



College Prep 101

Powered by Jen Smith Higher Ed

College Admissions Tips

- Review admissions requirements
- Tour the campus
- Prepare questions before your tour
- For virtual colleges tours visit

<https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/>

- For virtual college fairs visit

<https://virtualcollegefairs.org/events>

- Create a professional email address.
- Clean up your social media posts and profile.

Applying to College

- Submit admission application by the deadline and remember to include the following:
 - Submit application fee
 - Send all required test scores (ACT, SAT, Accuplacer)
 - Immunization records

*Jen Smith Higher Ed. LLC
jensmithhighered@gmail.com*

- Selective Service
 - Male students must register to be eligible for federal student aid.
 - Register for Selective Service by visiting
<https://www.sss.gov/>
- High School Transcripts
- Dual Enrollment Transcripts
- Essay, if required
- **How has Covid-19 affected the college admissions process?**
- ***Test Optional***
 - ***Some colleges and universities are waving the requirement for a required ACT score.***
- Visit <http://fairtest.org/> to view institutions that are test optional
- Still submit test scores
 - ACT scores are needed for course placement
 - ACT scores can help you to qualify for scholarships
- Master Course Articulation – Board Regents

Jen Smith Higher Ed. LLC
jensmithhighered@gmail.com

- Provides a list of course transfers for Louisiana public colleges and universities

<https://regents.la.gov/master-course-articulation/>

TOPS

- TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program for Students) is a program of state scholarships for Louisiana residents
 - <https://mylosfa.la.gov/students-parents/scholarships-grants/tops/>
- Must enroll full time as a first-time freshman, by the first semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation
- Can be used at all Louisiana Public and Proprietary Colleges and Universities.

ACT

- Why is the ACT Important?
 - Admissions requirements
 - Scholarships

- TOPS
- Private
- Institutional
- Course Placement
 - Development course placement
- High scores in English and Math can allow students to waive
 - English I & II
 - College Algebra
 - Check with your college to determine the content scores needed in English and Math to waive English and College Algebra.

[Request a copy of your ACT booklet questions and answers](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores/request-a-copy-of-qa.html)

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores/request-a-copy-of-qa.html>

- When testing in December, April, and June
- Order your Test Information Release (TIR)
 - A copy of the test booklet

*Jen Smith Higher Ed. LLC
jensmithhighered@gmail.com*

- The answers you selected
- The correct answers
- Cost- \$22.00

ACT Fee Waiver – Available to students with financial hardships

<https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/FeeWaiver.pdf>

Free ACT Prep Resources

- ACT Website
 - <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html>
- You Tube
 - Best ACT Prep
 - Prep Scholar TV
- Open Campus
 - <https://student.oc.bpcc.edu/>
 - Free to anyone

*Jen Smith Higher Ed. LLC
jensmithhighered@gmail.com*

- ACT Practice Exams

Found online (Google)

- Career Assessment and Choosing a Major
- **Complete an Interest Profiler**
 - Helps students identify their interests and how they relate to the world of work.
 - <https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>
 - **Research career suggestions**
 - <https://www.bls.gov/>
 - Watch the career videos – Very helpful!
- Choosing a major
 - College Majors 101 Website

<https://www.collegemajors101.com/>

FAFSA

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

*Jen Smith Higher Ed. LLC
jensmithhighered@gmail.com*

- Complete as soon as possible when launched every October 1
 - Some financial aid is first-come, first served
 - Up to ten school codes can be added to your FAFSA
- Be sure to file your FAFSA at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- Third party websites are not approved by the Department of Education
- Before filing your FAFSA both student and one parent will need to create an FSA ID
- <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
- **Common mistakes on the FAFSA**
 - **Legal names**
 - Parents and students must use the name that appears on their social security card.
 - **Household Size**
 - Number does not necessarily mean the number of people living in your home

– **Not using the IRS Retrieval Tool**

- Avoid keying in tax information in manually
- You will be selected for verification
- Have a copy of your 2019 tax return nearby when completing the 2021-2022 FAFSA.

Financial Aid Terminology

- Financial Aid Package or Award Letter
 - Explains the types of and amounts of financial aid awarded
- Student Aid Report (SAR)
 - Summarizes information you provided on the FAFSA
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
 - Number used to calculate the amount of Federal Pell Grant students are eligible to receive
 - Review your FAFSA submission page in detail
- Federal Pell Grant

- Available to undergraduate students who display a financial need. In most cases Federal Pell Grants are not required to be paid back.
- Subsidized Loans
 - Available to all undergraduate students. The federal government pays the interest on loans while students are still in school at least part-time
- Unsubsidized Loans
 - Available to all undergraduate students. The student pays all the accrued interest on the loan.
- Verification
 - Verifying the information provided on FASFA is accurate
 - Normal process– DON'T PANIC- But act in a timely manner
 - Financial Aid will not be processed until completed
 - 3 out of 10 students are selected
 - Your college will notify you if you have been selected for verification.

- You will need to complete a verification worksheet
 - Information added should reflect your tax information
- A copy of your tax transcript will be needed
 - You will not be able to submit your tax form provided by your preparer.

BE PREPARED FOR VERIFICATION! Order your tax transcript today!

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript>