



SENIOR KICKOFF: COLLEGE APPLICATION SEASON

SLCHS Fall 2018

YOUR COUNSELING TEAM

- Ms. Tricia Barrow – Dual Enrollment Liaison & AP Coordinator
- Mrs. Maci David – Alpha split K-Z
- Mrs. Susan Holmes – Alpha split A-J
- Ms. Starla Jennies - Secretary

COLLEGE RESEARCH TOOLS

Decision making factors

- Location
- Academic programs – major
- Type of school – size, public/private,
- Sports – official programs, intramurals
- Cost, financial aid

Tools

- CPSB College Fair on October 1st
- College Board – Big Future

COLLEGE APPLICATION DECISIONS

Need to look for “Best Fit” not “Best School” – a place where your child can be successful both academically and socially.

4 or more rule

- **Reach Schools** – apply to 1-2 of these
If you're thinking “it won't hurt to try” then it is more than likely a reach school.
- **Good Match Schools** – apply to 2-3 of these
Compatibility between student grades and academic quality of the school's freshman profile.
- **Safety Schools** – apply to 1-2 of these
More than likely will not turn you away. Your child must be happy and willing to attend this school.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS & PARENTS

- As Parents you have many roles in the college admissions process:
 - Listener
 - Advocate
 - Advisor of deadlines
 - College trip organizer
 - Researcher
 - Cheerleader
- Colleges don't want to talk to parents directly; **they are looking for the student to be the responsible party.**

COLLEGE APPLICATION TIMELINE

- **Aug. 1st:** **College Applications typically open**
- **Oct. 1st:** **FAFSA Opens**
- **Oct. 31st:** **Recommend college applications be complete**

- **Nov. 15th:** Some early action application deadlines (including Tulane)
- **Dec 15th:** Some priority application deadlines (including LSU)
- **Jan. 15th:** Regular application deadline for Tulane
- **Feb. 15th:** Regular application deadline for LSU/Baton Rouge

WHAT ARE ALL THESE DEADLINES?

- **Early Decision:** is binding. If deferred to regular admissions – you are released from contract to attend.
- **Early Action:** Not binding – typically have until May 1st to decide
- **Priority Deadline:** Some universities send priority applications to highly qualified students reducing some application requirements and guaranteeing earlier admissions. They may reduce or waive application fees.
- **Regular Decision:** default deadline for college applications
- **Rolling Admission:** will be informed of admission status 4-6 weeks after materials received.

PARTS OF A COLLEGE APPLICATION

The total application consists of the following parts:

1. **The application form**: Usually online. The Common Application is most common. Some universities use their own applications.
2. **Application fee**: The amount varies. Some schools will accept a fee waiver if one was used on an ACT or SAT. These are only available to students on the Federal Lunch program.
3. **Test scores**: Either SAT or ACT. Most schools require these scores to come directly from Collegeboard or ACT
4. **Essays**: If the application says, "essays A and B required, essay C is recommended", this means you should do all 3!

PARTS OF A COLLEGE APPLICATION

4. **Official high school transcript**: Official transcripts release forms were signed & turned in to the Counseling office last spring.
5. **Letters of Recommendation**: These should come from someone who knows you well and will not just repeat information contained in your resume. If a counselor recommendation is required, we may ask for additional information than what was on the resume's submitted last spring. In all cases, allow 2 weeks for the letter to be written.

This is the total application and your file will not be considered complete until all parts have been received. *KNOW THE ADMISSION DEADLINE!*

TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

All seniors should have a blanket information release completed in the Counseling Office already allowing us to send transcripts to colleges.

Need to tell Ms. Jennies where to send transcripts. Use our web form:

- **slchs.org**
 - **Academics**
 - **Transcripts**

Make sure the correct admissions address is listed on the form or the transcript may not wind up where you intended it to be sent.

ACT/SAT TESTING

Important reminders:

- SLCHS school code is 191470
- ALWAYS include your SS# on your registration as this impacts TOPS awards
- Score reports
 - 4 score reports are included with test registration
 - Look up codes in ACT/SAT for college applications
 - Make sure to send one to TOPS
 - If working on NCAA or NAIA eligibility, must send one to that entity

TOPS

- Uses the state identified core curriculum
 - 19 credits:
 - 4 English
 - 4 Math
 - 4 Science
 - 4 Social Studies
 - 2 Foreign Language
 - 1 Fine Art
- GPA point system identified by state
 - 4.0 for most courses
 - 5.0 for identified AP, DE & Honors courses
- 4 types of scholarships

Amount varies by
college/university

For most up to date
information; check out
<http://www.osfa.la.gov>

TOPS/OPPORTUNITY AWARD

- **Minimum High School GPA of 2.50** (GPA computed on core courses only)
- 19.0 Core Units
- **Minimum ACT Score** (or SAT Equivalent) of the prior year state average; **Currently 20** (don't have the 2018 calculation yet)
- Must enroll full time as a first time freshman, by the first semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation
- Be a US citizen or permanent resident
- Meet TOPS Louisiana residency requirements

TOPS/PERFORMANCE AWARD

- **Minimum High School GPA of 3.00** (GPA computed on core courses only using TOPS formula)
- 19.0 Core Units
- **Minimum ACT Score (or SAT Equivalent) currently 23** (can change)
- Must enroll full time as a first time freshman, by the first semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation
- Be a US citizen or permanent resident
- Meet TOPS Louisiana Residency requirements

