# COLLEGE PLANNING FOR SOPHOMORES (Seniors 2020)

**Here is a brief summary of information to help you and your student with the college admission process. It's never too early to plan!**

- Your student MUST check their email from the Counseling Center and from Dr. Fruge or they WILL miss out on pertinent information. This is our primary mode of communication and a beneficial service to our community.

- Understand the difference between a CORE GPA and your cumulative GPA. Colleges evaluate your six semester GPA **(freshman-junior year final grades)** when you apply to their school. A CORE GPA determines if you receive TOPS and determines admission into many colleges/universities. A CORE GPA is made up of certain courses while a cumulative GPA consists of all grades earned at STM. Click on the links below for the current information on a TOPS CORE GPA, UL Lafayette CORE and an LSU CORE. Also, click below for list of all LA colleges and universities' websites. Their admissions pages explain what is required for admission. The CORE GPA is a crucial component in the college admission process in LA. You will be sent a TOPS transcript early fall to evaluate. If you or your parents do not understand the document, please contact your grade level counselor for assistance. Do not ignore this important information.

    - For current CORE courses at UL Lafayette: http://www.louisiana.edu/node/69
    - For current CORE courses at LSU: https://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/admissions/become-a-tiger-2/freshmen/freshman-admission-requirements/
    - TOPS CORE Courses for the class of 2018 and beyond: http://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/TOPSCoreCurriculum2018.pdf
    - To ESTIMATE your TOPS CORE GPA, click here, click on the TOPS box, click on the TOPS calculator for 2018 and beyond.
    - Websites for LA public college or university- http://www.regents.la.gov/page/directory

- Attend College 101 at STM. It is offered in the Fall and Spring. Admission representatives are there to answer questions and provide pertinent information. It is never too early to attend-no surprises later.
    - Register for College 101 via email sent to parents.

- Become familiar with the courses and levels (college preparatory, honors, AP, and Dual Enrollment) that STM offers. Talk to your parents about your schedule and plans for college.
- Research colleges on-line. Many schools offer virtual tours of their campuses. Look at their current admission requirements.

- When you go on vacations with your family, check out the colleges in the area. These visits help you to see what college campuses look like and help you to decide what you like and do not like.
- Volunteer for a project meaningful to you.
- Job shadow a career of interest to you.
- Attend a summer enrichment program in the future for test prep, academic enrichment, or career exploration. Go to the "colleges" tab in Naviance, then "college research," and finally "enrichment programs."
- Get involved. There are numerous opportunities at STM. You don't have to participate in 20 activities. Colleges like to see sustained involvement in a few activities rather than superficial involvement in 20 activities.
- Keep up your grades. All your grades matter!
- Learn about the ACT the SAT and the differences between the two.
    - For the ACT, go to http://www.actstudent.org/index.html
    - For the SAT, go to http://sat.collegeboard.org/home
    - Go to http://www.petersons.com/college-search/test-prep-act-sat.aspx to learn about the differences in the tests.
- Visit my webpage and the counseling webpage for important information.

- *Please verify information with the specific college or agency as deadlines and requirements could change without Counseling Center notification. Please read the entire document. It serves only as a guide, not an all-inclusive document.