



# TEXAS CTE *In Action*

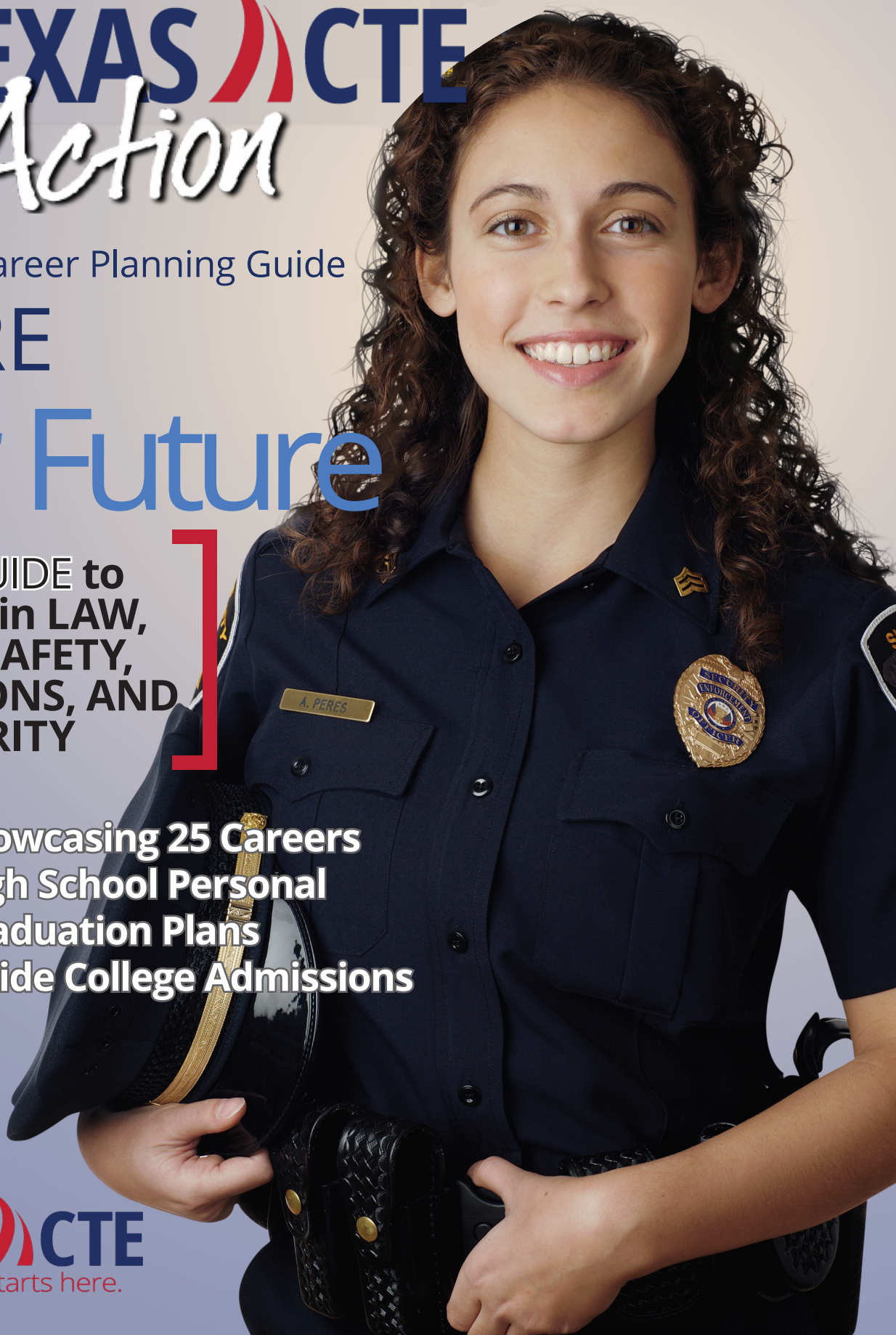
A College and Career Planning Guide

## SECURE

# Your Future

**YOUR GUIDE to  
CAREERS in LAW,  
PUBLIC SAFETY,  
CORRECTIONS, AND  
SECURITY**

- Showcasing 25 Careers
- High School Personal Graduation Plans
- Inside College Admissions





# Dear Texas Student,

**Y**ou are probably tired of people asking, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Some students know exactly what they want to do, but most haven’t got a clue. The idea of choosing a career is intimidating, and it feels like it’s far in the future. There’s little time in the commotion of classes, activities, sports, work, and fun to think about what career you want to pursue after graduation from high school or college.

It pays, though, to take the time to think about your future career. The truth is that you’ll save a lot of time and money if you have a direction in life, as opposed to just finishing high school and worrying about it later. It’s really a matter of dollars and sense. If you choose a career direction now, you can select classes and activities that will make you highly marketable—and highly paid—when you look for work. And it only makes sense to have an idea of what you want to do rather than just wandering aimlessly through school.

Nobody wants that. Not your parents. Not your teachers. Not your friends. They want you to be somebody.

They want you to use your talents, follow your interests, and pursue your ambitions to become great at what you love to do in life. That’s what you should want, too.

So the time is right to take charge of your life and think about the future. You need a plan of action for how to get from where you are today to where you want to be in a few years: starting out on a personally and professionally rewarding career.

**YOU’VE HEARD  
THAT ‘INFORMATION  
IS POWER.’ WELL,  
THIS GUIDE IS  
POWER. IT PUTS YOU  
IN CHARGE OF YOUR  
FUTURE.**

That’s what Texas CTE is all about. The guide you are holding is one of 16 guides to different career clusters. It is designed to help you make smarter decisions about your education and career options.

You’ve heard the phrase, “Information is power.” Well, this guide is power. It puts you squarely in charge of your future, from creating High School Personal Graduation Plans (see page 5) to choosing college or some other form of education or training after high school. Work with your parents, teachers, and counselors to make decisions, but remind everyone that it is your future at stake and that you are taking charge of it.

Get information. Get a plan. Get a clue about your career direction. It’s alright if that direction changes; choosing a direction now is better than having no direction at all. Just promise yourself that you’ll make smart choices about where to focus your time, energy, and passion.

We’re proud that you are taking steps to plan your career direction, and we pledge that your school, teachers, and counselors will do all they can to help you make wise choices on your plans for success. We wish you the best of luck on your journey.





# Job Security

Jobs in this field concern the important daily duties of protecting and serving the public. What folks in these careers crave is peace and quiet—that means that people and property are safe. As homeland security has become more and more of a concern, demand for people to protect sites as varied as skyscrapers and seaports, airports and reservoirs, and nuclear power plants and military bases has skyrocketed. If you have a calling to serve others, can keep a cool head under pressure, or love the law, then a career in Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security could be the right decision for you.

## HOT Career Areas

Texas has launched a strategic plan that targets state efforts on six industry clusters that economists say will be the engines of economic growth in Texas. As you plan your future, think about a career in one of these new and emerging sectors.

- Advanced Technologies & Manufacturing
  - Molecular technologist
  - Sensor/robotics engineer
- Aerospace & Defense
  - Aerospace engineer
  - Unmanned autonomous vehicle engineer
- Biotechnology & Life Sciences
  - Bioinformatics specialist
  - Biocontainment technician
- Information & Computer Technology
  - System integrator
  - Computer game developer
- Petroleum Refining & Chemical Products
  - Petrochemical engineer
  - Refinery process design engineer
- Energy
  - Wind/solar energy engineer
  - Geophysical (oil and gas) prospector

**TEXAS ENGINEERING EXTENSION SERVICE (TEEX) AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY TRAINS MORE THAN 195,000 EMERGENCY RESPONDERS FROM ALL 50 STATES AND 62 COUNTRIES EACH YEAR.**



THE FIRST STEP toward success is making smart decisions about your education and career options.

# Plan for Success



When I was in high school," says Sheryl Kovach, Human Resources director of Environmental Services at Philips Services Corporation in Houston, "the only job that I even knew about was receptionist work. I didn't aspire to be a manager or entrepreneur because I really didn't know about those disciplines. I was just looking forward to graduating. That was it. I really didn't know what it was I wanted to do."

Sound familiar? You, too, may not have a clue about what to do with your life.

Don't worry, though. Help is right here in your hands. It's one of 16 career cluster guides published by Texas CTE ([www.txcte.org](http://www.txcte.org)). This edition is all about Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security.

Let's start with some basic steps you should take to get organized, plan for the future, and start on the road to success.

## Assess Your Talents and Abilities

First, you need to figure out some things about yourself. This step can be as simple as writing down a list of your interests (like video games or rock climbing), your hopes and dreams (like helping others), your talents (like writing or math ability), and your weaknesses (if you're squeamish at the sight of blood, for example, you might not want to be a doctor).

Follow up on this informal exercise by taking some formal assessments to determine your interests and abilities. Common assessments include Texas Genuine ([www.texasgenuine.org](http://www.texasgenuine.org)) and CareerTech ([www.careertech.org](http://www.careertech.org)).

Ask your principal or counselor about the career assessments available at your school.

## Research Your Career Options

Once you've learned about yourself, learn more about your career options. There are thousands of occupations out there of which you may never have heard. Fortunately, there are plenty of resources (see inside back cover) for you, and they are as close as the nearest computer.