TOPS/HONORS AWARD

- **Minimum High School GPA of 3.00** (GPA computed on core courses only using TOPS formula)
- 19.0 Core Units
- **Minimum ACT Score (or SAT Equivalent) of 27 currently** (can change)
- Must enroll full time as a first time freshman, by the first semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation
- Be a US citizen or permanent resident
- Meet TOPS Louisiana Residency requirements

TOPS/TECH AWARD

- **Minimum High School GPA of 2.50** (GPA computed on core courses only using TOPS formula)
- **21 units that comprise the TOPS Tech JumpStart Core Curriculum**
- Students may also qualify for the TOPS Tech Award by completing the TOPS Core Curriculum for the Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards
- **Minimum ACT Score (or SAT Equivalent) of 17 (current score required)**
- Must enroll full time as a first time freshman, by the first semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation
- Be a US citizen or permanent resident
- Meet TOPS Louisiana Residency requirements

TYPES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Grants

Grants are a type of financial aid that **does not have to be repaid**. Offered by the federal and state government, as well as by some institutions, grants may be merit-based, need-based or student-specific. Examples of student-specific grants might include grants for minorities, women, and students with disabilities. The competition for grants is usually fierce since no repayment is required.

Scholarships

Like grants, scholarships **do not require repayment**. They are typically offered by individual institutions and private organizations and can be awarded based on a number of factors, such as academic performance, athletic ability, religious affiliation, and race, among others. In order to apply for a scholarship, you will often be asked to write an essay.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Loans

Offered by both the federal government and private institutions, loans are money that you borrow to attend college. **You must repay your loans with interest.** Loans provide students and families with immediate access to funds to help cover the cost of college.

Federal Loans

The two main types of federal loans available for college students include:

- Subsidized Loans– Subsidized student loans are available for students who have demonstrated financial need. They have slightly better terms than unsubsidized student loans, because the US Department of Education pays your interest while you are in school and for a six month grace period after you graduate.
- Unsubsidized Loans– Unsubsidized loans are available to students regardless of financial need. Students are responsible for repaying interest during all periods.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Private Loans

Private loans are granted by private banks and may help to bridge the gap between the cost of your education and the amount of financial aid you receive from the government. Eligibility for private loans often depends on your credit score, and private loans tend to have higher interest rates than loans that the government offers. Students are encouraged to pursue all options for federal student aid before entering into a private loan.

Work Study

A work-study program is a work program where you can earn money that helps you pay for school. Work-study programs provide students with federally funded jobs on campus or at other approved locations. The campus facilities at many colleges and universities, including the student center, career center, athletic department, and residence halls, employ work-study students. However, the positions available and the pay offered vary widely.

FAFSA

- All students looking for financial assistance must complete whether looking for TOPS, scholarships, grants or loans.
- Does not cost! Make sure using the .gov website
- Portal opens on October 1st
- FSA ID can be requested now:
 - <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
- Parent account and student account

NCAA/NAIA

- Only 3% of all college athletes attend college on an Athletic Scholarship. That means 97% are academic in nature.
- College Athletes are required to have their amateurism confirmed by a college's athletic association.
 - NCAA Eligibility Center
 - NAIA Eligibility Center
 - NCJAA – through junior college
- GPA is recalculated based on their national standards
- Core courses only and require specific core courses to be taken
- Cost involved – talk to coach's before signing up

504 ACCOMMODATIONS & COLLEGE

504 Defined:

- To be protected under Section 504, a student must be determined to have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Section 504 requires that school districts provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to qualified students in their jurisdictions **who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.**
- Leveling the playing field for students with disabilities, does not optimize

K-12 evaluation methods:

- Does not require detailed medical diagnostic reports annually
- Can use report cards, teacher reports, attendance data, discipline data, testing data and parent reports
- Only required to “reevaluate” every three years

504 ACCOMMODATIONS & COLLEGE

ACT/SAT Testing Accommodations

- **Do not fall under school based requirements as don't receive federal money**
- Qualified Diagnosticians
- Criteria for Diagnostic Documentation
- Specific Documentation Needed
- Substantiation of Diagnosis

Office of Disabilities/ADA Office at Colleges

- Your postsecondary school is not required to provide FAPE. Rather, your postsecondary school is required to provide appropriate academic adjustments as necessary to ensure that it does not discriminate on the basis of disability.
- Urge parents to review college requirements for registering with Office of Disabilities at desired college



I'M ACCEPTED!

• ***Congratulations!***

- Have student bring a copy of each acceptance letter to the counseling office. We will start taking pictures to honor our Seniors starting in late January for our ACCEPTED WALL.
- Continue to look for scholarship money – every little penny helps!

HOW WILL I EVER REMEMBER ALL THIS

- Check us out on our SLCHS Counseling Page!
 - Links to important sites
 - Copies of all presentations
 - Helpful tips (that I wish I had known!!!)
- We will also send out periodic newsletters for the Senior class & their parents
- Look for another parent night in the spring to address financial aid.

QUESTIONS?

- Email us:

- sholmes@slchs.org
- mdavid@slchs.org

We don't know everything about the thousands of colleges in the US, but we can certainly help you find answers. 😊

- Have your student email an admissions counselor at the college from which they are seeking information.