Here Are Some College Facts!
Contact the Bryan ISD GEAR UP office for more information. 979-209-2582

**AP Classes (Advanced Placement Classes)** - The **Advanced Placement (AP)** program offers standardized courses to high school students that are generally recognized to be equivalent to undergraduate courses in college. Participating colleges grant credit to students who obtained high enough scores on the exams to qualify. Colleges value a grade earned in an advanced course more highly than a grade earned in a regular course. Pre-AP courses are available to students to prepare for AP courses.

**College Preparatory Curriculum** - In Texas, the **Recommended High School Program** is the **College Preparatory Curriculum**. The Recommended High School Program (RHSP) offers courses that give you the best opportunities to succeed in technical school, community college or a four-year university in Texas. The RHSP includes the following: 4 years of English, Math, Science and Social Studies, 2 years of a Language other than English, 1 year of PE, 1 year of Fine Arts, ½ year of Speech, and 5.5 Elective credits. In BISD, students must also take ½ year of Health.

**Starting College Prep Courses** - Taking advanced courses such as pre-AP, AP, Honors, and Dual Credit also helps students prepare for college. Students should begin taking advanced courses as early as possible, if not in middle school, then during their 9th grade year.

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**College Degrees**
- **Associate Degree** - You receive an Associate of Arts (A.A.) or Associate of Science (A.S.) degree after completing two years of study that are similar to the first two years of a four-year college program. Community colleges, and some four-year universities, offer associate degrees.
- **Bachelor’s Degree** - You receive a bachelor’s degree after completing a four- or five-year, full-time program of study at a four-year college or university.
- **Graduate Degrees** (Master’s Degree, Doctoral Degree) - After completing a bachelor’s degree, you may decide to pursue an advanced or graduate degree. In general, you can earn a master’s degree after studying for two more years. Studying for four years after getting your bachelor’s can earn you a doctoral degree.
- **Professional Degree** (Doctor, Lawyer, Vet, Pharmacist) - Earning a professional degree means completing the academic requirements to become licensed in a recognized profession. These programs of study require at least two years of previous college work for entrance, and at least six years of total college work for completion.
College Entrance Exams

ACT (American College Testing Program) - A college entrance test administered by ACT.

SAT (Scholastic and Aptitude Test) - A college entrance test administered by the College Board.

SAT II - (Scholastic and Aptitude Test II) - SAT Subject Tests is the name for 20 multiple-choice standardized tests given on specific subjects, usually taken to improve a student's credentials for admission to colleges in the United States.

GRE (Graduate Record Exam) - The Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) is a standardized test that is an admissions requirement for many graduate schools and is administered by Educational Testing Service (ETS).