


COLLEGE SEARCHES AND COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

How to Navigate the Process

A series of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right, located on the right side of the slide.


HOW DO I DO A COLLEGE SEARCH?

- ▶ First think about what kind of college you're interested in.
 - ▶ Criteria to consider:
 - ▶ Type (2-year, 4-year, or trade school)
 - ▶ Location (close to home or far away)
 - ▶ Size (small, medium, large)
 - ▶ Public or private, religious, liberal arts, etc.
 - ▶ Cost
 - ▶ Available majors
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HOW DO I DO A COLLEGE SEARCH?

- ▶ The internet has many resources for college searches.
- ▶ KISD's CCMR website: <https://www.kellerisd.net/Page/6473>
- ▶ Another good one is www.collegeboard.org/collegesearch
 - ▶ Also look at: <https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/your-best-fit-colleges/>
<https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/>
- ▶ If you're interested in Texas schools only, this one is great too: <https://www.comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/msp/>
- ▶ There are websites where you can search for schools by major, like doctors, nurses, or engineering, to name a few.


CHECK ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Under the admissions or prospective student tab, there will be information on a college's admission requirements.
 - ▶ There you can find out what ACT/SAT score they require based on your GPA and/or rank, if they're not test optional.
 - ▶ This can help you determine if this is a safety school or a reach school for you.
 - ▶ Top 10% rule (UT is top 6%)
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OTHER RESEARCH OPTIONS

- ▶ Speak to an admissions counselor at schools you are considering
 - ▶ Ask for information on what criteria they look for in an applicant and change yourself accordingly (ie: join more clubs, take a more challenging schedule, do community service)
 - ▶ Put yourself on their mailing list
 - ▶ Go visit the college (or do a virtual tour if this isn't feasible)
 - ▶ Read over their website for more information
 - ▶ Find out if your dual credit or AP credits will transfer
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HOW DO I APPLY?

- ▶ Most college applications consist of 3 main parts:
 - the application (including the application fee)
 - your official transcript
 - your official ACT and/or SAT scores (if required)
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HOW DO I APPLY?

- ▶ Some colleges require other pieces such as:
 - recommendation letters
 - essays (usually a part of the application)
 - counselor reports
 - teacher reports
 - interviews (usually for elite schools or students under review)
 - auditions or portfolios (for special programs such as music or art)
 - anything else a school deems necessary to their application process
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HOW DO I APPLY?

- ▶ Applications are online in several formats:
 - ▶ Texas public universities: www.applytexas.org
 - ▶ Private universities, both in and out of Texas: www.commonapp.org
 - ▶ Coalition app or HCBU app
 - ▶ University websites: if a school doesn't use Apply Texas or Common App, they will have their own application. You can find it under prospective students, incoming freshmen, or similar wording.


HOW DO I ORDER A TRANSCRIPT?

- ▶ To order an official transcript, go to <https://kellertx.scriborder.com/>.
 - ▶ To view and print your unofficial transcript, go to your Aeries student portal.
 - ▶ Also, don't forget that you will need to send a final official transcript to whichever college you decide to go to at the end of senior year.
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HOW DO I SEND MY SAT/ACT SCORES?

- ▶ If you list your college(s) before or on test day, you can send your scores for free.
 - ▶ If you wait till after test day, they will charge you per score report.
 - ▶ Some students choose to wait so they can see the test scores they send.
 - ▶ Log in to your ACT Student or College Board account and click on “send test scores,” and it will walk you through the process.
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WHICH SCORES SHOULD I SEND?

- ▶ Most colleges don't care if you send ACT or SAT scores. Either is fine.
 - ▶ A college only needs one test score—ACT or SAT, but some students send more than one in case the college superscores.
 - ▶ What is superscoring?
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COLLEGE ESSAYS

- What is an admissions office looking for in an essay?
 - Your essay is the main way the college admissions officers get to know you personally aside from your GPA and test scores.
 - Imagine reading hundreds of essays. What would make an essay interesting to you?
 - Think of an opening line, then an opening paragraph, that will grab the reader right away and make them want to read on.
 - Tell them something they won't see anywhere else in your application.
 - You want to show them your personality, allow them a glimpse into who you are as a person, and let them see what you want to do with your life.
 - Always have an adult proofread your essay, and use spellcheck.

RESUMES

- ▶ Feel free to browse the internet for a resume template you like. Using a template is a good idea, but be careful with the template you choose.
- ▶ You can use Microsoft Office or Google Docs resume templates. Some are better than others.
- ▶ Other places to find templates:
 - ▶ <https://resumegenius.com/resume-templates>
 - ▶ <https://templates.office.com/en-us/Simple-resume-TM00002110>

SAMPLE RESUMES

Jane Smith

123 Main Street Keller, Texas 76248

khsstudent@kellerhigh.com

Education

8/2007-present Keller Central Fossil Timber High School Keller, TX

Work Experience

2/2008-5/2009 Keller Burgers (Keller, TX) 8 hrs/week

Cashier

- Took customer orders and prepared food for drive-thru

6/2009-present Keller Family Dentist (Keller, TX) 15 hrs/week

Intern

- Greeted patients; made phone calls for appointment reminders
- Filed and organized office

