

## COUNSELORS' CORNER

By Barbara Moeller  
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### SAT Prep Course

College Prep Genius will offer two courses this winter. Each course is three days.

Session 1 is scheduled for February 8, February 15, and February 22.

Session 2 is scheduled for March 1, March 8, and March 22.

Tuition for each session is \$99.

To sign up go to: [www.CollegePrepGenius.com/classes](http://www.CollegePrepGenius.com/classes) or call 817-282-PREP.

### Texas A&M Invitational

Students interested in Texas A&M University are invited to spend time on campus, once in February, March, or April. These visits are for high school juniors and seniors.

Contact information:

- MSC A LOT      website: [slot.tamu.edu](http://slot.tamu.edu)  
Email: [slot@msc.tamu.edu](mailto:slot@msc.tamu.edu)
- MSC FISH      website: [fish.tamu.edu](http://fish.tamu.edu)  
Email: [hssc@msc.tamu.edu](mailto:hssc@msc.tamu.edu)
- MSC LEAD      website: [lead.tamu.edu/aggieshadows](http://lead.tamu.edu/aggieshadows)  
Email: [aggieshadows@msc.tamu.edu](mailto:aggieshadows@msc.tamu.edu)

### Scholarship Opportunity

From UNT Dallas, a new satellite campus for the University of North Texas, comes a scholarship opportunity for students interested in earning a BA in Math with a Secondary Teacher Certification.

The scholarship offers free tuition and books, travel support for workshops and conferences, high-quality instruction, mentoring and internships.

Eligibility requirements include rank in the top 25% of the graduating class; exempt from Texas Success Initiative, TAKS scores or SAT/ACT scores; appropriate SAT score, minimum 600 Math and minimum 580 Critical Reading for a composite of 1180, or appropriate ACT score, minimum 24 Math and minimum 24 English for a composite of 25; 4 years of high school math to include Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and PreCalculus; and must be a US citizen or a permanent resident.

Contact Information: [www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/tischolar.htm](http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/tischolar.htm)

[Carrie.Sumner@unt.edu](mailto:Carrie.Sumner@unt.edu)      972-338-1502  
[Vinod.Arya@unt.edu](mailto:Vinod.Arya@unt.edu)      972-338-1375

## Financial Aid Primer

The following is a dollop of financial aid knowledge that all parents of college bound students should be familiar with.

Need-based aid is awarded on the basis of the gap that exists between the student's resources, including those from the family, and the cost of attending college. The cost of attendance includes direct costs, tuition, fees and books/supplies, and indirect costs which are living expenses. Family contribution is derived from information provided through the FAFSA and is released only to the institutions named by the student on the form. **All parents of college students should fill out the FAFSA each year the student attends college.**

FAFSA stands for "Free Application for Federal Student Aid." (From AIE)

- The FAFSA is the central element in the federal student aid application process. The information that students and their parents provide on this form serves as the basis for determining their eligibility for federal student aid. This same form is often used to determine eligibility for state and institutional aid programs.
- All students applying for federal assistance must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- There is no charge to apply for federal student financial assistance.
- Many schools also use the FAFSA to award their own financial aid.
- Many states also use the FAFSA to determine eligibility for state aid.

The **FAFSA** asks for:

- The student's and his or her parents' financial information, including annual income, taxes paid, untaxed income, current assets, and so on.
- Demographic information, including family size, number of students in college, and the student's enrollment status.

The information provided in the **FAFSA** is used to calculate an **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** using a formula mandated by Congress called the Federal Methodology (FM).

- The EFC is what the family is expected to contribute to the student's educational costs for a given year. The FAFSA is also used to confirm certain student eligibility criteria by means of computer database matches with various federal agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, and Selective Service Administration.

This is the process for applying for aid.

The student

- Completes the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as described above. Any college financial aid office will help a parent fill out the FAFSA.
- Has results made available to the college/university
- Completes paperwork prior the Priority Deadline

The Institution

- Calculates need
- Compares students to program requirements
- Identifies viable programs and amounts
- Sends award letter

The Student

- Receives award letter
- Accepts or rejects the offered aid
- Notifies college of acceptance or rejection of offer.

The Institution

- Holds funds for the student

The Student

- Receives his funds or the funds are applied to his/her account at the college

The vast majority of state and federal aid is distributed through the process just described on the basis of the FAFSA and through the financial aid office. This keeps families from having to apply separately for each award.

Non-need based aid includes merit-based scholarships, tuition and/pr fee exemptions, and waivers of non-resident tuition. These programs do not require financial need but can impact eligibility for need-based aid. They are not awarded using the FAFSA.

Major state programs include

- Early High School Graduation Scholarships
- Texas Grants
- Texas Public Education Grants
- Tuition Equalization Grants
- Educational Aide Exemption Program for ISD Employees
- Other Exemptions

For more information on these programs

- Contact 1.800.242.3062 or 512.427.6340
- Financial Aid Hotline 1.888.331.8881
- <http://www.collegefortexans.com/paying/geninfo.cfm>

- [grantinfo@theccb.state.tx.us](mailto:grantinfo@theccb.state.tx.us)

### **Who is my student's counselor?**

The student's last name determines his or her counselor. Please feel free to call your student's counselor for information or help. The alphabet distribution has changed. Check to see if your student has been assigned to a different counselor.

A – Bz	David Pyatt	682-867-8624
C- – Eq	Debra Mansury	682-867-8610
Er - Ham	Dana Bishop	682-867-8625
Han – Kq	Suzanne Bandy	682-867-1800
Kr – Mon	Barbara Moeller	682-867-8627
Moo – Ree	Connie David	682-867-8626
Ref – Ta	Susan Kingen	682-867-8628
Tb– Z	Jai Hodges	682-867-8623