

The College Admissions Process

APPLY, AWARD, ACCEPT, ATTEND - SUCCEED!

Susan Gelpi, MS, LPC, NCC
Director of Guidance
Our Lady Academy



HELPING YOUR DAUGHTER THROUGH A CHALLENGING YEAR

We know that for seniors, making post graduation plans while working to keep up with schoolwork can be stressful .

Planning and organizing is vital for success!

What should my student be doing?
What should I be doing?



Apply

DIRECTLY WITH UNIVERSITY

SIMPLY GO TO THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE

USING COMMON APP

CREATE AN ACCOUNT

APPLY TEXAS, ETC.





Our Lady Academy

Official Transcript Request (Counselor Form Edition)

If you have a form to be completed by the counselor, please attach it to this sheet.

All requests for transcripts will be processed within 5-7 business days.

Date Requested _____

Student Social Security # XXX - XX - _____

*In accordance with federal law, records cannot be released without permission of the student.

Name _____
Last First Middle Maiden

Current Phone Number _____ - _____ - _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Current Mailing Address:

Street Address/P.O. Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Copies Requested: _____

Official-Mailed _____ Official-Issued _____ Unofficial (Mailed-Issued) _____
(Class schedules will be printed and mailed with the transcript for current OLA students. Test scores should be ordered and submitted by students directly through the testing company.)

*Signature (required) _____

SEND TRANSCRIPT TO: (Please write legibly.) There is a \$5.00 fee for each transcript sent for former students and alumnae only.

Mail to: Our Lady Academy
Attn: Susan Gelpi, Counselor
222 S. Beach Blvd.
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

or FAX to: (228) 467-1666

For Office Use Only:

Date Mailed/Issued ____/____/____ By: _____ Paid: _____

Signature Needed!

APPLY

Visit Colleges

Spend time on the university's campus.
This is where you will live for four years.

Juniors and seniors get 2 college days per
year that don't count against their
absences. Sign up for a tour.



APPLY

Look at all of your schools and their application guidelines now so you know what's required of you.

ACT and SAT

Continue to test and send scores directly to schools from
my.act.org

Keep working hard!
Senior Year Counts!

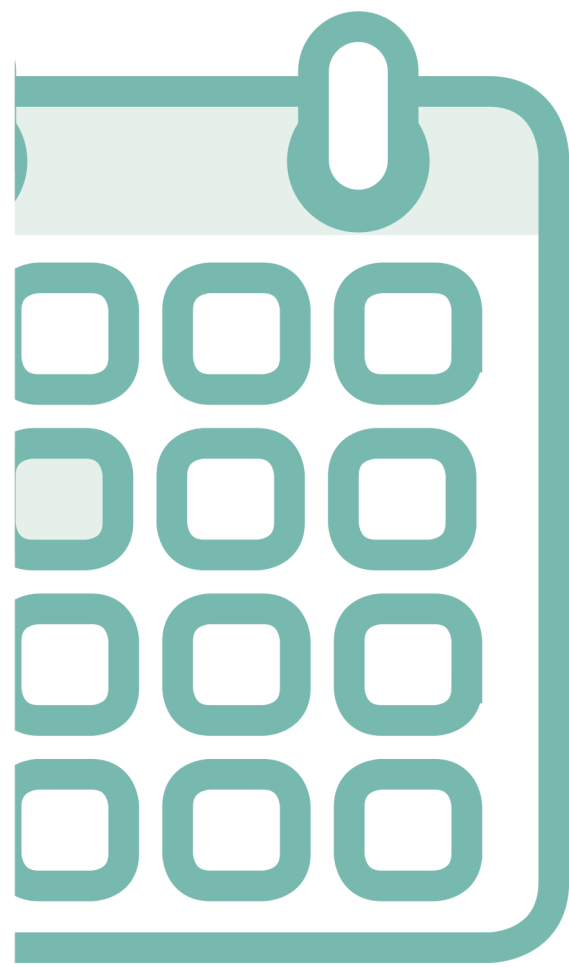


Register for the ACT and test again!

- September 14th
- October 26th
- October 29th at OLA for school day testing
 - OLA registers juniors and seniors for this test session
- December 14th

You can take the ACT up to 12 times
(nobody wants to, but you can!)





TEST DATES

United States, US Territories, and Puerto Rico



2024|2025

Test Dates	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Photo Upload and Standby Deadline
September 14, 2024	August 9	August 25	September 6
October 26, 2024	September 20	October 7	October 18
December 14, 2024	November 8	November 22	December 6
February 8, 2025	January 3	January 20	January 31
April 5, 2025	February 28	March 16 May	March 28
June 14, 2025	May 9	26 June 20	June 6
July 12, 2025*	June 6		July 4

*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the July test date.

