Getting Ready for College Guide
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lamar.edu/parents
A college education is not only important because it leads to higher wages over a lifetime, it also broadens the scope of opportunities available after graduation. And this is due to more than passing courses. In college, students have the opportunity to explore various academic and professional interests in a concentrated way – a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. College is also geared towards helping students grow into adulthood. In college, students can experience personal growth, exercise greater freedom of choice, accept more responsibility than they have ever had before, and exercise skills they will need for life -- all under the guidance of faculty and administration, and in step with a large group of their peers.

In addition to earning more and having broader opportunities, a quick look at the backgrounds of today’s leaders shows what most of us suspect: college graduates are more likely to attain positions of influence at the local, national and global levels.

Want to lead a city, a county, or the nation? College provides the foundation. Are you interested in helping others? You can have a bigger impact if you’ve gone to college.

These advantages are true for all American college graduates!

Article provided by the Hispanic Scholarship Foundation. Learn more at hsf.net.
WHY LAMAR UNIVERSITY?

RECENTLY RANKED AS ONE OF THE MOST ETHNICALLY & ECONOMICALLY DIVERSE UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY.
"ENROLLING HERE HAS BEEN ONE OF MY BEST DECISIONS AND HAS GIVEN ME A SOLID FOUNDATION TO ACHIEVE MY CAREER ASPIRATIONS.

R. Tom Caughlin Presidential Scholarship recipient
Pre-Medical Club"
PARENTS & FAMILIES
PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE

From offering help with applications to encouraging students to persevere, the
support of parents and families is vital to student success.

You can help your student make the
transition to college life by striking
the right balance between providing
support and fostering independence.

Discuss both financial plans and
academic expectations. Encourage your student to make responsible
decisions about alcohol and other lifestyle choices.

You can help by recognizing that
your student is an adult who still
needs a coach but not a rescuer.
Listen and offer encouragement
while urging your student to take
advantage of resources on campus
and to solve his or her own problems.
Lamar University offers several
programs to help students achieve
their full academic potential whether
they need extra help or extra
challenges:

- Academic Programs
- Advising: All freshmen and new
  transfer students are required to
  meet with an academic advisor
  before registering for classes, and
  many departments require advising
  for all majors each semester.

- Financial Aid
- Bookstore
- Registering for Classes
- Tutoring: Along with free tutoring,
  the office of Student Tutoring and
  Retention Services offers
  workshops on topics such as study
  skills, test preparation and time
  management.

- Honors Program: Honors
  students may enroll in enriched
  core curriculum classes, participate in interdisciplinary
  seminars, pursue independent
  study and initiate enhanced
  projects in classes to match
  their interests. Honors students
  have access to specialized
  scholarships and peer
  mentoring.

- Career Counseling
- International Student Services

Learn more at
lamar.edu/parents
PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Lamar University Parents Association is here to enhance communication between the University and families of Lamar students. Our purpose is to foster the University partnership with families in providing a quality education experience. If you’re a parent or a family member of a LU student (undergraduate or graduate), you’re already a member!

There are no forms to sign or dues to pay. We are committed to enhancing your experiences at the University while your son or daughter is a student. Visit our Membership page to join our mailing list and to receive our newsletter, Cardinal Parent.

Lamar University also has a Parents Council. The Parents Council is made up of active parent volunteers and helps the Office of New Student and Leadership Programs host campus and recruitment events. The Parents Council represents all parents of current students and acts as a liaison between parents and Lamar University.

The Council communicates important information to the Parents Association about Lamar University processes, deadlines, and news, including the multiple opportunities parents have to get involved on campus and upcoming events. The Parents Council meets up to five times a year for campus and recruitment events and Council meetings. Council members are active and visible representatives of the Parents Association dedicated to welcoming new parents into the Parents Association and creating opportunities for parents to have a supportive community.

For more information, call us at 409-880-7775 or email parents@lamar.edu.

You're invited to join us for Parents Weekend!

All parents and family members are encouraged to attend our annual Parents Weekend. This weekend is a great opportunity to reconnect with your students and see first-hand what their life is like at Lamar University.

Parents Weekend typically includes a Welcome Brunch, games at the Rec, Tailgating, and of course, LU Football!

To learn more, visit lamarfamilyfest.com.
3 Freshman Application Requirements

APPLICATION
A completed undergraduate application submitted through the statewide Apply Texas system at applytexas.org.

SAT OR ACT SCORE
An SAT or ACT score sent to Lamar University by the testing agency. Use SAT Code 6360 or ACT Code 4114.

HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT
A high school transcript showing class size and class rank. Upon graduation, a final transcript should be submitted showing class rank, date of graduation and graduation plan. Send transcripts to the Admissions Office, P.O. Box 10009, Beaumont TX 77710.