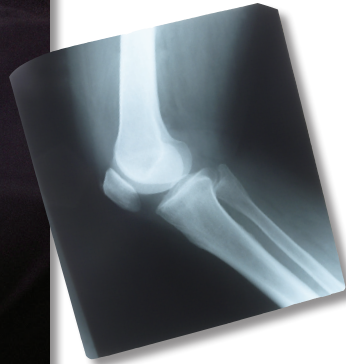
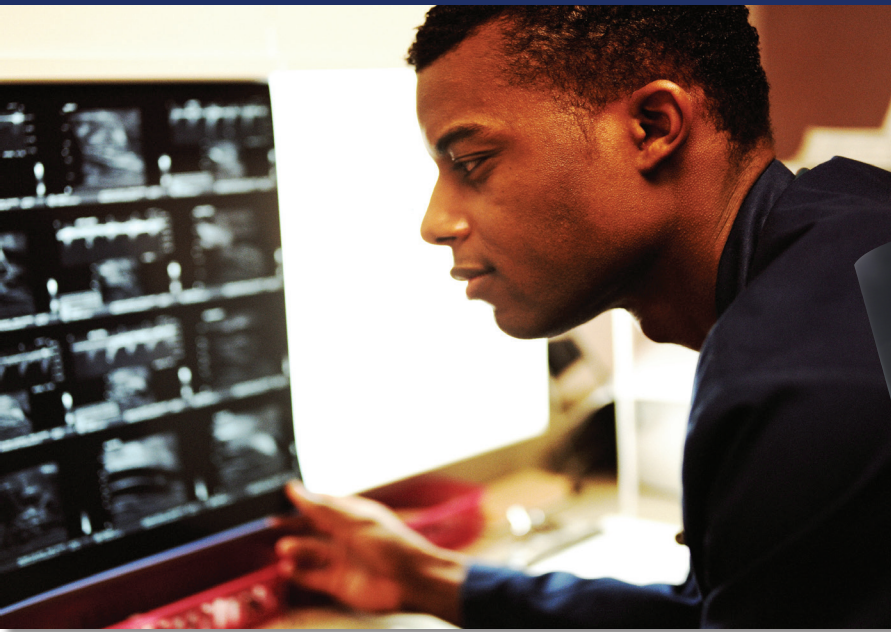
One of the most helpful is the Texas Career Check from the Texas Workforce Commission. It is a vast database of information about hundreds of professions. You can find Texas Career Check at [www.texascareercheck.com](http://www.texascareercheck.com). Another good place to start is O\*NET ([www.onetcenter.org](http://www.onetcenter.org)).

Gather information about what you can earn in the careers in which you are



**72%**  
OF THE 2,929  
LAW STUDENTS  
WHO TOOK THE  
TEXAS BAR EXAM  
IN 2014 PASSED.





interested. Find out whether the careers you are considering have a promising future—are they adding or losing jobs? Check out the education you'll need to enter those careers.

The chart on pages 10–11 presents data on 25 possible professions. Remember, though, that these are just a sampling of careers available in the cluster. Go to Texas Career Check, O-NET, or another resource to investigate other careers.

### Create Your High School Graduation Plan

Once you have a better idea of your interests and abilities, you are ready to plan for high school and beyond. The High School Personal Graduation Plan, is your plan for preparing for the career of your choice.

First, you should choose a career cluster and an endorsement, not a particular occupational goal. In the eighth grade you might choose Law and then later become interested in a narrower field such as forensic crime or national security.

The program of study you choose—your plan—does not stop with graduation from high school. You could then pursue a two-year degree as a paralegal or a four-year degree in criminologist.

You should set up a High School Personal Graduation Plan that takes you through career preparation after high school, revising your blueprint as needed as you go along. If your career plans include college study, ask your counselor about tests required for admission to college, such as the PSAT, SAT, or ACT.

### Seek Out Special Programs

Many Texas schools offer innovative programs to prepare students for specific career areas. These include career and technical education (CTE) programs, academies, and magnet schools. Once

you've decided on a career direction, ask your counselor about special programs in your area that may provide related experiences in your chosen career.

Samuel Odamah enrolled in the architecture program at the University of Texas at Arlington, having found his career calling at Dallas's Skyline Career Development Center, a high school with career programs in a number of different fields.

"Skyline is one of the few schools in the country that offer programs in architecture," Odamah says. "In some careers, Skyline students could even get professional certifications or licenses right in high school. It was a great place because you could find out whether you really wanted to enter a career."

Odamah says that the career cluster system at Skyline taught him the value of planning for his career and his life. "We learned about planning ahead," he says. "Those who plan things ahead of time don't have to catch up. It's just a matter of what a person wants out of life. Planning gives you a better platform for success."



BEING A  
**TEXAS RANGER**  
 IS SO POPULAR THAT  
 MORE THAN 200 POLICE  
 OFFICERS APPLY FOR  
 EACH OPENING.

## Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security CTSOs

One of the best ways to acquire experience in your chosen career is by joining a career and technical student organization (CTSO). In Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security, the most helpful CTSOs are:

- Business Professionals of America (BPA)  
[www.texasbpa.com](http://www.texasbpa.com)
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)  
[www.fblatx.org](http://www.fblatx.org)
- Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)  
[www.texashosa.org](http://www.texashosa.org)
- SkillsUSA  
[www.skillsusatx.org/](http://www.skillsusatx.org/)
- Texas Technology Students Association (TSA)  
[www.texastsa.org](http://www.texastsa.org)



# WHAT ARE

# Career Clusters & Programs of Study

In Texas, High School Personal Graduation Plans will guide students' high school and college experiences (see next page). As part of this process, students focus their studies within a chosen career cluster and program of study that lead to an endorsement.

A career cluster is a group of occupations and broad industries that share certain features. The Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security cluster, for example, includes firefighter and lawyer. Texas has adopted 16 Career Clusters (see back cover), the same ones designated and developed by the U.S. Department of Education.

As the graphic below shows, within each cluster are programs of study, which are more specific groupings of similar occupations. Think of a program of study as being like a college major. In Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security, you might choose to focus on Emergency and Fire Management Services in high school.

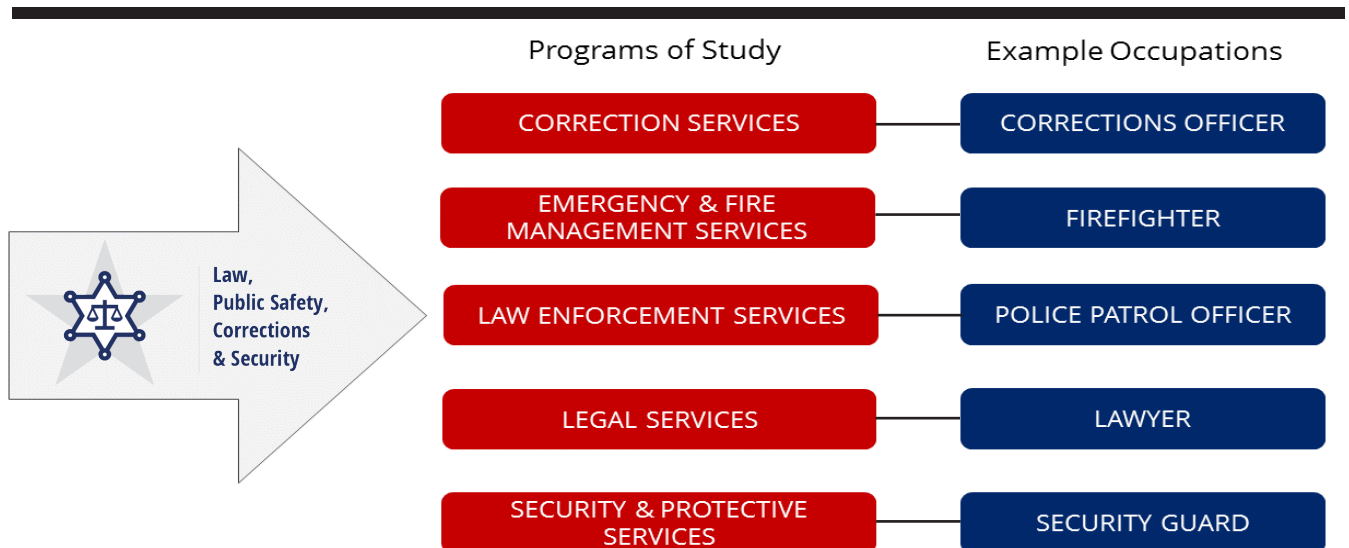
### Related Occupations

Each career pathway in a particular cluster includes a range of related occupations; Firefighter is an example of an occupation that falls within Emergency and Fire Management Services.

Choosing a career cluster and career pathway will help you acquire the knowledge and skills you'll need to enter your chosen career. It will allow you to follow a seamless course of study from high school into college or other postsecondary education or training. The electives you choose can complement your core academic classes to prepare you for the challenges of the real world of work

### Review Your High School Personal Graduation Plan Each Year

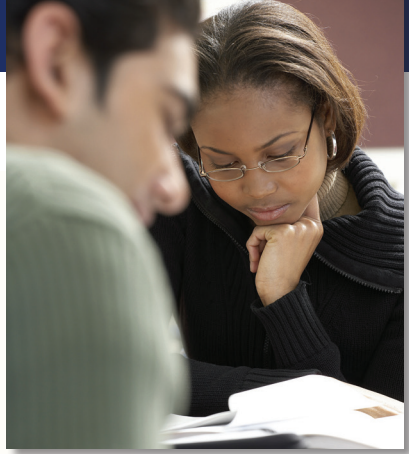
Don't get locked into a cluster and program of study you don't like. You should reexamine your 4-year plan at least once a year and change programs or clusters if your interests have changed. Choosing a cluster and program of study, even if it changes later, means that you'll have a direction in life. The idea is to be aware of what's going on in your life and take control of your future. When you know where your education is going and why, your classes will become more meaningful. You'll make contact with students, teachers, and employers who share your interest in a particular career area. You'll have experiences that are fun and exciting. You'll be on your way to success in school, in a career, and in life.







# WHAT IS A High School Personal Graduation Plan?



It's a smart idea to create a High School Personal Graduation Plan, or 4-year plan, to guide your studies through high school and into college or other postsecondary education or training. Your 4-year plan represents your chance to take control of your education and career choices. Working with your parents/guardians and guidance counselor, you can pick the cluster on which you want to focus your studies as well as your career and

postsecondary education goals. Don't worry. You aren't locked into your choices. You should revisit your 4-year plan at least once a year to update it. You can change clusters, programs of study, and career and postsecondary goals as your interests and ambitions change. Having a plan—even if it changes—is smarter than having no idea of what you want to do and why you are attending school. Here's how to fill out your 4-year plan.

**CHOOSE** a career cluster on which to focus your high school and college or postsecondary studies. The idea is to offer you a seamless route to follow from high school, through college or other postsecondary education, and into a career. Not all Texas schools offer all clusters, so ask your guidance counselor which clusters are available at your school.

**LIST** basic information such as your name and school.

**PICK** a program of study within the cluster. There are five programs within the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security cluster (see page 12).

