections for the following year, ensuring they are on track to meet their graduation requirements and pursue their chosen endorsements.

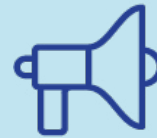
Lesson 4.6: Navigating High School: This lesson addresses the anxieties and questions students may have about transitioning to high school. The focus on self-reflection, goal setting, and identifying support systems helps students develop the confidence and resilience needed to navigate this significant change successfully.

These are just a few examples as the selection of specific lessons or activities will depend on the teacher's learning objectives, student needs, and available time and resources. The curriculum provides a flexible framework that allows for adaptation to create a meaningful and impactful learning experience for all students.

For Administrators

Students must be at least 13 years old to create a My Texas Future account. Beginning in 7th grade, students should revisit the platform at least three times per year to build their profile, explore interests, and track progress toward grade-level milestones. In high school, My Texas Future supports deeper planning, including program exploration, admissions pathways, and financial aid awareness.

Lastly, this toolkit should be used in conjunction with the [guidance offered by the Texas Education Agency](#).



How Administrators Can Support Implementation

- **Promote My Texas Future:** Share consistent messaging with staff, students, and families about the purpose and value of the platform.
- **Support staff:** Ensure counselors and teachers have time, training, and resources to integrate My Texas Future into advising and instruction.
- **Track and adjust:** Monitor campus usage and collaborate with staff to refine strategies that keep students engaged and on track.

Setting up a My Texas Future Account and Profile

My Texas Future allows visitors to the site to engage and explore its features without an account. To take advantage of all that My Texas Future has to offer, students can create an account and continuously update their learner profile.

Learners will receive a customized experience based on whether they explore as a middle or high school student, versus a college student or adult, and will find information about exploring their college and career interests, succeeding in high school, applying for college, and succeeding in college.

To create an account, students will complete the form using their name, date of birth, email address, and a unique password, with the following password parameters:

- Password must be 14–50 characters long
- Password must contain each of the following elements:
- Lowercase characters (a–z)
- Uppercase letters (A–Z); numbers (0–9)
- One or more of the following symbols: @ # \$ % ^ & * - _ + = [] { } | \ : ' , ? / ` ~ “ () ; .

Encourage students to save or record their login information, in a secure manner, for continued easy access.

Resources

- [Creating an Account and Learner Profile \(Texas Oncourse PPT presentation\)](#)

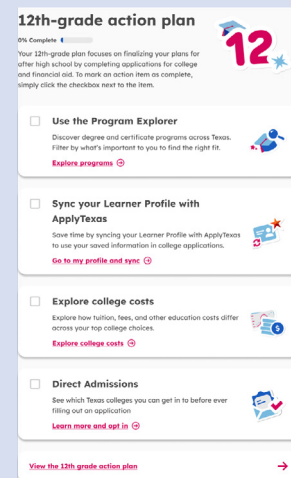
Student Dashboard

The Student Dashboard is the central location for students once they log in to My Texas Future. It's designed to keep everything in one place so students can easily track their progress, revisit tools, and stay on top of important deadlines.

Based on a student's grade level, the dashboard displays personalized action items aligned with the College and Career Action Plans. Each action item includes a checkbox, allowing students to mark task completion as they go. This feature helps students build ownership of their college and career planning journey.

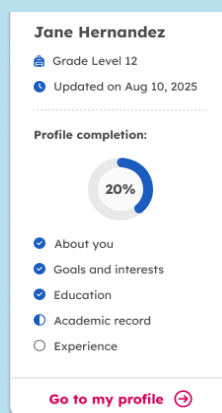
Examples of action items for high schoolers may include the following:

- Use the Career Explorer
- Take the Interests Quiz or Skills Quiz
- Use the Program Explorer
- Take advanced classes
- Get involved
- Build your college list
- Explore college costs
- Build your resume
- Prepare your college application materials
- Learn about Direct Admissions (upper grade levels)



In addition to action items, the dashboard shows students how much of their learner profile they have completed. A visual progress indicator tracks sections such as the following:

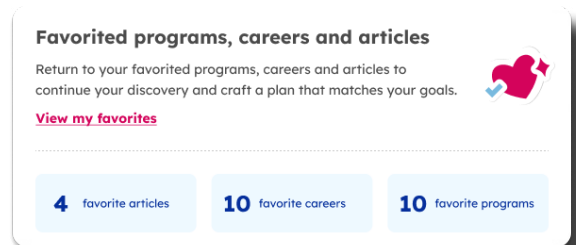
- About you
- Goals and interests
- Education
- Experience



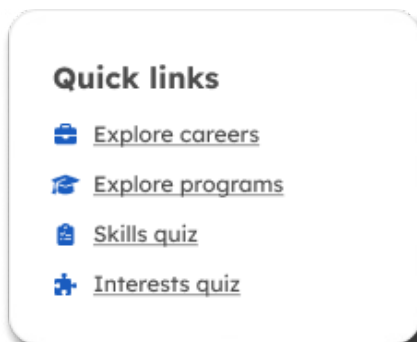
This feature encourages students to build and maintain a complete profile over time, which strengthens their exploration results and prepares them for future application steps.

Favorites

Students can save and easily return to favorited careers, programs, and articles. This allows them to compare options and continue refining their interests as they learn more about themselves and their goals. Encourage students to log in regularly, update their profile, complete action items, and continue exploring their interests. Over time, the dashboard becomes a personalized roadmap that supports their transition from middle school exploration to high school planning and beyond.



