



Ganado High School
Senior Guide
Class of 2019

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Senior Guide Compiled by:
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ASSURANCE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of (Ganado ISD) not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national Origin, sex, age or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972: and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Es norma de (Ganado ISD) no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen national, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o activades vocacionales, tal como lo repuieren eo T tulo VI de Ley de Deprechos Civiles de 1964, seg n emienda: el T tulo IX de las Emmiendas en la Educaci n, de 1972, y la Ley de Rehabilitaci n de 1973, seg n enmeinda.

SENIOR CALENDAR CHECK LIST

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- _____ **CHECK** your schedule of classes for the fall semester.
- _____ **MEET** with the counselor to review your records, if you have any questions.
- _____ **SUBMIT** a resume to the counselor as needed for reference letters.
- _____ **REGISTER** to take the SAT or ACT, if you have not done so, or if you wish to retake the test in hopes of making a higher score.
- _____ **REDUCE** your preliminary college list to approximately three.
- _____ **COMPLETE** the Texas Common Application at www.applytexas.org or the appropriate admissions application to the college(s) of your choice.
- _____ **CHECK** college catalogs or go online for deadline dates for applications, admissions, housing, financial aid, required entrance exam (ACT/SAT) and acceptable financial aid forms (FFS or FAF and FAFSA).
- _____ **BEGIN** processing appropriate forms listed above.
- _____ **FILE** your application in time to meet deadlines. If you are a candidate for early decision for college admissions, meet those deadlines. Also be sure to check the last acceptable test date for an early decision candidate.
- _____ **SCHEDULE** college visits. Call or email ahead of time for an appointment.
- _____ **Plan** to listen carefully to the daily announcements and check your email on a daily basis
- _____ **APPLY** for an FSA ID at www.fafsa.ed.gov for financial aid. One parent or legal guardian and the senior must apply.
- _____ **ASK** your parents for their income tax information from the most recent tax year.

OCTOBER

- _____ **MAKE** sure that you sign and date your federal financial aid application and send it in as soon as possible after **October 1st**.
- _____ **If your college application(s) require a transcript, teacher** or counselor recommendation, be sure to request these items from the appropriate person at least **two weeks** before the college(s) require them.
- _____ **If college is not in your career plans**, you should begin procedures for

other placement options. Prepare a resume for job placement and interviews.

_____ **REGISTER** to take SAT II (Achievement tests), if needed.

_____ **REGISTER** for other college entrance tests as needed.

NOVEMBER

_____ **WATCH DEADLINES** for college admissions, housing, and financial aid applications.

_____ **CONTINUE** to study hard because your senior year grades are very important and continue to show your academic success.

DECEMBER

_____ **Take and pass the appropriate STAAR test** if you have not already done so.

_____ **CHECK** your second semester schedule. Be sure you are meeting requirements for high school graduation.

_____ **LOOK** over your timeline to be sure you have completed each step in the college admissions process.

_____ **REQUEST** your SAT or ACT scores be sent to all colleges to which you have applied. If you did not list them when you registered for the test, you will need to log into your college board or ACT account and request them to be sent. There may be a fee to send your scores. The counseling office can help you with this request.

JANUARY

_____ **COMPLETE** scholarship and college entrance applications if you have not already done so.

_____ **REGISTER** for a college placement test, if you have not already done so.

_____ **CHECK** with the counselor for college, scholarship and financial aid applications.

FEBRUARY

_____ **AVOID SENIORITIS!! Grades are still very important.**

_____ **CONTINUE** to listen to announcements and check the scholarship bulletin shared in your google drive and posted on the website.

_____ **WATCH** for any deposit deadlines for college (i.e. on campus housing).

MARCH/APRIL

_____ **CONTINUE** to listen to announcements and check the scholarship bulletin shared in your google drive and posted on the website.

_____ **COLLEGES** begin sending admissions decisions and financial aid awards. Carefully review all admissions acceptance and financial aid award notices and call the colleges if you have any questions.

_____ **NOTIFY** the counselor of any scholarship received for recognition at graduation.

_____ **DOUBLE CHECK** deadlines for local scholarships and mail/turn in all applications on time.

MAY

_____ **MAKE** final college choices, if you have not already done so.

_____ **NOTIFY** the counselor of your final college choice and whether you have been awarded any scholarships or grants (academic, artistic, drama, or musical).

