



# HIRE EDUCATION

## READY...SET...SUCCESS!

*A High School Student's Guide for College and Career Readiness*  
Volume 3



## A Message from the Superintendent



As Superintendent of Ascension Public Schools, I am delighted to introduce our Career and College Guide, a vital resource designed to support our high school students in planning their futures. In Ascension Public Schools, we prioritize preparing students for success after graduation, whether that means pursuing a postsecondary degree or entering the workforce directly.

This guide offers valuable information and resources to help you navigate the various pathways available and make informed decisions about your future. We encourage you to use this guide extensively and take full advantage of the resources we provide throughout your high school journey.

Our goal is to ensure that all students can fulfill their DREAMs, no matter the path they choose. Your success is our priority, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

*Dr. Edith M. Walker*  
**Superintendent**



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## **Students - where will your track lead you?**

Your future holds many choices. Narrowing down your career preferences and learning about the educational requirements needed to achieve them will help you decide your next steps during and after high school. Choosing a potential career path starts with learning about yourself, your personality, and your skills. Your Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) is there to assist you in tracking graduation requirements, credentials earned, test scores, and GPA as you explore your career options.

It is also important to become more familiar with the many career pathways available to you. This guide will help, so please read it carefully and complete all the self-assessments. You might just be surprised at what you learn about yourself!

## **Parents, how can you help your student?**

Parents serve as a major influence in their student's career exploration. Here are six tips for helping your student:

1. Encourage your student's confidence and excitement about his/her future by having a positive attitude.
2. Talk with your student about his or her career interests and aspirations.
3. Share information about your career and the experiences that influenced your career path.
4. Help your student identify his or her strengths and skills that are useful for their career interests.
5. Assist your student with career exploration using online resources.
6. Prepare your student for options after graduation, whether it be entering the workforce, joining the military, or attending a technical institute, community college, or university.

Remember: Planning for the future is not a one-time conversation. Continue talking to your student about his or her plans after graduation.

This guide was designed to help students and parents prepare for high school and what lies ahead. Please review this guide with your student, as it contains helpful information for their future.

Parents and guardians play a vital role in their son's and daughter's education, as well as their career and life planning. We encourage you to be an active participant in your student's education by reviewing their Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) in PowerSchool, <https://apsb.powerschool.com/public/home.html>. We look forward to working with you to help your student reach his or her goals.

## **A Message from The Ascension Chamber of Commerce**



As the fastest-growing parish in Louisiana, Ascension faces escalating workforce demands. Ascension schools partner with local businesses and industries to identify workforce needs and inspire students to pursue relevant careers. Utilizing multiple resources and maintaining their ACT Work Ready Community designation, the schools ensure students acquire the necessary skills and certifications for seamless transitions into the workforce or post-secondary education. This collaboration creates a qualified talent pool, provides high-paying job opportunities for graduates, and helps retain local talent within the community.

*Dr. Joseph Britt*  
**Board Chairman**





# ASCENSION PUBLIC SCHOOLS PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

## D

### DETERMINED LEARNER

- Pushes through adversity to overcome obstacles and achieve goals
- Seeks support for accomplishing difficult tasks
- Adjusts to new conditions, different roles, unpredictable situations, and shifting concepts
- Recognizes there are several paths to achieve a desired outcome

## R

### RESOURCEFUL INNOVATOR

- Forms and shares ideas
- Analyzes and creates arguments considering multiple perspectives
- Collaborates with others to achieve a common goal using new ways of thinking and doing
- Seeks opportunities to apply 21st century skills in an information-based and highly technical society

## E

### EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

- Communicates effectively in diverse environments
- Listens and receives feedback with the intent to understand and improve
- Speaks in a clear, concise, and purposeful manner to inform, influence, or motivate
- Incorporates effective writing skills for various purposes and audiences
- Uses technology and a variety of media to explore and exchange ideas

## A

### ACTIVE SCHOLAR

- Exhibits content knowledge and skills in reading and math
- Demonstrates competencies to achieve goals toward life-long learning and workplace success
- Thinks critically and asks questions to form creative solutions
- Collects and understands relevant information to draw conclusions

## M

### MINDFUL CITIZEN

- Surrounds oneself with positive and healthy relationships to promote physical and mental wellness
- Embraces diversity and advocates for oneself and others
- Participates in civic processes and obligations at the local, state, national, and global level
- Demonstrates responsibility, self-sufficiency, and leadership



