

Average Yearly College Tuition and Fees

- Public Two-Year College (in-state) \$ 4,080
- Public Four-Year University (in-state) \$ 8,446
- Public Four-Year University (out-of-state) \$27,143
- Private Four-Year University \$47,564

Who can enroll and how do students enroll?

- Must be an incoming 9th grade student
- Students must live within United ISD boundaries
- Visit earlycollegeapply.usid.net to create your profile and submit your application electronically
- Submit the application by deadline
- 100 students will be accepted each year
- Students will be accepted using a performance-blind open access lottery system
- Accepted students must complete a summer sbridge program

For more information

- Talk with your counselor about BLSIA
- BLSIA staff will visit the United ISD middle schools during the spring semester



**Lyndon B. Johnson
United Biotechnology & Life Sciences
Innovative Academy
(BLSIA)**

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**Graduate from high school with up to
60 hours of transferable college credit
or an associate's degree.**



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It is the policy of United ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap in its programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

As of 2021

**WE ARE
UNITED**
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

What is BLSIA?

United Biotechnology & Life Sciences Innovative Academy (BLSIA) is a small school designed for students to earn both a high school diploma and an associate's degree or up to 60 hours of credit toward a bachelor's degree. Certifications are available in Pharmacy Technician, Certified Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy amongst others.

BLSIA has the potential to improve high school graduation rates and better prepare all students for high-skilled careers by engaging them in rigorous, college preparatory curriculum and compressing the number of years towards a college degree.

Why BLSIA?

Did you know that...

For every 10 students that start high school:

- 8 will finish and obtain a high school diploma
- 6 will enroll in a post secondary institution
- Only 3 will complete a bachelor's degree within 10 years

A post secondary education is essential for financial and personal freedom in today's economy. A four-year college graduate earns two-thirds more than a high school graduate does. An associate's degree translates into significantly more earnings than with a high school diploma alone.

At BLSIA, you are on the path to success!

The United Independent School District has partnered with Laredo College to offer students the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and up to 60 hours of transferable college credits or an associate's degree.

What is the difference between BLSIA & Dual Enrollment or Advanced Placement?

What sets BLSIA apart from dual enrollment, Advanced Placement, and other pre-college programs is the rich and coherent academic program and a relentless focus on underrepresented students. United BLSIA, Advanced Placement, and dual enrollment programs give students an understanding of post secondary education, yielding multiple benefits to students.

However, only BLSIA:

- Fully integrates students' high school and college experiences, both intellectually and socially;
- Enables students to earn up to two years of college credit towards a degree while in high school;
- Blends the curriculum as a coherent unit, with high school and college-level work into a single academic program that meets the requirements for both a high school diploma and an associate's degree or certificate;

- Incorporates Work Based Learning within their course curriculum through Business Industry Partnerships

Why is it important for students to earn two years of college credit while in high school?

BLSIA prepares high school students for successful career and educational futures through integration of high school and college courses in preparation for the work force. Students will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, and successful members of our community.

BLSIA graduates will have a significant advancement on their paths towards their baccalaureate degree. It also provides students access to support structures (academic, emotional, and social) that will enable students to navigate the educational process in higher education (Laredo College MOU).

What can students do after they complete BLSIA?

When students complete BLSIA, they have a high school diploma and up to 60 hours of college credit or an associate's degree. With the opportunity to earn a certificate in the medical profession, students will also graduate Work Force ready. This serves as evidence that BLSIA students are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to enroll in college and more likely to earn a degree (Hurst & Uribe).