



2022-2023

The Get2College Guide to

# COLLEGE & CAREER

Readiness

A supplemental workbook for  
students completing the CCR course

get2college

WOODWARD HINES EDUCATION FOUNDATION



---

*Full name*

**AM  
COLLEGE  
MATERIAL!**

**CLASS OF 20** \_\_\_\_\_

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For additional  
resources and help

## Receive Text Updates

Scan me to get  
text updates and  
have someone  
answer all your  
college questions.



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# TIPS FOR JUNIORS

## ☐ Take challenging courses



The courses you take in high school show colleges your academic readiness. Sign up for advanced classes, honors sections, and AP or IB classes. Choose electives that really stretch your mind and help you develop new abilities. Research academic coursework required by colleges and universities of interest. Earn the best grades you can. This is the last chance to bring your grades up for college applications.



## ☐ Self exploration and essay writing ideas

You can complete college applications as early as the summer before your senior year. These applications often require essays, so now is the time to explore what sets you apart from other students.

Also, review your social media



to make sure it represents you in a positive manner.

## ☐ Document your success



Summer jobs, extracurricular activities, academic programs, camps, and workshops demonstrate to colleges your leadership skills. Document these activities in a college resume along with any awards or recognition you receive.

**Research financial aid and scholarships**

## ☐ Explore your best college fit

Create a list of colleges and universities you are interested in. Visiting their websites can help you find out more.

1.

2.

3.

Connect with an admission recruiter who can help you get to know more about the college and answer questions about the application process.

Take a tour of each campus and talk to students about what it's like going to school there. Visit with professors who teach classes in your desired major. Explore the residence halls and sit in on classes to get an idea of what a day in the life on campus would look like.

## ☐ Prepare for standardized testing

Your ACT or SAT scores may be considered for admission into your desired college as well as awarding financial aid and scholarships. Prepare for standardized tests by taking prep classes your school offers or free summer workshops. ACT recommends students take the ACT at least once during their junior year.



# CHECKLIST FOR SENIORS

## Do Now

- ☐ Sign up for the ACT/SAT at [act.org](http://act.org) or [sat.org](http://sat.org)
- ☐ Visit your favorite campuses
- ☐ Create your high school resume
- ☐ Job shadow or apply for internships
- ☐ Use Net Price Calculators to see the cost of attending college
- ☐ Seek out scholarship opportunities

## August - September

- ☐ Attend college fairs and meet your college recruiters
- ☐ Apply for college admission to meet priority deadlines
- ☐ Secure letters of recommendation for admission and scholarships, if needed

## October - December

- ☐ Complete your FAFSA - [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)
- ☐ Complete the Mississippi aid application - [msfinancialaid.org](http://msfinancialaid.org)
- ☐ Meet scholarship deadlines

## January - April

- ☐ Complete verification, if selected by the college
- ☐ Submit any required documents for Mississippi aid
- ☐ Review and compare financial aid award notices and make your final decision
- ☐ Apply for student housing and pay the deposit, if required
- ☐ Sign up for orientation

## May

- ☐ Request that your final transcript be sent to the college you choose upon graduation
- ☐ Complete online loan counseling, and sign a Master Promissory Note if you accept a student loan



Ok, let's

# PLAN

What matters most to  
YOU in your college  
selection?

## Terms to Know

### **Undergraduate**

A college student who has not yet earned a Bachelor's Degree.

### **Major/Minor**

This is a student's primary (major) or secondary (minor) chosen field of study. Both require the successful completion of a specific number of courses and credit hours.

### **HBCU**

Historically Black Colleges and Universities are colleges or universities that were originally founded to educate students of African American descent.

### **Common Application**

An undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to any of more than 900-member colleges and universities.

### **For-Profit College**

A college owned and operated by a private company or business with investors, that generates revenue that is used for non-educational purposes.

### **Nonprofit College**

A college that channels funds from tuition and fees into educational programs. They receive support from state and federal governments, endowments, and donations. This can include both public and private institutions.

### **Public College**

A college funded primarily by state government that is typically larger in size with more academic program options and has standard published admission requirements.

### **Private College**

A college that operates as an educational nonprofit organization that does not receive its primary funding from a state government and is typically smaller in size. The schools may have a smaller selection of majors but may offer more specialized academic programs.

### **Holistic Review**

This review is a mission-aligned admission or selection process that considers an applicant's experiences, attributes, and academic metrics and the value an applicant would contribute to the college.

# What is my definition of college?

We think of college as any education beyond high school that leads to financial stability. It can be a four-year degree or beyond, but it can also be a two-year community college degree or a career and technical education certificate.

1

YEAR

## Certificate

A non-degree credential is usually issued by a community college or other higher education institution.

### EXAMPLES



Industrial  
Maintenance Tech

Culinary Arts Tech

Commercial  
Truck Driving

2

YEARS

## Associate Degree

A two-year degree is issued by a community college.

### EXAMPLES



Associate of Arts  
in Accounting

Associate of Applied  
Science in Agribusiness

Associate of Arts in  
Elementary Education

4

YEARS

## Bachelor's Degree

A four-year degree is issued by a college or university.

### EXAMPLES



Bachelor of Science in  
Construction Management

Bachelor of Science  
in Nursing

Bachelor of Arts in  
Communication Studies

What would going to college mean to me?

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE  
IN BA AND BS?



BA stands for Bachelor of Arts and typically requires foreign language coursework.

BS stands for Bachelor of Science and often includes a requirement for the study of quantitative reasoning or statistics.



# YOUR COLLEGE FIT

A good college fit is when a college meets a student's needs and wants academically, socially, and financially. Your ideal college might look different from where your family or friends attended. Find the college that fits you best.

## Rate these based on importance to you:

### Academics

	1 <i>low</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>high</i>
Majors offered	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honors program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Study abroad	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online or in-person	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Geography

Urban, suburban, rural	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Live on campus or commute	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Distance from home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Financial

Affordability (tuition, meals, housing, books, spending money)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scholarship opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Social

Student body diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Class size	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Athletics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student organizations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## College size:

- What is the average class size for freshman classes?
- How many students live on campus?
- What percentage of students are from in-state vs out-of-state?
- Is there diversity on campus (ethnic, geographic, family income)?

## Understanding College Types:



### Nonprofit vs. For-Profit

Nonprofit colleges are schools that channel funds from tuition and fees into educational programs and also receive funding from state and federal governments, endowments, and donations. Colleges that are public and private can both be nonprofit.

For-profit colleges are owned and operated by a private company or business and often managed by investors and stakeholders looking for generated revenue that is used for non-educational purposes.



### Public vs. Private

Public colleges are mainly funded by state governments and may have standardized admission requirements determined by the state higher education organization.

Private colleges rely heavily on student tuition, fees, alumni donations, and endowments to fund their academic programs and may not receive operational funds from the state government.



### Community College vs. Four-Year Institution

Most degrees at a community college are 1-2 year programs (certificate and associate) while four-year institutions offer degrees that take a minimum of four years to complete (bachelor).



### HBCU vs. PWI

HBCUs are accredited historically Black Colleges and Universities with the principal mission to educate Black Americans. HBCUs offer all students, regardless of race, an opportunity to earn a college degree.