# APPENDIX I: COURSE REQUIREMENTS CHART

SUBJECTS	TOPS UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA		JUMP START TOPS TECH CAREER DIPLOMA	
	# Units	Courses	# Units	Courses
English	1	<b>One of the following:</b> English I, English Language Part 1: Cambridge IGCSE, or English Literature Part 1: Cambridge IGCSE	1	<b>One of the following:</b> English I, English Language Part 1: Cambridge IGCSE, or English Literature Part 1: Cambridge IGCSE
	1	<b>One of the following:</b> English II, English Language Part 2: Cambridge IGCSE, or English Literature Part 2: Cambridge IGCSE	1	<b>One of the following:</b> English II, English Language Part 2: Cambridge IGCSE, or English Literature Part 2: Cambridge IGCSE
	1	<b>One of the following:</b> English III, AP English Language and Composition, IB Literature, IB Language and Literature, IB Literature and Performance, English Language Part 1: Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors), or Literature in English Part 1: Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors)	2	<b>The remaining units shall come from the following:</b> Technical Writing, Business English, English III, English Language Part 1: Cambridge AICE – AS (Honors), Literature in English Part 1AICE - AS (Honors), English IV, any AP or IB English course, English Language Part 2: Cambridge AICE – AS (Honors), Literature in English Part 2: Cambridge AICE – AS (Honors), or comparable Louisiana technical college courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by BESE
	1	<b>One of the following:</b> English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, IB Literature, IB Language and Literature, IB Literature and Performance, English Language Part 2: Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors), or Literature in English Part 2: Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors)		
	<b>NOTE:</b> If a student chooses to take the A level Cambridge course, the second unit will count as an elective credit.			
Mathematics	1	Algebra I	1	Algebra I, Applied Algebra I, or Algebra I-Part 2 (The elective course Algebra I-Part 1 is a prerequisite.)
	1	Geometry	1	Geometry¹
	1	Algebra II	2	<b>The remaining units shall come from the following:</b> Financial Literacy (formerly Financial Math), Math Essentials, Algebra II, Advanced Math-Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math–Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Pre-Calculus, Business Math, Probability and Statistics, Statistical Reasoning, Transition to College Math, or comparable Louisiana technical college courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by BESE. Integrated mathematics I,II, and III may be substituted for algebra I, geometry, and algebra II and shall count as three math credits. Additional Math: Cambridge IGCSE, Math 1 (Pure Math): Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors), Math 1 (Pure Math): Cambridge AICE–A Level (Honors), or Math 2 (Part 2): Cambridge AICE–A Level (Honors)
	1	<b>One of the following:</b> Algebra III, Advanced Math–Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math–Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, IB Math Studies (Math Methods), Calculus, AP Calculus AB, IB Mathematics SL, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, IB Further Mathematics HL, IB Mathematics HL, Probability and Statistics, AP Computer Science A, Statistical Reasoning, Additional Math–Cambridge IGCSE, Math 1 (Probability and Statistics): Cambridge AICE (Honors), Math 1 (Pure Math): Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors), Math 2 (Part 1): Cambridge AICE–A Level (Honors), or Math 2 (Part 2): Cambridge AICE–A Level (Honors)		
	<b>NOTE:</b> The Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III sequence, including the Cambridge IGCSE Integrated Math sequence, may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence.			
Science	1	Biology I	1	Biology I
	1	Chemistry I	1	<b>One of the following:</b> Chemistry I, Physical Science, Earth Science, Agriscience II*, Environmental Science, Principles of Engineering, any AP or IB science course, PLTW Principles of Engineering, Principles of engineering (LSU Partnership), Physics I: Cambridge IGCSE, Biology II: Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors), Chemistry II: AICE–AS (Honors), or Physics II: Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors)
	2	<b>Two units chosen from the following:</b> (a) Earth Science; (b) <b>one of</b> Environmental Science, Environmental Awareness; (c) <b>one of</b> Physical Science, Principles of Engineering, PLTW Principles of Engineering, Principles of Engineering (LSU Partnership); (d) Agriscience II*; (e) <b>one of</b> Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, IB Chemistry I, IB Chemistry II, or Chemistry II: Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors); (f) <b>one of</b> AP Environmental Science, IB Environmental Systems; (g) <b>one of</b> Physics I, IB Physics I, AP Physics I, Physics I: Cambridge IGCSE; or (h) <b>one of</b> AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, IB Physics II, AP Physics II, or Physics II: Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors); (i) <b>one of</b> Biology II, AP Biology, IB Biology I, IB Biology II, Biology II: Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors), or Human Anatomy and Physiology		
	*The elective course Agriscience I is a prerequisite for Agriscience II.			
Social Studies	1	<b>One of the following:</b> U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB History of the Americas I	1	<b>One of the following:</b> U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB History of the Americas I
	1	<b>One of the following:</b> Civics, American Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States	1	<b>One of the following:</b> Civics, American Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States
	2	<b>Two units chosen from the following:</b> (a) <b>one of</b> European History, AP European History, Western Civilization, or History (European): Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors); (b) <b>one of</b> World Geography, AP Human Geography, IB Geography, Physical Geography, or Geography: Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors); (c) <b>one of</b> World History, AP World History, IB History of the Americas II, or History (International): Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors); (d) History of Religion; (e) <b>one of</b> IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, AP Microeconomics, or Economics: Cambridge AICE–AS (Honors); (f) AP Psychology, History of Religion, or African American history*		
Health and Physical Education	0.5	Health Education	0.5	Health Education
	1.5	Physical Education I and II; Adapted Physical Education I and II for eligible students in special education; JROTC I, II, III, or IV; or Physical Education I (1 unit) and 1/2 unit of Marching Band, extracurricular sports, Cheerleading, or Dance Team	1.5	Physical Education I and one half unit from among the following: Physical Education II, Marching Band, extracurricular sports, Cheerleading, Dance Team  Adapted PE for eligible students or JROTC or may be substituted
	<b>NOTE:</b> JROTC I and II may be used to meet the health education requirement. Refer to §2347.			
World Language	2	Two units from the same language (§2345)²		
Art	1	Art (§2333), Music (§2355), Dance (§2337), Theatre (§2369), Speech III and IV (one unit combined), Fine Arts Survey, Drafting, Media Arts (§2354), Photography I/II, Digital Photography, or Digital Design (§ 2338)		
Electives/ Jump Start	3	Electives	9	Jump Start course sequence, workplace experiences, and approved credentials (a minimum of one industry-based credential is required for graduation)
Total Units	24		23	

Refer to [Bulletin 741](#) and the [LDOE Graduation Requirements](#) page the most current information.

REVISED AUGUST 29, 2023

- Geometry is now required for JumpStart TOPS Tech (Career Diploma) students with a Fall grade 9 2023-2024 entry year and thereafter. For grade 9 entry prior to 2023-2024, students must take three additional Math courses of which Geometry is an option.
- Computer Science has been added to TOPS University students with a Fall grade 9 2023-2024 entry year graduating in 2026-2027 and thereafter.



# PATHWAYS



## ***Find Out More About Yourself***

Think of career planning as an ongoing process of self-reflection and evaluation, skill building, networking, and researching opportunities. The first step in that process is to assess your interests and talents. Self-assessment includes answering questions like: What are my natural aptitudes and talents? What do I enjoy? What am I good at? What is important to me? What do I care about? What motivates me? Use the interactive self-assessments to discover what you are good at and where you may have room for improvement. Identify the things that interest you and get some ideas about careers to explore. You can explore more online at the following websites:

- [unlockmyfuture.org](https://unlockmyfuture.org)
- [whatcareerisrightforme.com](https://whatcareerisrightforme.com)
- [onetonline.org](https://onetonline.org)
- Naviance (enter through your Google Account)
- [careeronestop.org](https://careeronestop.org)



## ***Did You Know?***

Students who select courses that are consistent with their goals, interests, recent achievements, strengths, and preferred learning styles are more likely to be successful in all of their courses.



# Career Success Skills Self-Assessment

Using a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest, rate your strengths on the skills listed below.

Collaboration	Collaboration is working with another person or group in order to achieve something. Are you good at working with others?	
Communication		
Creativity	Creativity is the act of turning new and imaginative ideas into reality. Do you often think of several ways to approach a problem?	
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking is the mode of thinking in which a person analyzes, assesses, and reconstructs the content or problem. Do you have good critical thinking skills?	
Decision Making	Decision making is the thought process of selecting a logical choice from the available options. Do you consider the positives, negatives, and all of the alternatives to make a good choice?	
Initiative	Initiative is a quality where you begin work without needing to be told or encouraged to do so. Do you start tasks before your teachers, parents, or bosses tell you to?	
Interpersonal	Interpersonal skills are the skills used by a person to interact with others properly. Do you get along easily with others, both individually and in groups?	
Leadership	Leadership is the ability to guide other people toward a common purpose. Are you good at guiding people to accomplish tasks and reach goals?	
Organizational	Organizational skills in the workplace can include general organizing, planning, scheduling, coordinating resources, and meeting deadlines. Are you good at organizing your work?	
Quantitative Reasoning	Quantitative skills are objective, numerical, and measurable. Do you like using math to solve problems?	
Technology	Technology literacy is the ability to responsibly and effectively use technology tools to create and communicate information. Can you use basic computer applications and functions?	
Time Management	Time management is the ability to use your time effectively or productively, especially at work. Do you use your time well during the day, or do you procrastinate?	