Announcements and Quick Links



The dashboard features grade-level specific announcements to keep students informed about timely and relevant next steps. Announcements are designed to be short, actionable, and connected to tools within My Texas Future. The dashboard also includes quick links, which provide direct access to key My Texas Future tools: explore careers, explore programs, Interests Quiz, and Skills Quiz.

Over time, the combination of action items, announcements, saved favorites, and profile progress creates a structured and personalized college and career planning experience.

SECTION III

Career Exploration Roadmap

Career exploration can be one of the most engaging and meaningful parts of a student's educational journey. It also plays a critical role in helping students understand the wide range of possibilities available to them. Many students are only familiar with careers they see every day, and without intentional exposure, they may overlook options that align with their interests and strengths.

The Career Exploration Roadmap is a framework designed to help educators, counselors, and advisors understand the phases students move through as they learn about careers and postsecondary options. The roadmap includes five stages that reflect how students progress from self-discovery to informed decision-making. While the roadmap itself is not a feature within My Texas Future, it serves as a helpful reference point for educators to align classroom instruction with counseling milestones and career development activities.

By using this framework, educators can better understand where students are in the exploration process and reinforce appropriate skills, conversations, and activities at each stage

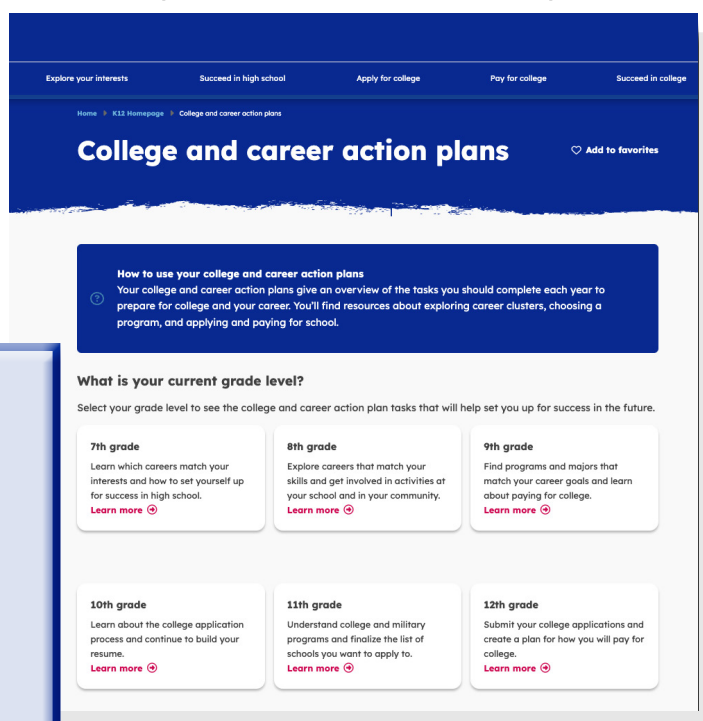
The 5 Stages of Career Exploration



Student College and Career Action Plans

My Texas Future's College and Career Action Plans guide students through key steps in planning for life after high school. These plans help students explore career interests, connect those interests to high school coursework, research colleges and programs, and track progress toward graduation and beyond.

Action plans are organized by grade level and semester, encouraging students to revisit My Texas Future regularly. Each semester, students should update their profile, reflect on previous activities, and complete new tasks that align with where they are in their academic journey. This ongoing engagement supports informed decision-making and helps students stay on track toward their college and career goals.



Accessing the College and Career Action Plans

- Log into My Texas Future.
- On the dashboard, hover over *Succeed in High School*.
- Under Featured Tools, click on *Action Plans*.
- Under the appropriate grade level, click *learn more* to see the corresponding action plans.

Integrating the Career Exploration Roadmap

This section outlines how the Career Exploration Roadmap can be used alongside My Texas Future to support college and career readiness instruction throughout the school year.

The roadmap provides a shared framework for educators by organizing activities into five stages of student development:

- Explore Interests
- Explore Career Options
- Career Planning
- Academic Planning
- Decision Making

While the Career Exploration Roadmap itself is not a feature within My Texas Future, it serves as a helpful reference for understanding how My Texas Future tools and activities align with students' evolving needs over time. Educators can use the roadmap to reinforce counselor-led advising, support reflection and discussion in the classroom, and help students build habits that carry across semesters and grade levels.





Key Themes to Guide Classroom Instruction

My Texas Future College and Career Action Plans activities are built around common themes that educators can naturally connect to classroom instruction. These themes appear throughout the school year, with different points of emphasis in the fall and spring semesters.

Fall themes: Exploration and foundations

Academic preparation

Students begin to understand the importance of strong grades, appropriate course rigor, and early test preparation in supporting future success.

Career planning

Students explore interests, skills, and careers, building awareness of a wide range of options and beginning to connect personal strengths to possible pathways.

Introduction to college planning

Students are introduced to college types, admissions concepts, and early planning tools to support setting long-term goals.

Engagement and involvement

Students are encouraged to participate in activities inside and outside the classroom that help develop skills, interests, and leadership experience.

Understanding these themes allows educators to intentionally use My Texas Future tools to support both academic instruction and long-term planning.

Spring themes: Planning and application

Career and program alignment

Students deepen career exploration by connecting interests to specific programs of study and postsecondary pathways.