PWIs are predominantly white institutions in which white students account for 50% or greater of the student enrollment.

# What are selective colleges?

A selective college is a college that does not admit everyone, and the amount of selectivity is measured by the percentage of students who are admitted. Selective colleges use many factors in the holistic review process including coursework, test scores, class rank, recommendations, essays, special talents, academic interests, and personal characteristics.

## YOU CAN BE SELECTIVE TOO!

Find the acceptance rate on the college's website or College Navigator when researching the selective colleges.



You can apply to lots of selective colleges with one app using one of these:

- Common App
- Universal College Application
- Black Common Application
- Coalition Application



[nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/](https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/)



## The Application Process

Selective colleges offer different admission processes. Students decide which one suits them best. Be careful. Some plans are restrictive or binding, which means students commit to enrolling if accepted for admission.

### NON-RESTRICTIVE APPLICATION PLANS

**Regular Decision-** Students apply by published deadlines with the expectation of receiving an admission decision no later than April 1 of their senior year.

**Rolling Admission-** Applications are evaluated as they are received versus waiting to evaluate all applications after a hard deadline.

**Early Action (EA)-** An applicant will apply early and receive their admission status and financial aid package early. Students are not obligated to attend if admitted.

VS.

### RESTRICTIVE APPLICATION PLANS

**Early Decision (ED)-** An applicant will apply early and receive their admission status and financial aid packages early. This type of admission is binding. This means that students who receive an offer of admission after applying early decision are required to enroll at that school. Students can apply early decision to only one college.

**Single-Choice Early Action-** An applicant who applies early will receive their admission status and financial aid package early, but the admission is not binding. Students cannot apply to any other school Early Action or Early Decision.

## Selective college scale:

You can determine how selective a college is based on its admit rate, which is the percent of students who are accepted for admission. See the example of the selectivity scale below:

MOST SELECTIVE.....SOMEWHAT SELECTIVE.....LESS SELECTIVE



Stanford  
University

45,227 Applied; 5% Admitted



WAKE FOREST  
UNIVERSITY

11,959 Applied; 32% Admitted



8,409 Applied; 73% Admitted



# What is my career path?



## STEP 1

Circle the qualities that best describe you in the left column.  
Collect your results and find your personality match in the right column.

### I consider myself...

Organized	Helpful
Critical	Unconventional
Energetic	Caring
Down-to-earth	Generous
Accurate	Independent
Expressive	Talkative
Thrifty	Responsible
Handy	Competitive
Efficient	Optimistic
Self-Motivated	Adventurous
Reliable	Reserved
Curious	Nonconforming
Persevering	Assertive
Respectful	Creative
Passionate	Impulsive
Thoughtful	Sensitive
Patient	Persistent
Witty	
Athletic	

### I am a...

Organized  
Accurate  
Thrifty  
Efficient  
Persevering  
Respectful

You are an **organizer (O)**.  
Compatible careers are in government service, accounting firms, or quality control and inspection.

Competitive  
Optimistic  
Adventurous  
Assertive  
Witty  
Energetic

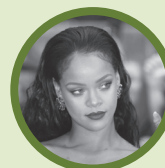
You are a **persuader (P)**.  
Consider careers in sales, politics, entrepreneurship, or legal services.

Independent  
Curious  
Self-Motivated  
Thoughtful  
Nonconforming  
Critical

You are a **thinker (T)**.  
Contemplate jobs in industries like medicine, science, engineering, or computer technology.



**Jeff Bezos**  
Doer



**Robyn Fenty**  
Helper



**Harry Styles**  
Creator



**Michelle Obama**  
Persuader

Responsible  
Patient  
Helpful  
Caring  
Generous  
Talkative

You are a **helper (H)**.  
Careers in education, health services, mental health, or child care are well-suited for helpers.

Creative  
Passionate  
Impulsive  
Expressive  
Sensitive  
Unconventional

You are a **creator (C)**.  
Look for careers in music, advertising, photography, or theater.

Persistent  
Athletic  
Reliable  
Reserved  
Down-to-earth  
Handy

You are a **doer (D)**. Doers can be found in industries such as construction, agriculture, protective services, or engineering.

## STEP 2

Using the suggested careers and industries that match your personality, identify what Mississippi employers are hiring students with your personality.

### Mississippi's Largest Employers

1. **State of Mississippi Government**  
*Statewide*  
# of employees: 27,400  
Employs Organizers, Persuaders, Thinkers, Creators, and Doers
2. **Walmart Supercenter**  
*Statewide*  
# of employees: 25,150  
Employs Organizers, Persuaders, Thinkers, Creators, and Doers
3. **Hunting Ingalls Industries**  
*Pascagoula, MS*  
# of employees: 11,500  
Employs Organizers, Persuaders, Thinkers, and Doers
4. **University of Mississippi Medical Center**  
*Jackson, MS*  
# of employees: 10,000  
Employs Organizers, Helpers, Creators, Thinkers, and Doers
5. **North Mississippi Health Services**  
*Tupelo, MS*  
# of employees: 7,200  
Employs Organizers, Persuaders, Thinkers, Helpers, Creators, and Doers
6. **Nissan North America Inc.**  
*Canton, MS*  
# of employees: 6,300  
Employs Organizers, Helpers, Persuaders, Creators, Doers, and Thinkers
7. **Tyson Foods Inc.**  
*Carthage, MS*  
# of employees: 5,400  
Employs Organizers, Creators, Persuaders, and Doers
8. **Beau Rivage Resort & Casino**  
*Biloxi, MS*  
# of employees: 4,000  
Employs Organizers, Creators, Persuaders, and Doers
9. **Mississippi State University**  
*Starkville, MS*  
# of employees: 4,000  
Employs Organizers, Helpers, Creators, and Thinkers
10. **Tempstaff**  
*Jackson, MS*  
# of employees: 3,892  
Employs Organizers, Helpers, Persuaders, Creators, Doers, and Thinkers
11. **Sanderson Farms Inc.**  
*Laurel, MS*  
# of employees: 3,840  
Employs Organizers, Doers, Persuaders, and Creators
12. **Ashley Furniture Industries**  
*Ecru, MS*  
# of employees: 3,360  
Employs Organizers, Thinkers, Creators, and Doers
13. **Delta Regional Medical Center**  
*Greenville, MS*  
# of employees: 3,000  
Employs Organizers, Persuaders, Thinkers, Helpers, Creator, Doers
14. **Baptist Memorial Health Care**  
*Memphis, TN*  
*\*This employer has locations throughout Mississippi*  
# of employees: 3,000  
Employs Organizers, Helpers, Creators, Thinkers, and Doers
15. **RPM Pizza Inc.**  
*Gulfport, MS*  
# of employees: 3,500  
Employs Organizers, Persuaders, Creators, and Doers

Source: Dept. of Labor Career One-Step, D&B Hoovers  
Date: 2022

### In-demand & growth jobs in Mississippi

Sorted by highest demand. For the full list, visit [get2college.org](http://get2college.org).