*What are your three best career success skills?*

*What are the three career success skills you want to improve?*



# Architecture & Construction

Architecture and construction workers are an important part of the workforce because they design and fabricate the buildings we utilize daily for living, working, and relaxing. Architects and construction workers are involved in the planning, designing, building, and preservation of either old or new structures. They are directly involved in every aspect of building projects from start to finish. Their main goals focus on designing and creating buildings that are safe, efficient, long-lasting, and eye-catching.

Students who enjoy building and designing projects should explore a career in architecture and construction.



## TOP SKILLS

Analytical	Strength and Stamina
Leadership/Management	Critical Thinking
Attention to Detail	Team Building
Problem Solving	Design Talent
Communication	Visualizing

## TOP CAREERS

Carpenter	Drafter
Interior Designer	Plumber/Pipefitter
Construction Manager	Electrician
Iron Worker	Surveying & Mapping Technician
Crane Operator	Industrial Designer
Landscape Architect	Surveyor

## Examples of Courses Offered:

- Ag Power Equipment
- Agriscience
- Technical Drafting
- Carpentry
- Electrical
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Millwright
- Pipefitting
- Welding
- Workplace Safety

## Industry-Based Credentials Offered:

- AWS Welding
- Autodesk Certified User AutoCAD
- AutoDesk Inventor Certified User
- AutoDesk Revit
- CDF-Qualifying Pre-Apprenticeship: CITF Carpentry
- CDF-Qualifying Pre-Apprenticeship: CITF Welding
- Electrical Training ALLIANCE Interim Credential (etA)
- EPA Section 608 Certification AND Air Conditioning, Electrical, OR Heat Employment Ready
- FAA Part 107: Small Unmanned Aircraft Operations
- Louisiana Micro-Enterprise
- NCCER:
  - Construction Craft Laborer
  - Helper Modules
  - Carpentry
  - Electrical
  - Millwright
  - Pipefitting

## Is this pathway right for you?

		YES	NO
1.	Do you like to draw and sketch?		
2.	Are you good at designing or building things?		
3.	Are you willing to design blueprints, drawings, and models?		
4.	Do you like to read instructions to complete projects?		
5.	Are you willing to work indoors and outdoors?		
6.	Are you willing to wear protective gear for your safety on the job?		
7.	Do you like working with hand tools?		
8.	Do you like working with heavy equipment and machinery?		
9.	Are you willing to travel to different job locations?		
10.	Do you work well on teams?		
11.	Do you possess critical thinking skills?		
12.	Do you have strong communication skills?		
<b>TOTAL:</b>			

### Did You Know?

From 2015 – 2024, there will be 1,921,200 people entering the labor market with a bachelor's degree each year, yet 7 out of 10 jobs require less than a four-year degree. Through industry-recognized credentials and certifications, craft professionals earn competitive wages with minimal to no debt.

Source: [byf.org](http://byf.org)

**53%**

With 53% of seasoned workers retiring in the next 15 years, the industry is facing a critical skills gap. New comers to the field have the opportunity to quickly grow their careers.

Source: [byf.org](http://byf.org)

**TOTAL:**

**Yes 1-3**

You are **DEVELOPING** in this area. Review other focus areas that might match your strengths better.

**Yes 4-7**

You are **EMERGING** in this area. This focus area could be for you and is definitely worth exploring.

**Yes 8-12**

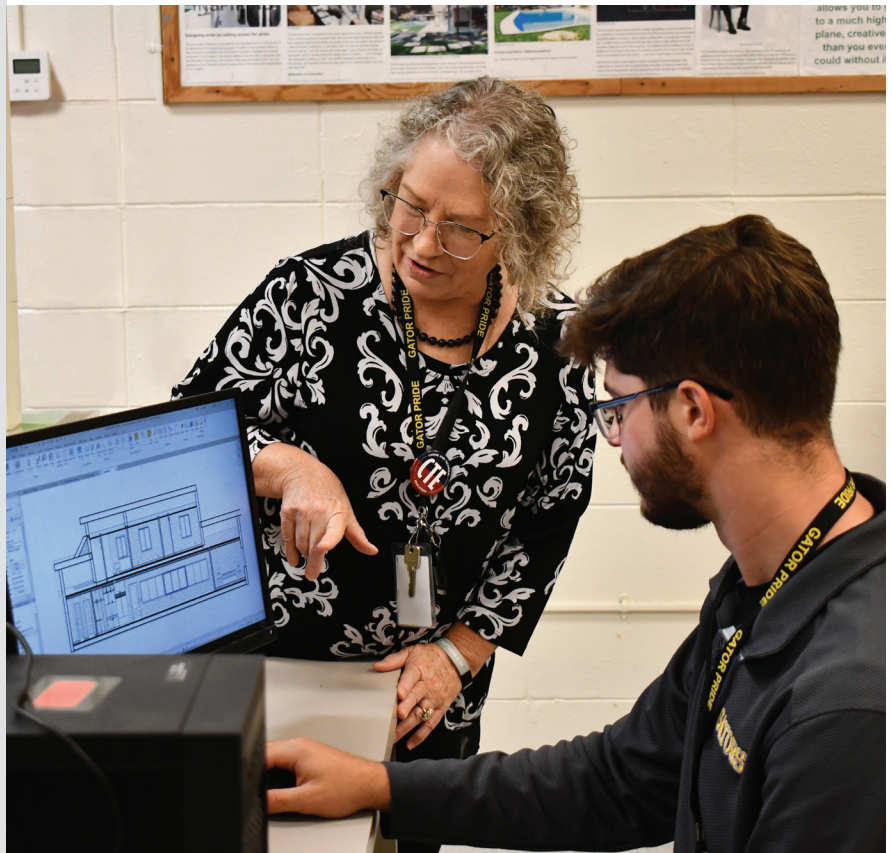
You are **STRONG** in this area. Based on your responses to the assessment, this focus area sounds like a good fit.



# Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications

Communication is crucial for success in all careers. Writing, working with a team, and communicating new ideas are requirements of most jobs. Businesses and corporations around the world recognize the valuable assets that artists and visionaries bring to the table.

Creative students who see themselves designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, or publishing multimedia content will want to vtconsider arts, audio/video technology, and communications.



## Top Skills

Collaboration	Initiative
Communication	Interpersonal
Creativity	Technology
Critical Thinking	Time Management

## Top Careers

Film Maker	Interior Designer
Graphic Designer	Writer
Television Studio Producer	Art Curator
Stage Designer	Photographer
Publisher	Reporter
Radio Broadcaster	Art Director
Fashion Designer or Illustrator	Artist (Performing or Visual)

## Examples of Courses Offered:

- Art
- Technical Drafting
- Broadcasting
- Choir
- Computer Science
- Desktop Publishing
- Digital Media
- Multimedia Production
- Speech
- Theatre

## Industry-Based Credentials Offered:

- Adobe Suite
- Autodesk Certified User AutoCAD
- Autodesk Inventor Certified User
- FAA Part 107: Small Unmanned Aircraft Operation
- Fundamentals of JavaScript, Functional Programming, and Web Development

"I chose to take the Multimedia Productions class because I dream of working on a set and becoming a filmmaker. The class is really interactive, and the projects are also great. It relates to real-life situations and projects which you can use to start working with a client. Each class has its own skill set, and I believe that this class will improve how I work with clients."