Academic planning and endorsements

Students review academic progress, explore endorsements, and make more informed course selection decisions.

College and application readiness

Students refine college lists, learn about application steps, and begin preparing required materials.

Financial aid awareness

Students build foundational knowledge of college costs and financial aid, including scholarships and financial aid application processes.

How to Locate My Texas Future Tools

Below are steps educators can use to locate My Texas Future tools:

1. Log in to My Texas Future.
2. Use the navigational menu at the top of the dashboard or select the magnifying glass icon.
3. Type the name of the tool you want to explore.
4. Select the appropriate tool from the search results.

The tools recommended in this guide mirror the Fall College and Career Action Plans and align with each stage of the Career Exploration Roadmap, making it easier for educators to integrate college and career readiness learning into existing lessons.



SECTION IV

Suggested My Texas Future Resources and Tools for the Fall

The following sections outline My Texas Future tools recommended for fall and spring. These tools are intended to complement counselor-led advising and support classroom-based instruction throughout the school year.

Tools	Rationale	Implementation
Stage 1: Explore Interests		
Interests Quiz Skills Quiz	Self-discovery builds motivation and engagement. By identifying interests and skills, students begin to see how their strengths connect to future careers and education options. This stage lays the foundation for meaningful exploration.	Encourage students to use these tools early in their journey to identify potential areas of interest and explore aligned career pathways.
Stage 2: Explore Career Options		
Career Explorer My Texas Future article: Pick the right mix of classes	Exploring career options helps students understand the relationship between academic choices, GPA, and future opportunities. Early exposure supports more intentional planning and informed decision-making.	Guide students in researching careers aligned with their interests and skills. Reinforce connections between coursework, grades, and career pathways through class discussions or academic goal-setting activities.
Stage 3: Career Planning		
Program Explorer Build your college list	Career planning connects interests to postsecondary pathways. Students learn that multiple education routes can lead to the same career, and that planning ahead increases options and confidence.	Support students in researching programs and building an initial college list. Use comparisons to discuss fit, degree types, and admission pathways. Emphasize that plans can evolve over time.
Stage 4: Academic Planning		
Start college in high school Understanding GPA, class rank, and automatic admission Update your resume	Academic planning helps students understand how grades, coursework, and experiences impact postsecondary opportunities. This stage promotes readiness, persistence, and strategic decision-making.	Integrate tools during course selection or advisory lessons. Discuss advanced academic options and help students begin documenting activities and achievements through resume-building.

Tools	Rationale	Implementation
Stage 5: Decision Making		
• Practice and entrance exams • Gather what you'll need: College application checklist • Compare college costs	Decision making prepares students to take action by understanding timelines, requirements, and financial considerations. Early awareness reduces stress and supports informed choices.	Introduce the ACT and SAT, applications, and college cost topics. Encourage students to explore upcoming steps and discuss questions with counselors and families.



SECTION V

Suggested My Texas Future Resources and Tools for the Spring



Tools	Rationale	Implementation
Stage 1: Explore Interests		
• Know why college matters • Compare types of colleges	Reinforces the value of postsecondary education and expands students' understanding of the different college options available. This stage helps students connect their goals to the purpose of college and training.	Facilitate a discussion on how college can support different career goals. Use examples to explain the differences between two-year, four-year, and other postsecondary options. Encourage reflection on which options align with students' interests.
Stage 2: Explore Career Options		
• Career Explorer • Middle Galaxy	Deepens career awareness by allowing students to explore and compare careers while reinforcing that exploration can continue and evolve.	Guide students through exploring multiple careers and identifying patterns in their interests. Use Middle Galaxy to support engagement and encourage students to explore careers they may not have considered.
Stage 3: Career Planning		
• Program Explorer • Direct Admissions	Connects career interests to specific programs and institutions, helping students begin to narrow options and visualize realistic postsecondary pathways	Have students research programs tied to their top careers and save favorites. High school seniors can use Direct Admissions to see which colleges they may be accepted to, based on their academic criteria.
Stage 4: Academic Planning		
• Endorsements • Update your resume	Helps students align their academic choices and experiences with long-term goals. This stage reinforces the importance of coursework, pathways, and extracurricular involvement.	Use this stage during course selection or advising periods. Encourage students to review endorsements and update their resumes with current activities, leadership, and accomplishments.

Tools	Rationale	Implementation
Stage 5: Decision Making		
• Apply to college • Compare types of aid • Apply for financial aid	Prepares students to take action by understanding application steps, financial aid options, and how to pay for college. Early exposure reduces anxiety and improves readiness.	Introduce application and financial aid topics. Encourage students to identify required materials, deadlines, and questions to discuss with counselors and families.



Together, these activities ensure students revisit all five stages of the Career Exploration Roadmap each semester, aligning the My Texas Future College and Career Action Plans with the classroom-based strategies in this educator toolkit and the High School Counselor and Advisor Toolkit.

SECTION VI

My Texas Future Classroom Activities

Activity 1: College and Career Vocabulary

Building familiarity with college and career vocabulary is a simple but powerful way to help students take ownership of their college and career readiness journey. When students understand and confidently use these terms, they are better equipped to engage in planning conversations, explore My Texas Future tools, and connect classroom learning to future goals.

Consider posting the college and career vocabulary list (see Appendix) on a classroom word wall for ongoing reference. These terms can be reinforced through short mini-lessons, class discussions, and activities throughout the school year.

