

HEADING TO COLLEGE?

Here are some helpful resources



What's in this issue:

Applying for college via Common Application (Common App)

Navigating FAFSA

TOPS Qualifications

ACT Reminders

Louisiana Colleges and Universities

Upcoming Events

Heading to College?

by Tiffany B Wimberly, ACT Qualified

How do I apply for college? Where do I get help with FAFSA? Is there a single website that list available scholarships? OH MY GOD!, the Common App is overwhelming, where do I start? How much money will my student get from TOPS?

These questions represent a small portion of inquiries we receive regarding the college admission process. To ensure that every student and parent in our community have pertinent information required to successfully navigate the college admission process, we constructed a consolidated list of resources that we personally found extremely valuable when preparing to send our son to college.

If you are having trouble navigating the process, these resources should get you going in the right direction. Give us a call or email us if you have any questions. **This is an exciting time for your family; enjoy it!**



Common Application

Applying for college using CommonApp

The Common App is very similar to the EnrollNOLA OneApp. More than 800 colleges and universities accept the Common App. The application process is very tedious; it requires both the student and parent to complete. Once your student has answered all of his or her questions, you will need to complete the questions specific to you and your household. **DO NOT** wait until the last minute to complete the Common App. **Use the link below to explore desired universities or browse all colleges.**
<https://www.commonapp.org/explore-colleges>

Application Fees

Your student's selected college(s) may or may not charge an application fee. Actually, 250 member schools do not charge at all. Those that do charge a fee (ranging from \$30 to \$100) do not want to present a barrier for any student who wishes to apply for admission. Consequently, you can request an application waiver in the Common App Profile Section.

When you are ready to apply, use the link below. It will guide you through the 5-step process.

<https://www.commonapp.org/how-apply>


Although your completed common application is shared with your chosen school(s), each school has additional requirements that you must satisfy before your application is deemed complete. This information will appear under each chosen school. Ensure that you understand your chosen school(s) unique requirements.

Use the link below to access a pdf detailing member schools' specific requirements.

View your chosen school(s) requirements here.

Stay abreast of your desired school(s) requirements, by using this tracker.

https://www.commonapp.org/files/sites/default/files/imce_uploads/CommonAppRequirementsTracker.pdf



GRAMMAR WORKSHOP

ACT QUALIFIED

6 HRS SATURDAY JANUARY 26TH 9AM-4PM

"Attend the best Grammar Workshop in the New Orleans area."

Designed for middle and high school students who are interested in remediating or perfecting their English Grammar skills, our 6-hour comprehensive Grammar Workshop has helped students achieve near-perfect ACT English scores. Students will benefit from fun and engaging lessons designed to ensure retention of critical foundational skills.

REGISTER TODAY AT: WWW.ACTQUALIFIED.COM
January 26, 2019 • 9AM- 4PM • Propeller Incubator
4035 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA
1-800-251-7617 • www.actqualified.com

“

Your student can obtain hardship waiver from his or her high school counselor.

FAFSA

Applying for Financial Aid

Every U.S. college and university requires a completed FAFSA application, even if you don't qualify for a Federal Pell Grant. Your FAFSA results are used to calculate your Estimated Family contribution (EFC): a number used by your school to calculate the amount of federal student aid you are eligible to receive and any additional financial aid award. **Be sure to have your last federal return available;** you will be asked to either link directly to the IRS website to retrieve information from your last federally-filed return or manually enter the information. We recommend using the IRS Retrieval Tool.

It is also important to note that many Louisiana Charter and Public Schools now require students to complete a FAFSA as a graduation requirement.

Use the link below to begin your FAFSA application.

https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa?utm_source=cpc&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=201920bff&gclid=Cj0KCQiAj4biBRC-ARIsAA4WaFiYbmCULv4uso9Hz_zYA6ucyterWXEHwcj_yArfdSDI5no--FwIY6laAsukEALw_wcB



You must complete a FAFSA, even if you don't qualify for Federal aid.

An advertisement for a Study Skills Class. On the left, a circular graphic contains the text: "\$115.00", "STUDY SKILLS CLASS", and "SATURDAY, FEB 16TH 9AM-1PM". On the right, a photograph shows a student sitting at a desk with their head buried in their hands, looking stressed. The desk is cluttered with books, papers, and a pencil holder. A small "ACT QUALIFIED" logo is visible in the top left of the photo, and a "REGISTER NOW" button is in the bottom right.

TOPS

Qualifying for TOPS

Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid (LOSFA) has launched a new Student Hub to give students more options for tracking their award eligibility and status.

Use the link below to access the Student Hub.

<https://www.osfa.la.gov/studenthub.html>

In order to be considered for any LOSFA Financial Aid Programs, including TOPS, you must enter the appropriate code when you complete your ACT or SAT registration.