- Ryan Lisea, East Ascension High School

## Is this pathway right for you?

		YES	NO
1.	Are you creative?		
2.	Are you talented in writing, speaking, performing, and/or designing?		
3.	Are you a visionary thinker?		
4.	Are you open to new ideas and opinions that differ from your own?		
5.	Do you sometimes daydream?		
6.	Are you innovative and original?		
7.	Are you good at expressing yourself clearly?		
8.	Do you handle feedback and criticism well?		
9.	Are you friendly?		
10.	Are you flexible?		
11.	Are you persistent? Do you work until problems are solved?		
12.	Do you prefer to work independently?		
<b>TOTAL:</b>			

### Did You Know?

Employment of Film and Video Editors and Camera Operators is projected to grow approximately 16% over a decade.

Source: US Bureau of Labor  
Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook

### \$800 Million

The arts contribute more than \$800 million a year to U.S. economic output, according to a 2019 report from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Source: Career One Stop

**TOTAL:**

**Yes 1-3**

You are **DEVELOPING** in this area. Review other focus areas that might match your strengths better.

**Yes 4-7**

You are **EMERGING** in this area. This focus area could be for you and is definitely worth exploring.

**Yes 8-12**

You are **STRONG** in this area. Based on your responses to the assessment, this focus area sounds like a good fit.



## Business Management

There are several areas in the business management field such as finance, entrepreneurship, logistics, operations, and retail. These careers focus on planning, organizing, directing, and evaluating all or part of a business organization. Students who enjoy interacting with others, making decisions, problem solving, and working with numbers may be interested in this career path.



### Top Skills

Collaboration	Interpersonal
Communication	Leadership
Critical Thinking	Organizational
Decision Making	Quantitative Reasoning

### Top Careers

Chief Executive Officer	Sales Representative
Entrepreneur	Insurance Appraiser
Accountant	Real Estate Agent
Adjuster	Office Manager
Marketing Manager	Personal Financial Advisor
Human Resources Manager	Customer Service Rep.
Executive Assistant	Bank Officer

## Examples of Courses Offered:

- Accounting
- Cooperative Marketing Education (CME)
- Cooperative Office Education (COE)
- CTE Internship Information Technology
- Customer Service
- Desktop Publishing
- Entrepreneurship
- General Cooperative Education (GCE)
- Introduction to Business Computer Applications (IBCA)
- Principles of Business
- Principles of Marketing

## Industry-Based Credentials Offered:

- Adobe Suite
- Business of Retail: Operations and Profit
- Customer Service and Sales
- Fundamentals of JavaScript, Functional Programming, and Web Development
- Louisiana Micro-Enterprise
- Microsoft Office Specialist: Access, Word, PowerPoint, AND Excel

"My Entrepreneurship class has exposed me to the different qualities it takes to start a business. I hadn't considered the risk and mental strength it takes to run a business. I hope to use my knowledge to start a successful business that attracts customers from all over the world."

- Marco Milton, East Ascension High School

## Is this pathway right for you?

		YES	NO
1.	Do you like to take on a new challenge?		
2.	Are you competitive?		
3.	Do you like to take action on projects?		
4.	Do you like to interact with all kinds of people?		
5.	Do you like to think outside the box?		
6.	Do you like to figure out how to improve things?		
7.	Do you like to figure out how to improve yourself?		
8.	Are you independent?		
9.	Are you creative?		
10.	Do you bounce back quickly after you fail at something?		
11.	Do you surround yourself with people who give you good advice?		
12.	Do you like to build or create new things?		
<b>TOTAL:</b>			

### Did You Know?

Small businesses account for 52.8 percent of Louisiana's employment.

Source: *US Small Business Administration*

**911,400**

Overall employment in business and financial occupations is projected to grow faster than the average for all occupations from 2022 to 2032. About 911,400 openings are projected each year, on average, in these occupations due to employment growth and the need to replace workers who leave the occupations permanently.

Source: [smallbiztrends.com](http://smallbiztrends.com)

**TOTAL:**

**Yes 1-3**

You are **DEVELOPING** in this area. Review other focus areas that might match your strengths better.

**Yes 4-7**

You are **EMERGING** in this area. This focus area could be for you and is definitely worth exploring.

**Yes 8-12**

You are **STRONG** in this area. Based on your responses to the assessment, this focus area sounds like a good fit.



# Health, Hospitality, and Human Services

Healthcare is the largest and fastest growing industry in the United States. Career tracks in healthcare prepare students for a career that promotes health and wellness, as well as the diagnosis and treatment of injuries and diseases.

Career tracks in Hospitality provide opportunities to travel and explore the beauty, culture, and cuisine of the world.

The Human Services career track prepares students for jobs that relate to families and human needs. Students who enjoy helping others might be well suited for a career in Human Services.



## Top Skills

Collaboration	Interpersonal
Communication	Leadership
Critical Thinking	Organizational
Initiative	Technology

## Top Careers

Nurse	Pharmacist
Veterinarian	Teacher
Hospital Administrator	Psychologist
Nutritionist or Dietitian	Social Service Worker
Physical Therapist	Police Officer
Physician/Surgeon	Fireman
Hotel Manager	Minister

## Examples of Courses Offered:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Certified Medical Assistant
- Child Development
- CTE Internship Medical
- Digital Media
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Firefighter
- First Responder
- Food Science
- Forensic Science
- Foundations of Education (SELU Course)
- Introduction to Health Occupations
- Medical Terminology
- Multicultural Learning Communities
- Patient Care Technician
- ProStart
- Psychology
- Publications
- Sports Medicine

## Industry-Based Credentials Offered:

- Business of Retail: Operations & Profit
- Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)
- Certified EKG Technician
- Customer Service and Sales
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- IFSAC FireFighter
- Louisiana Micro-Enterprise
- Patient Care Technician/Assistant
- ProStart National Certificate of Achievement AND ServSafe Food Protection Manager
- ServSafe Food Handler
- ServSafe Food Protection Manager
- ProStart National Certificate of Achievement AND ServSafe Food Handler

## Is this pathway right for you?

		YES	NO
1.	Are you friendly and compassionate?		
2.	Can you deal with the sight of blood and other injuries?		
3.	Are you comfortable working closely with sick people?		
4.	Do you deal with a crisis well?		
5.	Are you patient with difficult people?		
6.	Are you a team player?		
7.	Are you a continual learner?		
8.	Are you a good listener?		
9.	Are you a problem solver?		
10.	Do you manage your time well?		
11.	Can you work under pressure?		
12.	Are you adaptable?		
<b>TOTAL:</b>			

### Did You Know?

Americans are responsible for the vast majority of all health care innovations. The top five U.S. hospitals conduct more clinical trials than all the hospitals in any other single developed country. Since the mid-1970s, the Nobel Prize in medicine or physiology has gone to American residents more often than recipients from all other countries combined.