**CHOOSE** one or more occupations for which you would like to prepare. Use resources such as Texas Career Check ([www.texascareercheck.com](http://www.texascareercheck.com)) to research your options.

**PLAN** for what you want to do after high school. Your goal may be to attend a four-year university or two-year college, join the military, or enter an apprenticeship program. Your postsecondary goal should influence the classes you take in high school; for example, you will need certain course credits to qualify for admission to a college.

**SKETCH** out your schedule of classes for your high school years. You will spend time completing requirement for the Foundation High School Program including electives to earn your endorsement in Public Services (26 credits). Planning your 4-year plan will help you get the education and experience you need to start your postsecondary and career goals.

**PICK** extended learning activities that complement your classes (see page 14). Work on community service projects. Plan for paid and unpaid career learning experiences, such as job shadowing and internships. All these extracurricular activities can give you experience that will help you get into college or land a job.

### High School Personal Graduation Plan

Name: Taylor Jones, West High School  
 Endorsement: Public Services  
 Cluster: Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security  
 Program of Study: Emergency and Fire Management Services  
 Career Goal: Firefighter  
 Postsecondary Goal: Basic Firefighter Certification, Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science

Foundation High School Program Requirements (22 Credits)	Public Services Endorsement Requirements (26 Credits)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Language Arts (4 Credits)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English I</li> <li>English II</li> <li>English III</li> <li>Advanced English Course</li> </ul> </li> <li>Mathematics (3 Credits)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Advanced Mathematics Course</li> </ul> </li> <li>Science (3 Credits)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology</li> <li>IPC or Advanced Science Course</li> <li>Advanced Science Course</li> </ul> </li> <li>Social Studies (3 Credits)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. History</li> <li>U.S. Government (one-half credit)</li> <li>Economics (one-half credit)</li> <li>World Geography or World History</li> </ul> </li> <li>Physical Education (1 Credit)</li> <li>Languages Other Than English (2 Credits in same language)</li> <li>Fine Arts (1 Credit)</li> <li>Career Related Electives (5 Credits)</li> <li>Proficiency in Speech (Determined locally)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Math (1 Additional Credit)</li> <li>Science (1 Additional Credit)</li> <li>Career Related Electives (2 Additional Credits)</li> </ul> <p><b>EXAMPLE CAREER RELATED ELECTIVES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Safety</li> <li>Principles of Health Science</li> <li>Firefighter I</li> <li>Medical Terminology</li> <li>Law Enforcement I</li> <li>Firefighter II</li> <li>Health Science</li> <li>Law Enforcement II</li> <li>Problems &amp; Solutions</li> <li>Practicum in Health Science</li> <li>Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Safety</li> </ul> <p><b>DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Credits in Mathematics (Must complete Algebra II)</li> <li>4 Credits in Science</li> <li>Requirements for at least the Public Services Endorsement</li> <li>Remaining requirements</li> </ul> <p><b>PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outstanding performance</li> <li>in a dual credit course</li> <li>in bilingualism and biliteracy</li> <li>on an AP test or IB exam</li> <li>on the PSAT, the ACT-Plan, the SAT, or the ACT</li> <li>Earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification</li> </ul>

Curricular Experiences: SkillsUSA, Health Occupations Students of America, Business Professionals of America (BPA), DECA, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Texas Technology Student Association (TTSA)  
 Extracurricular Experience: Explorer Program, Student Council, Mock Trial  
 Career Learning Experiences: Career Preparation—Paid and Unpaid, Job Shadowing, Internships  
 Service Learning Experiences: Community Service, Peer Tutoring, Peer Mentoring

A CAREER PORTFOLIO (see page 15) is a good way to organize information about your educational experiences, record results of career interest and abilities assessments, and hold examples of your best work. Include a 4-year plan in your portfolio.



# It's not CSI



The Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security cluster is more about public service than constant action.

There's one thing you need to know about the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security cluster right away—it's not like it is on TV. Sure, there are mysterious murders, dangerous rescues, and courtroom drama—some of the time.

"On shows like CSI, the police go from one major crime scene to another," says E. C. Sherman, executive director of the Texas Police Association, a law enforcement training organization. "There will be instances like those on TV—high-speed chases and violent confrontations—but for the most part they are rare."

So don't think that living a life of constant danger is what's in store if you choose Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security. Instead, the cluster is more about serving your family, friends, and neighbors.

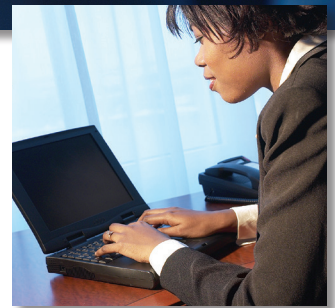
#### Homeland Security

Lately this cluster has been hot because of the greater

focus on homeland security since September 11, 2001. Funding for new positions has come from federal, state, and local governments. Tighter security has meant more jobs for airport security screeners, cyber cops tracking down online crooks, and many others.

New technologies have dramatically changed the occupations in the cluster. "It's not just the traditional skills that are required anymore, like how to make car stops or resuscitate people," says Joe Coffee, executive director of the National Partnership for Careers in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security,

**THE TEXAS** DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE HAS MORE THAN 112 PRISON UNITS THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND EMPLOYS APPROXIMATELY 26,000 CORRECTIONS OFFICERS.



## QUIZ

Is Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security the right cluster for you? Take this quiz to find out. Answer "yes" or "no" to the following questions.

1. Do you do well in your English courses?
2. Do you have a clean police record?
3. Do you enjoy meeting and interacting with strangers?
4. Do you keep your cool in stressful or dangerous situations?
5. Do you watch TV shows such as CSI and Law and Order?
6. Do you believe that public service is rewarding?
7. Are you more comfortable being outdoors than being inside?
8. Do you enjoy using high-tech tools such as computers?
9. Are you good at taking orders, obeying rules, and following instructions?
10. Are you interested in homeland security?

If you answered "yes" to five or more of the above questions, Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security may be the right cluster for you. To get a more specific and scientific measurement of your attitudes and abilities, ask your guidance counselor or teacher about taking a career assessment test or interest inventory.



## 10 Fast-Growing Careers

Occupation	Growth Rate (2012-2022)	Avg Annual Openings (2012-2022)
Information Security Analysts	45%	405
Ambulance Drivers & Attendants	32%	30
Paralegals & Legal Assistants	30%	905
Transportation Security Screeners	29%	210
Security Guards	24%	3,295
Security & Fire Alarm Systems Installers	24%	220
Private Detectives & Investigators	24%	90
Lawyers	22%	1,865
Court Reporters	21%	50
Police, Fire & Ambulance Dispatchers	19%	555

This is a projection of 10 fast-growing careers in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security in Texas from the year 2012 to 2022 and the number of average annual openings in each occupation. Note that whereas the percentage of growth in jobs may be high, the actual number of jobs created may be low. For example, there will be only 50 new jobs for arbitrators, mediators, and conciliators created in Texas during the decade that the data covers. Source: Texas Workforce Commission.

which is leading the development of the cluster nationally. "Everyone is using more and more technology. Even for 911 dispatchers; their jobs are much more complex than just answering the phone and notifying the fire or police departments."

Rather than consisting of a few core occupations such as patrol officer or firefighter, the cluster is becoming home to more specialized jobs. "Forensics, for example, has expanded tremendously thanks to DNA technology," says Sherman. "Most agencies have special units like crime labs and cyber crime experts. There is a lot more specialization in law enforcement than there was 20 years ago."

### More Education Required

New security technologies and techniques mean that those working in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security need more education than ever. "If you want to be an attorney, you have to go to law school, of course," says Coffee.

"But for law enforcement, fire, and emergency personnel, different jurisdictions have different requirements. Some departments require four years of college, others two years, and some just high school. If you are looking at this cluster, you shouldn't just look at entry-level requirements, but the education needed to get where you want to go in the profession."

Almost every job in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security requires you to pass

an exam. Acing these tests can earn you certifications in different specialties or can mean a promotion. Some examinations, such as those for firefighters, involve physical tasks, so being in good physical condition is essential.

Women and members of minority groups are in big demand in the cluster. In a state as diverse as Texas, agencies want the makeup of their communities to be reflected in their workforces. "For example, more and more women have come into firefighting in the last 10 years," says Jake Soteriou, division director for standards and certification for the Texas Association of Firefighters. "The image is no longer that of the big brute fireman. We have found that just about anybody can do this job if he or she is willing to work and learn."

Experts agree that the most important skills for people in the cluster to have are strong interpersonal and communication abilities. "A person in this area really needs people skills, whether he or she is an attorney, in law enforcement, or a firefighter," says Coffee. "They need to be able to deal with people in crisis or dangerous situations."

Soteriou sums up the advice he would give to a young person considering Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security: "It's very rewarding knowing that you are doing something to help save lives and property. You may not make a fortune, but you are doing work that helps people. If you are willing to have an open mind and keep learning, you can move up the ranks. Within the cluster, there are so many different opportunities for career advancement."

**TEXAS LAWYERS**  
PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY  
1.8 MILLION HOURS OF  
FREE (PRO BONO) LEGAL  
SERVICES TO LOW-  
INCOME PEOPLE EACH  
YEAR.

## 10 Top-Paying Careers

Occupation	Average Wage	Entry-Level Wage	Experienced Wage
Lawyer	\$64.52	\$31.24	\$81.16
Administrative Law Judge, Adjudicator, & Hearing Officer	\$43.55	\$24.71	\$52.98
Information Security Analyst	\$42.35	\$27.10	\$49.98
First-Line Supervisor of Police & Detectives	\$39.17	\$25.47	\$46.03
Detectives and Criminal Investigators	\$36.80	\$21.37	\$44.51
Judge, Magistrate Judge & Magistrate	\$36.60	\$9.46	\$50.17
First-Line Supervisor of Fire Fighting & Prevention Workers	\$35.04	\$26.72	\$39.20
Arbitrator, Mediator & Conciliator	\$28.83	\$17.40	\$34.54
Court Reporter	\$28.62	\$14.14	\$35.86
Private Detective & Investigator	\$28.46	\$16.97	\$34.21

This is a chart of hourly wages for 10 of the top-paying careers in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security cluster in Texas. Note how entry-level wages are often much lower than pay for the average worker and experienced workers in each profession. Source: Texas Workforce Commission.