WATCH: HOW TO APPLY
"I chose Lamar University for its outstanding engineering program, its internship opportunities and its unbeatable value." - Robert Ehrlich

UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Because Lamar University is part of the Texas State System, students that meet the following requirements will be accepted automatically.

1. Receive a diploma from an accredited high school.

2. Complete at least 14 high school credits in college preparatory courses: 4 credits in English, 3 credits in mathematics, 2 credits in laboratory sciences, 2 ½ credits in social sciences (U.S. history, U.S. government, and world history or world geography) and 2 ½ credits in college preparatory electives (preferably including 2 credits of foreign language).

3. Satisfy requirements of the State of Texas Uniform Admission Policy

4. Graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class or achieve a minimum composite score on the SAT or ACT.

First-time applicants who do not meet unconditional admission requirements but who have a minimum score of 800 on the old SAT, 880 on the new SAT or 17 on the ACT will be considered on an Individual Approval basis.

Transfer Students, including those with fewer than 18 hours of college credit, should also have official copies of all prior college and university transcripts sent to Lamar University. This applies regardless of the length of attendance and regardless of whether credit was earned.

How to Contact Us

Find your personal admissions representative by searching by your high school at BeACardinal.com/counselor, or by phone: (409) 880-8316, or recruitment@lamar.edu

You can also stop in for a visit in the Welcome Center in the John Gray Center's Herman Iles Building. We look forward to speaking with you!
Financial Aid

WATCH: HOW ARE FINANCIAL AID PACKAGES DETERMINED?

Undergraduates are offered financial aid in the form of a 'package' — a combination of grants, loans, and work-study.

The first step in determining a student's financial aid package is through the process of need analysis. There are two formulas for need analysis. The first is conducted by the federal government to determine eligibility for its programs. The second is sometimes conducted by colleges and universities to determine how they will distribute their own institutional aid.

The process of need analysis determines how much students and their families are expected to contribute from their own resources ('expected family contribution,' or EFC) and how much aid students are eligible to receive. When the federal government conducts a financial need analysis, it considers the family's income and assets (but ignores assets for families that make less than $50,000 a year), the family's size, the number of parents, the age of the older parent, and the number of other family members enrolled in postsecondary study. The federal formula typically expects a family contribution of approximately 5 percent of net worth.

The amount of financial aid an undergraduate qualifies for is determined by subtracting expected family contribution from the total price of attending the institution. Total price includes tuition, fees, room and board, and other expenses. The gap that exists between a family's expected contribution and the price of attending may be filled by a number of federal and state grant and loan programs, aid provided by institutions, and private sources of aid.
Learn how to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), how aid is calculated, and how you’ll get your aid at fafsa.gov.

**HOW DO I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?**

Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by applying online at fafsa.gov.

You and one of your parents should create a FSA User ID, which consist of a username and password. The FSA User ID is used to authenticate the identity of students, parents, and borrowers, to access their federal student aid information.

Make sure that Lamar University receives the information by listing Lamar University when you complete the FAFSA. Our school code is 003581. You will receive an acknowledgement from the U.S. Dept of Education upon receipt.

Parents and students are encouraged to fill this out after October 1st of the student’s senior year, and then renew the form each following year. The FAFSA form uses numbers from your taxes to calculate the amount that they think the parents can afford to contribute to their child’s tuition each year. Using that number, your student’s university can award need based grants and work study to help pay for institutional costs. To learn more about FAFSA, or to file your FAFSA online, go to the US Department of Education Free Application For Federal Student Aid Website: fafsa.gov.

Once your electronic FAFSA information has been received by Lamar University and you have been fully admitted, the Financial Aid Office will request additional documentation before you are awarded.

You can log into your online student account and view what documents the Financial Aid Office is requesting. View directions for logging into your online account at lamar.edu/financialaid. Students and/or parents if applicable, who file an extension with the IRS will need to wait until they can either use the IRS DRT tool or submit a tax transcript before awarding can occur.

Many times we will request IRS transcripts of your and your parents’ tax returns from the tax year requested on the FAFSA, a verification worksheet (available on LU’s Financial Aid website), and documentation of additional untaxed items such as child support paid, IRA/Keogh deductions, workers compensation, and interest on tax-free bonds.

Once we have received all of the requested paperwork, reviewed it, and verified it, you will be awarded the grants and loans for which you are eligible.

Verification is intended to improve the accuracy of the information submitted on the FAFSA. Please be aware that our office cannot process financial aid, requests for professional judgment, or disburse federal student aid until the verification process is complete.