Test Information Release for the 2024–2025 testing year will occur in September, December, and February. See www.act.org/the-act/tir for more information.

www.act.org

PREPARE YOUR RÉSUMÉ

Provide explanations of your service, extra-curricular, and leadership activities.

Explain your participation with clubs, volunteer groups, and organizations. Assume people know nothing about you.

Use ACTION words



**THIS IS YOUR
TIME TO BRAG
ABOUT
YOURSELF**



ASK FOR A RECOMMENDATION-ASK, DON'T TELL!

Letters of Recommendations:

ASK your teachers and mentors if they would be willing to write a letter on your behalf **BEFORE** listing their names as references or recommenders.



ASK FOR A RECOMMENDATION - SHARE INFO!

Have a copy of your résumé in hand when asking for a recommendation from someone.

Include instructions on how to submit the recommendation.



WHO TO ASK FOR A RECOMMENDATION ??????

Do – ask a teacher who can speak to your growth as a student, your character with your peers, your contribution to the learning environment.

Do – ask an adviser for an organization or club who can speak to your work ethic or consistent dedication to projects or volunteerism.

Do – a member of the clergy, youth ministry director, coach, or club or community leader who has seen you in action or when you have struggled, yet dealt well with adversity.



WHO TO ASK FOR A RECOMMENDATION ??????

Don't - ask for a rec letter from a teacher whose class you slept through and never completed homework in...

Don't - use only recommenders outside of the school environment because that sends a message too...

Don't - list a person's name and email as a recommender before asking them if they would write for you, and then ask them why they haven't completed your rec letter...



WHO TO ASK FOR A RECOMMENDATION ??????

Don't – worry if you had a bumpy high school career and you just figured it all out with a massive turnaround and burst of maturity. Meet with that person who has witnessed your growth and talk through your journey.

Some of my **VERY BEST** rec letters have been for students who struggled in high school to figure it out or to get going!

Don't be so hard on yourself! Come talk!



ASK FOR A RECOMMENDATION - STRATEGIZE!

Select a recommender who can speak to your performance or growth over time.

Do not wait until the last minute.

Give the recommender at least 3 weeks to write your letter.

Follow up on deadlines for submission!



LET'S TALK MONEY

The largest lump sums of scholarship money is awarded directly from the university.

Schools have general scholarship applications, departmental applications, special programs applications, LuckyDay, and endowed scholarship applications.



WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING NOW?

Common App, Special Program Applications,
Scholarships A, and Admissions Essays:

Don't put off your essays until your application deadline is looming. Research essay questions for the schools to which you plan to apply.

Ask for help proofreading and editing.



WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

Automatic Scholarships - Awarded by universities usually on a matrix chart

Endowed Scholarships - Special applications with universities

Pell Grants Federal Money (FAFSA)

State Aid Money (MTAG/MESG)

Micro-scholarships - Smaller scholarships but usually only a one-time offer

Outside Sources (private scholarships, companies, civic organizations and businesses, parent's employers)

Work Study, Loans, YOUR POCKET!



AUTOMATIC SCHOLARSHIPS FROM UNIVERSITY

WHERE DOES
THE MONEY
COME FROM?

\$6,000 over four years, \$1,500 per year

ACT	SAT	GPA
20-23	1030-1150	3.00-3.49

\$6,000 over four years, \$1,500 per year

ACT	SAT	GPA
20-23	1030-1150	3.50+

\$8,000 over four years, \$2,000 per year

ACT	SAT	GPA
24	1160-1190	3.00-3.49

\$12,000 over four years, \$3,000 per year

ACT	SAT	GPA
24	1160-1190	3.50+



AUTOMATIC MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS FROM UNIVERSITY

WHERE
DOES THE
MONEY
COME
FROM?

2024-2025 Non-Resident (NR) Freshmen

Academic Merit				Academic Merit NR Scholarship	
ACT	SAT	GPA	TOTAL	Non-Resident fee specific	Total
25	1200-1220	3.0	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$3,500
26	1230-1250	3.0	\$1,900	\$3,100	\$5,000
27	1260-1290	3.0	\$2,250	\$3,750	\$6,000
28	1300-1320	3.0	\$3,000	\$6,500	\$9,500
29	1330-1350	3.0	\$3,500	\$6,500	\$10,000
30	1360-1380	3.0	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$12,000
31	1390-1410	3.0	\$5,500	\$10,000	\$15,500
32	1420-1440	3.0	\$7,500	\$18,828	\$26,328
33+	1450+	3.0	\$9,612	\$18,828	\$28,440