## What Employers Want

### THE TOTAL PICTURE

Lieutenant Raul Munguia, who is in charge of recruiting for the Austin Police Department, says that the organization tries to get “a total picture” of the people they hire. The department runs extensive background checks on potential hires. It looks at the kind of friends the applicants spend time with, their finances, and whether they worked hard to get through school and helped to earn their way with part-time work.

“Job hopping is not a good sign,” he says, nor is running up big credit card debt. “Being financially stable is a sign of maturity,” he adds.

### A CLEAN RECORD

Danny Grizzard is regional vice president of the Wackenhut Corporation and in charge of the area that includes Texas. The organization provides security personnel to businesses and other organizations. Because it gives extensive training to its employees, Grizzard says, the company prefers to hire people who have a good work history, a clean credit record, and no criminal history. “We’re looking for people with good customer service skills and an understanding of basic business skills,” he says. Many of the company’s new hires have military experience or have taken college classes in criminal justice or business.

### TEAM PLAYERS

Carter Crow, who cochairs the employment committee of the Houston office of the prominent international law firm Fulbright & Jaworski, says he is “looking for people who have good communication skills and writing ability, who have good and engaging personalities, and who are team players and hard and diligent workers.” These traits are difficult to see in a resume, so the firm looks for people who are “consistently placed in leadership roles in the organizations that they join.”

Perhaps the most important qualification, however, is the ability to write well, he observes. Law school exams are given in an essay format, he points out, so that success in classes that are oriented toward research and writing can be an important indicator of potential success in a law firm.



## To Protect and

# Serve

REWARDS ARE HIGH, boredom is low, and every day brings a new challenge—that’s life on the job in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security careers.

Communication is a constant in law and public safety careers. Reading, writing, and public speaking are integral parts of daily work in law enforcement, firefighting, and legal practice. Sergeant Jim Beck of the Austin Police Department says police officers, for example, must be able to write well and recall detailed facts when composing incident reports. “You have to be able to articulate what happened, what you did, and why,” says Beck, a 12-year veteran.

Police officers and firefighters often interact with the public, which requires good public speaking and social skills. Routine duties in both fields include giving presentations to children and adults about fire prevention, personal safety, and crime prevention.

Presentation skills are essential for lawyers presenting cases before a judge or jury, but they aren’t a requirement for all attorneys. “Some civil law attorneys never end up in court,” says Cindy Greenleaf, a former attorney and a criminal justice instructor for the Denton Independent School District. Greenleaf adds that attorneys practicing civil, criminal, or administrative law spend a lot of time reading, writing, and researching.

If practicing criminal law, they also rely on investigative skills and must dig through police and lab reports, view videotapes, and interview witnesses.

### Technology Use

Individuals in these professions use technology daily on the job. Beck says the speed at which technology is advancing adds excitement to his job. “You really are getting an opportunity to work with some of the cutting-edge tools in order to help you fight crime.” A patrol car computer allows officers to research outstanding warrants and drivers’ licenses in the field. Global Positioning System software shows some officers where they are being dispatched to and displays the quickest route there.

Firefighters in Beaumont who respond to a hazardous material spill review a chemical inventory list online from their trucks to confirm how best to safely contain and clean up the chemical, says Captain Patrick Grimes, a 27-year veteran firefighter.

Attorneys have access to wireless Internet and computerized projection/video/audio equipment in some courtrooms. This allows them to do on-the-spot research and give multimedia presentations. Research that once was performed using a law library is now done primarily online.



**THE TEXAS RANGERS** ARE THE OLDEST LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATION ON THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT WITH STATEWIDE JURISDICTION.

**Daily Duties**

"I've never been bored one single day of the 12 years I've been here," Beck says. Daily duties for police officers can run the gamut, from catching dangerous speeders, to patrolling districts, to meeting with citizens. Officers can be called to respond to a domestic dispute, a traffic accident, or another emergency at any time while working their shift, which can range from 8 to 12 hours a day. Other positions in the police department, such as detective, require more office-bound work.

Firefighters don't battle fires every day, Grimes says. They are constantly training and preparing for the next fire or other emergency. This job requires physical fitness and a thorough understanding of the technical aspects of the multiple tools firefighters use. Medical rescue skills are also crucial. Since they are often the first responders to an emergency, firefighters will assist the injured or sick until an

ambulance arrives. Firefighters work long shifts, live at a firehouse when on duty, and cooperate as a team. Beaumont firefighters spend 24 hours on the job followed by 48 hours off.

Attorneys' schedule and work environment depend upon the law they practice. "If you go to work for a large civil law firm, particularly when you first start, you'll work long hours, but you'll be paid a lot," Greenleaf says. Some attorneys who do mediations and arbitrations never argue cases in court. Criminal defense attorneys and prosecutors, on the other hand, spend a lot of time in trials speaking before judges and juries, she says.

**Job Satisfaction**

A career as a police officer, firefighter, or attorney can provide rewards beyond earning a paycheck. "For me, the satisfaction comes from helping somebody and making a difference in the outcome of somebody's life," Grimes says.

Policing is much more than writing tickets, Beck says. "There's so much opportunity to make a difference in your community; you can work with schools, participate in mentorship programs, and be a strong role model."

For Greenleaf, working as an attorney with the Texas Department of Public Safety translated into contributing to a safer, more secure society. "To me it was satisfying because I felt I was assisting by helping to enforce established rules," she says.



**5 Cool Careers**

CHECK OUT THESE EXCITING CAREERS IN LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTIONS, & SECURITY.

- 1. FORENSIC CRIME INVESTIGATOR**  
Forensic crime investigators analyze physical evidence at a crime scene. They examine blood splatters, DNA types, and dental records, among other evidence, to determine what happened. "The U.S. Department of Labor lists it as one of the fastest-growing fields over the next 10 years," says Lum Farr, chairman of the department of criminal justice at Weatherford College in Weatherford. This field requires a four-year degree in science.
- 2. NARCOTICS OFFICER**  
"Working undercover as a narcotics officer is another great position for the adventurous person," says Farr. "And virtually all of those positions are offered to young people." Narcotics officers work undercover to track or infiltrate illicit drug organizations and conduct complex criminal investigations. The job requires high intelligence and attention to detail.
- 3. AIR AND SPACE LAWYER**  
Air and space law covers a variety of issues, from airline transportation and the operation of aviation facilities to the legal ramifications of telecommunications and the military's use of airspace, as well as national and international law governing activities in outer space. Students interested in this field may want to study negotiation techniques, presentation of expert testimony at trial, and international laws and policies.
- 4. HELICOPTER PILOT**  
"Most law enforcement helicopter pilots are police officers, and you don't have to be very old to train. In fact, young pilots are preferred because it's a demanding job," says Ron Delord, executive director of the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas. After police training, an officer can request the position, and if he or she is accepted, the department provides on-the-job training. Trainees begin by learning to fly a fixed-wing aircraft, then proceed to helicopter training.
- 5. FIREFIGHTER**  
Most firefighters are required to have EMT (emergency medical technician) certification. An EMT is an expert in emergency medical care. Firefighters can and do find themselves called on to help people needing immediate medical care. To qualify for certification as an EMT in Texas, you must be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma, complete an EMT training course, and pass a national registry exam.

# Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security

Listed below are 25 careers you might consider in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security cluster. Below are the occupations available to you at different education levels. Turn to the "Online Info" on the inside back cover for more information on your talents and ambitions. Here's an explanation of the kind of information presented in each column:

**SOC:** Stands for Standard Occupational Code, which organizations like the U.S. Department of Labor use to categorize career information. Sometimes you can find data on a career faster by searching for its SOC.

**GROWTH:** This is the projected annual growth in Texas for the career between 2012 and 2022. Fast-growing occupations may offer greater career opportunities for young adults.

**OPENINGS:** This is the projected number of job openings for the career in Texas each year. Even though a career may be fast growing, there may not be a lot of positions available. Careers with more openings will give an entry-level worker a better chance of getting a job and greater job security.

**WAGES:** This is the amount the average person in the career earns in Texas per year. Naturally, entry-level wages are lower than the average, and those for workers with years of experience are generally higher.

SOC	Occupation	Growth	Openings	Wages	Education
23-1011	Lawyer	22%	1,865	\$134,202	Doctoral/first professional degree
23-1022	Arbitrator, Mediator, and Conciliator	14%	10	\$59,962	Bachelor's degree plus experience
23-1021	Administrative Law Judge, Adjudicator, & Hearing Officer	11%	35	\$90,589	Bachelor's degree plus experience
23-1023	Judge, Magistrate Judge, and Magistrate	13%	65	\$76,129	Bachelor's degree plus experience
21-1021	Child, Family, and School Social Worker	17%	595	\$39,607	Bachelor's degree
23-1012	Judicial Law Clerk	18%	10	\$42,153	Bachelor's degree
23-2011	Paralegal and Legal Assistant	30%	905	\$52,675	Associate's degree
23-2091	Court Reporter	21%	50	\$59,530	Postsecondary vocational award
33-3021	Detective and Criminal Investigator	17%	700	\$76,545	Work experience in a related occupation
33-9021	Private Detective and Investigator	24%	90	\$59,205	Work experience in a related occupation
33-1012	First-Line Supervisor of Police and Detectives	16%	255	\$81,483	Work experience in a related occupation
33-1011	First-Line Supervisor of Correctional Officers	15%	270	\$48,704	Work experience in a related occupation
33-1021	First-Line Supervisor of Firefighting & Prevention Workers	18%	305	\$72,883	Work experience in a related occupation
33-2021	Fire Inspector and Investigator	18%	35	\$58,003	Work experience in a related occupation
33-3051	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officer	17%	2,760	\$53,036	Long-term on-the-job training
33-3052	Transit and Railroad Police	16%	25	\$50,509	Long-term on-the-job training
33-3031	Fish and Game Warden	11%	20	\$52,994	Long-term on-the-job training
33-2011	Firefighter	18%	1,180	\$46,849	Long-term on-the-job training
33-9011	Animal Control Worker	18%	60	\$30,477	Moderate-term on-the-job training
43-5031	Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatcher	19%	555	\$33,651	Moderate-term on-the-job training
33-3011	Bailiff	18%	25	\$40,665	Moderate-term on-the-job training
33-3012	Correctional Officer and Jailer	16%	2,035	\$35,136	Moderate-term on-the-job training
33-3041	Parking Enforcement Worker	11%	15	\$27,548	Short-term on-the-job training
33-9032	Security Guard	24%	3,295	\$25,841	Short-term on-the-job training
33-9091	Crossing Guard	14%	115	\$20,127	Short-term on-the-job training

Source: Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)

Note: This chart is a sampling of careers in the cluster, not recommendations from TWC or any other agency or organization. Always do thorough research and consult with your parents/guardians before making a career choice.



