

# Building Bridges to College:

## A Parent's Guide

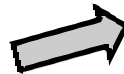


**Being a parent** is one of the hardest and most rewarding jobs in the world. Every parent wants their child to succeed in school, and today being successful means getting a college education. You will find out as you read that an education opens the door to many opportunities.

Learning about college can be very confusing for both students and parents. There's so much to know! But, the great thing is that it's an opportunity for you and your child to take some time and learn about college together.



Because before you know it...



they're all grown up!



### Why Do You Need to Think about College so Early?

Talking about college together will help your children understand just how important higher education is to their future. And don't worry if you haven't gone to college yourself - there are people, such as your child's high school counselor, who can help you along the way!



**Parents, You're Right on Time**

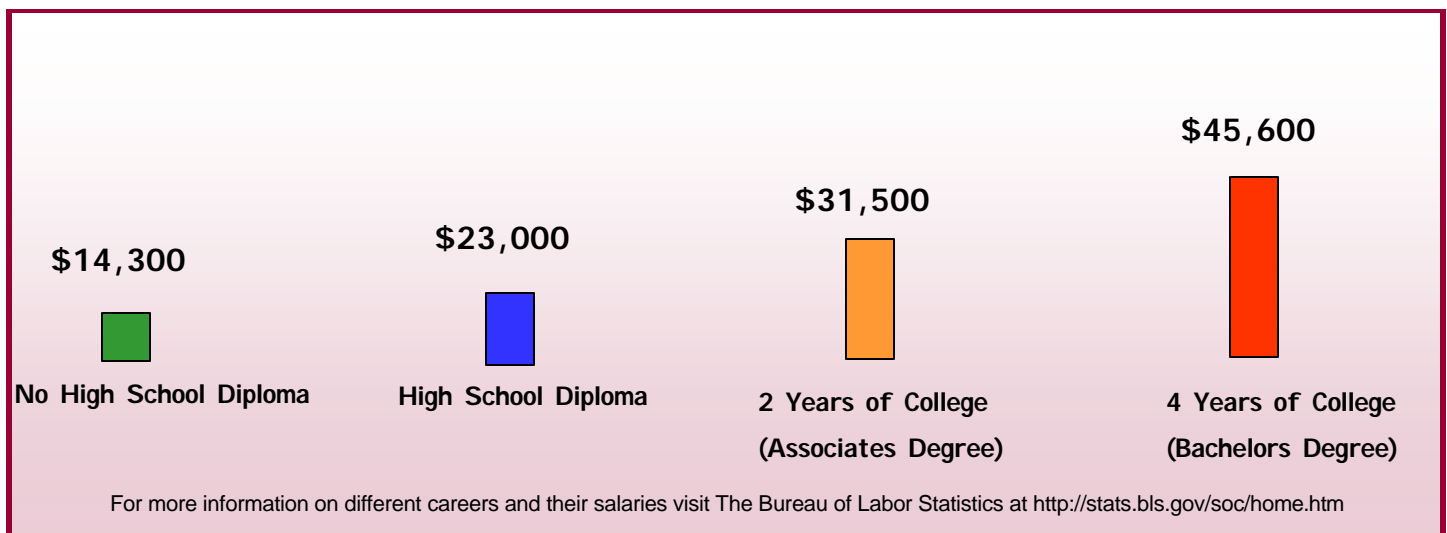


*to start learning more about college!*

## Why Choose College?

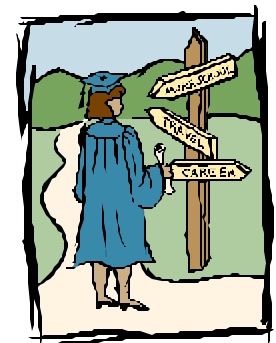
Technology has made the world a much different place, and that means jobs have changed too. A college degree makes it easier to support a family. Also, having a college degree opens the door to many jobs. For example, did you know you need a college degree to be a teacher, nurse, or computer technician? Just look below to see how much more money a person can earn in a year if they graduate high school, go to college, and get a college degree!

### Going to College is Worth the Effort!



## Did You Know?

Now you know just how important college is. The next step is to learn basic facts about college. Knowing some of these words and what they mean will help you and your child look at other college information.



**ACT or SAT:** These are college entrance tests; students *must* take one of them by their junior or senior year of high school if they want to go to college. These tests are given to students all over the country, and mainly focus on subjects such as math, reading, and writing.

**High School Counselor:** Each high school has a person to help students fill out college applications, make good decisions about classes, and find career information.

**Tuition:** The amount of money colleges charge to teach students, which depends upon the college. It's important to know that tuition is only part of the cost of college.