College and Career Readiness Vocabulary Words

The college and career readiness curriculum provides numerous vocabulary words that educators can share with students. The curriculum also includes links to Quizlet resources that offer additional vocabulary practice.

Here are a few examples of vocabulary words that are important for college and career readiness that educators can introduce to their students:

College Readiness

The ability to succeed in first-year college courses without needing extra help.

Career Readiness

The skills and knowledge needed to do well in an entry-level job in your chosen career field.

Growth Mindset

The belief that you can improve your abilities through effort and learning from mistakes.

Self-reflection

The act of thinking about your own actions, progress, and thoughts to understand yourself better.

Intrapersonal Skills

The skills you use to understand and manage yourself.

Interpersonal Skills

The skills you use to communicate and interact effectively with others.

Career Clusters

Groups of jobs and industries that share similar knowledge and skills.

Career Pathways

A series of education and training programs that help you advance in a specific career.

Endorsements

Areas of focused study in high school that give you deeper knowledge and skills for a specific career field.

Median Salary

The middle salary for a job. Half earn more, half earn less.

Projected Growth

How much a job is expected to grow in the future. More growth = more job openings.

In-Demand Careers

Jobs that employers are actively looking to fill right now. College-level work and potentially earn college credit.

Direct Admissions

This simplifies college planning for 12th graders by providing a personalized, annually updated list of Texas colleges where they are likely to be admitted, while still allowing applications to other schools through holistic review.

Program

Structured degree or certificate pathway (associate, bachelor's, technical certificate, etc.) with requirements and outcomes.

Major

Specific field of study you choose within a program.

Postsecondary education

Education or training that takes place after high school, including college, technical school, or workforce training programs.

Certificate

A short-term program that provides specific skills or training for a job or industry.

Associate degree

A college degree typically completed in two years, often offered at community colleges.

Bachelor's degree

A college degree typically completed in four years, offered at universities and some colleges.

Application deadline

The final date by which a college application must be submitted to be considered for admission.

Holistic review

An admissions process that considers more than grades and test scores, such as essays, activities, and personal background.



Introducing Vocabulary to Students (Grades 7–12)

Objective: Students will define, understand, and apply key college and career readiness terms in meaningful and relevant ways.

Materials:

- Whiteboard or chart paper
- Markers
- Index cards or sticky notes
- Optional digital tools (Kahoot, Padlet, Quizlet)



Lesson structure and activities:

1. Term Introduction and Brainstorming

Begin by activating prior knowledge. Consider using a short Kahoot or quick poll to gauge students' familiarity with key terms before formally introducing definitions.

- Divide students into small groups and assign one vocabulary term to each group.
- Ask each group to brainstorm what they think the term means based on prior experience or context.
- Students record ideas on index cards or sticky notes.

Emphasize that this activity is about exploration. Students do not need to be “right” at this stage.

2. Gallery Walk and Collaborative Definition Building

To encourage collaboration and peer learning, turn the brainstorming activity into a gallery walk.

- Have each group post their notes around their assigned term on chart paper or digitally using Padlet or Jamboard.
- Allow students to walk around the room (or review digitally) to read and add comments or ideas to other groups' terms.

This step helps students see how vocabulary connects across different contexts and perspectives.

3. Presentation and Whole Group Discussion

- Each group selects a representative to summarize their ideas for the class.
- Facilitate a brief discussion comparing student-generated definitions with the formal definitions provided in the reference materials.
- Clarify misconceptions and highlight why each term matters in the context of college and career readiness.

Connect vocabulary directly to how students will encounter these terms in My Texas Future, advising sessions, and future planning activities.



4. Real-Life Connections

Help students see how these terms apply beyond the classroom.

- Ask students to brainstorm real-life examples of when and how these terms show up in their lives or future goals.
- Encourage students to share personal experiences or observations related to the vocabulary.

Optional extensions:

- Invite a guest speaker from a local business, college, or training program to discuss how these terms apply in real-world settings.
- Replace an in-person visit with a virtual college or workplace tour, pointing out where students might see these terms in action.

5. Reflection and Goal Setting

Guide students in reflecting on how these vocabulary terms connect to their own goals.

- Ask students to identify one or two terms that feel most relevant to their current interests or plans.
- Have students outline simple action steps they can take to learn more or build skills related to those terms.



Extension and Reinforcement Activities

To keep vocabulary learning engaging and ongoing, consider the following options:

- **Visual connections:** Students create a concept map or infographic showing how key terms relate to one another.
- **Writing or presentation:** Students write a short reflection or create a presentation explaining how these terms support their future goals.
- **Interactive games:** Use free tools like [WordMint](#) to create crosswords or matching activities or design a quick Jeopardy-style review game.

Vocabulary Term Challenge

Encourage consistent use of vocabulary throughout the week:

- Award points when students correctly use a key term in context during class discussions or written work.
- Recognize participation with small incentives or public acknowledgments to reinforce engagement.





Activity 2: My Texas Future Scavenger Hunt

Because My Texas Future is a one-stop resource for Texas students planning and preparing for higher education, students should become comfortable navigating the platform and locating key tools. This scavenger hunt is designed as an interactive way for students to explore My Texas Future while building awareness of college and career readiness concepts.

Students work collaboratively to locate information, use filters, and engage with features they will revisit throughout middle school and high school.

Objective: Students will navigate the My Texas Future platform and identify key tools, resources, and information on careers, college planning, and academic preparation.