Source: *National Center for Policy Analysis*

### 1 IN 7

Almost 21 million people are employed in health care—and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that nearly 1 in 7 Americans will work in the industry by 2028.

Source: [careeronestop.org](http://careeronestop.org)

**TOTAL:**

**Yes 1-3**

You are **DEVELOPING** in this area. Review other focus areas that might match your strengths better.

**Yes 4-7**

You are **EMERGING** in this area. This focus area could be for you and is definitely worth exploring.

**Yes 8-12**

You are **STRONG** in this area. Based on your responses to the assessment, this focus area sounds like a good fit.



# STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, including Computer Science, is a curriculum based on the idea of combining education in four specific disciplines. Rather than teach the four areas as separate and discrete subjects, STEM integrates them into a cohesive learning curriculum, integrating real-life scenarios.

Students interested in STEM might be intrigued by using innovation and research to design a solution for a real-world problem.



## Top Skills

Collaboration	Initiative
Communication	Organizational
Creativity	Quantitative Reasoning
Critical Thinking	Technology

## Top Careers

Architect	Software Developer
Engineer	Computer Programmer
Construction Manager	Cyber Security Analyst
Electrician	Pilot
Statistician	Robotics Engineer
Auto Technician	Veterinarian
Chemist	Research Analyst

## Examples of Courses Offered:

- Technical Drafting
- Computer Electronics
- Computer Science
- CTE Internship Information Technology
- Drones
- Electrician
- First Responder
- Introduction to Computational Thinking (LSU Course)
- Introduction to Engineering (LSU Course)
- Operation Spark JavaScript
- Pipefitting
- Process Technician (PTEC)
- Robotics (LSU Course)
- Veterinary Assistant

## Industry-Based Credentials Offered:

- Adobe Suite
- Autodesk Certified User AutoCAD
- Autodesk Inventor Certified User
- Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)
- Certified EKG Technician
- CompTIA Fundamentals
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- FAA Part 107: Small Unmanned Aircraft Operations
- IFSAC Fire Fighter I and II
- Microsoft Office Specialist
- Patient Care Technician/Assistant

"The Computer Electronics course reaches out to students who would not have exposure to working with technology like this. It creates opportunities not found anywhere else that can set a student on the path of technology in higher education."

-Joseph Overstreet, Dutchtown High School

## Is this pathway right for you?

		YES	NO
1.	Do you like to solve interesting and challenging problems?		
2.	Do you like to be creative and work with others?		
3.	Do you like to work on projects that make a difference?		
4.	Do you want to earn a good salary and enjoy job flexibility?		
5.	Do you want to help others change the world?		
6.	Are your computer skills strong?		
7.	Do you like to work through science experiments to find the results?		
8.	Are you good at video games?		
9.	Do you like to strategize?		
10.	Are you good at designing or building things?		
11.	Would you like to explore different computer languages?		
12.	When you fail at something, do you like to try again to do better?		
<b>TOTAL:</b>			

### Did You Know?

STEM occupations outearn non-STEM fields by 12-30% across all education levels.

Source: Smithsonian Science Education Center

**10.8%**

STEM jobs are projected to grow 10.8% between 2022 and 2032, almost 4x faster than non-STEM jobs.

Source: [codewizardshq.com/stem-statistics/](http://codewizardshq.com/stem-statistics/)

**TOTAL:**

**Yes 1-3**

You are **DEVELOPING** in this area. Review other focus areas that might match your strengths better.

**Yes 4-7**

You are **EMERGING** in this area. This focus area could be for you and is definitely worth exploring.

**Yes 8-12**

You are **STRONG** in this area. Based on your responses to the assessment, this focus area sounds like a good fit.



# COLLEGE BOUND



## **ACT Prep**

The ACT test is one of the top-rated entrance exams and is accepted by all U.S. colleges and universities. The ACT test is an excellent predictor of college readiness and is primarily based on high school core courses. Schools in the district offer students multiple opportunities to prepare for the ACT. Ascension Public Schools has a partnership with Ascension Parish Libraries. This partnership benefits students by providing in-depth test preparation and problem solving skills that help students achieve their highest score possible.

## **ACT WorkKeys**

Ascension Public Schools students have the opportunity to take the ACT WorkKeys assessment and earn a National Career Readiness Certificate. WorkKeys is a job skills assessment system measuring "real-world" skills that employers believe are critical to job success. The results of this test can help employers select, hire, and train the most qualified candidate. The assessment is based on three components: Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents.

## **ACT Work Ready Community**

Ascension Public Schools, along with the Ascension Economic Development Corporation and the Ascension Chamber of Commerce, is pleased to be part of a Certified ACT Work Ready Community. A Work Ready Community is a community-based framework that:

- Links workforce development to education
- Aligns with the economic development needs of communities, regions, and states
- Matches individuals to jobs based on skill levels

As an ACT Work Ready Community, we are helping:

- Businesses know exactly what foundational skills they need for a productive workforce - and to easily communicate their needs
- Individuals understand what skills are required by employers and how to prepare themselves for success
- Policy makers consistently measure the skills gap in a timely manner at the national, state and local levels
- Educators close the skills gap, via tools integrated into career pathways with

stackable industry-recognized credentials

- Economic developers use an on-demand reporting tool to market the quality of their workforce

Visit our Work Ready Communities page to see the growing list of Ascension Parish employers that recognize the ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate. [workreadycommunities.org/LA/005](http://workreadycommunities.org/LA/005).

## Student Financial Aid

College is expensive! Any aid that assists students to offset the cost of higher education is beneficial because it can help cover expenses such as tuition and fees, room and board, books and other coursework supplies, and transportation.

Here are three types of financial aid:

### 1. TOPS/TOPS Tech

TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program for Students) is a merit-based program of state scholarships for Louisiana residents who attend one of the Louisiana Public Colleges and Universities, schools that are a part of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, Louisiana approved Proprietary and Cosmetology Schools or institutions that are a part of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), a Program of the Louisiana Board of Regents, administers TOPS and TOPS Tech awards.

TOPS awards are considered scholarships, not loans; therefore, they do not need to be repaid. These scholarships will go towards school tuition and are based on a student's TOPS CORE GPA and their highest composite ACT/SAT test score. The TOPS CORE GPA is calculated differently than a cumulative GPA. This is calculated based on the required Core Units of the TOPS/ TOPS Tech Core Curriculum. Refer to the LOSFA website for more information.