Occupations	Avg. Salary	Career Cluster
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$45,540	Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
General and Operations Managers	\$89,350	Business Management & Administration
Registered Nurses	\$61,250	Health Science
Elementary School Teachers	\$43,280	Education & Training
Light Truck Drivers	\$36,190	Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$40,340	Health Science
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$44,340	Manufacturing
Electricians	\$49,980	Architecture & Construction
Secondary School Teachers	\$46,100	Education & Training
Accountants and Auditors	\$66,450	Finance
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$37,210	Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$60,390	Architecture & Construction
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$52,060	Manufacturing
Financial Managers	\$95,120	Finance
Medical and Health Services Managers	\$100,680	Health Science
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$47,300	Marketing

Source: Ithaka S+R  
Date: 2022

# Let the search begin

You have a choice on where you go to college, and you want to find the college that is right for you. Each college presents a different experience, and no two colleges are exactly the same, so that is why you must spend time researching all your options. Your search for a college can include a variety of activities such as checking out websites, attending college fairs, making campus visits, and following colleges' social media pages.



## Do some research

Use websites like bigfuture.com to help search for your college fit.

## Search for jobs

Use the interactive database on the Get2College website and see high-demand jobs available in MS.



## YouTube SPOTLIGHT



Check out more high-demand careers on our **Get2College** YouTube channel.

## TOP MISSISSIPPI OCCUPATIONS



## Registered Nurse



**Average salary:** \$61,250

**Average starting salary:** \$44,570

**Typical level of education:**

Associate (RN) to  
Bachelor's (BSN)

**Common college major:**

Registered Nurse,  
pre-nursing

## HAVING TROUBLE DECIDING ON YOUR MAJOR IN COLLEGE?

The O\*NET Interest Profiler is a free career interest survey that can help you discover your academic interests and how they relate to the kinds of careers you might want to explore. After you complete the survey, your next step is to do job shadowing in your desired field to get a better understanding of the daily duties.



**[bit.ly/onetsurvey](https://bit.ly/onetsurvey)**



# Colleges in Mississippi

## COMMUNITY & JUNIOR COLLEGES

**Coahoma CC**   
coahomacc.edu

**Hinds CC**   
hindscc.edu

**Meridian CC**  
meridiancc.edu

**Northwest MS CC**  
northwestms.edu

**Copiah-Lincoln CC**  
colin.edu

**Holmes CC**  
holmescc.edu

**MS Delta CC**  
msdelta.edu

**Pearl River CC**  
prcc.edu

**East Central CC**  
eccc.edu

**Itawamba CC**  
iccms.edu

**MS Gulf Coast CC**  
mgccc.edu

**Southwest MS CC**  
smcc.edu

**East MS CC**  
eastms.edu

**Jones College**  
jcjc.edu

**Northeast MS CC**  
nemcc.edu

## PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES


**Alcorn State University**   
alcorn.edu

**Delta State University**  
deltastate.edu

**Jackson State University**   
jsums.edu

**Mississippi State University**   
msstate.edu

**Mississippi University for Women**  
muw.edu

**Mississippi Valley State University**   
mvsu.edu


**University of Mississippi**   
olemiss.edu

**University of Southern Mississippi**   
usm.edu

## PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES


**Belhaven University**  
belhaven.edu

**Blue Mountain College**  
bmc.edu

**Millsaps College**   
millsaps.edu

**Mississippi College**   
mc.edu

**Rust College**   
rustcollege.edu

**Tougaloo College**   
tougaloo.edu

**William Carey University**  
wmcarey.edu



### ONE CLICK TO APPLY

Apply to these colleges with one admission application, the Common Application, at [commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org).



### HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs)

A college or university that was originally founded to educate students of African American descent.



# College fairs

Attending a college fair will allow you to meet with representatives from different colleges and gather materials to give you information about each school. Keep track of college fairs near you with the help of the chart below!

## College Fair Tracker



	Location	Date	Time
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____



## COLLEGE FAIR DO'S & DONT'S



College fairs are a great way to be exposed to different colleges. While attending these events, you want to leave behind a good impression on recruiters. Check out some helpful college fair etiquette tips on what you want to do and also what you want to avoid doing!



### DO

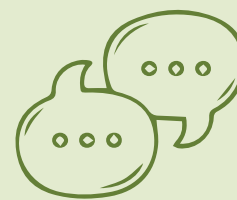
1. Give the recruiter a firm handshake.
2. Introduce yourself (first & last name, school and grade level).
3. Ask about a specific program.
4. Make eye contact.
5. Get business cards from the recruiters and email them the evening after the college fair.

### DON'T

1. Grab all of the free stuff and walk away.
2. Be dressed inappropriately.
3. Let your parents do all of the talking.
4. Be on a group FaceTime.
5. Ask the recruiter to "tell you about their school" without specifying a field of interest.

# 20 Questions to ask college representatives

Whether you meet them at a college fair or on a campus visit, college reps genuinely enjoy talking to high school students and answering questions about their college. The following questions will help start a good dialogue:



1.

What makes your college unique?

2.

Which academic programs are most distinctive at your college?

3.

How would you describe the students who go there? Where do most of them come from?

4.

Where do students hang out on campus?

5.

Are there things to do on campus or in town, or do most students go home on weekends?

6.

What organizations are a big part of campus life?

7.

What are the housing options for freshmen?

8.

Are students required to live on campus? If so, how many years?

9.

Is there a sports complex or fitness center?

10.

What are the most popular clubs and activities?

11.

What's the security like on campus?

12.

What's the surrounding area like? Is it easy to get around?

13.

What are the most popular majors?

14.

How would you describe the academic pressure and workload?

15.

What support services are available (academic, advisors, tutors, etc.)?

16.

Are classes in-person, hybrid, or virtual?

17.

What's the faculty like? How accessible are they outside of class?

18.

Are there opportunities for internships?

19.

Is there job placement help for graduates?

20.

Are any big changes in the works that I should know about?



What was the most surprising thing I've learned when researching colleges?


Careers that fit my interests:

Career is the long-term occupation when in the workforce.

- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....

Majors that fit my career path:

A major is the primary program of study that allows you to specialize in a certain field.

- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....

Colleges that fit me academically:

- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....
- ☐ .....

Top career choice

Top major choice

Top college choice

Top college matches

College recruiter's name

College recruiter's email

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

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# Cool things about my top college pick

Conducting research and visiting your top college pick is extremely important. After all, you will be spending a lot of time there. You will get out of college what you put into it, so put yourself out there and learn all you can.

**College mascot**

**Campus traditions**

**Annual campus events**

**Top programs offered**

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

**FIRST HOME GAME**

**MOVE IN DAY**

**Organizations I want to be involved in**

**Number of restaurants on campus**

**Nearby cities to visit on weekends**

# Now to **PREPARE**

Are you on track for  
college success?



## Terms to Know

### **College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC)**

A list of required high school classes for full admission to a MS public 4-year college.

### **Credit Hours**

College classes are measured in credit hours. One hour in class equals 1 credit hour. Most college classes are 3 hours each. Full time each semester for federal aid is 12 hours and MS aid requires 15 hours.

### **Major/Minor**

This is a student's primary (major) or secondary (minor) chosen field of study. Both require the successful completion of a specific number of courses and credit hours.

### **Prerequisite**

This is a class that a student must pass before enrolling in the more advanced course.

### **Semester**

A semester is a half-year term in college, typically lasting 14-16 weeks.

### **Syllabus**

A syllabus is an outline of important information about a course. Written by the instructor, it includes important dates, assignments, expectations, and policies.