Materials:

- My Texas Future Scavenger Hunt handout
- Pencil or pen
- Computer or device with internet access
- My Texas Future student account (or exploration without an account, as applicable)

Activity overview:

- Students work in pairs or small groups to complete the scavenger hunt.
- Encourage students to talk through their findings and help one another locate information.
- Remind students that the goal is exploration, not speed, and this activity is about learning how to use the platform.

MY TX FUTURE Scavenger Hunt

Work in pairs or small group to complete the scavenger hunt by navigating through your **My Texas Future** account. Remember that the goal is exploration, not speed, and this activity is about learning how to use the platform.

Use the Career Explorer to find the highest-paying career.	Find the career with the highest projected job growth.	Identify and compare three careers. Circle the one with the highest projected growth.	Name one reason why college matters according to the My Texas Future website.
Explore different types of colleges and add at least one to your favorites. Identify your preferred type of school and explain why.	Name one way that students can earn college credit while still in high school.	Find the <i>build habits</i> page. Identify the habit you think is the most important and explain your choice.	Add the college and career action plans to your favorites. Name one action step you should take this year.
Add the <i>update your resume</i> page to your favorites. Name one part of a resume.	Take the <i>interests quiz</i> . Identify the career cluster you are most interested in.	What should students consider when building a college list?	Identify one exam you may need to prepare for based on your grade level and career interests.

Wrap-Up and Reflection (Optional):

Conclude the activity with a brief discussion or written reflection:

- What tool or feature was most interesting or helpful?
- What surprised you about the careers or college options you explored?
- Which My Texas Future tools do you think you will use again?

This scavenger hunt helps students build confidence using My Texas Future while reinforcing key college and career readiness concepts they will continue to develop throughout the school year.

Activity 3: Career and College Match

Objective: Students will navigate the My Texas Future platform and identify key tools, resources, and information on careers, college planning, and academic preparation.

Materials:

- Pencil or pen
- Computer or device with internet access
- Student My Texas Future account

Lesson structure and activities:

1. Career Selection and Research

Students log in to My Texas Future and perform the following actions:

- Select one career using Career Explorer
- Record these key details:
 - Typical salary range
 - Job growth outlook
 - Education or training required
 - Skills needed

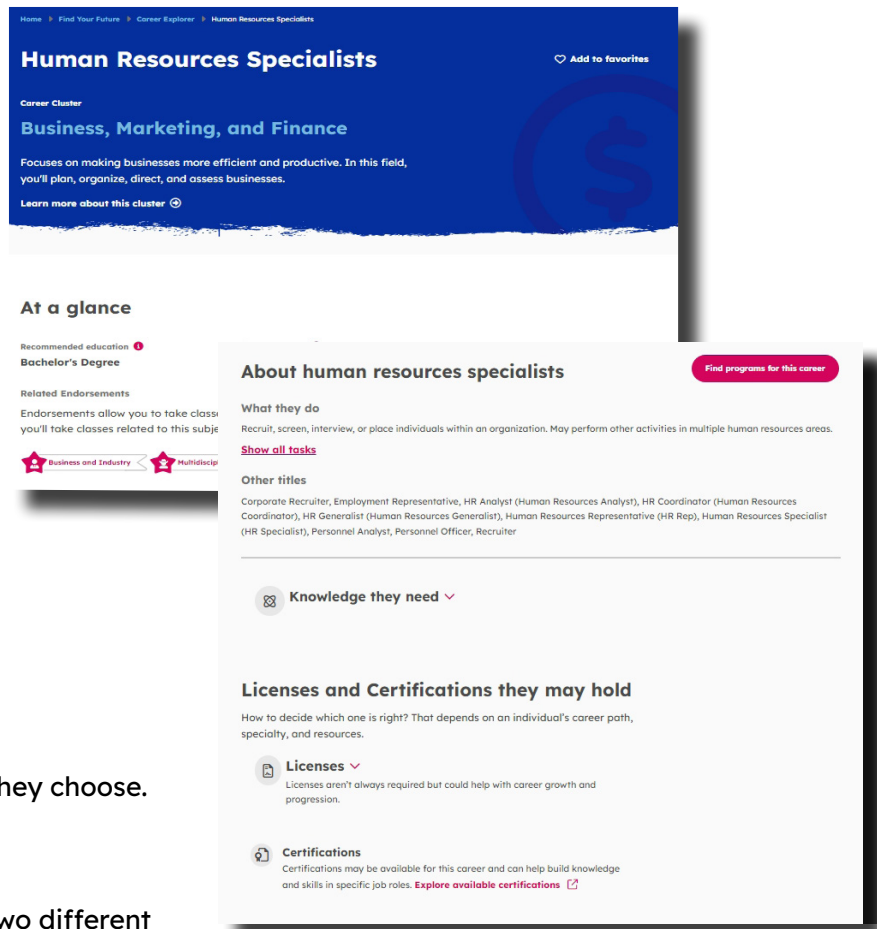
Encourage students to favorite the career they choose.

2. Compare Two Pathways

Using Program Explorer, students identify two different education pathways that could lead to the same career (e.g., community college vs. university, certificate vs. degree).

- For each pathway, students record the following:
- Type of credential
- Length of program
- Cost considerations
- Pros and cons

Students may favorite programs or colleges they want to revisit.





3. Make a Recommendation

Students answer the following questions:

- Which pathway would you recommend and why?
- How does this option connect to your interests, goals, or priorities?
- What is one action step you would take next to move forward?