#### Levels and Requirements of TOPS/TOPS Tech

Opportunity Award

- 2.5 TOPS GPA and 20 ACT Score or 1030 SAT Score
- Award: Amount determined by school's tuition (varies from school to school)
- Can be utilized at Community College or 4-year program

Performance Award

- 3.25 TOPS GPA and 23 ACT Score or 1130 SAT Score

- Award: Opportunity Award amount + \$400/year
- Can be utilized at Community College or 4-year program

Honors Award

- 3.5 TOPS GPA and 27 ACT Score or 1260 SAT Score
- Award: Opportunity Award amount + \$800/year
- Can be utilized at Community College or 4-year program

TOPS Tech

- 2.5 TOPS Tech GPA and 17 ACT Score or WorkKeys Silver
- 920 SAT Score
- Award: Amount determined by school's tuition (varies from school to school)
- Can be applied towards 2-year technical programs and some Associates Degrees at 2 and 4 year colleges

TOPS and TOPS Tech availability, required test score, and award amounts are subject to Legislative review and announced in October each year.

#### Applying for TOPS

There are two ways to apply for TOPS/TOPS Tech:

1. Complete and submit the TOPS Online Application. Completing this application will ONLY get you applied for the TOPS Award and you MAY NOT submit the FAFSA. Read the FAFSA information below before beginning the TOPS Online Application. Link to the TOPS Online Application: <https://www.osfa.la.gov/AwardSystem/faces/jsf/onlineApp/onlineAppFAFSA.jspx>
2. Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov)). Once you have started this application process, you cannot decide to complete the TOPS Online Application instead.

### 2. FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is your application for the following financial programs:

1. Federal Pell Grant – This is need-based aid and does not need to be repaid. Students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch are typically awarded some grant money.
2. TOPS/TOPS Tech – The Louisiana merit-based programs that pay for a portion of tuition at any Louisiana college or university. Students must qualify for these programs with required TOPS Core GPA and ACT/SAT score.
3. Student Loans – Money borrowed from the federal government to assist students in funding their

education. Loans may be subsidized (the government pays the interest until graduation) or unsubsidized (interest accrues during school).

4. Work Study – Part-time on-campus jobs available to students. Students are paid and can use this money to assist with educational expenses. Work study is based on financial need.
5. Parent PLUS Loans – Loans available for parents who wish to assist their child with educational expenses.

Note: Completing the FAFSA is the most beneficial way to apply for financial aid and is sometimes required when completing college and scholarship applications. Some federal programs that give additional money to students, such as CARES Act; Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), will not be awarded if the FAFSA is not complete.

### Where do I file the FAFSA?

The application can be found at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). The FAFSA typically opens on October 1st.

### What do I need to file the FAFSA?

- FSA ID – An FSA ID is a username and password that gives you access to the Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature. All students and one parent need an FSA ID to sign the FAFSA. To create your FSA ID, go to [studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing)
- Student and parent Social Security numbers
- Student and parent Federal Tax forms, including W-2 forms and records of child support received; and your current balance of cash, savings and checking accounts (Note: You must provide consent and approval to disclose your federal tax information to be eligible for federal student aid.)
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable), net worth of investments, businesses, and farms
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)

### Where can I find help or assistance?

Ascension Public Schools Career Coaches are on each high school campus and available to assist seniors and their parents with completing the FAFSA. Each school holds multiple FAFSA support nights to accommodate working parents. Additionally, the Ascension Parish Library hosts FAFSA support evenings each year. Contact your school's Career Coach for more information or to schedule an appointment for assistance.

## 3. Scholarships

Scholarships can be awarded by universities based on a student's academic credentials and accomplishments. Students should research their school of choice for scholarship requirements, applications and priority deadlines. Like other scholarships, these merit scholarships may be given on a one-time basis or be renewable.

National and local scholarships are another source of funding and must be applied for on an individual basis. Some of these will be promoted on a spreadsheet provided by Career Coaches throughout the school year. Contact your school's Career Coach for more information.

## Louisiana Four-Year College List

Centenary College of Louisiana  
*Shreveport*

Dillard University  
*New Orleans*

Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University  
*Baton Rouge*

Grambling State University  
*Grambling*

Louisiana Baptist University and Theological Seminary  
*Shreveport*

Louisiana Christian University  
*Pineville*

Louisiana State University  
*Baton Rouge*

Louisiana State University of Alexandria

Louisiana State University Shreveport

Louisiana Tech University  
*Ruston*

Loyola University New Orleans

McNeese State University  
*Lake Charles*

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Nicholls State University  
*Thibodaux*

Northwestern State University  
*Natchitoches*

Notre Dame Seminary  
*New Orleans*

Saint Joseph Seminary College  
*St. Benedict*





Southeastern Louisiana University  
*Hammond*

Southern University  
*Baton Rouge*

Southern University at New Orleans

Tulane University  
*New Orleans*

University of Holy Cross  
*New Orleans*

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

University of Louisiana at Monroe

University of New Orleans

Xavier University of Louisiana  
*New Orleans*

## **Louisiana Two-Year College List**

Baton Rouge Community College  
*Multiple Locations*

Bossier Parish Community College  
*Multiple Locations*

Central Louisiana Technical Community College  
*Multiple Locations*

Delgado Community College  
*Multiple Locations*

Fletcher Technical Community College  
*Schriever*

Louisiana Delta Community College  
*Multiple Locations*

Louisiana State University at Eunice

Louisiana Technical College  
*Multiple Locations*

Northshore Technical Community College  
*Multiple Locations*

Northwest Louisiana Technical College  
*Multiple Locations*

Nunez Community College  
*Chalmette*

River Parishes Community College  
*Multiple Locations*

South Louisiana Community College  
*Multiple Locations*

Southern University at Shreveport

SOWELA Technical Community College  
*Lake Charles*

## **Vocational/Training Schools**

Association of Builders and Contractors (ABC)  
*Baton Rouge*

AIE (Academy of Interactive Entertainment)  
*Lafayette*

Aveda Arts & Sciences Institute  
*Multiple Locations*

Delta College of Arts and Technology  
*Multiple Locations*

Denham Springs Beauty College  
*Denham Springs*

Diesel Driving Academy  
*Multiple Locations*

Fortis College  
*Baton Rouge*

ITI Technical College  
*Baton Rouge*

Louisiana Culinary Institute  
*Baton Rouge*

National EMS Academy  
*Multiple Locations*

Paul Mitchell The School Baton Rouge

Paul Mitchell The School New Orleans

# CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE



## **Centers of Excellence**

Each high school in Ascension Parish houses a Center of Excellence. Centers of Excellence encompass a unique set of courses that focus on training students in a specific career field. Each program is equipped with labs that contain all the necessary tools, equipment, and materials required to provide exposure in their chosen field of study. It is through these courses that students have the opportunity to earn industry-based credentials, allowing them to go into the workforce or continue their field of study upon graduation. Ascension Public Schools offers the following Centers of Excellence:

- Allied Health – St. Amant High School
- Criminal Justice – Prairieville High School
- ProStart – Donaldsonville High School
- ProStart – Dutchtown High School
- Technology – East Ascension High School

Because each school's Center of Excellence is career specific, students have the flexibility during their junior and senior year to travel from their home school to another high school in the parish to take classes that align with their career interests or Jump Start pathway for graduation.