### **ACT WorkKeys**

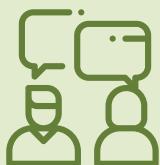
WorkKeys is a system of assessments and curriculum that build and measure essential workplace skills that can affect your job performance and increase opportunities for career placement and advancement.

### **Accuplacer**

Accuplacer is a series of tests that evaluates a student's skills in reading, writing, and math to help college administrators place them in courses that match their skills.

# Campus Visit Photo Scavenger Hunt

Grab, visit, or identify some of these common items found on a college campus to get an idea of what it will be like on campus. Many colleges offer virtual visits. Check out their websites or social media for these opportunities.



Interview an admissions staff member.



Ask for information on scholarships and financial aid.



Sit in a college classroom.



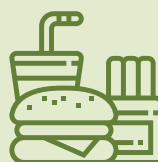
Meet and collect contact information from a professor or students in your field of study.



Ask a student about college and campus life.



Visit a freshman residence hall and see one of the rooms.



Visit the dining hall, library, and bookstore.



Walk or drive across campus to see how long it takes.



Locate the department or organization you might find of interest in college.



Grab a student newspaper or other publication. What are the latest news and events?



Find a bulletin board and identify upcoming student events.



Tag your photos on social media with **#G2CCampusVisit**



Pros	
College 1:	
College 2:	
College 3:	

Cons	
College 1:	
College 2:	
College 3:	





# Requirements for College Admission

If you want to go to one of Mississippi's eight public universities, you should meet the requirements for one of the tracks.

TRACK 1	TRACK 2	TRACK 3	TRACK 4
<p>3.2 GPA <i>minimum</i></p> <p>— + —</p> <p><b>CPC</b> <i>College Preparatory Curriculum</i></p> <p>Complete CPC with a minimum 3.2 high school grade point average (GPA) on the CPC</p>	<p>16+ <i>ACT</i></p> <p>— + —</p> <p>2.5 GPA <i>minimum or top 50% of class</i></p> <p>— + —</p> <p><b>CPC</b> <i>College Preparatory Curriculum</i></p> <p>Complete CPC with a minimum 2.50 high school GPA on the CPC or a class rank in the top 50% and a score of 16 or higher on the ACT*</p>	<p>18+ <i>ACT</i></p> <p>— + —</p> <p>2.0 GPA <i>minimum</i></p> <p>— + —</p> <p><b>CPC</b> <i>College Preparatory Curriculum</i></p> <p>Complete CPC with a minimum 2.0 high school GPA on the CPC and a score of 18 or higher on the ACT*</p>	<p><b>NCAA</b> <i>National Collegiate Athletic Association</i></p> <p>NCAA Division I standards for student-athletes who are “full-qualifiers” or “academic redshirts” are accepted as equivalent to the admission standards established by the Board.</p> <p><i>For more details, visit <a href="http://eligibilitycenter.org">eligibilitycenter.org</a>.</i></p>

*\*Instead of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores.*

## DON'T MEET THE CRITERIA?

Students who do not meet the above criteria are still eligible for admission if they participate in a Summer Developmental Program (SDP). Students will enroll in one or more deficient subject areas (English, Reading, or Mathematics) based on ACT subscores and/or ACCUPLACER scores.

ACCUPLACER evaluates a student's skills in reading, writing, and math to help college administrators place them in courses that match their skills. They receive training in study skills and counseling to enhance their ability to succeed at the university.



# ACT WorkKeys Career Readiness Certificate

ACT WorkKeys are assessments that measure “real world” skills required for success in the workplace. Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma with a Career and Technical Endorsement must earn silver level on ACT WorkKeys.

With ACT WorkKeys, you can earn your National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC®), an assessment-based credential issued at four levels: Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. The NCRC measures and certifies the essential work skills needed for success in jobs across industries and occupations.

An NCRC is earned by achieving a Level Score of 3 or better on all three WorkKeys assessments:

- Applied Math
- Workplace Documents
- Graphic Literacy

Also available in Spanish.

## WORKKEYS PREPARATION

Through Skill UP MS programs, ACT WorkKeys Curriculum is available to prepare individuals for the ACT WorkKeys Assessments leading to the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) at [skillupmississippi.com](http://skillupmississippi.com)

## HOW YOUR ACT TRANSLATES TO ACT NCRC

On your ACT score report, you can find an estimate of the ACT NCRC level that students with your ACT composite score are likely to obtain.

## CRC Skill Levels

### BRONZE

#### LEVEL 3

score minimum on all assessments

16%

of jobs demonstrate this skill level

#### Relevant Occupations

*Auto Body Repair Technician*  
*Veterinary Assistant*  
*Janitorial Assistant*  
*Drywall Installer*  
*Pharmacy Aide*

### SILVER

#### LEVEL 4

score minimum on all assessments

67%

of jobs demonstrate this skill level

#### Relevant Occupations

*Administrative Manager*  
*Head Cook*  
*Medical Assistant*  
*Engineering Technician*  
*Machinist*

### GOLD

#### LEVEL 5

score minimum on all assessments

93%

of jobs demonstrate this skill level

#### Relevant Occupations

*School Counselor*  
*Pharmacy Technician*  
*Semi-Conductor Processor*  
*Business Executive*  
*Electrician*

### PLATINUM

#### LEVEL 6

score minimum on all assessments

99%

of jobs demonstrate this skill level

#### Relevant Occupations

*Accountant*  
*Technical Writer*  
*Sales Manager*  
*Registered Nurse Manager*  
*Elevator Installer and Repairer*

## Progress Toward the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate®

This indicator provides an estimate of the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (ACT NCRC®) that students with your ACT Composite score are likely to obtain. The ACT NCRC is an assessment-based credential that documents foundational work skills important for job success across industries and occupations. Visit [www.act.org/NCRC-indicator](http://www.act.org/NCRC-indicator) to learn more.



Students with your ACT Composite score are likely to obtain a Silver level on the ACT NCRC.

## Classes needed for college admission (18 units)

The College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC)

4  
UNITS

### ENGLISH

All must require substantial communication skills (i.e. reading, writing, listening, and speaking). Compensatory Reading and Writing may not be included.

4  
UNITS

### MATHEMATICS

**CPC-APPROVED MATH** (1 unit)

#### ALGEBRA I

or equivalent

#### MATH HIGHER THAN ALGEBRA I

(2 units)

3  
UNITS

### SCIENCE

#### BIOLOGY I

or equivalent

#### SCIENCE HIGHER THAN BIOLOGY I

(2 units)

3  
UNITS

### SOCIAL STUDIES

Units must include integrated courses of social sciences and humanities promoting civil competence.

1  
UNIT

### ARTS

Includes any one Carnegie unit (or two ½ units) of visual and performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for high school graduation.

2  
UNITS

### ADVANCED ELECTIVES

**Option 1:** Foreign Language I and II

**Option 2:** Foreign Language I & one Unit from Option 3

**Option 3:** (1) Any combination of advanced electives above the required Carnegie units as noted in the Office of Academic and Student Affairs CPC Manual and/or any Advanced Placement (AP), Academic or Career and Technical Dual Credit (DC), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) course. (2) Completion of any two-year Career and Technical course may count as one unit. Example: completion of both Health Sciences I & II will count as an advanced elective.