# s, & Security



cluster. These are not all the career options in the cluster—they are just a sampling showing the variety of options. Visit the [Texas Career Center](#) to research all career options in the cluster of your choice and decide on the ones that best fit your interests and skills.

**EDUCATION:** This is the minimum preferred level of educational attainment for people working in the career in the United States. This can range from short-term on-the-job training to a doctoral degree taking several years of college.

**EDUCATION LEVELS:** The color bars show the mix of education levels attained by people actually working in the profession in Texas (see bars at right). If a bar features mostly one color, that means that level of education is likely the one you'll need to reach to work in the profession. Look at lawyer, for example, and you'll see that virtually everyone in the field has a college degree or better. If the three colors in the bar are roughly equal in size, that means that there are opportunities in the profession for people of all education levels. For example, about 45 percent of the people working as fire inspectors and investigators have a high school diploma, while 39 percent have some college, and 16 percent have four-year degrees or better.

High School	Some College	College or Better
Percentage of people in the occupation who have at most high school diplomas	Percentage of people in the occupation who have some college	Percentage of people in the profession who have a four-year college degree or better

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** These are brief descriptions of each career from the O\*NET Online ([online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org)).

Education Levels	Job Description
	Represent clients in criminal and civil litigation and other legal proceedings, draw up legal documents, and manage or advise clients on legal transactions. May specialize in a single area or may practice broadly in many areas of law.
	Facilitate negotiation and conflict resolution through dialogue. Resolve conflicts outside the court system by mutual consent.
	Conduct hearings to make or recommend decisions on claims concerning government programs or other government-related matters. Determine penalties or the existence and amount of liability, or recommend acceptance or rejection of claims or compromise settlements.
	Arbitrate, advise, adjudicate, or administer justice in a court of law. May sentence defendant in criminal cases according to government statutes. May determine liability of defendant in civil cases. May issue marriage licenses and perform wedding ceremonies.
	Provide social services to improve the social and psychological functioning of children and their families and to maximize the well-being and academic functioning of children. May assist single parents, arrange adoptions, and find foster homes for abandoned or abused children. In schools, may address such problems as teenage pregnancy, misbehavior, and truancy.
	Assist judges in court or by conducting research or preparing legal documents.
	Assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating facts, or preparing legal documents. Conduct research to support a legal proceeding, to formulate a defense, or to initiate legal action.
	Use verbatim methods and equipment to capture, store, retrieve, and transcribe pretrial and trial proceedings or other information. Includes stenographers who operate computerized stenographic captioning equipment to provide captions of live or prerecorded broadcasts for hearing-impaired viewers.
	Conduct investigations related to suspected violations of federal, state, or local laws to prevent or solve crimes.
	Detect occurrences of unlawful acts or infractions of rules in private establishment, or seek, examine, and compile information for client.
	Supervise and coordinate activities of members of police force.
	Supervise and coordinate activities of correctional officers and jailers.
	Supervise and coordinate activities of workers engaged in firefighting and fire prevention and control.
	Inspect buildings to detect fire hazards and enforce local ordinances and state laws. Investigate and gather facts to determine cause of fires and explosions.
	Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, and protect life and property in an assigned patrol district. Perform a combination of the following duties: patrol a specific area on foot or in a vehicle, direct traffic, issue traffic summonses, investigate accidents, apprehend and arrest suspects, or serve legal processes of courts.
	Protect and police railroad and transit property, employees, or passengers.
	Patrol assigned area to prevent fish and game law violations. Investigate reports of damage to crops or property by wildlife. Compile biological data.
	Control and extinguish fires or respond to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk. Duties may include fire prevention, emergency medical service, hazardous material response, search and rescue, and disaster management.
	Handle animals for the purpose of investigations of mistreatment, or control of abandoned, dangerous, or unattended animals.
	Receive calls from public concerning crimes and police emergencies. Broadcast orders to police patrol units in vicinity. Operate radio, telephone, or computer equipment to receive reports of fires and medical emergencies and relay information to proper officials.
	Maintain order in courts of law.
	Guard inmates in penal or rehabilitative institution in accordance with established regulations and procedures. May guard prisoners in transit between jail, courtroom, prison, or other points. Includes deputy sheriffs and police who spend the majority of their time guarding prisoners in correctional institutions.
	Patrol assigned area, such as public parking lot or section of city, to issue tickets to overtime parking violators and illegally parked vehicles.
	Guard, patrol, or monitor premises to prevent theft, violence, or infractions of rules.
	Guide or control vehicular or pedestrian traffic at such places as streets, schools, railroad crossings, or construction sites.

# Learning About Law



IF YOU'RE aiming for a career in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security, the time to start is high school.

What's the most important high school class you can take when you want to prepare for a career in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security? Introduction to Criminal Justice? Emergency Communications? Crime in America? Sorry. The answer is none of the above. Talk to the experts and you'll learn that the most important course for aspiring police officers, firefighters, or lawyers is English.

"Dealing with people is primarily what law enforcement officers do, so they need to be able to communicate and speak to the public," says E. C. Sherman, executive director of the Texas Police Association, a law enforcement training organization. "They also produce a lot of reports, so writing intelligently and professionally is important."

### Reading and Writing Right

Language skills are important across the cluster. Attorneys must write case briefs, and read and comprehend changes in the law. Paramedics must be able to communicate clearly with

911 dispatchers when lives are on the line. Police officers must write detailed, clear, and accurate reports of crime scenes and investigations.

Senior Police Officer Pat Briggs of the Austin Police Department says police recruits must show their language ability just to enter training for service. "At the police academy, they will be asked to complete writing samples," he says.

A solid background in core academic courses such as math and science is also important. Technology has changed preparation in this cluster. For example, an innovative course in forensics is offered in growing numbers of Texas school districts. To become forensic investigators like the ones on CSI, students have to master high school biology and chemistry and obtain a four-year degree in science.



PROGRAM PROFILES



HERE ARE the programs of study available within the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security cluster in Texas high schools.\* The State has created models for each of these areas. These documents detail high school classes you might take, extended learning opportunities, and postsecondary programs.

### CORRECTION SERVICES

Workers in this field are responsible for guarding people who have been arrested or convicted of a crime. Their primary mission is to protect the public.

### EMERGENCY & FIRE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

In this field, workers are called upon to put out fires, treat injuries, and perform other vital functions. Firefighters and emergency services workers help protect the public.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

In this field, duties include controlling traffic and investigating crimes. People in it maintain order, enforce laws, issue traffic tickets, and investigate accidents.

### LEGAL SERVICES

People working in this field hold positions of great responsibility and are obligated to follow a strict code of ethics.

### SECURITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Employees in this field often work in public buildings, factories, warehouses, government buildings, and military bases. They protect products, computers and machines, laboratories, or people.

\* Not all schools offer all programs of study or clusters. Ask your counselor which programs are available at your school.



**TEXAS** STATE TROOPERS CAN EARN UP TO \$150 MORE EACH MONTH IF THEY HAVE A MASTER'S, BACHELOR'S, OR ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE, OR CAN SPEAK A SECOND LANGUAGE.



### Choosing Electives

Beyond your core courses, the electives you take can help you get ready for college and career requirements in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security cluster.

If you are interested in a career as a firefighter, for example, you can select electives in the Emergency and Fire Management Services program of study. High school courses might include Fire Science Technology, Emergency Communications, and Firefighter I and II in your junior and senior years.

In the Law Enforcement Services program of study, the elective sequence starts with Introduction to Criminal Justice. It's an overview of the different careers in the program and covers the different kinds of law, such as civil and criminal law.

Additional classes include such topics as how to interact with the public, human relations, criminal procedures, and interpersonal skills. You can get a good foundation that prepares you for additional education or training after high school.

High school students can actually graduate with certifications that qualify them for employment in the cluster. In the telecommunications course on 911 emergency procedures, teachers are certified by the State and students can apply instruction in the high school classroom to earn 911 certification. Once they graduate, they can go to work as 911 dispatchers.

Other certifications available at the high school level include Basic EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), Basic Firefighter, and Emergency Care Attendant.

### Top Teachers

Teachers in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security cluster must have a background in law enforcement, firefighting, or public safety. In some districts, there are agreements to bring in local top police officers to teach these electives.

At the Dale Jackson Career Center in Lewisville (see box below), criminal justice teacher Chris Thompson stages hands-on activities such as mock trials and crime scene investigations. The first year of the program covers career opportunities and historical perspectives on the impact of crime. The second year, which includes study of the history of criminal law in Texas, allows students to earn college credits at partnering community colleges.

# SPOTLIGHT



## FROM CRIME SCENES TO COURTROOMS Dale Jackson Career Center Opens Doors in Criminal Justice

At the beginning of each school year at Dale Jackson Career Center in Lewisville, criminal justice teacher Chris Thompson opens his class by asking students one question: "Why are you here?"

Thompson says he asks the question because high school students can come into the program for the wrong reasons.

"A lot of students think criminal justice is what they see on television," says Thompson. "This program gives them practical insight into the system. They come to class and realize it's more difficult than what they see on TV."

With firsthand experience in the FBI, CIA, and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Thompson knows the ins and outs of law enforcement. He came to Dale Jackson Career Center to train students in the skills needed to succeed in criminal justice. The program balances technical training with rigorous academic preparation,

emphasizing the development of communication skills. "A police officer may spend up to three hours a day writing reports about his or her activities," Thompson notes.