## **Allied Health Center**

The Allied Health Center of Excellence is designed for students desiring to pursue a medical career field. Students at all high schools are given the opportunity to apply for the CPCT/A (Certified Patient Care Technician/Assistant) program and the CCMA (Certified Clinical Medical Assistant) program. These programs are each completed in one school year with instruction/theory in the fall and clinical rotations through nursing homes, hospitals and physicians' offices in the spring. Both PCT and CMA courses prepare students for the national certification exams. Successful completion of these certifications will allow these students to enter the workforce immediately upon graduation. Additionally, this center offers a CTE Internship course, which provides students opportunities to job shadow medical professionals such as physical therapists, dentists/orthodontists, veterinarians, optometrists, and morticians. This combination of rich hands-on experience and hours spent immersed in the medical setting pushes the students a step ahead of most when applying for postsecondary schools or future jobs.



Ascension  
Allied Health  
Center of Excellence



## Criminal Justice Center

The Criminal Justice Center of Excellence is tailored for students who aspire to excel in the field of criminal justice, encompassing the various disciplines and roles within the American justice system. Junior and senior students from all high schools can apply for this program, which provides a comprehensive introduction to the concepts and skills needed to work successfully in a public safety communication center. This program covers a wide range of topics, including societal problems, effective communication techniques, disaster readiness, legal concerns, stress management, and the basic standard practices of police, fire, and emergency medical response. Students who excel may have the opportunity to participate in direct observation and clinical rotations at the local emergency communication center. Additionally, students can earn a 9-1-1 Dispatch certification, preparing them for immediate entry into the workforce upon graduation. This combination of theoretical knowledge and practical experience gives students a competitive edge when applying for postsecondary education or future employment in this essential public safety field.



## ProStart Center

The ProStart Center of Excellence was developed to prepare students for careers in the hospitality and food service industry. The program unites the food service industry and the classroom to teach high school students culinary skills and restaurant management principles. The students learn employability skills such as communication, teamwork, professionalism, and time management. The emphasis is on obtaining skills for the industry-based certification and preparing for internships in the industry. Topics of study include organization and management, use of commercial equipment, proper sanitation and safety standards for the industry, the art of service, purchasing and inventory control, food preparation, advanced planning for labs, and critical thinking. Through this work-based learning course, students gain over 400 hours of documented food service work hours. The students will also have opportunities to earn scholarships as well as ServSafe Manager certification and the National Restaurant Association ProStart Certificate of Achievement. Students can participate in the CTE Internship - Culinary Program to learn real world skills in the restaurant and catering industry.



## Technology Center

The Technology Center of Excellence offers quality computer technology services. The center offers industry standard test prep and certifications including IT Fundamentals, as a CompTIA authorized academy partner. Junior and senior students have the opportunity to enroll in an LSU STEM class, Intro to Robotics, where they focus on design, construction, and programming of VEX robots. Students will acquire real world experience and earn a wage by participating in the CTE Internship - Information Technology program and can troubleshoot, repair equipment, and assist schools with various types of technology.





# STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES



## ***Career and College Expo***

Ascension Public Schools hosts an annual district-wide Career and College Expo with over 200 participating businesses and post-secondary institutions. Businesses from within the community and surrounding areas send professionals to interact with our students and parents. Students ask questions and gain first-hand knowledge about daily activities, along with education/training needed to work in specific positions. Students and parents can also learn about the many programs and industry-based certifications offered at Ascension Parish high schools. Counselors, teachers, current students, and administrators are in attendance to promote program information.



In addition to career professionals, representatives from colleges, universities and technical schools provide detailed information about academic programs, admission requirements, the application process, housing, campus tours/events, and financial aid options. The Career and College Expo also provides an opportunity for students to be able to compare offerings at schools in Louisiana and in neighboring states.

## DE, AP, CLEP

Ascension Public Schools offers many opportunities to complete college level coursework and earn college credit through College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and Dual Enrollment (DE) courses.

CLEP tests allow students to demonstrate their mastery of introductory college-level material and earn college credit. CLEP offers 34 tests, and students are afforded the convenience of taking many of these tests on their own campus.

AP classes prepare highly-motivated students for college level courses and provide an opportunity to test for potential college credit through The College Board's AP program. Exams are given in May of each school year; most universities award credit for a score of 3-5.

Dual Enrollment classes offer both high school and college level credit simultaneously. DE courses are taught by specially trained and certified high school teachers on each high school campus. Ascension Public Schools currently partners with various colleges and universities. Each contracted university sets enrollment requirements, such as minimum ACT scores. **Dual Enrollment courses are recorded on a student's permanent college transcript and cannot be removed regardless of the grade earned.**

## Extracurricular Offerings

Ascension Public Schools has a wealth of opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities. These opportunities help mold well-rounded individuals and prepare them for postsecondary opportunities. Extracurricular and leadership activities provide students with real life skills to ensure college and career readiness. Each campus offers academic-based clubs, such as Beta, Mu Alpha Theta, and National Honor Society. Schools offer specialized clubs like Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Chess Club, Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), Be the Change, Speech and Debate, and Future Farmers of America.



## Community Service Opportunities

There are many service opportunities available in Ascension Parish. Our students are provided opportunities during both the school year and the summer to help the community by volunteering and fundraising for non-profit organizations. Various clubs and organizations on all campuses participate in activities that allow the students to develop pride in their community, a sense of accomplishment and self-worth. Some of the community service opportunities that students participate in include:

- Fundraising and hosting Team Up events for St. Jude
- Cheering on the survivors at the annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life
- Fundraising and volunteering for Ascension Parish Relay for Life for American Cancer Society
- Hosting Special Olympics Area Games Track and Field Events
- Volunteering for the Special Olympics Bowling Events
- Volunteering at local nursing homes
- Adopting local families in need
- Collecting toys for the Christmas Crusade
- Volunteering for the local food banks
- Hosting blood drives at each high school
- Participating in Sudden Impact activities with LA State Police and OLOL Trauma Nurses – Mock Crash, Mock Trials
- Working with feeder school students to promote school pride and self-awareness
- Offering wellness events through Guidance Department



# CTE OPPORTUNITIES



## ***Jump Start Summer Programs***

The Jump Start Summer programs provide students the opportunity to earn statewide basic or statewide advanced industry-based credentials and work toward true internship opportunities. This is a chance for students to participate in a program of study they may not have been able to schedule during the school year.