1  
UNIT

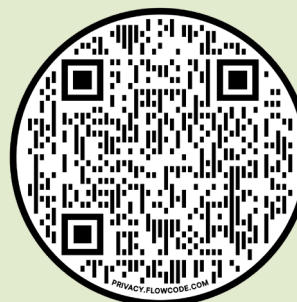
### TECHNOLOGY OR COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE

A technology course is defined as one that emphasizes the use of technology as a productivity tool. Instruction should include utilizing various forms of technology to create, collaborate, organize, and publish information. The application of technology as a productivity tool, rather than specific hardware and/or software packages should be the focus of the course.

To learn more about IHL admission and CPC requirements, scan the QR code below!



Psst...  
Scan me!



### NOTE THIS CHANGE

As of 2023, only 3 social studies units are required.

# Taking dual enrollment?

Dual enrollment courses are considered earned college credits. After graduation, make sure you request a transcript to be sent before attending summer orientation, so you don't duplicate credits on your class schedule. Your college GPA begins with any dual enrollment coursework, so it's important to take these classes seriously and study hard!

You may receive an invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society because of your grades from your dual enrolled courses. This is a big accomplishment that can lead to scholarship opportunities when you enroll full-time in college. Eligible students will receive an invitation once membership requirements are met, regardless if in high school or community college— typically a 3.5 GPA and 12 credit hours.

Scholarships are available to high-achieving community college students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university. Ask your college recruiter about PTK scholarship options if you are a high school member. PTK members are eligible for transfer scholarships at Mississippi four-year colleges and universities.

*\*UMMC does not currently offer PTK scholarships.*



PHI THETA KAPPA  
HONOR SOCIETY



## GET TO KNOW YOUR COUNSELOR

You will need the help of your high school counselor a lot during your senior year. Build a relationship with your counselor.

**Counselor's Name**

---

**Email**

---

**Phone**

---



# Why does my GPA matter?

Your GPA is your academic record from high school and is documented in your transcript. Colleges may use your GPA for admission, to award scholarships, and for class placement your freshman year. Once enrolled in college, your GPA is used to ensure you remain eligible for your scholarships and/or financial aid.

## Core GPA

Core GPA is calculated using your core classes (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, etc.) that are required for college admission. It does not include your grades from elective courses.

## Cumulative GPA

This is your overall GPA consisting of your core classes and any electives. Any coursework taken during high school that is considered for high school graduation is added to this GPA calculation.

## Weighted GPA

This GPA is determined when considering the difficulty of your courses (regular, honors, AP). The more difficult a course, the higher the weight it is given in your GPA calculation.

## What are the GPA requirements for your top college picks?

Some colleges admit you based on your core GPA, while others use GPA as one piece in a holistic review of your admission application. Check with the colleges you are considering about their admission policies regarding your GPA.



Top college choice minimum GPA

College choice #2 GPA

College choice #3 GPA

What is your favorite class and least favorite class and why?

*This question is asked often in college interviews!*



Get your transcript from your counselor's office, and fill out the course listings and letter grades with the numeric key equivalent to calculate your GPA.



## How to Calculate my GPA

**KEY:** A =4 D =1  
B =3 F =0  
C =2

$$\frac{\text{Key equiv. total of core classes}}{\text{Total number of core classes}} = \text{Your GPA}$$

18

This is the magic number for colleges!



### I took other classes!!

If you took additional Math classes, English classes, CCR or Art classes, add them to your list of other classes below. Classes such as P.E., Football, and Choir also go on this list.

$$\frac{\text{Key equiv. total of ALL classes}}{\text{Total number of ALL classes}} = \text{Your Cumulative GPA}$$

### English Courses

English I

English II

### Math Courses

Algebra I

### Science Courses

Biology I

### Social Studies Courses

US History

World History

### Art Courses

### Advanced Courses

### Technology Courses

Total number of core classes =

### Letter Grade

### Key Equivalent

### Letter Grade

### Key Equivalent

### Letter Grade

### Key Equivalent

### Letter Grade

### Key Equivalent

### Letter Grade

### Key Equivalent

### Letter Grade

### Key Equivalent

### Letter Grade

### Key Equivalent

Key equivalent total of core classes =

### Other Classes

### Letter Grade

### Key Equivalent

Total number of ALL classes =

Key equivalent total of ALL classes =

## Before Applying Checklist:

- ☐ Have your contact information on hand.



- Legal name
- Mailing address
- Personal email address
- Parent/guardian contact information

- ☐ Be able to list extracurricular activities you plan to join while in college.

- ☐ Have a list of courses that you currently take in high school.

- ☐ Have a payment method ready for application fees, if applicable.

- Fee waiver
- Debit/credit card

- ☐ Prepare a digital copy of your essay and resume for uploading to your application.

## After Applying Checklist:

- ☐ Request your high school transcript to be sent to all the colleges where you applied.

- ☐ Check that your ACT scores have been sent to the colleges where you applied.

- ☐ Check your email frequently for admission decision status and next steps.

### TOP MISSISSIPPI OCCUPATIONS



#### Welder, Brazer, Solderer

**Average salary:** \$44,340

**Average starting salary:** \$30,860

**Typical level of education:**

Post-secondary certificate

**Common college major:**

Welding Technology

### COLLEGE APPLICATION FEE WAIVERS

Fee waivers can be used to take the ACT for free, cover late fees, and bypass college application fees. They are available for students who receive free or reduced lunch at their high school and can be obtained from your counselor.

This will allow you to apply to college(s) without paying the application fee.

Most two-year colleges have no application fees, so no fee waiver is needed. Many four-year colleges will accept fee waivers.

# Time to apply!

So, what are you waiting for? Seniors, completing college applications is your first step to getting accepted into college.

My top college pick:



☐ Applied    Date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Admitted    Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Student account info

User: \_\_\_\_\_

Pass: \_\_\_\_\_

### Recruiter contact:

\_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

College choice #2:

☐ Applied    Date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Admitted    Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Student account info

User: \_\_\_\_\_

Pass: \_\_\_\_\_

### Recruiter contact:

\_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

College choice #3:

☐ Applied    Date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Admitted    Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Student account info

User: \_\_\_\_\_

Pass: \_\_\_\_\_

### Recruiter contact:

\_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

College choice #4:

☐ Applied    Date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Admitted    Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Student account info

User: \_\_\_\_\_

Pass: \_\_\_\_\_

### Recruiter contact:

\_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

College choice #5:

☐ Applied    Date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Admitted    Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Student account info

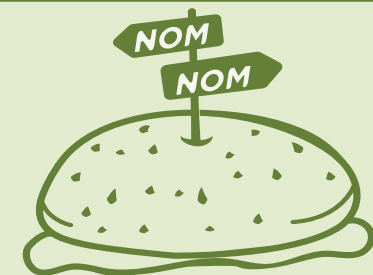
User: \_\_\_\_\_

Pass: \_\_\_\_\_

### Recruiter contact:

\_\_\_\_\_

Notes:



## FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH

Ask your counselor about the paperwork necessary to apply for free or reduced lunch which may give you ACT and admission fee waivers.