ACT: writing section not included

SAT: combined reading and math scores only

Superscores accepted for both ACT & SAT

Yearly total listed renewable for up to four years



Click the logo for website link

LET'S TALK MONEY



Special scholarships from community

PARENTS' EMPLOYERS' SCHOLARSHIPS

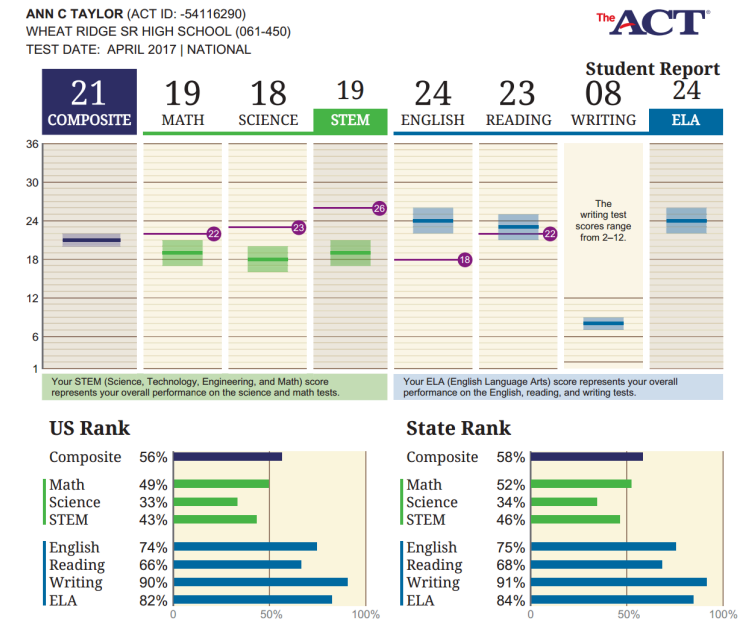
MEET YOUR DEADLINES

These DEADLINES are Non-Negotiable!

Every college has specific deadlines for Admissions, Early Entry Programs, Early Action or Early Decision, Scholarship Applications, Special Programs, Housing, Immunization Form, Deposits, etc.



HAVE YOU DONE THIS?



Apply to the University or College and pay the application fee

Complete an OLA transcript request form and sign it

Send your ACT/SAT scores from your account directly to the university

Complete the Scholarship Applications, Complete FAFSA and Mississippi State Aid Application

FEDERAL STUDENT AID



Some states and MOST colleges use information from the FAFSA form to determine your eligibility for their grants, scholarships, and loans.

MUST BE FILED EVERY YEAR!



MISSISSIPPI STUDENT AID



**MTAG (MS Tuition Assistance Grant)
(MS colleges only) 15 ACT and 2.5 GPA**

\$500 per year (Freshman and Sophomore)
\$1000.00 per year (Junior and Senior)

**MESG (MS Eminent Scholars Grant)
(MS colleges only) 29 ACT Superscore and up with 3.5 GPA+**

\$2500.00 per year (Freshman thru Senior Years)

MUST BE FILED EVERY YEAR!



HELP GRANT

MISSISSIPPI OFFICE
of STUDENT FINANCIAL AID



INITIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT:

- HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR, LEGAL RESIDENT OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI FOR ONE YEAR PRIOR TO APPLICATION.
- HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) OF 2.5 ON A 4.0 SCALE.
- SCORE A MINIMUM OF 20 ON THE NATIONAL ACT. SUPERScores ARE ACCEPTED.
- COMPLETE A SPECIFIC HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

- MEET INCOME LIMITATIONS:
- DEMONSTRATE NEED BY COMPLETING (FAFSA) AND QUALIFYING FOR A MAXIMUM OR PARTIAL FEDERAL PELL GRANT.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://WWW.MSFINANCIALAID.ORG/HELP/](https://www.msfinancialaid.org/help/)



OUR NUMBERS-CLASS OF 2024

83%

*attended schools
in Mississippi*

\$4.6 million

*earned in scholarships
and grants*

6 students

*attended
community
colleges*

4

*average # of
schools applied
to by seniors*

99%

application rate



PATH TO SUCCESSFUL ADMISSION



1 <i>Application</i>	2 <i>Scholarship App</i>	3 <i>FAFSA & MS Tuition Assistance</i>	4 <i>Housing App & Deposit</i>	5 <i>Final Transcripts and Dual Credit Transcripts</i>
Application ACT High School Transcript Pay Fee	Separate Special Programs Scholarship application or only one when you apply? Know your university's process	Complete FAFSA when it opens for the 25-26 School Year using your 2023 income and tax information. Schedule appt with Get2College Counselor for help!	Obtain your Form 121 Immunization Compliance from Guidance and upload Health Services. Apply for Housing. Pay Deposit.	Complete final transcript request form and also send transcripts from USM/PRCC/MGCCC directly to your university of choice

Questions?

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