4. Share and Reflect

Invite volunteers to briefly share their own background:

- Their chosen career
- The pathway they recommended
- One factor that influenced their decision (e.g., cost, time, interests, flexibility)



Educator Tips

- This activity works well in advisory, CCR classes, or after students have completed interest and skills assessments.
- Emphasize that there is rarely one “right” pathway. Students are practicing informed decision-making.



Appendix

Texas OnCourse Academy: My Texas Future Learning Module



The Texas OnCourse Academy's [My Texas Future - Secondary Module](#) provides educators with helpful information and resources that can be used in advising sessions with students and parents.

Resources

- [My Texas Future Learning Institute Sessions](#)
- [Texas OnCourse Website](#)



College and Career Action Plans

My Texas Future: 7th Grade Action Plan

Learn which careers match your interests and how to set yourself up for success in high school.

Fall

Fall is the perfect time to discover how your interests relate to a career. Getting involved in activities and clubs at school can help you explore those interests further.

- ☐ **Discover your interests** – Take a quiz to help you find out what interests you and how those interests relate to a career cluster.
- ☐ **Get involved** – Build skills in and outside the classroom by participating in activities and clubs.
- ☐ **Learn how to pay for college** – Research financial aid, scholarships, loans, and other ways to pay for college.

Spring

In the spring, start tracking your activities and accomplishments by building your resume. Your counselor can help you build a plan and find classes that fit your interests to set you up for success in the future.

- ☐ **Discover new careers** – Use online tools to learn about different careers. Talk to your friends and family about what jobs they have. Play the MiddleGalaxy Career game.
- ☐ **Build your resume** – Create a profile, keep it updated with activities and extracurriculars. Track your accomplishments over time.
- ☐ **Meet with your counselor** – Ask your counselor about earning college credit in middle school. Discover how to earn college credit.

Summer

Even though school's out for the year, you can still make progress by finding an endorsement that fits your interests and goals.

- ☐ **Choose a high school endorsement** – Learn about your endorsement options and choose one that matches your interests and goals.

My Texas Future: 8th Grade Action Plan

Explore careers that match your skills and get involved in activities at your school and in your community.

Fall

As you come back from summer break, learn about career clusters and see what college programs match your career goals.

- ☐ **Connect your interests with a career cluster** – Take, or re-take, a quick quiz to see how your interests match career clusters and if they’ve changed since last year.
- ☐ **Discover college programs** – Explore college programs related to your interests and goals. Build a list of your favorites.
- ☐ **Get involved** – Build skills in and out of the classroom by participating in activities and clubs.

Spring

In the spring, start tracking your activities and accomplishments by building a resume. Learn about high school endorsements and what classes to take to set yourself up for success.

- ☐ **Understand graduation requirements** – Learn about the Texas high school graduation options. See how these options and requirements impact your college and career plans.
- ☐ **Build your resume** – Keep a record of all the cool stuff you do and things you achieve. Create an account to track your activities in your profile.
- ☐ **Plan your high school classes** – Choose an endorsement that matches your interests and goals and make a plan for classes to take.

Summer

Over the summer, prepare for high school and beyond by taking practice exams, exploring military careers, and learning about ways to save for college.

- ☐ **Explore military careers** – Discover what the military has to offer. Consider military options.
- ☐ **Take practice exams** – Take practice exams like the PSAT 8/9 or the PreACT. They will prepare you for the college entrance exams in high school.
- ☐ **Explore ways to pay for college** – Learn about ways to pay for college like savings, scholarships, grants, and loans.

My Texas Future: 9th Grade Action Plan

Find programs and majors that match your career goals and learn about paying for college.

Fall

The fall is a good time to create a plan to take classes that will set you up for success in high school and college.

- ☐ **Discover new careers** – Use the Career Explorer to find careers that match your interests and goals.
- ☐ **Learn why GPA matters** – Find out how your GPA and class rank can help you get accepted to Texas colleges.
- ☐ **Take advanced classes** – Taking advanced classes now will help you get ahead later. AP, Dual Credit and other advanced classes will prepare you for college, and help you stand out when you apply.

Spring

As you start your second semester, begin to learn about colleges and programs. Also, find out how you can pay for these programs using financial aid.

- ☐ **Discover colleges** – It's never too early to attend college fairs or visit schools. Learning what's out there will help you discover what you like.
- ☐ **Build your resume** – Get involved in activities and clubs at school. Create an account to track these accomplishments in your profile.

Summer

Make your summer count by building skills you'll need in college and your career.

- ☐ **Make your summer count** – Take advantage of summer. Try volunteering, a summer job, or learning something new.
- ☐ **Talk to your family about college** – Make sure your family knows about the options available to pay for college.

My Texas Future: 10th Grade Action Plan

Learn about the college application process and continue to build your resume.

Fall

Start the year off by preparing to apply to college with practice entrance exams and building your college readiness skills.

- ☐ **Build your resume** – Add your activities and accomplishments to your profile and start building your resume.
- ☐ **Take advanced classes** – Taking advanced classes now will help you get ahead later. AP, Dual Credit and other advanced classes will prepare you for college, and help you stand out when you apply.
- ☐ **Take practice exams** – Exams like the PSAT and PreACT will help prep you for tests like the SAT and ACT later in high school.

Spring

In the spring, retake career quizzes and explore careers to build a short list of careers you like. Use these as a starting point for exploring college programs.