## Build your personal statement

Your personal statement is your opening line to showing the admission or scholarship reader your personality, your passion and motivations, and what life experiences have shaped your world perspective.

Has there been something in your life, apart from school, that has required you to persist? How so?



Who is **“family”** to you? How do you think your family has shaped who you are?

Have you had special life experiences – an unusual upbringing, a disability, an extraordinary responsibility – that have shaped you? How so?

What do you wish others could know about you that they can't see from the outside?

Have there been turning points or shifts in your goals or intended path? What was the occasion?



### What do you do besides study?

What are your hobbies, jobs, and extracurricular activities (student organizations, athletics, art, music)? What do you get out of doing these things?

Are there life experiences or people who have influenced your goals? How?



What is the most **significant moment** in your life?

What makes you quirky? What makes you predictable? What makes you laugh?



What are **three** possible directions your future could take, career-wise? In five years? Ten years? Twenty?



Collect your thoughts and flesh out your finalized personal statement in 250 words below. Remember to begin with a hook that draws the reader in and then follow with your supporting points.



## My personal statement



### FEELING STUCK?

Check out our **NEW YouTube series** to get help on topics such as your personal statement and **MORE!**

YouTube **SPOTLIGHT**



Find us on YouTube at **Get2College**

# Resume building

You may be asked to submit a resume to apply for some scholarships. To create the best representation of yourself, now is the time to think about how you will shape it.



Who I know	Businesses they can connect me with
Pastor	<i>They know a lot of business owners in the community that attend the church and could connect me to job opportunities.</i>

## Power verbs

Use these verbs in your college resume.

- administered
- advised
- assisted
- brainstormed
- broadened
- **challenged**
- collaborated
- communicated
- coordinated
- delegated
- directed
- **educated**
- ensured
- finalized
- formulated
- generated
- guided
- handled
- helped
- identified
- **implemented**
- improved
- incorporated
- initiated
- **launched**
- led
- maintained
- **managed**
- maximized
- organized
- prepared
- produced
- restructured
- revised
- strengthened
- **supervised**
- trained
- tutored

A common question asked during job interviews is 'Tell us about yourself.' What would you say?



What social issues am I passionate about?

# Extracurricular Activities

Focus on your leadership contributions, extracurricular involvement, or work experience. List activities in chronological order or in order according to years participated longest to fewest.

## Example

Activity <i>Band</i>	Years participated <i>Three</i>	Positions held <i>Section Leader</i>
Duties <i>Lead marching practice</i>	Awards/Honors <i>Willis High School Jazz award for solo</i>	

## Activity 1

Activity	Years participated	Positions held
Duties	Awards/Honors	

## Activity 2

Activity	Years participated	Positions held
Duties	Awards/Honors	

## Activity 3

Activity	Years participated	Positions held
Duties	Awards/Honors	

## Activity 4

Activity	Years participated	Positions held
Duties	Awards/Honors	

## Work Experience

### 1. Place of employment

Years worked

Positions held

Duties

### 2. Place of employment

Years worked

Positions held

Duties



**Angela Q. Redwood**  
**R.R. Box 5600**  
**Ocean Springs, MS 39564**

aqredwood@gmail.com | 123.456.6789

**Education**

**Ocean Springs High School**

Ocean Springs, MS

Expected Graduation: May 2023

GPA: 3.74 • Rank in Class: 22 of 379

ACT: 21

**Activities**

- High school Symphonic and Jazz Bands (2019 - Present)  
Band Section Leader (2021 - Present)
- Gulf Coast Band Director's Association (GCBDA) Clinic (2019 - 2022)
- Puppet Crisis Founder and Bass Guitar Player (2020 - 2021)

**Awards**

- Nominated for membership in the National Society of High School Scholars (2022)
- Selected to attend National Youth Leadership Conference and Forum on Medicine (2022)
- Assemblies of God State & National Fine Arts Competition & Performance, Louisville, KY (2020)  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places: Saxophone solo, choir, drums for Praise & Workshop Band

**Community Service**

- Humane Society of South Mississippi Gulfport, MS (2022 - Present) Total Hours: 45
- Youth Christian Assembly Biloxi, MS (February 2021) Total Hours: 25
- Hearts & Hands Homeless Ministry (2019-2020) Total Hours: 220

**Work Experience**

- Seasonal Worker  
Arrons Music Shop | (2021 - 2022)  
- Polished instruments  
- Assisted with customer service  
- Maintained and managed instrument inventory  
- Managed customer profiles and newsletter

**Contact information**

Include all items noted here. Do not include your birth date or social security number. Make sure your email is professional.

**Education**

List AP Honors classes and strong scores - this helps the admission officer understand you have chosen rigorous courses. List any internships or dual enrollment courses.

**Activities**

Your activities should demonstrate your interests - consider your leadership in the church or in after-school activities and organizations where you have made significant contributions. List them in chronological order or by years of service.

**Awards**

Mention your honors and awards in a separate category or include them in your Education or Activities categories. Specify the date and describe the award.

**Community service**

List activities outside of school that demonstrate your desire to make a difference in your community.

**Work experience**

Provide jobs that demonstrate your maturity and ability to handle responsibility. Include non-traditional work like babysitting.

# Interview questions

Colleges may request to interview you for a special program or scholarship opportunity. It is typically a formal meeting with a committee of faculty, staff, and students.



## Scholarship interview

- If we asked your peers to describe you in 3-5 words, what words would they use? Why?
- What has been your favorite and least favorite class?
- What is the most important lesson you have learned while in high school?
- What do you plan to major in? How did you choose that major?



## Admission interview

- What does persistence mean to you? Describe an example of persistence you've experienced in your life.
- How might admission at *(insert college name)* contribute most to your development as a scholar or leader?
- Provide an example of your most significant leadership experience and why it is important to you.



## Essay questions

- Create your personal statement. This is your chance to display your skills, experiences, passions, and educational goals. (pg 28-29)
- What ticks you off?
- What important issue drives you to make a difference in the world and why?
- What do you plan to major in? How did you choose that major?



## Job interview

- Why should we hire you?
- Tell me more about your experience and what you bring to this role.
- How would you define your strengths and your weaknesses? How would you incorporate them into a team aspect?
- What would be your pay expectations for this position?

