

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 keeping 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 do NOT 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!



WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING NOW?

Register for the ACT and test again!



- September 6
- October 18 (My Answer Key Available)
- October 28 at OLA for school day testing
 - OLA registers juniors and seniors for this test session
- December 13

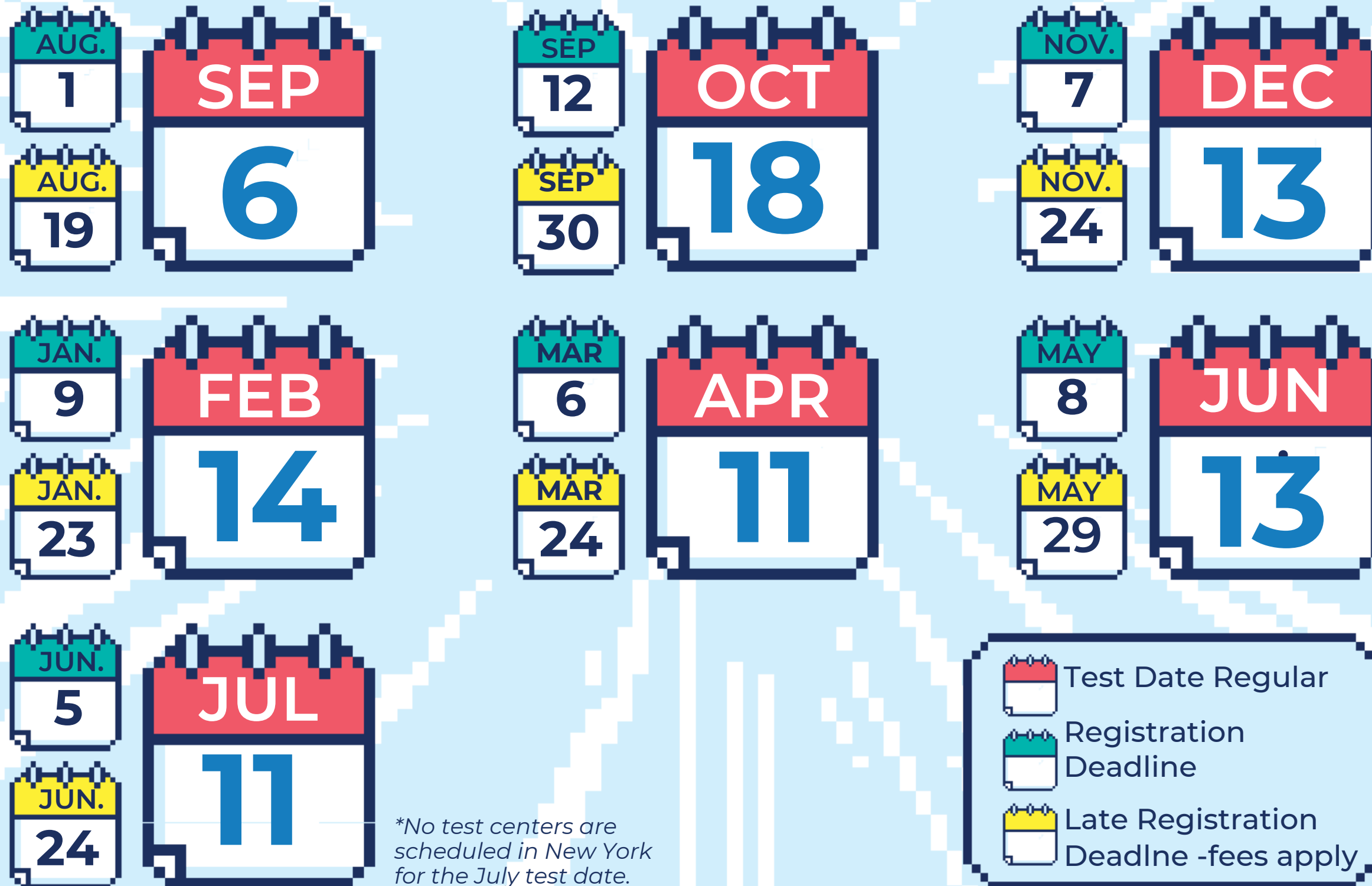
**You can take the ACT up to 12 times
(nobody wants to, but you can!)**



Level Up:

2025-2026 Test Dates

ACT



2025-2026 TESTING DATES

No Time To Register?

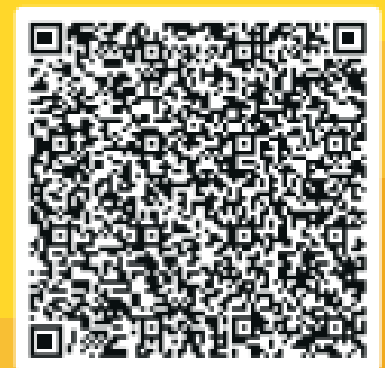
Sign up to receive a reminder of registration deadlines!

act.org/bts



Power Up Your Test Prep

ACT offers test prep for every learning style with live video lessons, interactive practice questions, full-length practice tests, and on-demand tutorials. Explore your test prep options, including a free practice test, at act.org/prep.





