



# STM Class of 2022



Senior College Parent Night



# Welcome!

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- Timeline
- Types of Applications
- Financial Aid and Scholarships
- To-Do List
- Resources



Seniors,  
Your life *isn't* in that envelope or  
email; *it's just an admission  
decision.* You already have a life  
and a fine one at that.

-Patrick O'Connor

# Timeline

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# Senior Year Timeline

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August- Applications Opened

September- Get Organized for Scholarships and Finish Applications

October- FAFSA Opens

November- Early Deadlines Begin

January- Final Deadline for Scholarships through Institutions

March- Decisions and Financial Aid Packages

May- National Decision Day

***Save the Date***

**Lafayette Parish Catholic  
Schools College Fair**

**Thurs., Oct. 7th | 6:00-8:00 PM**

Students create a [barcode](#) to join college's mailing list.

# The Application(s)

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# Types of Applications

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- Common App (LSU, Ole Miss)
- Coalition App
- ApplyTexas (Texas A&M, UT)
- Directly to the Institution (UL, LA Tech)



*\*Students should be filling out all college applications and communicating with Universities!*



# Where to Apply?

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- Academic Fit
  - GPA
  - ACT
  - Programs
- Social Fit
  - Campus Culture
  - Locations
- Financial Fit
  - Scholarships
  - Cost of Living
- Location Fit
  - Distance from home





# Key Words

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- **Early Action:** non-binding
- **Restricted Early Action:** non-binding but restricted from applying early action or early decision to other colleges
- **Early Decision:** binding (committed to going if accepted – never apply to more than one campus under ED)

Application timeline is early for both options (usually mid-Oct. to early Nov.).  
Decisions by colleges are typically rendered by December.

# Key Words

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- **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**
  - Recommended that ALL Seniors apply
  - Opens: October 1, 2021 Preferred deadline: March 2, 2022
  - Since some colleges distribute funds based on when FAFSA was received, it is best to apply early!
- **Naviance**
  - System used to track applications, request Letters of Rec, apply for scholarships and track scholarships
- **Letters of Recommendation**
  - Should be from a core subject teacher (English, Math, Social Studies or Science)

# Scholarships and Financial Aid

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# Scholarship vs Financial Aid

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## Scholarships

- Institutional
  - Merit Based
  - Stipends
- Community Groups
- Activity Based
- Mass Search Engines

*Scholarships aren't just awarded their freshman year!*

## Financial Aid

- Grants
  - Money that is not repaid
- Federal Loans
  - Must be paid back
- Work-study
  - Allows for work experience and a stipend

**YOUR COLLEGE OR CAREER SCHOOL**

**PRIVATE COMPANIES**

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

**LOCAL BUSINESSES,  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION,  
OR CHURCHES**

**SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS**  
(CLUBS THAT SHARE YOUR INTERESTS AND HOBBIES)

# Where to Find **SCHOLARSHIPS**

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Federal  
Student  
Aid

an official of the  
U.S. Department of Education

# Scholarships Searches

The screenshot displays the NAVIANCE website's 'Scholarships and Financial Aid' section. The header includes navigation links: Home, Self-Discovery, Careers, Colleges, and Planner. A user profile dropdown shows '12th Grade' and 'About Me'. The main content area is divided into several columns: 'College Home' with a 'Find Your fit' section; 'Research Colleges' with links like 'Colleges I'm Thinking About', 'College Visits', 'College Compare', 'College Resources', 'Acceptance History', 'Enrichment Programs', and 'College Maps'; 'Apply to College' with links like 'Colleges I'm Applying to', 'Manage Transcripts', 'Letters of Recommendation', and 'Test Scores'; 'Scholarships & Money' with links like 'Scholarships I'm Applying To', 'Scholarship List', and 'National Scholarship Search'; and a right sidebar titled 'About Scholarships and Financial Aid'. The search results area shows a message: 'No matching scholarships were found in our first scan. Make sure that you've entered your GPA, test scores, and/or class rank (if applicable).' The footer contains the NAVIANCE logo, a privacy policy link, and contact information for St. Thomas More Catholic High School.

NAVIANCE  
BY POWERSCHOOL

Home Self-Discovery Careers Colleges Planner

12th Grade About Me CLOSE DEMO

Scholarships and Financial Aid

College-Specific Scholarships Local & F

You may be eli  
estimates. Sort

GPA (4.0 scale)

College Home

Find Your fit

SuperMatch College Search

College Events

Advanced College Search

College Lookup

Research Colleges

Colleges I'm Thinking About

College Visits

College Compare

College Resources

Acceptance History

Enrichment Programs

College Maps

Apply to College

Colleges I'm Applying to

Manage Transcripts

Letters of Recommendation

Test Scores

Scholarships & Money

Scholarships I'm Applying To

Scholarship List

National Scholarship Search

About Scholarships and Financial Aid

No matching scholarships were found in our first scan. Make sure that you've entered your GPA, test scores, and/or class rank (if applicable).