## INTERVIEW ATTIRE:

### Business professional

Suit with jacket

Tie or simple jewelry

Dress shoes or comfortable heels



### Business casual

Simple professional top (tucked in button-down or collared shirt)

Dress pants/pressed skirt

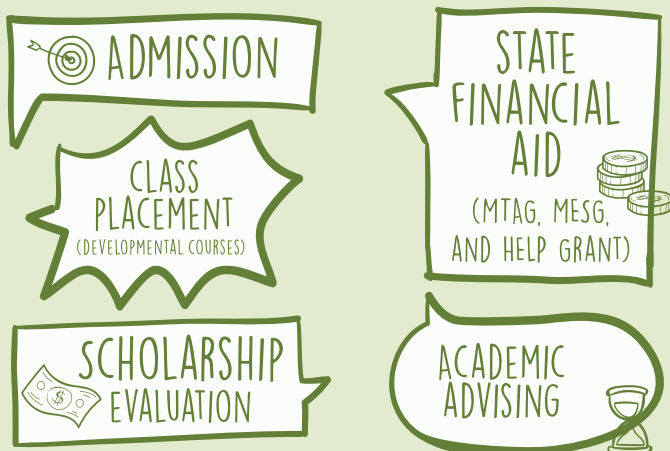
Professional shoes- loafers, dress shoes, pumps, flats

Simple accessories



# The ACT & SAT

ACT or SAT scores are requested by most colleges and universities as a part of the admission process. Your results provide one way to measure your potential for:



Get2College holds free ACT workshops; registration is available online: [bit.ly/ACTg2c](https://bit.ly/ACTg2c)

ACT TEST DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE FEE REQUIRED	GET2COLLEGE WORKSHOPS
Sept 10, 2022	Aug 5	Aug 19	Aug 27 @ 9 a.m.
Oct 22, 2022	Sept 16	Sept 30	Oct 15 @ 9 a.m.
Dec 10, 2022	Nov 4	Nov 11	Dec 3 @ 9 a.m.
Feb 11, 2023	Jan 6	Jan 20	Feb 4 @ 9 a.m.
April 15, 2023	March 10	March 24	March 25 @ 9 a.m.
June 10, 2023	May 5	May 19	June 5 @ 9 a.m.
July 15, 2023	June 16	June 23	n/a

\*ACT prices and fees are subject to change. See [act.org](https://act.org) for more details.

## ACT Fees\*

ACT, no writing	\$63.00
ACT, plus writing	\$88.00
Late Fee	\$36.00
Standby Testing	\$63.00

## ACT for Free

Four fee waivers are offered to help lower-income students pay for the ACT and cover late fees. Ask your high school counselor if you qualify! More details on page 26.

## NEED MORE TEST PREP HELP?

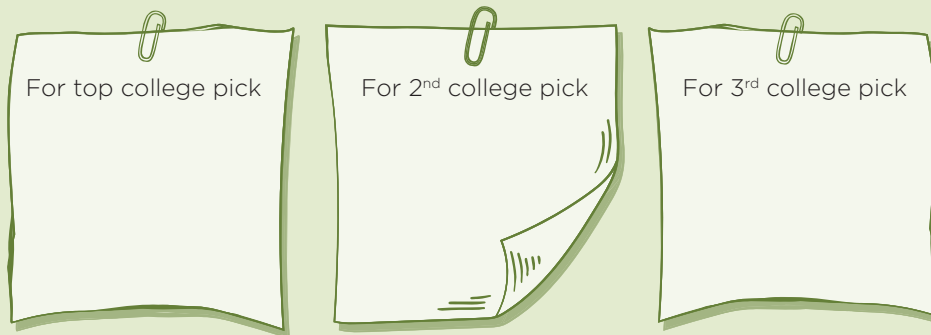
Request a Test Information Release to receive a copy of your test questions and answers.

**December, April, and June test dates only.**  
Test Information Release is \$30.00 before the test date and \$40.00 after the test.



*The SAT is a national college admissions test alternative to the ACT.*

# ACT Scores for Scholarships



**REMEMBER!**

**THE  
ACT  
IS A  
TIMED  
TEST!**

## What are the benefits of superscore?

Superscoring is the process of averaging your four best subject scores from all of your ACT attempts. Your superscore combines your best performances into one score that best reflects your abilities and, ultimately, allows you to put your best foot forward.

## How is the ACT superscore used?

Some colleges and universities in Mississippi will use the new ACT superscore for college admission and scholarships. In addition, the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid (MOSFA) will accept the ACT superscore.

## Who gets the ACT superscore information?

ACT provides a calculated ACT superscore to all students who have taken the ACT more than once from September 2016 to the current day. ACT will automatically send your scores to the places requested when you register for the test. Make sure to include the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid (code: 2431). If you need to send the superscore after the test date, just log in to MyACT to view and send scores. Sending a superscore report is \$16 per test date per report.

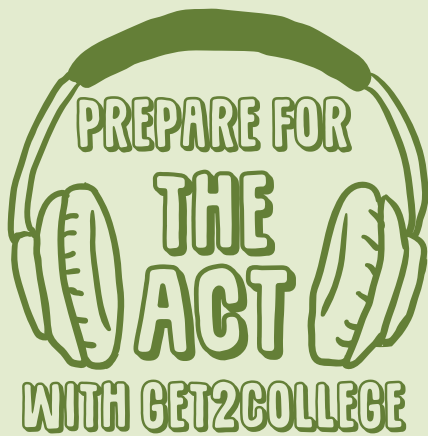
## It's test time!

Waiver?	Test date	ACT prep?	Composite score	Subscores
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	_____	E_____ M_____ R_____ S_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	_____	E_____ M_____ R_____ S_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	_____	E_____ M_____ R_____ S_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	_____	E_____ M_____ R_____ S_____
<b>Superscore highest:</b>				E_____ M_____ R_____ S_____

## ABOUT WAIVERS

Four fee waivers are offered to help low-income students pay for the ACT. Ask your high school counselor if you qualify! Be aware that the waiver is used even if you don't test on the requested test date. You cannot re-use waivers.





Check out Get2College's ACT podcast on the website at [bit.ly/ACTpodcast](https://bit.ly/ACTpodcast)

### Websites

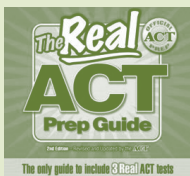


**Get2College ACT resources** Scan QR Code

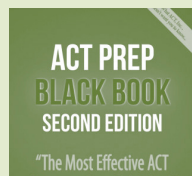


**Khan Academy**  
khanacademy.org

### Books



The Real ACT  
Prep Guide  
(The Red Book)



ACT Prep Black Book:  
The Most Effective  
ACT Strategies  
Ever Published

### Mobile Apps



Practice, Test Prep, &  
Quizzes by *Varsity Tutors*



ACT Prep Coach &  
Practice Test by *Magoosh*



Find helpful tips and tricks for the ACT in short 1-minute videos and a full workshop on our YouTube channel at:

[bit.ly/g2cyoutube](https://bit.ly/g2cyoutube)

## TOP MISSISSIPPI OCCUPATIONS



### Accountants and Auditors

**Average salary:** \$66,450

**Average starting salary:** \$40,370

**Typical level of education:**

Bachelor's to Master's Degree

**Common college major:**

Accounting



# START TESTING YOUR JUNIOR YEAR



There are advantages to beginning testing in your junior year. Questions on the ACT are directly related to what you have learned in your high school courses. You've probably completed the coursework corresponding to the test material.



## TEST TAKING STRATEGIES

### Pace yourself and answer **EVERY** question

Concentrate on the easy/medium questions to gain the most points. There is no penalty for guessing on the ACT, so guess on the hard questions if you are uncertain of the correct answer or you run out of time. The ACT booklet won't be graded, so mark it up as you narrow down your answers, show your work on math problems, and underline key information in passages.

