



Louisiana Office Of Student Financial Assistance
A Program of the Board of Regents

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.

YOUR CAREER PATH

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.

Online Resources:

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>
<http://www.laworks.net/mylife/>

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.



COURSE SCHEDULING ABBREVIATIONS

SUBJECT		COURSE NO		TITLE		DEPARTMENT				PART OF	CLS	SEATS
CRN	SEC	STAT	CREDIT HRS	DAYS	TIME	BLDG	ROOM	CAMPUS	INSTRUCTOR	TERM	SIZE	AVL
MATH		1113		Precalculus		Mathematics						
15379	0	A	3.0 - 3.0	M W F	01:25 pm-02:15 pm	1023	0302	Athens		1	42	42
15381	0	A	3.0 - 3.0	M W F	01:25 pm-02:15 pm	1013	0240	Athens		1	42	42
15383	0	A	3.0 - 3.0	M W F	01:25 pm-02:15 pm	1013	0136	Athens		1	42	42
15391	0	A	3.0 - 3.0	T R	02:00 pm-03:15 pm	1023	0221	Athens		1	42	39
15393	0	A	3.0 - 3.0	M W F	02:30 pm-03:20 pm	1023	0302	Athens		1	42	38

MWF – Monday, Wednesday, Friday

(These abbreviations may vary by institution).

TR – Tuesday and Thursday

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.

Institution Name →			
Components Fill in requirements	Pace of Progression	GPA	Maximum Time Frame

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:



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.

Services Provided Include:

Calculators
Mentoring
Tutoring
Academic, Personal, And Career Counseling

