

JUNIOR CLASS MEETING -- Tuesday, April 28, 2009
Setting Yourself Up for College -- Part II

I. APPLYING TO STATE UNIVERSITIES

A. WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY?

1. **EARLY, but not TOO early!!** You should begin the application process early in the school year, **BUT NOT BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15**. Your high school credits are not available to state universities on the State Transcript System until September 15; thus universities will be unable to process your records if prior to that date.
2. You should definitely apply before April 1 if you intend to live in a dormitory. Dorm rooms could be filled by the middle of April, so apply by the end of March.
3. **FOR THOSE WHO WILL QUALIFY FOR UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS IN ADDITION TO THE TOPS SCHOLARSHIP**
 - a) Each university has its own scholarship application deadline.* Next year you will receive a list of scholarship application deadlines for each university, and the list will also be posted online.
 - b) Scholarship application deadlines range from mid-November through late January.

B. TO WHOM SHOULD YOU APPLY?

1. Two or three universities, if you are certain you will attend a state university in Louisiana. If you limit your considerations to one university, you will be unable to compare financial packages, which can vary considerably depending upon your GPA and ACT.
2. **THIS IS A REPEAT.** Do not apply to a college based on rumor or hearsay. Do a college tour and go to the college fair. This year's area college fair will be held at E.D. White. The date and time will be communicated to you when they become available.

C. HOW SHOULD YOU APPLY?

1. Oops! A bit too early for all that. We will walk through the college application process early next school year. But if you are really a clever rascal, you can find a lot of that information on the VCHS website in the Guidance section.

* The scholarship application deadline is not the same as the deadline for applying to the university. If the scholarship application deadline is set at, say, January 4, then you must apply to the university by January 4 to be eligible for scholarship money. You can still apply to the university after that date, but you will not be scholarship eligible.

II. VARIOUS TOPICS OF INTEREST

A. USEFUL WEBSITES

1. Vanderbilt Guidance Department

- a) Website is www.vandbilcatholic.org > **Academics > Guidance Department**
- b) The outline of this presentation and all senior guidance presentations can be found here, as well as the scholarship database and other useful data.

2. LAePortal

- a) Website is www.laeportal.com
- b) LAePortal is provided to you by the Louisiana Department of Education and it contains a great number of helpful features. It is like a home base from which you can perform all the tasks involved in choosing and applying to the college that is best for you, including exploring and

narrowing your career possibilities. You can access the homepages of every public and private university in the state in one place; you can look up admissions requirements, tuition costs, degree programs offered, and a wealth of other useful information from one site; you can do a career profile and receive a list of careers suggested for you; you can see a description and an exhaustive list of possible careers, together with wages offered and educational requirements; and you can explore career possibilities and “hot” careers in Louisiana. You are strongly encouraged to familiarize yourself with LaEPortal before next school year. It will be very useful to you in applying to college.

- c) To get started, go to the homepage (www.laeportal.com), look for ***Get Started*** on the left side of the screen, and then click the ***K-12 Students*** link directly under that. You will be encouraged to register with LaEPortal, but it is not necessary to register to use the resource. The school has not established an account yet, and may or may not do so. Either way, LAePortal is easy to use and extremely useful.

3. **College Toolkit and Peterson’s**

- a) Web sites are www.collegetoolkit.com and www.petersons.com.
- b) These are both good sites with a number of useful features. They are similar to LAePortal, but they apply to colleges all over the nation, not just in Louisiana. They are not as detailed as LAePortal. Petersons features a college search by major which is useful, but it is still being constructed, so the information is accurate but not yet entirely complete.

4. **NCAA Clearinghouse**

- a) Website is <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common>
- b) IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO TAKE PART IN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS, you will need to register with the NCAA, and this is the site on which to do so. There will be a \$60 fee, and you will need to report your ACT scores to this site. **THE ACT CODE FOR THE NCAA IS 9999.**

5. **Scholarship Searches**

- a) An excellent general site is www.fastweb.com
- b) Another excellent general site is www.scholarships.com
- c) An excellent merit-based site is www.meritaid.com. A full roster of all merit-based scholarships at every American university is available on this site.

B. **GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP**

1. **Eligibility**

- a) GPA of 3.3⁺ at start of Second Semester of Senior Year
- b) African American, Native American, Hispanic American, Pacific Islander
- c) Qualification for Pell Grant

2. **Application Process**

- a) Applications become available in late July / early August
- b) Online application: www.gmsp.org
- c) Paper applications will be available in Senior Guidance Office
- d) Application deadline is second Friday in January for online application, last day in December for paper application.
- e) You will need to select a Nominator and a Recommender. See Brother Harold for details.