- ☐ **Retake interest and skills quizzes** – Your interests and skills will change over time. Keep retaking quizzes to learn about new careers you'd enjoy or excel in.
- ☐ **Talk to college reps** – Attend college fairs and tours, and talk to admission reps while you're there. Building a list of schools will help you.
- ☐ **Discover new careers** – Uncover careers that are new-to-you and match your interests and goals.

Summer

During your summer break focus on building a list of colleges that you want to apply to and continue to build your resume by staying involved in activities.

- ☐ **Make summer count** – Learn something new and build your skills through jobs, internships, clubs and activities.
- ☐ **Learn about free money for college** – Explore financial aid options and build a plan to pay for college.

My Texas Future: 11th Grade Action Plan

Understand college and military programs and finalize the list of schools you want to apply to.

Fall

To start the year off, prepare for applying to college by narrowing down your college list and taking practice exams.

- ☐ **Compare college majors** – Use the Program Explorer to find college programs that connect to your career goals.
- ☐ **Build your college list** – Work with your counselor and family to build a list of colleges you want to apply to.
- ☐ **Take the PSAT** – Register for practice exams like the PSAT/NMSQT to prepare for college and gain access to scholarship opportunities.
- ☐ **Step into leadership roles** – Take leadership roles in clubs and community service and update your resume to track accomplishments.

Spring

As you move into the spring semester, prepare materials for your college applications. This is also a great time to build a plan to pay for college costs using financial aid and scholarships.

- ☐ **Update your resume** – Use your list of activities and achievements and update your resume.
- ☐ **Take entrance exams** – Register for the SAT, ACT, TSIA2, and SAT subject tests. Check requirements for schools on your list to see which scores you need to send.
- ☐ **Prepare your college application materials** – Start to draft your college application essays. If needed, request letters of recommendation from teachers.
- ☐ **See where you're accepted before applying** – Get a list of college acceptances before you start your college application process.
- ☐ **Prepare to apply for financial aid** – Discover how to apply for financial aid in your senior year; build a budget that includes all college costs and estimates financial aid.

Summer

Make the most of your time over the summer by preparing to apply to college your senior year. Retake exams as needed, apply for financial aid, and gather application materials.

- ☐ **Apply for scholarships** – Supplement the financial aid you receive with scholarships.
- ☐ **Prepare for college applications** – Gather the materials and information you'll need to apply to college. Narrow down your college list.
- ☐ **Prepare for financial aid applications** – Talk to your parents about applying for financial aid. Make sure they know what financial documents you'll need.

My Texas Future: 12th Grade Action Plan

Submit your college applications and create a plan for how you will pay for college.

Fall

As you start your senior year of high school, gather all the materials you'll need and submit your college applications. Apply for financial aid and scholarships to help pay for your degree.

- ☐ **See where you're accepted before applying** – Get a list of college acceptances before you start your college application.
- ☐ **Retake entrance exams** – Register and retake the SAT or ACT if needed. Send a copy of your scores to the schools you're applying to.
- ☐ **Match your career goals to a major** – Use the Career Explorer to view careers and find related programs that match your goals.
- ☐ **Complete college applications** – Submit applications to schools on your college list. Be sure to have your test scores, transcripts, and resume ready.
- ☐ **Complete financial aid applications** – Review types of financial aid and submit your federal & state financial aid applications.
- ☐ **Apply for scholarships** – Applying for scholarships can also help you pay for college.

Spring

In the spring, check your email often to make sure you submit any extra materials for your applications. Start to build a plan to pay for college costs using financial aid and scholarships.

- ☐ **Review and compare financial aid offers** – Use online tools to compare offers; consider housing and other college costs to see which offer is right for your budget.
- ☐ **Plan for college cost** – Create a plan to cover the cost of college including tuition, housing, books, and more.
- ☐ **Develop skills** – Prepare for entry-level jobs by building soft skills like time management, teamwork, and organization.
- ☐ **Understand student loans** – Learn about types of student loans and complete entrance loan counseling requirement.

Summer

Before you start college in the fall, build the skills you'll need through internships and jobs. Meet with an advisor to make sure you met all requirements to enroll in college.

- ☐ **Prepare for college** – Understand what you need to enroll and start school. Meet with an advisor to make sure you met all requirements.
- ☐ **Explore college life** – Learn how to navigate college life and make the most out of your college experience.
- ☐ **Apply to a job or internship** – Find internships and jobs to help you build skills that can set you up for success in college and the future.

College and Career Readiness Vocabulary Words

The college and career readiness curriculum provides numerous vocabulary words that educators can share with students. The curriculum also includes links to Quizlet resources that offer additional vocabulary practice.

Here are a few examples of vocabulary words that are important for college and career readiness that educators can introduce to their students:

College Readiness

The ability to succeed in first-year college courses without needing extra help.

Career Readiness

The skills and knowledge needed to do well in an entry-level job in your chosen career field.

Growth Mindset

The belief that you can improve your abilities through effort and learning from mistakes.

Self-reflection

The act of thinking about your own actions, progress, and thoughts to understand yourself better.

Intrapersonal Skills

The skills you use to understand and manage yourself.

Interpersonal Skills

The skills you use to communicate and interact effectively with others.

Career Clusters

Groups of jobs and industries that share similar knowledge and skills.

Career Pathways

A series of education and training programs that help you advance in a specific career.

Endorsements

Areas of focused study in high school that give you deeper knowledge and skills for a specific career field.