_____ **PREPARE** and study for final exams.

_____ **REQUEST** a final transcript be sent to your college choice.

_____ **Graduate** high school and continue to plan your postsecondary future.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Most colleges require that students take a college entrance exam. Standardized college admissions tests assist colleges in evaluating students who come from various sections of the country and schools with diversified marking systems and standards. Most colleges require one or more of the following tests:

***ACT or *SAT**

***SAT II: Subject Tests**

*Fee waivers are available for qualifying students. Students on free/reduced lunch, who are wards of the state, and who receive public assistance may meet eligibility. Check with your counselor for further eligibility criteria.

AND

TSI Assessment

The law requires all entering college students to be assessed for college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing. However, students may not have to test if they fall into any of the following categories, although each institution may have additional requirements. Contact your current or prospective Public University, Community College, State College, or Technical College if you think you may qualify.

Students who meet qualifying standards on certain tests are TSI exempt:

- **STAAR** Minimum score of 4000 on English 3 and Algebra 2
- **ACT** **23** composite, minimum **19** on both the English and Math
- **SAT** **1070** minimum of **500** Verbal and **500** Math

STAAR scores are valid for five years from the date of testing.

SAT and ACT scores are valid for five years from the date of testing.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM DATES

2018-2019

ACT TEST DATES

Test Dates in the U.S., U.S. Territories, and Canada

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
September 8, 2018	August 10, 2018	August 26, 2018
October 2 (ACT District Testing)	September 21	
October 27, 2018	September 28, 2018	October 14, 2018
December 8, 2018	November 2, 2018	November 19, 2018
February 9, 2019	January 11, 2019	January 18, 2019
April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019	March 25, 2019
June 8	May 3, 2019	May 20, 2019

All fees are nonrefundable unless otherwise noted.

Test Fees

ACT (No Writing) \$50.50

Includes reports for you, your high school, and up to four college choices (if valid codes are provided when you register).

ACT (Plus Writing) \$67.00

Includes reports for you, your high school, and up to four college choices (if valid codes are provided when you register). The Writing Test fee is refundable, on written request, if you are absent on test day or switch to the ACT (No Writing) before testing begins.

Register at: <http://www.act.org/>

ACT FEE WAIVER

ACT—fee waivers are available see Mrs. Lesak for eligibility criteria or visit www.act.org.

**College Entrance Exam Dates
2018-2019
SAT TEST DATES**

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (Online)
October 6, 2018	September 7, 2018	September 18, 2018
November 3, 2018	October 5, 2018	October 16, 2018
December 1, 2018	November 2, 2018	November 13, 2018
March 6 (SAT School Day)	TBD	
March 9, 2019	February 8, 2019	February 19, 2019
May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019	April 16, 2019
June 1, 2019	May 3, 2019	May 14, 2019

See Mrs. Lesak for SAT Subject test dates or view them at www.collegeboard.org.

Test Fees

SAT Registration without essay	\$47.50
SAT Registration with essay	\$64.50

Includes reports for you, your high school, and up to four college choices (if valid codes are provided when you register).

Register at: <https://www.collegeboard.org/>

SAT FEE WAIVER

SAT—fee waivers available see Mrs. Lesak for eligibility criteria or visit www.collegeboard.com

TSI Assessment Placement Exams

For more information on the new TSI Assessment and fees, contact the schools you wish to apply to. The Ganado HS Counseling office will offer the TSI on select dates to be announced. Students may also take the TSI test WCJC. See Mrs. Lesak for more information or visit the WCJC testing center website at: <https://www.wcjc.edu/Admissions/testing/>.

FINANCIAL AID

www.fafsa.ed.gov

APPLY FOR A FSA ID (<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>)

You will need your social security number and one parent/legal guardian's social security number. If that person already has a FSA ID for another student, they will not request another. Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7ihhGk8mCY&feature=youtu.be> for a video tutorial of how to request an FSA ID.

Recognizing the critical necessity of having well-educated citizens to make society and the economy prosper, federal and state governments and colleges provide financial aid to help qualified students. Keep in mind that you can afford to go to college and you can find a way. The keys are to begin early and to understand the process.

