PRO: Pursuing Real Opportunities is a community-wide initiative to develop a more skilled local workforce. It is a collaboration of Amarillo Economic Development Corporation, Amarillo ISD and Amarillo College. Many students, parents and adult career seekers have a perception that a four-year degree is the only option for students after high school. However, Amarillo employers and education partners offer viable training and resources to prepare individuals for successful careers in technical fields that are high skill, high wage, or high demand occupations. AISD offers an internship opportunity for students during their senior year of high school to explore and gain hands on experience in a chosen field. This is a two hour block internship so plan well and make room in your high school schedule.
Financial Aid

**Scholarships**- free monies based on academic, merit and athletic achievements.

**Grants**- free monies and mostly based on a family's financial need

**Work Study**- money earned by working at a part time job.

**Loans**- borrowed monies and must be repaid.

**Tuition Exemptions**- waivers for eligible students to help lower the cost of college.

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**“Top 10%”**

Under the Automatic Admission policy (Texas Education Code §51.803), Texas students may be eligible for automatic admission to a state college or university as an undergraduate student if they meet certain criteria. To qualify for automatic admission, a student must:

1. earn a grade point average in the top 10 percent* of his/her high school graduating class,
2. graduate from a Texas public or private high school (or, if the student is a Texas resident, from a high school operated by the U.S. Department of Defense),
3. successfully complete the requirements for the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) or the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP) (or the equivalent if enrolled in private school) or satisfy ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT college entrance exam or earn a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 on the SAT college entrance exam, and
4. apply for admission to a state college or university within the first two school years after graduation from high school.

*The University of Texas at Austin

Beginning with admissions for the 2011-2012 school year, The University of Texas at Austin (UT) is no longer required to automatically admit applicants in excess of 75% of its enrollment capacity for first-time resident undergraduate students.

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**Post-Secondary Admissions Criteria**

Post-secondary institutions use some, if not all, of the information listed when determining whether or not to accept an applicant. Individual institutions, however, differ in how they evaluate this information. One may, for example, place a great deal of importance on test scores, while another may focus more on other factors.

- Grade point average
- Special Talents
- Strengths of Subjects
- Personal Qualities
- ACT/SAT Scores
- Activities/Awards
- Class Rank
- Essays
- Recommendations
- Interviews
- Credits
- Attendance
- Volunteer/Community Service

To obtain more information or apply for federal financial aid visit:

- [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) (1-800-4FED-AID)
- [www.collegefortexans.gov](http://www.collegefortexans.gov) (1-877-782-7322)