Financial aid administrators have the right to ask for any documentation they feel is necessary to complete verification. If the family refuses to supply this documentation, the college is prohibited from disbursing federal student aid to the student.

Learn more at: lamar.edu/financialaid
Each year, LU awards more than 2,000 scholarships, providing millions in assistance to students.

Most scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement. Other factors such as academic major, leadership ability and specialized skills (athletics, marching band, music, etc.) also may be considered in awarding scholarships.

For priority consideration for most scholarships, apply no later than February 1 each year (some unique opportunities require earlier deadlines).

To see what scholarships are available to you, submit an application at ApplyTexas.org. Once admitted, you will receive a username and password by letter via email. Admitted and current students can start the scholarship process online at lamar.edu/myscholarships.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us or visit our frequently asked questions page, beacardinal.com/payingforcollege.

**Incoming Freshmen Scholarships**

Academic Excellence Scholarships are available to first-time-in-college freshmen (dual credit and AP credit are not disqualifying) with a minimum SAT (CR + M) score of 1150-1290 (test taken Before March 5, 2016) / 1220-1350 (test taken After March 5, 2016) or an ACT score of 25 AND must be ranked in the Top 25%.

The Academic Excellence award will give students $16,000 over four years. $2,000 per year will be applied toward tuition and $2,000 will be applied toward on-campus residence hall.

WATCH: HOW DO I APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?
Cardinal Elite Scholarships are available to first-time-in-college freshmen (dual credit and AP credit are not disqualifying) with a minimum SAT (CR+M) score of 1300 (test taken Before March 5, 2016) / 1360 (test taken After March 5, 2016) or an ACT score of 29 or greater. The Cardinal Elite award will give students $32,000 over four years: $5,000 per year will be applied toward tuition and $3,000 per year will be applied toward on-campus residence hall.

Students receiving the Academic Excellence or Cardinal Elite scholarship are invited to fill out the supplemental LU Scholarship application at lamar.edu/myscholarships. The supplemental application will match your qualifications with other endowed scholarship awards. Endowed scholarships will be awarded after the February 1st priority deadline.

Top Scholars Program: Mirabeau Scholarship
Outstanding incoming freshmen with exceptionally strong academic records are invited to apply. Mirabeau Scholars receive a full scholarship for four years covering tuition, fees, room and board, and books.

Top Scholars Program: Southeast Texas Legends Scholarship Program
Outstanding incoming freshmen are invited to apply. SETX Legends Scholars receive a full scholarship for four years covering tuition, fees, room and board, and books.

Smith-Hutson Scholarship Program
Incoming freshmen with established financial need and academic potential are encouraged to apply. This scholarship provides tuition, fees, books, supplies and on-campus room and board. Learn more at lamar.edu/myscholarships.
DATES & DEADLINES

Apply Now

Apply now at applytexas.org. Then, file the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. The deadline for Texas public colleges is March 15, 2017.

For priority consideration for most scholarships, apply no later than February 1 each year (some unique opportunities require earlier deadlines). Learn more at: lamar.edu/scholarships.

Mark Your Calendar for Summer Orientation 2017

2017 Sessions:
Friday, June 16
Saturday, June 17

Friday, June 23
Saturday, June 24

Friday, July 7
Saturday, July 8

Friday, July 28
Saturday, July 29

All Orientation times are from 8 am - 5 pm. Check-in is from 8 am - 9 am at the University Theater. Learn more at lamar.edu/orientation

"I love that at Lamar University I am not just another student. The professors know me by name and care about my success in their classes."

WATCH: WHAT HAPPENS AT NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION?
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACADEMIC RECORD
The most important element of your student’s college application, the academic record includes your student’s grades and courses taken during high school (also known as the transcript) as well as any college classes taken concurrently or online.

ACCEPTANCE
Students offered admission to a college usually receive electronic notice of acceptance and sometimes also in the mail (the traditional “fat envelope”). Students admitted regular decision typically have until May 1st (“National Candidates Reply Day”) to accept or decline the offered spot.

ACT
The ACT is a standardized college entrance exam accepted by all four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. and now taken by more high school students than the SAT. The ACT covers English, reading, math and science and includes an optional writing section. Find out more at www.act.org.

ADMIT RATE
The admit rate is the percentage of students admitted to a college out of the total number that applied and is found by dividing the number of applicants by the number offered a spot. When the number of applications rises at a particular school, the admit rate typically must drop in response, resulting in greater “selectivity.”

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)
The College Board’s AP program includes college-level courses in more than 30 subjects. Some high schools offer dozens of AP courses; others provide a limited number of “basics” such as English, U.S. History and Biology. Each AP course concludes with an exam scored from 1-5. Many colleges offer credit for scores of 3 or higher. If a student is applying to selective colleges, doing well in AP classes (or IB; see below) demonstrates academic “rigor” in the transcript.