NAVIANCE  
BY POWERSCHOOL

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0% Logged in as Demo Sandridge Close Demo

St. Thomas More Catholic High School

450 E Farrel Road  
Lafayette, LA 70508  
p: (337) 988-3700  
www.stmcougars.net

Show Me More

## College Counseling MS. SANDRIDGE



# FAFSA

- Opens Oct. 1
  - FAFSA.GOV
- Use prior, prior
- You will need:
  - FSA ID
  - Federal Income Statement
  - Bank & Brokerage Statements
  - SSN
  - W-2s
- LELA's FAFSA Helpline
  - 844-463-2372
  - carmichael@lela.org

## DO

### Gather your materials:

- Tax returns for you and/or your parents
- Asset records for you and/or your parents, including bank statements and investments
- Social Security numbers for you and your parents
- Driver's license or government ID
- Federal school codes for the schools you will be applying to
- FSA ID

## DO

### Fill out the application early.

- Application will be available October 1.
- Financial aid at some schools is first come, first served, so apply as early as possible.

## DO

### Fill out the FAFSA online.

- It takes about 30 minutes.
- Take advantage of the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to automatically transfer your tax info.



## DON'T

### Skip the FAFSA.

- Most people qualify for some financial aid.
- It's the first step toward paying for college.

## DON'T

### Feel intimidated by the FAFSA.

- Use the FAFSA assistant at CollegeCovered.com to make sure you have the right materials and are prepared to fill out the application.




Help your students get a head start on paying for college, visit **CollegeCovered.com.**

Sources: Federal Student Aid/U.S. Department of Education

FAFSA is a registered service mark of the U.S. Department of Education.

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The background of the entire graphic is a dark purple field. It is decorated with a repeating pattern of white icons: some are checkmarks inside circles, and others are just checkmarks. These icons are scattered across the top and sides of the image. On the left side, the words "FAFSA FACTS" are written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. The text has a subtle drop shadow effect, making it stand out against the purple background.

# FAFSA FACTS

In order to keep receiving financial aid, you need to complete the FAFSA® form for each year that you are in school. When renewing your FAFSA® form, some of your information will autopopulate.

**Federal Student Aid**

An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION



# TOPS

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- Application
- TOPS does not Superscore
- Act 346 of the 2020 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature increased TOPS Core Curriculum GPAs required to qualify for a TOPS Performance or Honors Award starting with the graduating class of 2022.
  - TOPS Performance: from a 3.00 to 3.25 TOPS Core GPA
  - TOPS Honors: from a 3.00 to 3.50 TOPS Core GPA
- Register for Student Hub

## Contact LOSFA

[www.mylosfa.la.gov](http://www.mylosfa.la.gov)

[custserv@la.gov](mailto:custserv@la.gov)  
[GEAUXFafsa@la.gov](mailto:GEAUXFafsa@la.gov)

Virtual Office Hours for Students and Parents

*9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.*

*Monday - Friday*

1-800-259-5626

*8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.*

*Monday - Friday*

# To-Do List and Resources

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# Test Scores and Test Optional

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# Testing

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- Students are responsible for submitting their ACT/SAT scores to schools. This is done through their MyACT account.
- Students should take the ACT as many times as they feel comfortable.
- Some schools are test-optional. Meaning they do not require test scores for admissions to their schools. Check school websites for requirements.
- SuperScores- ACT will use a student's highest subscores to make a composite score. Not all schools will use them; check the school's website for details. TOPS DOES NOT SUPERScore.

# Parent To-Do List

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- Continue supporting your child but don't do it for them
- Create a LOSFA Student Hub to track TOPS
- Fill out the FAFSA with your student (so they can learn)
- Help them keep track of deadlines, admission events, and paperwork
- Bring them to an On-Campus Event (even if its not their top school)
- Remind them to load admission decisions and scholarships in Naviance!



# College Visits and Fairs

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- Recommended Dates: October 13, 14 (Open House), 15
- Check out on Campus Events through University's website
- Virtual National College Fairs listed in Moodle
- Be sure students pick up College Visit Form in Counseling



# Resources

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- College Counseling Handbook/Moodle
- [Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance \(LOSFA\)](#)
- [Louisiana Education Loan Authority \(Lela\)](#)
- [Louisiana Center for College Access \(LCCA\)](#)
- [The College Essay Guy](#)
- [Yale Admission Podcast](#)

Thank you!

