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Counselor: Grades 9 and 10

## Grade Classification

Students are classified according to the number of Credits, which have been earned by the **beginning** of each school year. The classification requirements Are as follows:

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	0 – 4 ½ credits
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5 – 10 ½ credits
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 – 16 ½ credits
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	17 or more credits

Important for all grade levels

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## Important Information

Graduation requirements are changing with the Class of 2018. Click [HERE](#) for information.

For easy comparison of the TOPS University and the TOPS Tech Program, click [HERE](#)

Click [HERE](#) for TOPS University Degree Program

Click [HERE](#) for TOPS Tech (Jumpstart) Degree Program

It's never too early to prepare for the ACT Test. Click [HERE](#) for practice problems and to register for your online account. National testing dates are provided on the bottom of this page.

ACT WorkKeys is a skills assessment system that helps employers select, hire, train, develop, and retain a quality workforce. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## 2017 ACT Test Dates & Registration Deadlines

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration	ACT Scores Released Beginning
February 11, 2017	January 13, 2017	January 14-20, 2017	February 22, 2017
April 8, 2017	March 3, 2017	March 4-17, 2017	April 18, 2017
June 10, 2017	May 5, 2017	May 6-19, 2017	June 20, 2017

### Cost

ACT without Writing = \$42.50

ACT with Writing = \$58.50

Registration = [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

Students enrolled in the free/reduced lunch program may receive two free waivers during their Junior and/or Senior year of high school.

All grade levels are required to update their **Individual Graduation Plan (IGP)**.

### What is an **Individual Graduation Plan**?

The state of Louisiana requires every student to have an Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) on file. Beginning in the eighth grade (8<sup>th</sup>), students will fill out a form and update annually. Each student's IGP lists the required core/foundational courses to be taken all four years of high school. This plan shall be reviewed annually and updated as necessary. There are two paths leading to one diploma: TOPS University diploma (College Diploma) and the TOPS Tech diploma (Jump Start Diploma). The TOPS University diploma path prepares students for a four year university. The TOPS Tech diploma path prepares students for the two year technical school, community college, military, or employment. TOPS Tech students graduate with a specific skill and certification in a high value industry. A copy of the Individual Graduation Plan is available by clicking on the words [click here](#). Parents should sign the form along with the student and return to the school. [Individual Graduation Plan form](#)



### **Helpful Tips for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students to make the most of your beginning high school years**

1. Do your best in all your classes. Your GPA is very important **EVERY** semester of high school. If you wait until your *Senior year* to strive to get your GPA up, you may miss out on scholarships and college entrance requirements. It is very important to stay organized and study from the start. Take advantage of the tutoring opportunities and check JCAMPUS frequently. Take responsibility for your behavior, and grades. It is your future!!!
2. Take challenging classes and work to the best of your ability. You will never regret working hard and doing your best.
3. Discuss your ideas about future plans and college with your family. Explore college search websites. Organize a file for college brochures and information. Use the counseling website to familiarize yourself with graduation and TOPS requirements. Build a list a colleges in which you are interested. Pay attention to what each school requires.
4. The EOC required test subjects for Freshman year is Algebra I. The required EOC for Sophomore year are English II, Geometry and Biology.
5. Stay active in extra-curricular activities that interest you. Many colleges will look at what you do outside of the classroom when making their admission decisions. Plan your summer time wisely; consider taking a course or volunteering in your community.