

## COMPARE COLLEGE TX FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### **How can I access Compare College TX? How do I use it?**

To access the information for more than 100 two- and four-year institutions in Texas, visit [comparecollegetx.com](http://comparecollegetx.com).

1. On the homepage, select to search two-year or four-year schools. You can also select an individual school by name.
2. Set a desired range for average tuition and fees per year, percent of applicants accepted, and percent of students who graduate in six years or less.
3. Based on your selections, the tool will tell you how many colleges fit your criteria. From there, select "Go to 'Find Colleges'" and compare the qualified schools side-by-side. You can also visit each school's profile for more in-depth data.
4. Save the schools you're interested in to the "My Colleges" list to keep track of your favorites.
5. In the My Colleges section, you can email a link to comprehensive report of your saved colleges to yourself or someone else.

### **What information will I find on Compare College TX?**

The online tool contains information on a wide variety of facts and performance measures, including:

- Undergraduate acceptance rates
- SAT and ACT score ranges for admission
- Average tuition and fees
- Four- and six-year graduation rates for part- and full-time students
- Student population demographics
- Student-to-faculty ratio
- Average time required to complete a degree
- Wage data for graduates by degree level and major

### **Does the tool only compare public institutions, or are private institutions included?**

Currently, Compare College TX only includes information for each public university and community college in Texas. At this time, the tool does not include independent or private colleges.

### **How many institutions can I compare on Compare College TX?**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board collects data through an online accountability system first launched in 2004 to support the work of institutional researchers and higher education policy analysts. Currently Compare College TX contains information on 38 public universities and 50 community districts (including some individual community college campuses).

### **Does Compare College TX rank colleges and universities?**

Compare College TX does not rank higher education institutions; instead the tool allows individuals to compare Texas colleges and universities on a variety of criteria including average tuition and fees, top degrees awarded, student demographics, four- and six-year graduation rates, student-to-faculty ratio, among other data.

### **How is the data collected?**

The online accountability system was first launched in 2004 to support the work of institutional researchers and higher education policy analysts. The most relevant data from the accountability system is compiled and released in the annual *Texas Public Higher Education Almanac*, designed to disseminate this institutional accountability data to public officials and higher education leaders throughout Texas.

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### What is the difference between Compare College TX and the *Texas Public Higher Education Almanac*?

Compare College TX is the next stage of evolution for higher education accountability and transparency, and fits into the larger suite of online tools designed to help students pursuing postsecondary education. Compare College TX allows users to compare every public university and community college side-by-side on a variety of criteria including four-year graduation rates, average tuition and fees, admission rates, and much more.

### What other resources are available to help students prepare for postsecondary education?

Compare College TX completes the THECB's suite of online tools designed to help Texas students and their parents plan for college in four stages: inspiration, exploration, information, and application:



Generation TX ([gentx.org](http://gentx.org)) – inspires a college and career-ready culture in Texas public schools by increasing awareness and building support for the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards and helping students understand college and career-ready options after high school graduation



Compare College TX ([comparecollegetx.com](http://comparecollegetx.com)) – provides an interactive comparison of facts and performance measures including average tuition and fees, top degrees awarded, student demographics, four- and six-year graduation rates, student-to-faculty ratio and much more



College for All Texans ([collegeforalltexans.com](http://collegeforalltexans.com)) – gives counselors, future students and their parents tips for readying students for college, saving for school tuition, applying for financial aid, and more; and



Apply Texas ([applytexas.com](http://applytexas.com)) – provides one-stop access for applying to any public university in the state as well as participating community and private colleges.

### Is there a resource to also track postsecondary outcomes for Texas institutions?

In addition to collecting data on higher education institutions, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board measures postsecondary outcomes at [howmanygo2college.com](http://howmanygo2college.com), tracking students who enroll in Texas higher education in the fall immediately after high school graduation. The data includes college readiness statistics, enrollment and demographic summaries, and college-going rates across districts and graduation years.