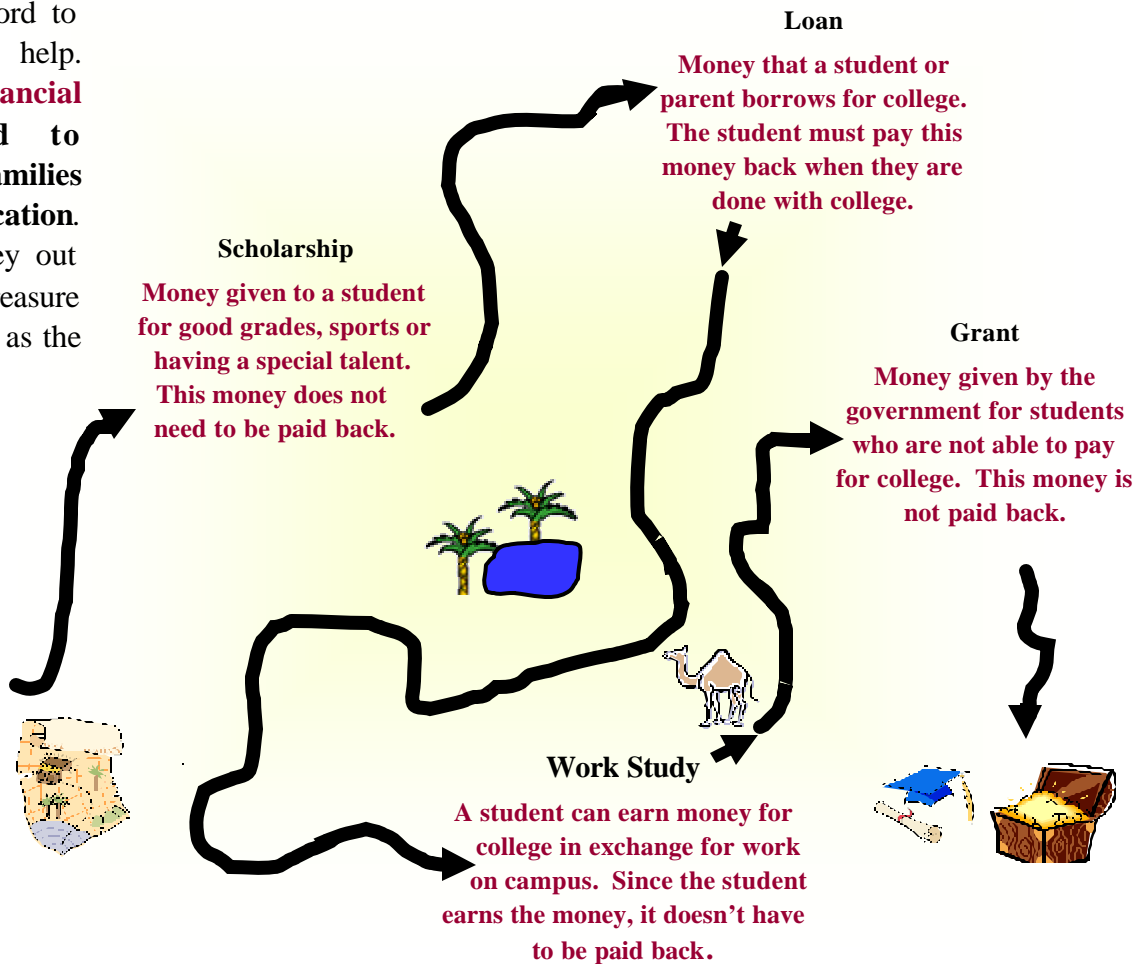
**College Application:** Students must fill out their college applications in the fall of their senior year to be accepted. Colleges will ask for grades, information about extra-curricular activities, and test scores.

# Paying for College

Very few families can afford to pay for college without help. That's why there's **financial aid**—money provided to students to help their families pay for their college education. And there's a lot of money out there! Think of it like a treasure hunt, with a college degree as the reward!

### Financial Aid Office

Every college or university has a financial aid office that can help you and your child answer questions you may have such as, "Who qualifies for what types of financial aid?", and "What different types of funds are available?" This office and others will help guide you to a treasure of opportunities!



## Colleges in San Antonio

Going to college does not mean your child has to move away. There are many colleges and universities San Antonio, such as the ones listed below with phone numbers. These phone numbers will direct you to any department you need to get a hold of to answer your questions.

### Community Colleges

- Northwest Vista College  
(210) 348-2020
- Palo Alto College  
(210) 921-5000
- San Antonio College  
(210) 733-2000
- St. Philip's College  
(210) 531-3200

### Public Universities

- University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)  
(210) 458-4011
- University of Texas Health Science Center  
(210) 567-7000








### Private Universities

- Our Lady of the Lake University  
(210) 434-6711
- St. Mary's University  
(210) 436-3011
- Trinity University  
(210) 999-7011
- University of the Incarnate Word  
(210) 829-6005

## More Parent Resources



You're not alone when it comes to learning more about college for your children. There are people who want your children to go to college just as much as you do. Here are some people and places in your community that can keep you on the road to learning more about college:

- ;  **Middle/High School Counselors**
- ;  **College and University campuses in San Antonio**
- ;  **Your Child's Teacher**
- ;  **The Internet** *(your children can help with this one!)*
- ;  **Parents in your Neighborhood with Children who went to college**
- ;  **Public Libraries**
- ;  **Nonprofit Organizations** *(such as Project Stay and the San Antonio Education Partnership)*

## College Tic - Tac - Toe

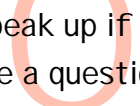
Have your children read these tips aloud to you at home. How many of them is your son or daughter doing already? Which ones do they need to work on? What can you do as a parent to help?



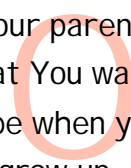
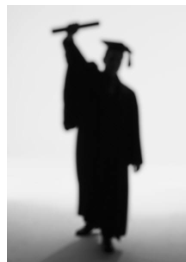
Talk about college  
with your family



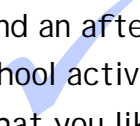
Speak up if you  
have a question in  
class



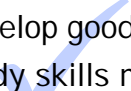

Tell your parents  
what you want  
to be when you  
grow up

Find an after-  
school activity  
that you like



Develop good  
study skills now



Take classes like  
Geometry and Algebra  
in middle school