Community Service

4/2008-3/2009 Keller Homeless Shelter (Keller, TX) 3 hrs/week

Volunteer

- Served meals to the homeless 3 nights a week

11/2008-8/2010 Keller Nursing Home (Keller, TX) 1 hr/week

Volunteer

- Visited and read to nursing home residents

Activities

9th-12th Keller Central Fossil Timber High Student Council 2 hrs/week, 36 weeks/year

Member (9th-10th grade), Secretary (11th-12th grade—elected)

- Helped organize many student activities such as blood drives

9th-12th Keller Central Fossil Timber High Volleyball Team 10 hrs/week, 18 weeks/year

JV Team (9th-10th grade) and Varsity (11th-12th grade)

- Earned district champions trophy 11th grade year

10th-12th Keller City Church 1 hr/week

Sunday School Teacher

- Taught 3rd and 4th grade Sunday school

Honors and Awards

10th Letter K Award

- Earned highest score on world history test

11th Gold Award

- Chosen by teacher for outstanding attitude in class

12th Volleyball Team Captain

- Elected by teammates

Skills, Talents, and Achievements

Languages

- Fluent in Spanish

Musical Instruments

- Self-taught on piano; play at church and in school jazz band

Computer Skills

- Proficient in Microsoft Office and Photoshop

AMANDA LACY

125 S. Lakewood Drive, Keller TX, 76248

Email: amanda.lacy@gmail.com | (817) 742-1234

OBJECTIVE | Reliable and hard-working high school senior with advanced studies in Engineering. Seeking an entry level internship position in Engineering that will allow me to learn and observe the skills required to advance my career and education

EDUCATION | **TIMBER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL**, 12350 TIMBERLAND BLVD, FORT WORTH, TX 76244
GRADUATION DATE: JUNE 2016 • GPA 3.87

Currently taking AP & PRE-AP classes and an active member in **SkillsUSA**

PROGRAM OF STUDY: ENGINEERING/STEM

ANTICIPATED GRADUATION

CLASS OF 2016

EMPLOYMENT

 | **KOHL'S DEPARTMENT STORE**

8/23/15 - PRESENT

Customer Service Counter Representative – responsible for providing great customer service, assist with customer inquiries, and answer multi line phone system

SKILL 3 | Software: Adobe Premiere, AutoCAD, Microsoft Office, **ModelSim**, Pro/Engineer and **ReadIt**. Language: Spoken/Written – English & Spanish

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

 | **ROBOTIC & CLUB**

8/23/14- PRESENT

Active competition team member who enjoys working side by side with industry members that assist in facilitating technology for our contest robots

SKILL 3 USA

AUGUST 2011- PRESENT

Junior Class Chapter Secretary and active competitor in Robotics

2015 – District 4 Gold Medal Winner – Robotics Team Event

CERTIFICATION 3

 | OSHA-10 Hour General Certification

Microsoft Office – Word and Excel Certification

Work Force Ready –Customer Service Certification - **SkillsUSA**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

 | **RELAY FOR LIFE**


MAY 2015

Assisted with set-up and tear-down of event and worked at various stations providing water to runners


REFERENCE 3

 | AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST


RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

- ▶ Many college and scholarship applications require one or more recommendation letter.
 - ▶ You want to choose people who can tell anecdotal stories about you and who have known you for a significant amount of time.
 - ▶ It is customary to give recommenders at least two weeks to write your letter. When you ask them to do so, you will want to include your resume and possibly answers to some of the questions listed on your handout.
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APPLICATION COMPLETE?

- ▶ Once your college receives all required parts of your application, it will go into the complete pile for review by an admissions counselor.
 - ▶ Colleges handle notifying students of admission, denial, wait-list, articulation agreement, etc, in different ways, including rolling admissions or a set date for notifications.
 - ▶ You can still send things to update your file, like new test scores or an updated transcript with 7th semester grades on it.
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APPLICATION COMPLETE?

- ▶ If your application requires recommendation letters or other things you are dependent on other people to send, give those people plenty of notice to complete them and then make sure to follow up with them to make sure the items are submitted.
 - ▶ Also many colleges offer an online way to check your application status and missing items. For some schools, this is also where you may find information on your acceptance.
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STUDENT ATHLETE?

- ▶ If you are planning to participate in D1 or D2 sports in college, don't forget to take care of all the NCAA or NAIA requirements.
 - ▶ Work with your counselor to make sure you meet all course requirements, register with NCAA or NAIA, and send your transcript and test scores.
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DEADLINES!!!!!!

- ▶ Make sure you pay close attention to deadlines for applications for admissions and scholarships. Colleges do not extend deadlines for anyone!
 - ▶ The earlier you apply, the better your chance for admission and scholarship money.
 - ▶ Pay special attention to early decision/early action dates.
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NOW WHAT?

- ▶ After you finish your admissions applications, it's not over! Then you will need to start on scholarships and financial aid. We will tackle that subject next month.
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QUESTIONS?