1. Determine the total cost of attending each of the colleges you are considering. This includes:
 - ✓ Tuition and fees
 - ✓ Books and supplies
 - ✓ Room and board
 - ✓ Transportation and trips home
 - ✓ Personal expenses (laundry, clothing, etc.)
2. Investigate all possible resources of financial aid:
 - ✓ Parents
 - ✓ Savings
 - ✓ Summer earnings
 - ✓ Scholarships
 - ✓ Grants
 - ✓ Work-study
 - ✓ Loans
3. Be aware that at many colleges the payment plan is gradual and can be spread out over the semester.
4. Secure necessary financial aid forms and meet all deadlines. All colleges require the Free Application For Federal Student Aid Form (FAFSA). This application is available on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
5. The application should be completed as early as possible after October 1 of the senior year. Colleges use the information provided on the form to determine a student's financial "need", the difference between what a student and his/her parents are expected to contribute toward the student's education and the total cost of the education.

FINANCIAL AID

6. To complete the FAFSA each student will need:
- ✓ Their Social Security Number
 - ✓ Their Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
 - ✓ Their federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned if any along with parents W-2s and other records of money earned. (**Note:** You may be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.) To use the Retrieval tool you must provide the address used when filing your taxes.
 - ✓ Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
 - ✓ Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
 - ✓ An FSA ID (for student and parent) to sign electronically
7. Scholarships are also an important part of the financial aid package that may be offered to a student. Some sources which should be investigated for scholarships include:
- ✓ Specific departments of a university (engineering, drama, computer science, business, etc.)
 - ✓ The athletic department of a specific institution. (**SEE YOUR COACH FOR SPECIFICS.**)
 - ✓ **LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS** become available during the spring of the students' senior year (typically January-April).

REMEMBER: No one will offer you a scholarship unless they know you want or need the money. **YOU MUST APPLY.** It is your responsibility to listen to the daily announcements and check your scholarship bulletin regularly for new scholarships and adhere to deadlines.

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN COLLEGE SPORTS?

(All students must register with NCAA to check eligibility status.)

Registrants may access the site at www.eligibilitycenter.org. From the home page, click on "Enter Here" for NCAA college-bound student-athletes, then on the "New Account" link in the upper right corner. From there, complete the registration process and request your high school transcript be sent to the NCAA.

Register to take the ACT, SAT or both and use the NCAA Eligibility Center Code "9999" as a score recipient.

Fee Waivers for the application fee may be available, see Mrs. Lesak for more information.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Entrance requirements vary from college to college. It is **YOUR** responsibility to determine the admission criteria of the college you are interested in attending. Entrance requirements for any college are readily available in the college catalogues, on line, or from your counselor. Common admissions criteria may include one or more of the following:

- Graduation from an accredited high school
- College Entrance Exam (ACT or SAT) score
- Subject area tests in specified areas of study (SAT II)
- Completion of specific courses in high school

Once you have made a decision regarding which college you wish to attend, you will need to initiate your admission process. The COMMON APPLICATION is used for most Texas four year public colleges or universities. This application is available online at <https://www.applytexas.org>, with a list of which colleges accept it, criteria that must be met, as well as financial aid information.

APPLY EARLY! BE ACCURATE AND COMPLETE! MEET DEADLINES!

The following is a brief summary of the steps to follow in the admissions process:

- ✓ Accurately complete the admission application. Watch for deadlines.
- ✓ Include the application fee, if required. Since this fee is non-refundable, it is advisable to narrow your choices before applying.
- ✓ Request an official transcript from the counseling office to mail with the application fee.
- ✓ Take the appropriate college entrance exams.
- ✓ Apply early for housing as this often requires a separate application.

- ✓ Apply for financial aid (after October 1st).
- ✓ Fee waivers are available. See your counselor for criteria.

ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Colleges and universities have varying admission practices. Information pertaining to the policy of a prospective school will be found in its publications. Some of the most frequently mentioned practices are:

- **EARLY DECISION** - Students who have demonstrated sound academic ability apply for admission to their first choice college during the summer or very early in their senior year. Notification of admission is given usually in December or January. Restrictive policies vary with each school and must be checked carefully to see if early decision works to the individual's advantage.

This plan is binding. **If you apply for an early decision, you also sign a commitment to attend if accepted and withdraw all other applications.** You should apply under an early admission plan only if you know that you can make a well-reasoned, first-choice decision.