UNLOCK THE TREASURE CHEST - GET YOUR ACT ANSWER KEY!

Your ACT My Answer Key provides valuable insights into your performance, helping you understand your strengths and areas for improvement. For three tests per year, you can order your ACT My Answer Key and have personal test prep matched to your performance. Learn more at act.org/myanswerkey.

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”***



PREPARE YOUR RÉSUMÉ - *EXAMPLE*

June 2023 – August 2024

Gallery Assistant and Product Creator • Clay Creations • Bay
St. Louis, MS

- Molded, painted, glazed, and cleaned clay plaques
- Maintained gallery, inventory placement/ presentation, storeroom and stocked shelves
- Worked cash register, gallery, and storefront and managed financial transactions
- Greeted and welcomed customers



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 who 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!



WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

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

ACT

20-23

SAT

1030-1150

GPA

3.00-3.49

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

ACT

20-23

SAT

1030-1150

GPA

3.50+

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

ACT

24

SAT

1160-1190

GPA

3.00-3.49

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

ACT

24

SAT

1160-1190

GPA

3.50+

Automatic
Scholarships
from University



3.0-3.24 GPA ➤

ACT Test Score	SAT Test Score	Annual Scholarship Amount
23-25	1130-1220	\$1,500
26-29	1230-1350	\$2,500
30-31	1360-1410	\$3,000
32-36	1420-1600	\$4,500

3.25-4.0+ GPA ➤

ACT Test Score	SAT Test Score	Annual Scholarship Amount
20	1030-1050	\$1,500
21	1060-1090	\$2,500
22	1100-1120	\$3,000
23-24	1130-1190	\$4,500
25-26	1200-1250	\$5,250
27-29	1260-1290	\$6,000
30	1360-1380	\$9,000
31	1390-1410	\$10,000
32-36	1420-1600	Full Tuition

AUTOMATIC MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS FROM UNIVERSITY

Minimum 3.0 High School GPA
and
23 ACT Score

The university will accept super scores when
scores from multiple test dates are submitted
for admission.



WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

Automatic
Merit
Scholarships
from University

2025-2026 Mississippi Freshmen					
Academic Merit				1848 Award	
ACT	SAT	GPA	TOTAL	with 3.5 GPA	Total
23	1130-1150	3.0	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
24	1160-1190	3.0	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$3,500
25	1200-1220	3.0	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$3,500
26	1230-1250	3.0	\$1,900	\$2,000	\$3,900
27	1260-1290	3.0	\$2,250	\$2,000	\$4,250
28	1300-1320	3.0	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$5,000
29	1330-1350	3.0	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$7,500
30	1360-1380	3.0	\$4,500	\$4,000	\$8,500
31	1390-1410	3.0	\$5,500	\$4,000	\$9,500
32	1420-1440	3.0	\$7,500	\$4,000	\$11,500
33+	1450+	3.0	\$9,990	\$4,000	\$13,990
ACT: writing section not included				Yearly total listed renewable for up to four years	
SAT: combined reading and math scores only					
Superscores accepted for both ACT & SAT					

WHAT IS THE COST OF ATTENDANCE?

Undergraduate or Pharmacy EE 1-3 Student Enrolled Full-time
(Other Undergraduates or Pharmacy EE 1-3 students who live on-campus)
([click here for less than full-time](#))

Expense	Undergraduate/EE 1-3
Tuition	\$9,990.00
Capital Improvements Fee	\$100.00
Program Fee	\$0.00
Student Activity Fee (except satellite campus-only students)	\$60.00
*Housing	\$7,612.00
Food	\$5,392.00
Books/Supplies	\$1,200.00
Personal	\$3,500.00
Travel	\$3,300.00
Total for Residents	\$31,154.00



LET'S TALK MONEY

fastweb

 **going merry**
by earnest

 **RaiseMe**

get2college
WOODWARD HINES EDUCATION FOUNDATION

 *Gulf Coast*
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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.



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

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/>

MISSISSIPPI OFFICE
of STUDENT FINANCIAL AID



OUR NUMBERS-CLASS OF 2024

6 Students

*attended
community
colleges*

\$4.6 Million

*earned in
scholarships
and grants*

83%

*attended
schools in
Mississippi*

99%

*application
rate*

4

*average #
of schools
applied to
by seniors*



PATH TO SUCCESSFUL ADMISSION



1 *Application*

Application
ACT
High School
Transcript
Pay Fee

2 *Scholarship App*

Separate Special
Programs
Scholarship
application or
only one when
you apply?
Know your
university's
process

3 *FAFSA & MS Tuition Assistance*

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!

4 *Housing App & Deposit*

Obtain your Form
121 Immunization
Compliance from
from Guidance and
upload Health
Services.
Apply for Housing.
Pay Deposit.

5 *Final Transcripts and Dual Credit Transcripts*

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!