Median Salary

The middle salary for a job. Half earn more, half earn less.

Projected Growth

How much a job is expected to grow in the future. More growth = more job openings.

In-Demand Careers

Jobs that employers are actively looking to fill right now. College-level work and potentially earn college credit.

Direct Admissions

This simplifies college planning for 12th graders by providing a personalized, annually updated list of Texas colleges where they are likely to be admitted, while still allowing applications to other schools through holistic review.

Program

Structured degree or certificate pathway (associate, bachelor's, technical certificate, etc.) with requirements and outcomes.

Major

Specific field of study you choose within a program..

Postsecondary education

Education or training that takes place after high school, including college, technical school, or workforce training programs.

Certificate

A short-term program that provides specific skills or training for a job or industry.

Associate degree

A college degree typically completed in two years, often offered at community colleges.

Bachelor's degree

A college degree typically completed in four years, offered at universities and some colleges.

Application deadline

The final date by which a college application must be submitted to be considered for admission.

Holistic review

An admissions process that considers more than grades and test scores, such as essays, activities, and personal background.



MY TX FUTURE Scavenger Hunt



Work in pairs or small group to complete the scavenger hunt by navigating through your [My Texas Future](#) account. Remember that the goal is exploration, not speed, and this activity is about learning how to use the platform.

Use the Career Explorer to find the highest-paying career.	Find the career with the highest projected job growth.	Identify and compare three careers. Circle the one with the highest projected growth.	Name one reason why college matters according to the My Texas Future website.
Explore different types of colleges and add at least one to your favorites. Identify your preferred type of school and explain why.	Name one way that students can earn college credit while still in high school.	Find the <i>build habits</i> page. Identify the habit you think is the most important and explain your choice.	Add the <i>college and career action plans</i> to your favorites. Name one action step you should take this year.
Add the <i>update your resume</i> page to your favorites. Name one part of a resume.	Take the <i>interests quiz</i> . Identify the career cluster you are most interested in.	What should students consider when building a college list?	Identify one exam you may need to prepare for based on your grade level and career interests.

Direct Admissions (for high school seniors)

Researching majors, programs of study, degree types, application deadlines, and admissions requirements can feel overwhelming for students and families. Deciding where to apply to colleges and how many can add even more uncertainty to the process.

My Texas Future Direct Admissions helps simplify this step. By creating a My Texas Future profile and entering a few academic details, students can receive a personalized list of Texas colleges where they are likely to qualify for admission. This allows students to approach the college application process with greater clarity and confidence.

By removing much of the guesswork, Direct Admissions helps students focus their time and energy on colleges that are a strong fit, potentially reducing application fees, stress, and missed opportunities.

How to Use Direct Admissions

1. Create a My Texas Future account

Students set up a profile and enter available academic information, such as GPA, class rank, and test scores (if applicable).

2. View Direct Admissions matches

Based on the information provided, students receive a list of participating Texas institutions where they meet the general admission criteria. They can apply to the school(s) of their choice with confidence.

3. Apply with confidence

Students can use this information to make informed decisions about where to apply and proceed with the application process through ApplyTexas or the institution's preferred method.

Important Notes for Educators and Students

- **Direct Admissions is not an application.**

Students must still complete and submit a college application to be considered for admission.

- **Direct Admissions does not limit options.**

If a college does not appear on a student's Direct Admissions list, it does not mean the student cannot be admitted. Students are encouraged to explore and apply to any institutions that interest them.

- **Admission is not guaranteed for specific majors or programs.**

Some majors, especially those that are competitive or capacity-limited, may have additional requirements. Students should follow up directly with colleges for program-specific criteria.

- **Criteria are updated annually.**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) reviews and updates admissions criteria each year to ensure accuracy.

Educator Guidance

Educators can support students by doing the following:

- Framing Direct Admissions as a starting point for college exploration
- Encouraging students to compare Direct Admissions matches with their broader college list
- Reinforcing that college choice should consider academic fit, cost, location, and personal goals—not just eligibility

Resources

- Direct Admissions: [Information for Students and Parents](#) (PDF)
- [Direct Admissions Toolkit](#) (PDF)

Free College Application Week

[Free College Application Week](#) is a statewide initiative that helps Texas residents apply to participating Texas colleges and universities without an application fee. Established by Senate Bill 2231 during the 89th Texas Legislative Session, public colleges and universities in Texas are required to waive undergraduate admission application fees for eligible Texas residents who submit their applications through ApplyTexas during Free College Application Week. Together, [My Texas Future](#), [ApplyTexas](#), [Direct Admissions](#), and Free College Application Week help simplify the college application process and reduce financial barriers for students.

When is it?

Free College Application Week takes place each year during the second full week of October (Monday to Sunday). Applications must be submitted through ApplyTexas by 11:59 p.m. (CDT) on the last day of Free College Application Week to qualify for the application fee waiver. Applications that are started but not submitted by the deadline are not eligible.

Who can participate?

Texas residents applying for undergraduate admission at Texas public institutions through ApplyTexas are eligible to participate. This includes first-time college students and transfer students. Students should review any institution-specific admission requirements before applying. For details on residency status, see the [Texas Residency Guidelines](#).

Additional Resources

- [Free College Application Week Toolkit](#)
- [Free College Application Week FAQs](#)
- [Adopted Rules Title 19](#)
- [Ways to Share with K-12 Students and Families](#)