During the summer, students are able to earn:

- Carnegie Unit(s)
- Credential(s)
- Job shadowing and/or internship opportunities
- Stipends

Program offerings may include Emergency Medical Responder, Adobe Visual Design,

NCCER Core, NCCER Pipefitting I, Information Technology Internship, Electrocardiogram Technician, and Medical Internship.

## ***ABC Partnership***

Ascension Public Schools and Associated Builders and Contractors, Pelican Chapter, have partnered to give students the "Jump Start" on high wage/high demand careers that are plentiful in our regional job market. The program is open to high school juniors and seniors who meet academic and disciplinary standards and are interviewed by industry professionals. Participating students earn Carnegie Units toward graduation and develop skill sets to ensure post-secondary success. Programs of study may include NCCER Electrical, NCCER Millwright, NCCER Pipefitting, and AWS Welding.





## Work-Based Learning

Work-based Learning (WBL) applies academics to real-world settings. Ascension Public Schools offer WBL courses designed to give students a chance to observe and experience firsthand some of the daily activities of professionals in the community. Students have the opportunity to gain employment and valuable experience while earning high school credit, getting paid and enhancing their resumé or school entrance application. Time spent on campus focuses on job related skills and postsecondary educational opportunities. WBL is invaluable because students are exposed to hands-on experiences in conjunction with classroom learning, gaining knowledge in areas such as human relations, office etiquette, time management, computer operations and techniques, work ethic, customer service, entrepreneurial skills, and current marketing practices. WBL provides technical skills necessary for certain jobs, and over time enhances students' soft skills necessary in the workplace.

"Being involved in a work-based learning program has taught me not only a lot about technology but also helped to improve my teamwork skills with others. The program has also helped to expose me to the professional aspects of technology and increase my knowledge to help prepare me for the future and workforce."

-Faith Pereira, East Ascension High School

"My internship has taught me the importance of time management and effective communication. I understand that once I enter into the workforce it is no longer my parents' or teachers' responsibility to make sure I complete my job duties and daily tasks. It is my own!"

-Prelliana Wilson, Donaldsonville High School Student



# STUDENT SUPPORT



## **PBIS**

Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) is a school-wide program designed to establish and maintain a safe and effective school environment that maximizes academic achievement and behavioral competence.

PBIS goals include:

- Increasing desirable behaviors in all school-related settings
- Helping students develop self-discipline
- Recognizing positive contributions of students and staff

Three successful programs PBIS implements:

- The Mediation Program - designed to help students find equitable solutions to problems between/among peers
- The Behavior Coaching Program - designed to help students struggling to meet classroom expectations
- The Mentoring Program - assists students who are struggling with issues outside the classroom setting



## **Freshman Academy**

The concept of the Freshman Academy is to ensure that students moving from middle to high school feel known, valued, and inspired. These students are placed on teacher teams who can offer group support, additional attention, and interventions. This provides a strong foundation for high achievement at all grade levels, while preparing young adults for college and workplace readiness. Students who experience a successful freshman year are much more likely to graduate on time.

## **Counselors**

High School Counselors are available to provide academic, social, and emotional services on a daily basis to students and parents.

## **Academic Counseling**

- Guiding Jump Start and TOPS University students with scheduling courses needed to graduate
- Discussing future plans and pathways with students who plan to enter the workforce, attend a 4-year university, a community college, or a technical school
- Coordinating and administering all testing on campus including LEAP2025, ACT, WorkKeys, PSAT, AP, ELPT, and LEAP Connect assessments
- Assisting students in successfully navigating Dual Enrollment course work and Advanced Placement credit translation at students' colleges of choice
- Helping students locate necessary tutoring and LEAP remediation services on their campus
- Leading students through the college application and scholarship process

## **Social and Emotional Counseling**

Social and emotional counseling consists of:

- Referring students, when necessary, to outside agencies who partner with the district and provide services both on and off campuses
- Providing contact information to students and parents for social and emotional needs







## Career Coaches

Career Coaches are assigned at each high school and middle school to provide the following services:

- Facilitate a smooth transition between middle and high school
- Encourage and support students' career goals
- Assist high school students in the creation of a realistic college/career plan
- Support students with the postsecondary process, including college applications, financial aid and scholarship opportunities
- Host annual Career and College Expo
- Recruit for programs such as Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Career Coaches are instrumental in assisting students in their career/college exploration and preparation.

## Graduation Coaches

Graduation Coaches on high school campuses provide the following assistance to students regarding graduation:

- Analyzing data to identify students or subgroups with dropout risk factors
- Tracking IGP's
- Identifying and removing barriers preventing graduation
- Guiding career pathways
- Ensuring graduation for all students

## Early College Option

The Ascension Parish School Board and River Parishes Community College have partnered to create the Early College Option Program (ECO). This program is based on the early college high school model, which assumes that academic rigor, combined with the opportunity to save time and money, is a powerful motivator for students to work hard and meet serious intellectual challenges. ECO blends high school and college work in a rigorous yet supportive program, compressing the time it takes to complete both a high school diploma and an Associate Degree in Humanities or an Associate Degree in Biological Sciences. Students apply for this educational avenue in their 8th grade year.

## APPLe Digital Academy

Facility located in Sorrento which manages:

- Alternative Learning Program (ALP) - for expelled students K through 12
- Blended Learning Program (BLP) - for virtual learning students K through 12
- Ascension Pathways Program (APP) - for high school students pursuing the HiSET (formerly GED)
- Career Center location for PTEC, HVAC and Drones





## Special Education Services

Students with exceptionalities, including students with disabilities and students in the gifted and talented program, are provided with an array of support and opportunities to excel in Ascension Public Schools. Although not within special education, students who meet section 504 criteria may also qualify for accommodations and modifications. Individualized plans are written to address these students' specific needs in an effort to increase the likelihood of their success in school and in the postsecondary setting upon graduation.

Students who meet course requirements have enrollment access to:

- Advanced Placement, honors, and industry-based courses offering certifications and credentials
- Dual-enrollment course at community colleges, local universities, technical schools, or through Ascension Public Schools Early College Option program
- Virtual learning program located at a separate campus
- Courses through the APP program, geared toward HiSET attainment

## Technology 1 to 1

Technology is an important and integral part of our everyday lives. Ascension Public Schools use local, recurring funds to make computing devices available to every K-12 grader. Most students are able to take these devices home.

High school students have access to current Windows technologies. Incoming freshmen receive a 2-in-1 Windows device that functions as a notebook computer with a keyboard and as a tablet computer that allows students to write and draw on the touchscreen with a stylus. All district classrooms, cafeterias, and gyms are equipped with wireless technology to support these devices, and every classroom has display technologies to work with these devices. Our leaders work diligently to balance security and capability, allowing students and teachers to maximize the learning experiences using technology resources. Ascension Public Schools has been recognized nationally as an example of technology growth and effectiveness, constantly preparing students for today and for the future.





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