**First Year Postsecondary Transition Survival Guide**

**BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS**

1. **Know the Priority Deadline**
   Apply before this deadline to increase your chance of getting admitted and/or receiving a scholarship to a public university.

2. **Know the Early Action/Admission Deadline**
   Apply by this deadline to receive a decision by mid-December or January.

3. **Know the Regular Admission Deadline**
   Final application deadline (will vary depending on the college).

4. **Locate the Registrar's Office**
   Office at the university that maintains student records.

5. **Attend Orientation**
   A way for freshmen to meet other students, become familiar with campus services and register for fall classes; mandatory attendance required at some colleges.

**DOES YOUR SCHOOL HAVE A CAMPUS MAP APP?**
SEARCH THE APP STORE NOW.

**HOUSING**

1. **Be sure that you submit your application and application fee before the deadline.**
   View your institution’s residential life website for dates.

2. **Find out if your 4-year institutions require first year students to stay on campus.**
   Many 4-year institutions require first year students to stay on campus.

3. **Meet your RA and utilize them if you need any help.**
   In the residential halls, students will be introduced to a RA. This is your residential assistant. They are there to provide guidance on all of your housing and general campus questions.
What is a major?
A major is a specific subject area that students specialize in. Typically, between one-third and one-half of the courses you’ll take in college will be in your major or related to it.

What is a minor?
An academic minor is a college or university student’s declared secondary academic discipline during undergraduate studies.

For a deeper exploration of your career interest(s), My Life. My Way. and Occupational Outlook Handbook are great resources for assistance.

Going to a community college first?
The Transfer Degree Guarantee helps students to easily transfer from a 2-year technical college to a 4-year university in the state of Louisiana. For more information, visit latransferdegree.org.

Online Resources:
https://www.bls.gov/ooh/  
http://www.laworks.net/mylife/

### COURSE SCHEDULING ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>COURSE NO</th>
<th>STAT</th>
<th>CREDIT HRS</th>
<th>DAYS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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MWF – Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
TR – Tuesday and Thursday  
(These abbreviations may vary by institution).
**FINANCIAL AID TERMS TO KNOW**

**COA:** Cost of Attendance.

**EFC:** Expected Family Contribution.

**Employment Opportunities:** May be based on need (e.g., Federal Work-Study [FWS] Program).

**FAFSA:** Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

**Financial Need:** Calculated by subtracting the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the Cost of Attendance (COA).

**Institutional Aid:** Need-based or merit-based aid awarded to the student from the postsecondary institution.

**Grant:** Gift aid; based on need (e.g., federal Pell Grant).

**Loan:** Aid that must be repaid; may be based on need.

**Scholarship:** Gift aid; based on merit (e.g., TOPS).

**TOPS:** Taylor Opportunity Program for Students.

**Subsidized Loan:** Need-based; federal government pays interest.

**Unsubsidized Loan:** Not need-based; borrower pays interest.

**Disbursement:** The payment of funds from the Department of Education to the university.

**Refund Check:** A check you receive for any funds remaining in your student account after aid has been disbursed and all balances have been resolved. *The Bursar/Student Accounts Office issues refund checks, not the Financial Aid Office.*

**Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP):** Policy required by the Department of Education ensuring students are moving toward obtaining a degree in a timely, acceptable manner. Students must meet the university’s SAP policy in order to maintain federal financial aid eligibility.

- The institution uses 3 components of progress to assess continuing eligibility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Name</th>
<th>Components Fill in requirements</th>
<th>Pace of Progression</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Maximum Time Frame</th>
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**BUYING BOOKS**

Some books may have to be purchased directly from the school. Some books can be purchased cheaper by buying through another site!

Some examples include:

- Amazon
- TextbookRentals.com
- Chegg®

SAVE MONEY • SAVE THE PLANET
AFTER THE FIRST DAY

1. **How to Drop a Course**
   A student has the option to “drop” a course if the course material becomes too difficult, or if they think they will not receive a passing grade. Students should speak with an academic advisor if they think they need to drop a course.

2. **Utilize Supplemental Instruction (SI) Resources if Available**
   Many STEM courses offer SI sessions that are peer-led to get a better understanding of class material. Ask your professors if this is an option for their course so that you can attend.

3. **Utilize Your TA and GA if You Need Help**
   - TA stands for Teaching Assistant.
   - GA stands for Graduate Assistant.

4. **Locate the Office of Student Support Services on Campus**
   Find this office on campus to learn more about all of the services they can provide.

TOPS RETENTION REQUIREMENTS

1. **You must be enrolled at full-time status (at least 12 credit hours) on the 15th class day of each semester.**

2. **You must earn 24 credit hours each academic year (fall, spring, summer and any intersessions that fall during these terms).**

3. **You must have continuous enrollment through consecutive fall and spring semesters.**

   - Opportunity Award recipients with 47 or fewer hours earned: 2.3 cumulative GPA required.
   - Opportunity Award recipients with 48 or more hours earned: 2.5 cumulative GPA required.
   - Performance or Honors Award recipients: 3.0 cumulative GPA required.

4. **You must maintain the cumulative GPA required for your specific award by the end of the spring semester.**

TRiO/STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

TRiO/Student Support Services offers various free services designed to ensure eligible full-time students are successful in their academic career.

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<td>Tutoring</td>
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<td>Academic, Personal, And Career Counseling</td>
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