He teaches four courses based on curriculum developed at Texas A&M University. "These courses are at the college level," he says. "In fact, one of our graduates was able to opt out of a college course after only four weeks because he had already covered the material."

Thompson says his greatest reward is hearing the success his students achieve after high school. One Jackson student interested in law enforcement is working as a jailer, attending community college, and preparing to become a deputy in the sheriff's office. Another graduated from the University of Texas and received a full scholarship to Harvard Law School.



Getting **FIELD EXPERIENCE** in high school can give you a head start on a career in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security.

# Go On



**R**ishanda Johnson, a former graduate of Estacado High School in Lubbock, always wanted to be a nurse—that is, until she followed a personal interest in law into Estacado’s Justice and Law Magnet Program.

The program combines in-class training in legal principles and procedures with experience working in legal settings. Estacado students rotate through the U.S. Marshal’s office, the Lubbock Police Academy, and the District Attorney’s office, observing real professionals on the job.

Johnson watched police officers write reports and paralegals develop cases. She attended lectures at the Texas Tech School of Law and reported to her fellow students at Estacado.

“I even met the law school dean,” she says. “Because I went to Texas Tech and then shared the information with other students, I know about the university. I’m no longer worried about studying law or going to college. I know I can learn this.”

class studies. Whether you want to be a patrol officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, or lawyer, such programs can give you firsthand experience in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security starting as early as the eighth grade.

For more than 30 years, for example, the Houston Bar Association has sponsored mock trials carried out by junior high students in real courtrooms. More than 38,000 students have participated in the program since it

**THERE ARE MORE THAN 85,000 LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONS PERSONNEL IN MORE THAN 2,700 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS ACROSS TEXAS.**

started three decades ago. Kay Sim, the bar association’s executive director, says area law students visit participating eighth-grade classes once a week for five weeks, preparing students for the mock trials. “Every class creates its own crime situation,” Sim says.

Different students serve as judge, court clerk, and bailiff. “Real judges let us use their courtrooms,” Sim says. “It’s not a scripted thing that we hand them. Every student in the class plays a role.”

### Firsthand Experience

Opportunities for this kind of extended learning experience are available in a variety of schools across Texas. Extended learning refers to out-of-class learning experiences such as job shadowing, internships, and career and technical student organizations (CTSOs) that complement in-

### Experienced Instructors

Criminal justice programs in Texas high schools typically work hard to extend learning beyond the walls of the classroom.

Since the instructors have a background in criminal justice, students are getting firsthand information. Teachers invite guest speakers from the FBI and local sheriffs’ departments into the classroom, and they take students out to department practice fields.





## LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED IN 155 TEXAS JUNIOR AND SENIOR COLLEGES.

### Honing Skills

In places where field experiences are not available, students can still demonstrate attainment of skills through extended learning. SkillsUSA ([www.skillsusattx.org](http://www.skillsusattx.org)) sponsors competitions at the state and national levels in categories such as firefighting, criminal justice theory, law enforcement technology, crime scene

investigation, felony traffic stops, and emergency first aid. Other competitive events build skills in such areas as leadership, public speaking, and teamwork.

Junior ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) is another good place to hone your skills. Because police and fire departments practice military discipline and organization, Junior ROTC can help you prepare for the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security area.



## CREATE a Career PORTFOLIO

One valuable tool that can help you get ready for college and beyond is a career portfolio—a collection of items that document your achievements both in and out of school, assembled in one convenient package.

A career portfolio is not simply a resume, although it can certainly include one. So what should go in a career portfolio? A variety of things, depending on your own personal experiences. It could include transcripts and grades; writing samples; letters of recommendation from teachers, mentors, or employers; awards you've received; and items that document other activities, such as internships and job shadowing experiences.

"You need to be specific—dates, how many years, any awards, what they meant, and who you received them from," says Grace Brauchle, who helps students put their portfolios together as the career center coordinator for Lehman High School in Kyle.

Brauchle says portfolios come in handy when students apply for jobs or admission to college. "First impressions are a very big thing," she says, "and you want to be the one whose papers get passed around the office. You want to be the one where the admissions counselors say, 'Wow, look at this one!'"

## SPOTLIGHT

### LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORERS Learning for Life in law

Learning for Life is an organization that mobilizes business and community leaders to support programs in character and career development.

Its "Exploring" program is worksite-based and takes young people into the field to get hands-on experience working with professionals on the job. Exploring teams up with a variety of organizations—such as police, fire and emergency service departments, high schools, and colleges—to offer students a number of hands-on, out-of-class experiences.

Jim Kaminski is the national director of Exploring programs in both law enforcement and fire and emergency services.

"In our law enforcement program, young adults do anything a police officer does—except arrest people," says Kaminski. Students have the opportunity to learn skills that can include hostage negotiation, firearms, and search and seizure. "It's the same with our fire service program," says Kaminski, "except they focus on fire and emergency services."

Exploring holds annual national skill competitions and offers numerous awards and thousands of dollars in scholarships. The law enforcement program alone provides the opportunity to compete for six different scholarships and earn seven different awards, such as the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Drug Abuse Prevention Service



Award.

There are also annual National Law Enforcement Exploring Leadership Academies held in partnership with the FBI, the DEA, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the U.S. military.

"Exploring is a way for youth to decide if a specific career is right for them," Kaminski says. "In the end, students who decide to go into law enforcement or fire services have a head start on any other applicant coming through the door."

For information about Learning for Life programs in your area, call 972-580-2433.

# Follow the Law



**AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**, Texas offers unlimited educational opportunities to fulfill your career goals.

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) in Beaumont was the first college in Texas to offer a bachelor's degree program in homeland security.

About 85 percent of participants enter directly from high school, while others join to advance their military or law enforcement careers. LIT also offers a crime scene technician degree with a focus in forensic science, an area that has drawn greater interest with the popularity of TV shows such as CSI.

### Plan Your Future

As you graduate from high school, you'll stand at an educational crossroads. Your path may take you to a four-year university program like that offered by LIT, or you may opt to go directly to work to gain on-the-job training, attend a police or fire academy, enter the military, or pursue a two-year associate's degree. With seven more years of school you can become a lawyer.

So where do you want to go? Here are some options for postsecondary education and training in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security cluster.

### On-the-Job Training

On-the-job training is a viable option for students entering law enforcement and other public safety careers. Don't think that means no more school, however. Almost every career in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security requires more education and training than you will get in high school.

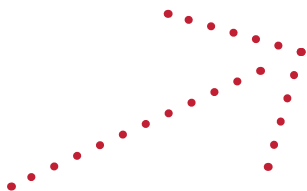
The Texas Workforce Commission has projected the 50 fastest-growing occupations that students can enter directly from high school with on-the-job training. Its list includes a number of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security careers—for example, police

and sheriff's patrol officers, detectives and criminal investigators, paralegal, dispatchers, and firefighters.

Programs in these careers let recruits earn salary and benefits from their employers as they learn their jobs. Although some law enforcement and public safety agencies hire employees without prior experience, most require applicants to complete basic training—perhaps at a police or fire academy—and pass certain exams.

At many Texas fire departments, for instance, applicants must pass a test called the "Structural Firefighter Exam." To prepare, students can receive training at community colleges and fire departments that offer programs certified through the Texas Commission on Fire Protection.

THERE ARE **86,494 ACTIVE** MEMBERS OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS. MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED FOR ALL LAWYERS PRACTICING IN TEXAS.





### Associate's Degrees

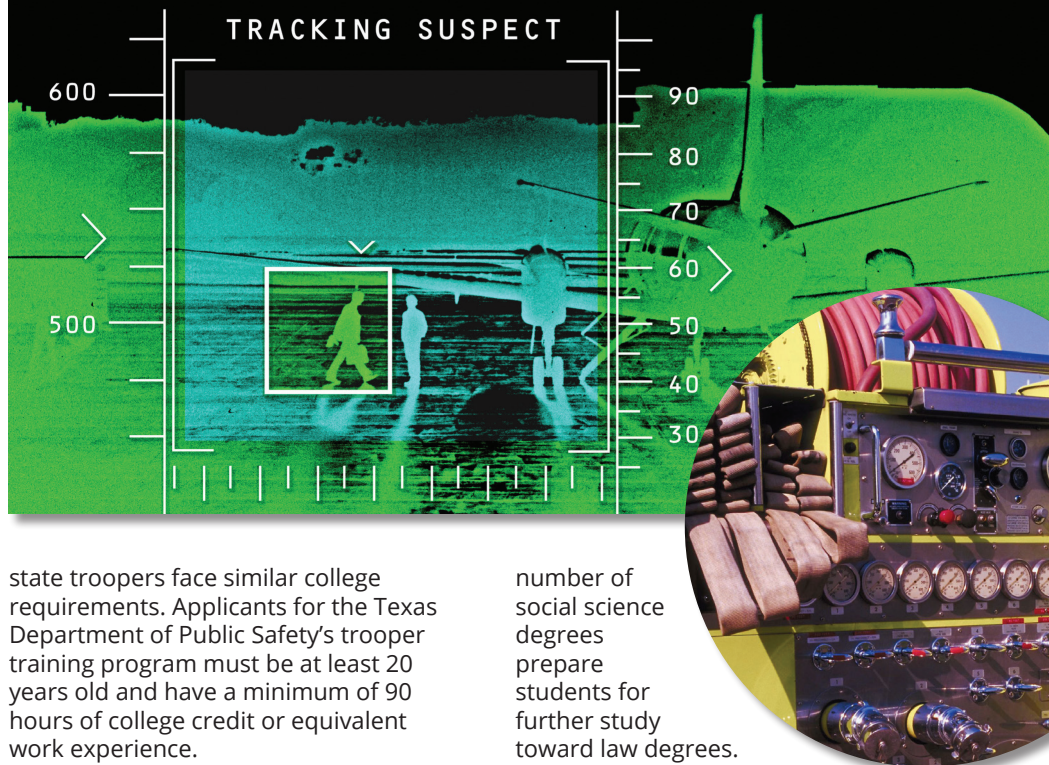
More and more police, public safety, and fire departments and agencies are requiring at least some college education, including a two-year associate's degree.

Collin County Community College, with campuses in Plano, McKinney, and Frisco, for example, offers an associate's degree in fire science, as well as certifications for basic firefighter, fire officer, and emergency medical technician.