- **EARLY ACTION** - This plan does not require a commitment to matriculate. There are certain schools that have single choice early action (Stanford, Yale, and Harvard). If you apply to those schools, you must adhere to their restriction about applying early to other schools. This plan allows the applicant to compare admissions and financial aid offers.
- **WAIT LIST** This process allows institutions to initially delay an offer or deny admission. If you are on a wait list you are extended the possibility of admission in the future.
- **REGULAR DECISION** This is a plan in which institutions review most of their applications before notifying the majority of candidates of their admission. Colleges set a deadline for completing applications and respond to completed applications by a specified date.
- **ROLLING ADMISSIONS** This application process allows colleges to review applications as they are received and offers decisions to applicants as soon as the application has been processed.
- **DEFERRED ADMISSION** High school seniors are guaranteed admission to college a year after graduation.
- **OPEN ADMISSION** Students are accepted upon application (usually community colleges). Some programs in these same schools may have more selective admissions.

TIPS FOR COMPLETING COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

As you think about your folder circulating among an admissions committee, consider the following:

Be aware that along with your application, colleges review:

- Your academic transcript for grades 9-11 as well a list of your senior course load. Special attention is given to your grades, your grade pattern, your overall grade point average, the courses you have taken, and your class rank.
- ACT/SAT performance can be helpful in supporting your academic record. (Check your colleges requirements.)
- Some consider extracurricular activities, recommendations, the applicant's personal essay, personal interview, alumni connections, and personal strengths.
- Read every word of the directions before you even print your name.
- Make a Xerox copy and use as a work sheet.

Applying online:

- Always print a copy of your application prior to sending it online.
- Give a copy to your counselor with the forms she needs to complete.
- Avoid filing online the week before the application deadline. This is the most risky time to file because of volume and likelihood of system failure.
- Always call or email the college within 14 days to verify receipt of your online application.
- Demonstrate your best work -something of which you are proud.
- Essays should be error-free, thoughtful, logical and organized. Use comfortable vocabulary. Be yourself. The essay should say something the rest of the application doesn't say - elaborate on a talent, an interest, and thoughts on a world or local problem, a personal accomplishment. Stay within the length limit for the essay. Admissions officers have limited time, and lots of essays to review.
- Do not write what you think the admissions office wants to hear. The committee reading your application wants to know you - whatever you think and do. No matter how ordinary you may feel your folder represents a different individual from all others.
- Use specific examples when describing your interests and achievements. Explain your involvement - why things you chose to discuss are important to you. It is better to emphasize the degree of involvement in a few activities than a long list of superficial interests.
- Why are you going to college? To learn? To learn what? Why? A college should be convinced that you truly want an education. Avoid simplistic answers and reasons. If you want to be an engineer, for example, cite some experience from your own life and thought that led you to this present choice.

- If humor is a part of your style, feel free to use it. Avoid sarcasm.
- Typing or printing is acceptable. In some cases, you will be required to write an essay in your own handwriting. Neatness and legibility are obviously essential.
- Proofread. Spelling errors are unacceptable.

!Proofread again!

THE ETIQUETTE OF ASKING FOR A RECOMMENDATION

1. Ask the teacher in person.
2. Ask in such a way that the teacher is free to decline your invitation if he/she feels a strong, positive letter is not possible. (Would you be willing to write a college letter of recommendation for me?)
3. Ask the teacher as soon as possible: Oct. 1 for early applications and January at the latest. You do not have to have a finalized list before you ask. Ask your teachers to write a letter for you and then attach a copy to whatever form(s) you eventually provide.
4. Make sure you fill out the student section of the form before giving the form to the teacher.
5. You may help the writer by suggesting a theme or focus for the letter and providing a list of your activities.
6. Provide a resume for your counselor and others from whom you request a letter of recommendation. (See the sample resume)
7. **If a teacher must mail your recommendation make sure you provide a stamped, addressed envelope for each letter you want sent.**
8. Write a note of thanks to the writer of your recommendation(s).
9. When you hear from the colleges, make sure you inform the teachers who wrote for you the results of your application. Remember that they have something invested in your college process.
10. Above all, remember that writing a good letter of recommendation requires a significant amount of time, time that is above and beyond the call of duty. Make sure that you stay on top of deadlines and paperwork, so that you do not make unnecessary work for the teacher and so that writing of the recommendation is as uncomplicated as possible.

