



BULLDOG REVIEW FOR RISING SENIORS

Comparing the ACT vs. SAT

	<u>ACT</u>	<u>SAT</u>
Subjects Tested	Reading Math English Science	Reading Math Writing and Language Optional Essay Test
Length of Test	Optional Writing Test	3 hours +40 minutes for essay
Number of Questions	2 hours, 55 minutes +50 minutes for essay	154 questions
Score Range	215 questions	Composite 400-1600 Writing domains scored
Price	Composite 1-36 Writing score 2-12 in 3 dimensions, each 2-8 \$39.50	\$43.00 \$54.50 with Essay
Remaining Testing dates:	<u>ACT</u> April 9, 2016 June 11, 2016	<u>SAT</u> March 5, 2016 May 7, 2016 June 4, 2016

Senior Meeting

Senior Conferences begin in September 2016. Be prepared to discuss your top three college, junior college, technical school, or military options with your counselor.

Take SAT or ACT before your senior year begins if you are planning to attend college. Your counselor will discuss your scores and qualifications for the colleges/universities that you are interested in attending.

Application cut-off date for most competitive Division I schools is December 1st. If you are planning to attend a division 1 college, it is important that you have completed your SAT/ACT testing by October.

Pay attention to early admission dates as well.

PSAT

Information regarding the PSAT and study tools are available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzCSIIL3WQ&feature=youtu.be>

To learn about becoming a **National Merit Scholar**, please visit www.nationalmerit.org

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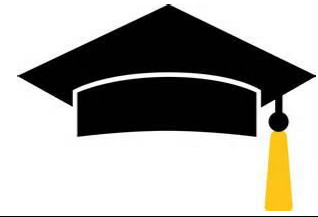


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Important Changes to FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Window opens in October for the 2017-2018 school year.
Parents will need their 2015 Tax Returns to begin this process.



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Calculating GPA/Class Rank

Understanding your GPA and class rank should be an important part of every high school student. Not all classes count toward a student's GPA. Below you will find the specific courses that RCHS uses to determine GPA and rank for the class of 2016.

English: I, II, III, IV

Math: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, 4th math

Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, 4th Science

History: W. Geography, W. History, US History, government, economics

Language other than English: I, II

PreAP and AP Policies

For information regarding PreAP or AP courses please visit us at <https://sites.google.com/a/rcisd.org/counselors/> Please take time to read the policies regarding prereq's as well as the drop policy. Both procedures are strictly followed at the high school. Dropping a PreAP/AP course is never recommended or supported.

Explanation of Eligibility for Automatic College Admission

Under the Automatic Admission policy (Texas Education Code §51.803), can be found at http://tea.texas.gov/Curriculum_and_Instructional_Programs/Graduation_Information/Automatic_College_Admission/

Dual credit information

Students may begin taking college level courses as early as their sophomore year in high school. Students who are interested in taking a Dual Credit course will need to take the TSI test in the spring of their freshman year. Test results must be submitted to your child's counselor prior to summer break. This will ensure that your child will receive all the necessary information from the college for the FALL enrollment.

What is the TSI?

The TSI Assessment is a program designed to help your institution determine if you are ready for college-level course work in the general areas of reading, writing and mathematics. This program also will help determine what type of course or intervention will best meet your needs to help you become better prepared for college-level course work if you are not ready.

How do I sign up?

Tests are given on the campus of A&M Commerce.

Scheduling: The TSI assessment is done by appointment only. Appointments are scheduled between 8 am and 2 pm. Plan for 1 1/2 hours per section; however, the sections are untimed. Call 903-886-5122 at least 24 hours in advance to schedule an appointment to ensure a computer is available.

*If you are not in the Commerce area, let them know when you call and the staff will attempt to find a testing center as close as possible to your location.

Testing Fee:

The TSI assessment costs \$15 per section payable by cash, money order or credit card on the day of the exam.

Dual Credit vs. Advanced Placement-Which is best for my student?

	<u>Dual Credit</u>	<u>Advanced Placement/AP</u>
<u>Use:</u>	To meet "core" requirements and electives.	To meet "core" requirements and electives.
<u>Transferability:</u>	In-state institutions, some private and out of state-check with the institution.	Accepted by most public and private institutions.
<u>How Transferred:</u>	Must send a transcript from the current college to the institution you are transferring to.	Must send a copy from College Board to the institution the student is planning to attend.
<u>Assigning Grades:</u>	Grades earned at the university will be the grade earned on the HS transcript. No HS credit awarded for grades lower than 70.	Grades are based on classwork and assignments given in class. AP exam grades given in May, are not included in class average