The program includes courses in fire control and rescue taught by active firefighters. Over the past 10 years, 100 percent of program completers have passed the basic firefighter state certification exam.

Pat McAuliff, the program's director, says most people in the program are active firefighters seeking to advance, not people earning the degree to get an entry-level job. "However," McAuliff adds, "there is a trend among some fire departments to require 40 to 60 college hours for entry-level employment."

Recruits for positions as Texas



state troopers face similar college requirements. Applicants for the Texas Department of Public Safety's trooper training program must be at least 20 years old and have a minimum of 90 hours of college credit or equivalent work experience.

The department's 26-week program trains the state's highway patrol, criminal law enforcement, and Texas Ranger divisions. The department encourages active officers to pursue continuing education at one of the 73 law enforcement programs at colleges in Texas.

number of social science degrees prepare students for further study toward law degrees.

### Graduate School

Graduate school is an option for students pursuing high-level specialization in a particular area of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security. Some legal occupations, such as mediator, paralegal, and court

reporter, are accessible with an undergraduate degree or certification, but to become a lawyer or judge, you must earn a four-year degree and then attend three years of law school.

Texas has eight law schools, including some of the nation's best. The University of Texas at Austin, for example, was ranked 15th in a 2016 list of the nation's

top law schools by U.S. News & World Report. In 2015, the school had nearly 5,000 applicants, only 433 of whom were admitted.

With increased competition in law school admissions, several Texas colleges have started programs to help prepare students for legal careers. One of the first was at the University of Texas at El Paso's Law School Preparation Institute, which includes two intensive summer sessions modeled after a first-year law class.

According to cofounder Robert Webking, the institute helps participants improve their grades and ability to catch on quickly in law school. About 90 percent of the program's students who complete applications for law school are admitted.

## Get the CREDIT You Deserve

Dual credit in Texas is a great way to earn college credits toward a postsecondary degree while you're still in high school. Dual credit programs center on "articulation agreements," contracts between the student, his or her high school, and postsecondary institutions the student would like to attend. While most students take basic core courses such as English, history, math, science, and social science, coursework may include areas in Career and Technical Education.

Dual credit courses cover the same material as the equivalent college course, allowing the student to receive credit toward the college degree. It's like a bank account. The credit is banked for you at the college, and you withdraw it when you enroll.

Ask your counselor about advanced placement, dual credit, or articulated courses and other opportunities to earn college credit.

## EMERGENCY

RESPONDERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD PARTICIPATE IN SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING EXERCISES AT THE 52-ACRE DISASTER CITY IN COLLEGE STATION.

### Bachelor's Degrees

Bachelor's degrees help students seeking higher-paying positions in law and public safety. Four-year universities across the state provide a variety of programs that qualify people for administrative and supervisory jobs.

At the University of North Texas in Denton, for example, the criminal justice program is the largest in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Required courses for the major include Crime and Justice in the United States, Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice, Diversity Issues in Criminal Justice, Criminal Procedure, Criminal Law, Police Systems, Correctional Systems, and Criminology.

University of North Texas students can also major in emergency administration and planning or political science. A

ACCEPTED!

## SIX THINGS Texas students should know about getting into college

Applying to college is a lot like looking for a job or trying out for a team. You choose something that interests you, and then try your best to convince whoever is in charge that you have what it takes to be part of their organization. But whereas there might be only a few spots open on your high school's varsity football squad, there are thousands of places available in hundreds of colleges each year. Whether you are the first in your family to apply to college or both of your parents have advanced degrees, going through the admissions process can be stressful. Fortunately, there are plenty of free resources available for Texas college-bound students. The best is College for All Texans ([www.collegeforalltexans.com](http://www.collegeforalltexans.com)), which features a list of all the state's colleges and universities, a checklist for selecting a school, and a link to the online Texas Common Application. To help you get started on your own college search process, here are six steps you should take.

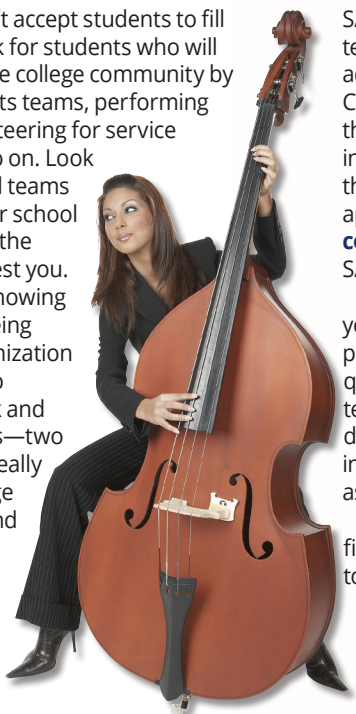
### 1. Make School Your Job

The first thing college admissions officers look for on your application is your grade point average. It's simple—you have to make the grades in high school to earn your spot in a college. The easiest way to do that is to think of school as your job, starting in your first year. If you show up late for work, slack off, and talk back to the manager, you'll get fired faster than you can say, "Do you want fries with that?" But if you always arrive on time, work really hard, and try to learn from management, then pretty soon you'll probably get a raise or a promotion.

What works on the job works in the classroom, too. Take challenging courses. Turn in all your work on time. Pay attention in class. Contribute to discussions. Ask for help when you don't understand something. By treating school as a career, you'll have a better shot at earning the grades and teacher recommendations that you need to move to the next level.

### 2. Get Involved in Activities

Colleges don't accept students to fill seats. They look for students who will add to the entire college community by playing on sports teams, performing on stage, volunteering for service projects, and so on. Look at the clubs and teams available at your school and sign up for the ones that interest you. In addition to showing school spirit, being part of an organization is a great way to build teamwork and leadership skills—two traits that can really help your college application stand out from the pack.



### 3. Build a Resume Portfolio

What if you had to take a final exam on the last three years of a subject and didn't have any notes to study? Well, that's exactly what it's like trying to complete a college application if you haven't kept an ongoing file of all your activities, honors, and employment.

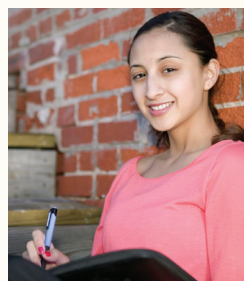
Start your first year and build a career portfolio (see page 15). It's also smart to create a computer file called "college resume" and add to it each time you participate in a service project, win an award, get a new job, and so on. Use technology to create a resume format or ask your parents or guidance counselor for help. When you sit down to complete your college applications, review your career portfolio and call up the resume—all the information you need will be right at your fingertips.

### 4. Prep for Tests

Most colleges use scores from the SAT, SAT II, or ACT tests in making their admissions decisions. Check which tests the schools you're interested in require and sign up to take them in time to include the scores in your application. College for All Texans ([www.collegeforalltexans.com](http://www.collegeforalltexans.com)) also has a free ACT, SAT, and GRE prep course.

Spend time preparing for the tests before you walk into the room with your No. 2 pencils and calculator. Go through sample SAT questions at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) or ACT tests at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). There are also dozens of test-prep books you can buy, some including software that tracks your progress as you go through sample exams.

Remember: If you don't do well on a test the first time, you usually can take it again and try to improve your score.



Inside

# College Admissions

### 5. Make a List of Colleges

Do you want to stay in Texas for college or see another part of the country? Would you be more comfortable at a big university or a small college?

Think about what you would like to study and what matters most to you (like location, size, or religious affiliation), and then start developing a list of colleges that fit your criteria.

Use online tools like [www.collegeforalltexans.com](http://www.collegeforalltexans.com) or [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) to learn more about each school and take online campus tours. Buy or borrow from the library some of the many college guides available. If possible, schedule visits to the schools you are interested in, or, through the school's admissions office, arrange an interview with a recent grad who lives in your area so you can ask questions about courses, faculty, or anything else.

By the fall of your senior year, narrow the list down to the top five or six choices. While some online applications are free, it can cost up to \$70 per school to apply, so be realistic about how much you can spend on applications.

### 6. Submit Polished Applications

Once you send in an application to a college there's no taking it back, so make sure you get it right the first time. Double-check your spelling. If you use the same essay for multiple schools, remember to change the name of the school to fit each application. Make sure you have any required standardized test results (ACT, SAT, SAT II) sent to each school.

Be neat and complete, and meet every deadline. Make copies of each application before you hit the send button or pop it in the mail. If you don't receive an email or postcard confirming that your application was received, contact the college to make sure it arrived. Items can get lost or misdirected, especially when thousands of students are sending in applications at the same time. By having copies, you can easily submit again.



**EVEN IF** you get accepted to college, you'll never be able to pay the bill, right? Wrong! There's financial aid available if you know where to look.

**C**ollege isn't cheap. With tuition and room and board at private schools often topping \$40,000, and even in-state, public schools costing several thousand dollars a year, you may wonder why you should even apply.

Well, don't worry. Every Texas student can afford to go to college.

"Access and affordability of higher education can be intimidating to students and parents; however, there are numerous resources available to walk you through the process and into an exciting future," says Heather V. Crowson, vice president for enrollment management at Sam Houston State University.

The secret to getting the aid you need to go to school is in filling out the necessary forms, getting good grades, and applying to schools that offer generous financial aid packages. (A financial aid package consists of need- or merit-based scholarships and grants plus work-study jobs and low-interest student loans.)

Here's a quick overview of steps you can take to get the financial aid you need to continue your studies after high school. For more information about the aid available at a specific college or university, go to the school's website and click on the "Admissions and Financial Aid" link. Many schools provide an online form you and your parents can fill out that will give you the estimated financial aid package you might receive if accepted to that school.

**Apply:** You definitely won't get any financial aid if you don't apply. To figure out how much grant money (which you don't pay back) and loans (which you do pay back) you'll need to afford school, colleges use a formula that factors in your parents' income and investments, your income, the number of kids in the family who will be in college at the same time, and other financial information. Families of all income levels may receive aid, so fill out the forms.