(Sample Resume format)

**YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS
YOUR PHONE NUMBER**

Educational Background

2015-2019

Ganado High School
501 West Devers
Ganado, Texas 77962

College and Career Plans:

Basic Educational Statistics:

GPA:
Class Rank:
Graduation Date:
ACT/SAT score:

Awards, Achievements, and Honors (list by year)

2015-2019

List: Academic Awards
Leadership Awards
Music Awards
Sports Awards.

Extracurricular Activities (list by year)

2015-2019

List: Clubs, Sports, etc.

Religious Activities (if applicable list by year)

2015-2019

Community Service (list by year)

2015-2019

Example: Christmas baskets, blood drive, etc

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QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGE REPS

Consider taking a college day to tour your prospective campus. Use the following list of questions to gain more information about the school you wish to attend.

Admission

- Am I eligible for admissions?
- What tests are required?
- What are the deadlines?
- What high school course preparation is needed?
- What academic demands can I expect to find? How intense is the academic atmosphere (average hours spent studying, library full on weekends, avg. SAT, ACT scores)?
- What high school credits in advanced courses qualify you for advanced placement?
- What scores are needed?
- What percentage of students return after their freshman year?

Cost

- How much will it cost?
- What kind of financial aid is available and how do I apply?

Majors and Study Programs Available

- Does the school offer the major I want?
- Is the school strong in science, fine arts, the humanities, my areas?
- How many students are in my area of interest?
- What courses are included in a typical freshman program?
- If I am undecided, will I have the chance to explore some areas of interest?
- Does the school have any kind of internship program, co-op, etc.?

Social Life

- What is the dorm life like?
- What extracurricular activities are available?
- Is the college a part of the surrounding community or set apart from it as a self-contained unit? If rural, how far to the nearest town and how do students get there?
- What method of transportation do students use to get around campus?

Housing

- How difficult is it to get on-campus housing?
- Do all freshmen live in dorms?
- What is the cost?
- How do I apply? Is it a separate process from the admission application?

CAREER OPTIONS

If selecting another option rather than college after graduation, the following information should be helpful for you.

- **BEGINNING THE SEARCH**

Visit the web or use your career cruising account to discover the opportunities that are available to you which do not require a four-year college degree.

- **SOME POSSIBLE CAREER OPTIONS NOT REQUIRING A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE:**

- ✓ **MILITARY CAREER**

The military is not an alternative to an education. It is a means to an education. It has something to offer almost anyone. Whatever your goals or plans for the future, whether they be medical, mechanical, administrative, or technical, whether those plans involve college for a career or going right into a career out of high school, the military-active or reserve-could help you achieve these goals.

- ✓ **CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

Area junior colleges (WCJC and Victoria College) offer a number of specialized programs that can be completed in less than two years. These are designed for the person who is not planning to complete a four year college degree but wants to learn a marketable skill and secure immediate employment. Many of these can be used as the first step to an Associate Degree:

APPLIANCE REPAIR
AUTO BODY REPAIRS
AUTO MECHANICS
CLERK TYPIST
COSMETOLOGY
DIAGONISTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY
DIESEL MECHANIC

DRAFTING TECHNOLOGY
EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIALIST
MACHINE SHOP
RESPIRATORY THERAPY
SURGICAL THERAPY
VOCATIONAL NURSE EDUCATION
WELDING

OTHER POSSIBILITIES:

APPRENTICESHIPS
ON-THE-JOB MANAGEMENT TRAINING
VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOOLS (ITT, TSTC)
EMPLOYMENT/WORK

SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

The following are some hints that might prove helpful in completing the admissions process:

- ✓ Keep your grades up your senior year. All college acceptances are conditional on the successful completion of your second semester.
- ✓ Remember, the published "average ACT or SAT scores" are just that—"average." If you feel your academic record is solid, do not let fear of rejection stop you from applying to the school of your choice.
- ✓ If you are dissatisfied with your ACT or SAT scores, try again. Colleges usually accept your highest score.
- ✓ Investigate the possibility of attending community colleges as a preliminary step to your education.
- ✓ If you intend to seek sorority or fraternity affiliation, know in advance how much time you will be expected to devote to non-academic requirements.