LOSFA's ACT Code is 1595

LOSFA's SAT Code is 9019

TOPS Requirements (Core Curriculum)

<https://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/TOPSCoreCurriculum.pdf>

TOPS Award Amount for 2018-2019 school year

This source is extremely useful. To retrieve the school's annual TOPS Awards, locate your student's desired school. You will likely need to supplement with a combination of loans, grants, (if you qualify) and scholarships to cover the annual cost of attendance. **This is why ACT is so important.** A higher ACT Score usually renders your student more scholarship money. Many schools have scholarship calculators on their financial aid website. You can execute these tools, with hypothetical GPA and ACT Scores, to see exactly how much scholarship money your student qualifies to receive.

Use the link below to see TOPS Annual Award Amounts.

https://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/TOPS_Payment_Amounts.pdf

It is also important to note that many Louisiana Charter and Public Schools now require students to complete a FAFSA as a graduation requirement.

Use the link below to begin your FAFSA application.

https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa?utm_source=cpc&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=201920bff&gclid=Cj0KCQiAj4biBRC-ARIsAA4WaFiYbmCULv4uso9Hz_zYA6ucyterWXEHwcj_yArfdSDI5no--FwIY6laAsukEALw_wcB



A higher ACT Score usually renders your student more scholarship money.

ACT

Important ACT Tips

Most high school juniors establish an ACT.org student account as an in-school exercise. If this is not your circumstance or you desire to begin the process early (freshman and sophomore students), this resource (**How to create an ACT account/Register to take ACT**) will guide you through the process of creating an ACT student account.

Although parents usually escape this tedious process, **it is EXTREMELY important that you make a note of the tips below.**

1. Each time your student meets or surpasses a given school's threshold, that school will begin sending your student scholarship offers. Our email was inundated with offers from school throughout the U.S. Make sure you verify your student's profile! Email us at tiffany@actqualified.com if you have trouble locating the setting in your student's ACT.org account.
2. We recommend that your student **DO NOT** send his or her ACT scores to chosen school(s) until he or she has achieved desired scores. We find that it's better to not send several low score reports, as doing so often renders trigger negative admission decisions. Your student is better off waiting until he or she has achieved desired scores. Although you may incur an additional cost per score report, if you are outside the allotted timeframe, you will avoid unfavorable decisions.
3. If your student currently receives Special Accommodations or is on a 504 Plan, please request Special Accommodations (Extended Time) when registering your student for the ACT. ACT will grant your student the normal allotted time plus an

additional half time **to complete each section.** You do not want to leave this benefit on the table. It will make an enormous difference in your student's ACT Score.

If you do not know how to request special accommodations, email us at tiffany@actqualified, and we will forward you a "how to" document detailing the exact steps.

The graphic features an orange background with mathematical symbols like 'x+y', '23', and 'ABC'. It includes the ACT Qualified logo with a checkmark, a BBB Accredited Business logo, and a 'REGISTER TODAY!' button. Text on the right lists '6 Weeks 12 Sessions \$530 Materials included' and 'Check out our Reviews'. A table of sessions is provided below.

Session	Dates	Testers
Spring II	Mar 2nd - Apr 7th	(April 13th testers)
Summer I	April 20th - May 26th	(June 8th testers)
Summer II	June 1st - July 7th	(July 13th testers)
Fall I	Aug 3rd - Sept 8th	(Sept 14th testers)
Fall II	Sept 14th - Oct 20th	(Oct 26th testers)
Winter I	Nov 2nd - Dec 8th	(Dec 14th testers)
Winter II	Dec 28th - Feb 2nd	(Feb 8th testers)

Proven Program taught by an ACT Certified Educator!

- Personalized Approach
- Remediation
- Foundational Mastery
- Innovative Lessons
- Student Engagement
- Effective ACT Strategies

Training Location: Propeller NOLA
4035 Washington Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70125

REGISTER AT:
WWW.ACTQUALIFIED.COM
1-800-251-7617



Adjust your ACT student profile to receive scholarship offers.

Louisiana Colleges and Universities

(Consolidated List)

Below is a listing of Louisiana Colleges and Universities: colleges' home page and links to their Financial Aid Office. Every school is unique, so it's important to understand each school's requirements, deadlines, and cost of attendance.

If your student is interested in attending a Louisiana College or University, you will find this link extremely helpful.

https://www.osfa.la.gov/louisiana_colleges.html#LA_colgs

Scholarship Resources

Although the link below is a great resource for independently locating and applying for scholarships, we recommend that you also reach out to your high school counselors about available scholarships. Our high school counselors were extremely diligent in forwarding senior-parents available scholarship applications. If your high school counselors are not doing this, please inquire. Make sure that they know that you are interested in receiving all offers, **of which you qualify**, that come across their desk. **Every little bit helps with college expenses: flights home, move-in expenses, books, etc.**

<https://www.fastweb.com>



"Your student can learn to learn effectively."

During this 4-hour course, we will evaluate students' learning style, and teach them how to learn effectively: strategies for studying, comprehending material, time management, and knowledge retention.

DON'T LET YOUR STUDENT HOPELESSLY STRUGGLE.

REGISTER TODAY AT: WWW.ACTQUALIFIED.COM

February 16, 2019 • 9AM- 1PM • Propeller Incubator
4035 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA
1-800-251-7617 • www.actqualified.com

“

Ask your high school counselor to send you all available scholarship.