All schools require the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which determines eligibility for federal aid, such



# Financial Aid BASICS



as work-study, Pell grants, and the Stafford loan program; and for college grants and, sometimes, merit scholarships. Complete the application as soon as possible at the beginning of October your junior year. FAFSA forms and instruction booklets are available in your guidance counselor's office, or you can complete the form online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Most private schools also require applicants to complete a school financial aid application and, in some cases, the CSS/ Financial Aid Profile form (<https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>) which is used to award nonfederal student aid funds. Carefully read each college's application to determine financial aid deadlines and what forms you will need to submit.

**Study In-state:** Whether you choose a public or a private school, staying in-state for college will cut your costs considerably. Plus, since Texas covers 267,339 square miles, you can "go away" to college without ever leaving the state.

To help ensure that qualified Texas high school graduates with financial need can go to college, the State Legislature established the TEXAS (Towards Excellence, Access, and Success) Grant Program. Grants can be used to study at any public college or university in the state and are equal to the student's tuition and required fees. In 2012-2013, approximately 33,100 students received TEXAS Grants. To apply, fill out the FAFSA.

Another way to score some serious state aid is to get good grades in high school. Texas students who are in the top 10 percent of their graduating class are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in the state. With that automatic admission comes the opportunity to apply for merit scholarships and special programs available at each school.

**Take Two at a Community College:** The first two years of many college programs are filled with core courses that could easily be taken at a local community college for a lot less money. If you fill out all the forms, do the math, and still can't afford a four-year school, enroll in a community college for the first two years, then transfer to a four-year school.

By living at home, working part-time, and getting required courses out of the way, you could save tens of thousands of dollars in tuition and room and board, and be able to afford to attend the college of your choice for junior and senior years. For a complete list of the state's community colleges, go to the Texas Association of Community Colleges website at [www.tacc.org](http://www.tacc.org).

**Target Your Search:** Applying to a couple of colleges where your grades and talents put you near the top of the typical talent pool makes it more likely you'll qualify for merit aid and other special school scholarships and grants. Do a little research on college websites to find schools where your standardized test scores and grade point average rank you in the top 25 percent or so of the most recently accepted first-year class. Colleges want to attract the best and brightest students available, and often will offer attractive scholarship/grant/loan packages to convince those students to come to their school.

There are also more than 1 million local, national, and college-specific scholarships available each year. The trick is to find and apply for scholarships that best fit your strengths and talents. FastWeb ([www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)) is a free college scholarship search source. Register online and you will start receiving email notices about scholarships, internships, and other opportunities that fit the profile information you submit.



LOOK IT UP! Here are key words and phrases used in this guide that you may not already know.



# What does that mean?

**Articulation agreements:** formal agreements between or among educational organizations (high schools, community colleges, and universities) that align courses and majors in a way that allows students to transition from one institution to another without loss of course credit or time.

**Associate's degree:** a two-year degree awarded by a community or technical college.

**Bachelor's degree:** a four-year degree awarded by a university.

**Career and technical student organizations (CTSOs):** curricular organizations for students that offer activities and competitions related to particular careers.

**Career cluster:** a way of organizing curricula, instruction, and assessment around specific occupational groups (for example, Information Technology or Health Science) that offers students core academics, coursework related to specific occupations, and extended learning experiences.

**Master's degree:** a degree awarded by universities for study beyond a bachelor's degree.

**Career guidance:** structured developmental experiences presented systematically from kindergarten through 12th grade that help students analyze and evaluate abilities, skills, and interests.

**Career portfolio:** a collection of student work indicating progress made in subjects, activities, or programs. In career cluster systems, portfolios are often used to assess student performance in extended learning experiences.

**Doctoral degree:** a degree awarded by universities for study beyond a master's degree. Also referred to as a Ph.D. or professional degree.

**Dual credit:** credit given in both high school and college for college-level courses taken while in high school.

**Extended learning experiences:** participation in career and technical student organizations, extracurricular activities, job shadowing, internships, or service learning.

**Financial aid:** scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study funds awarded to students to pay for college expenses.

**Internship:** an extended learning experience in which students work temporarily at entry-level jobs in careers that interest them.

**Job shadowing:** an extended learning experience in which students observe professionals in particular careers as they go through a day on the job.

**Postsecondary education:** education beyond high school. Middle school and high school are referred to as secondary education, so postsecondary means after high school.

**Program of study:** a way of organizing the curricula and educational activities within a career cluster related to a student's specific academic and career goal.

**Service learning:** an extended learning experience in which students do volunteer work related to their career goals.

**Targeted industry clusters:** six industry clusters that have been identified by Texas as high-demand, high-growth sectors paying high wages. As they are developed by the State, these may be hot areas in which to build a rewarding career.

**Program of Study:** an education plan suggesting the high school courses a student should take to prepare successfully for graduation and transition into postsecondary education. The vision for Texas CTE is that eighth graders, in consultation with their parents/guardians, counselors, and teachers, will select a program of study and create a plan. Plans are to be reviewed and revised at least once each school year.







# Online Info

Explore these Internet resources for more about your education and career options.

## America's Career InfoNet

[www.acinet.org/acinet](http://www.acinet.org/acinet)

This is the place to search for occupational information, industry information, and state-specific labor market information.

## College for All Texans

[www.collegeforalltexans.com](http://www.collegeforalltexans.com)

Here is everything a Texan needs to know about preparing for, applying for, and paying for college or technical school. And it's all in one up-to-date, easy-to-navigate mega-site almost as big as the state itself. Remember: \$4 billion is available every year to help Texans attend college.

## Employability Skills Framework

<http://cte.ed.gov/employabilityskills/>

Employability skills are general skills that are necessary for success in the labor market at all employment levels in all sectors. The Employability Skills Framework is a one-stop resource for information and tools to inform the instruction and assessment of employability skills.

## My Next Move

[www.mynextmove.org/](http://www.mynextmove.org/)

This is a career planning resource for students, parents, career changers, and career advisors.

## TEXAS CAREER CHECK

The State of Texas has created a special website for students and others researching careers. It's called Texas Career Check. Texas Career Check lets you explore higher education options by looking at detailed information by school and program of study, AND you can explore careers, occupational information, and postsecondary education options. You'll find a wealth of information about hundreds of career choices. To explore Texas Career Check, go to [www.texascareercheck.com](http://www.texascareercheck.com).

## O\*NET

(Occupational Information Network)  
[online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org)

Also available in schools and libraries, O\*NET provides full information on occupations, including compensation, employment prospects, and skill matching for students. Information on compensation is available on a state-by-state basis.

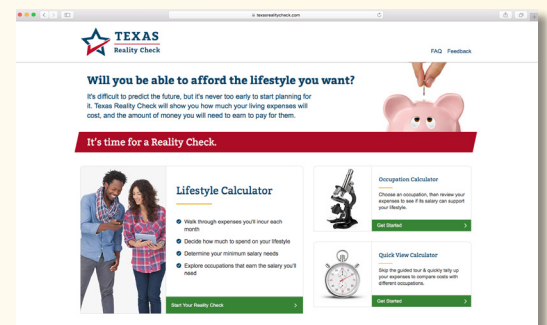
## U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook

[www.bls.gov/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/home.htm)

This nationally recognized resource offers information on job responsibilities, earnings, working conditions, and job prospects for the future.

# Take a Reality Check

The Texas Workforce Commission has created an online resource called Reality Check to help you understand how much money you'll need to live on your own after high school or college and how you can earn it. There are three ways to explore careers, expenses, and earnings. For the first option, which is called "Get a Reality Check," you choose an area you'd like to live in, such as Austin. You then go through a series of screens with real-world costs for items such as housing, clothing, transportation, health care, and personal expenses. The site automatically adds up your estimated monthly expenses, then uses salary information for Texas to show you careers that will make you that much money. The second option, called "Future Salary," starts with the wages you expect to earn, what education you plan to pursue, and the career cluster that interests you. Then it generates a list of careers in which you can make that amount of money. The third option, "Occupation Direct," begins with your occupational choice and the area where you want to live, then shows how your estimated expenses subtract from the salary for your chosen job. The site, which is at [www.careerwise.mnscu.edu/careers/realitycheck.html](http://www.careerwise.mnscu.edu/careers/realitycheck.html), is a great way to play "what if" when it comes to mixing your job, earnings, and expense options.



The results of Reality Check show you how expenses add up quickly when you are living on your own.

# Texas CTE Career Clusters



**Agriculture,  
Food &  
Natural  
Resources**

Processing, production, distribution, and development of agricultural commodities and natural resources



**Architecture &  
Construction**

Designing, managing, building, and maintaining the built environment



**Arts, A/V  
Technology &  
Communications**

Creating, exhibiting, performing, and publishing multimedia content



**Business  
Management &  
Administration**

Organizing, directing, and evaluating functions essential to productive business operations



**Education &  
Training**

Providing education and training services, and related learning support services



**Finance**

Financial and investment planning, banking, insurance, and business financial management



**Government  
& Public  
Administration**

Executing governmental functions at the local, state, and federal levels



**Health Science**

Providing diagnostic and therapeutic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research



**Hospitality  
& Tourism**

Managing restaurants and other food services, lodging, attractions, recreation events, and travel-related services



**Human  
Services**

Providing for families and serving human needs



**Information  
Technology**

Designing, supporting, and managing hardware, software, multimedia, and systems integration



**Law,  
Public Safety,  
Corrections  
& Security**

Providing legal, public safety, protective, and homeland security services



**Manufacturing**

Processing materials into intermediate or final products



**Marketing**

Performing marketing activities to reach organizational objectives



**Science,  
Technology,  
Engineering &  
Mathematics**

Performing scientific research and professional and technical services



**Transportation,  
Distribution  
& Logistics**

Managing movement of people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail, and water

**About Texas CTE** You may have seen the name Texas CTE on the cover of this magazine. What exactly is that?

Texas CTE is the name of Texas' college and career education initiative. The idea behind it is simple: Planning for the future so that students achieve lifelong success. As Texas CTE grows, you'll see how subjects such as English, math, science, and social studies are relevant to your personal goals and ambitions. You'll get the chance to begin a plan that gets you where you want to go in life. You'll have the opportunity to take courses and engage in extended learning experiences that give you marketable skills. Best of all, you'll be in control of your future. Read all 16 editions of Texas CTE in Action (available through your counselor) to explore Texas' career clusters and start on the road to success.