CLASS RANK
This is where a student stands in relation to the rest of his or her high school class based on GPA. Some high schools recognize the graduating senior with the highest GPA as class valedictorian; however, many no longer compute class rank.
THE COLLEGE BOARD

This not-for-profit company administers the SAT and PSAT, the Advanced Placement (AP) tests, and the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. A student’s personal account allows access to all of these programs and forms. The College Board website also features college search and planning resources. Learn more at www.collegeboard.org.

COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)

The total cost of attending a college or university, including tuition, room and board, fees, and estimated expenses for books, travel, and personal items. This information should be easy to locate on a college’s website under “Admissions” and/or “Financial Aid and Costs” and the COA should be front and center in any financial aid award letter received by an admitted student.

CSS/FINANCIAL AID PROFILE

When determining eligibility for financial aid, in addition to the FAFSA, several hundred private colleges and a number of flagship state universities also require the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. The CSS is administered by the College Board, so your student will already have an account if he or she has taken the SAT. The CSS collects data on student and family assets and liabilities, information that schools take into consideration as they distribute their own institutional funds. An interactive presentation on the website (css.collegeboard.org) explains the application process and financial documents needed.

DEMONSTRATED NEED

A student applying for financial aid demonstrates need if the Expected Family Contribution is less than the Cost of Attendance. COA minus EFC equals demonstrated financial need.

EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)

This is the minimum amount a student is expected to contribute to the cost of college. The dollar amount figure is the “output” of calculations made from the financial information a family supplies via the FAFSA and CSS/PROFILE forms. Because there are different formulas for calculating the EFC, it can vary from school to school. Basically, it is determined by the amount of a family’s income and assets while taking into consideration family size plus the number of dependent children enrolled in college in a given year.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

This federal law grants college students the exclusive right to view and share education and financial records including grades, transcripts, and tuition/financial aid statements. Though many parents help students complete financial aid applications and pay tuition and other educational expenses, the college will communicate directly with the student and not the parent(s). Learn more about FERPA at www.ed.gov.

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

All students applying for financial aid must complete this online form, found at fafsa.gov. The FAFSA is required by all colleges and universities in the U.S. that award federal financial aid. A FAFSA Checklist, available on the website, itemizes the documents and information you will need to complete the form.
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS
These students are the first in their families to attend or graduate from college. Lamar University welcomes first generation students.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)
This number is the average of all the grades earned in high school based on a 4.0 scale (4 for A, 3 for B, etc.). Some schools use a weighted GPA scale where an “A” in an advanced/honors or AP/IB class is worth 5.0.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB)
IB Diploma students take courses and complete assessments in six subject groups plus three core requirements including an independent research essay, a theory of knowledge course, and a “creativity, action, service” component. Some high schools allow students who do not wish to pursue the arduous diploma to take one or more individual IB subjects. Exams are scored on a 7-point scale, and a score of 5 or higher may provide college credit.

MERIT-BASED AID
This aid is awarded based on a student’s talents (athletic, musical, etc.), academic strengths, or special circumstances (for example, if a student is the first in the family to attend college). It may be part of a need-based aid package or may be offered to a student who does not qualify for need-based aid.

NEED-BASED AID
A student’s financial need is determined based on the difference between the COA and the EFC. If the EFC is larger than the COA, there is no financial need. If need is demonstrated, a college or university may offer a financial aid package consisting of some combination of grants, loans, scholarships, and work-study.

NET PRICE CALCULATOR (NPC)
The “net price” of a school is what a student/family will pay based on the difference between the Cost of Attendance (COA) and any financial aid the student might qualify for. These tools provide an estimate only of the school’s cost, based on the financial information you enter. Using the calculator is not the same as applying for financial aid, but can be part of a family’s financial planning. Learn more at collegeforalltxans.com/.

PSAT/NMSQT
The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a multiple-choice test of reading, writing and language, and math taken each October by high school juniors and some younger students. The PSAT is practice for the SAT and also the entry portal for the National Merit Scholarship program.

SAT
The SAT is a widely accepted standardized college admission test (now with optional essay). Selective colleges and universities may also ask applicants to submit SAT Subject Test scores. Most schools accept either the SAT or the ACT. Find out more at sat.collegeboard.org.

STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR)
After a student submits the FAFSA, a Student Aid Report is generated and emailed. The SAR summarizes the information entered into the FAFSA and includes the EFC (Estimated Family Contribution). The SAR is also sent directly to the school(s) a student indicates should receive it when filing the FAFSA.