### Practice makes perfect

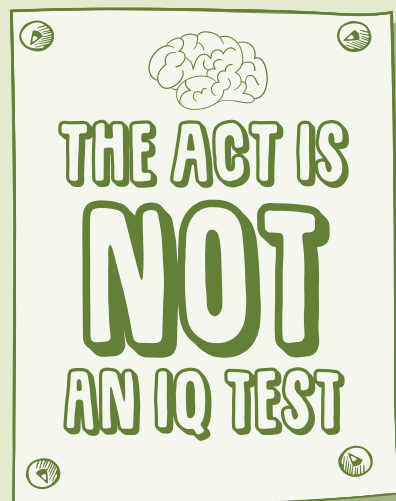
The ACT is a standardized test, so you can learn what you will be tested on and how the questions will be asked. Practice as if you are taking the real ACT, so get up early to practice while you are **TIRE**D! Practicing will help you become more accustomed to taking the ACT.

### Process of elimination

Narrow down your choices before taking a guess. A 50% chance of getting it correct is better than a 25% chance.

### Spot of the day

Pick a spot of your choice before starting the test. Use that spot every time you need to guess or run out of time. It will increase your odds of getting questions correct compared to randomly guessing.



Approach questions on the ACT in one of three ways:

### DO NOW

Easy questions are ones that don't take long to solve. Go ahead and answer them to get them out of the way!

### DO LATER

Medium questions can take a little time to figure out. Skip these and come back to them.

### DO NEVER

Hard questions are going to take a while to figure out the answer. Rather than use precious time, use your spot of the day!

# Quick tips for taking the ACT

## ENGLISH SECTION

In this section, rely heavily on your grammar skills. Read the entire passage and not just the underlined section. Learn to “cut out the fat” in this section by eliminating information that isn’t needed.

Additional rules you might have forgotten:

### Who vs Whom:

**Who** refers to the subject of a sentence or clause. It can be replaced with he, she, or they. **Whom** refers to the object of a sentence or clause. It can be replaced with him, her, or them.

*“To whom should I give my ticket?”*

*“Who can tell me the name of the second president?”*

### It’s vs Its:

**It’s** is a contraction for it is. **Its** indicates possession.

*“It’s going to be a beautiful day.”*

*“The milk has passed its expiration date.”*

### Your vs You’re:

**Your** is a possessive pronoun. **You’re** is a contraction for you are.

*“Your umbrella is next to the door.”*

*“You’re going to enjoy the zoo.”*

### Their vs There vs They’re:

**Their** shows possession among a group. **There** refers to a place or idea. **They’re** is a contraction for they are.

*“The students are going on their trip today.”*

*“There is the bakery that I love.”*

*“They’re working on a new project.”*

### Who’s vs Whose:

**Who’s** is a contraction for who is. **Whose** is the possessive form of who.

*“Who’s ready to help me?”*

*“Whose dog is barking?”*

## EXAMPLE

*These untruths – whether deliberate exaggerations or slips of the memory – ultimately matters very little, for the autobiography isn’t about the life of Mary Harris Jones.*

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. has mattered
- C. had mattered
- D. matter

Answer: D



### Cut the Fat

Strip the sentence to just the subject (untruths) and the verb (matters) to cut the fat to see whether or not they agree.

## FREE ACT PREP WITH GET2COLLEGE



Get2College holds free ACT Prep Workshops covering all subject areas of the ACT for students who have never taken the ACT or students who want to increase their scores. Visit [get2college.org](http://get2college.org) to register for an upcoming workshop!

## Punctuation Review



### Commas

Used in four ways on the ACT:

#### Around unnecessary information:

*"My father, an English professor, likes to read nonfiction books."*

#### Between items in a list:

*"I bought milk, eggs, and bread at the grocery store."*

#### Between a complete and incomplete clause:

*"Since it was raining, we could not go for a swim."*

#### Before FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so):

*"John wanted tea to drink, but the store did not have any."*



### Apostrophes

Used to indicate possession or to mark the missing letters in a contraction

#### Possession:

*"Nancy borrowed Jennifer's shirt."*

#### Contraction (should not):

*"You shouldn't forget to study."*



### Colons

Introduces an element or series of elements that illustrate or amplify the information that preceded the colon

*"You would've gotten a perfect score on the ACT if it weren't for one subject: math."*



### Semicolons

Used to relate independent clauses that are not joined by a conjunction

#### Relate clauses:

*"She calls it pop; I call it soda."*



### Dashes

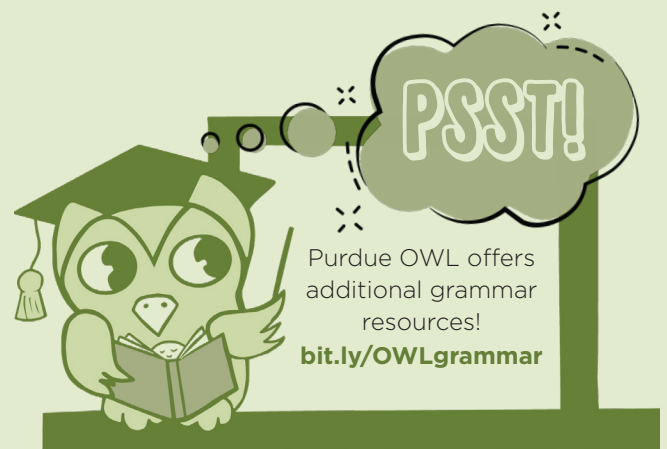
Used to indicate an abrupt break in thought or to introduce an explanation

#### Abrupt break in thought:

*"For our vacation—which was way too short—we went to the beach."*

## WRITING SECTION (optional)

The writing section is optional, but there are a select number of colleges throughout the U.S. that require or recommend the writing section for admission. **None of the colleges or universities in Mississippi require the writing section.** If you do take the writing section, state your position clearly. The ACT prefers direct, concise writing, so limit unnecessary prose.



## MATH SECTION

The math section is typically organized in easy to hard order. Use the “Plug-In” method when you are given variables in the question and answers. The “Use the Answer” method is helpful when you are given numbers in the answers. Use logic when you can instead of using math to solve a problem. Lastly, there are approximately 4-7 trigonometry questions on the ACT.

$$x = y^2$$

### EXAMPLE

#### Plug-In Method

*If the sum of three consecutive odd integers is  $p$ , then in terms of  $p$ , what is the greatest of these three integers?*

- A.  $(p-6)/3$
- B.  $(p-3)/3$
- C.  $p/3$
- D.  $(p+3)/3$
- E.  $(p+6)/3$

**Step 1:** Pick three consecutive odd integers. Do not use 1 or 0.

**Step 2:** Solve the problem using your numbers. What is the sum of the 3 consecutive odd integers you chose? This answer will represent  $p$  in the answer choices.

**Step 3:** What is the question asking? It's asking for the greatest of the three integers. What is the greatest of the three integers you chose? That's your target.

**Step 4:** Solve the answer choices using the numbers you chose. Plug in your answer for  $p$  to find the correct target.

Answer: E

### Formulas and terms to know!

You will have to study your math formulas, because they will not be provided on the ACT. The following formulas and terms are typically tested on the ACT:

**Integer** Any number that is not a fraction

**Product** Another term meaning to multiply

**Absolute Value** The distance a number is from zero

$$= \frac{1}{2}(\text{base})(\text{height})$$

Area of a triangle

$$r^2 = (x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2$$

Equation of a Circle\*\*

$$A^2 + B^2 = C^2$$

Pythagorean Theorem\*

$$= (\text{length})(\text{width})(\text{height})$$

Volume of a Rectangular Solid

$$= \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

Distance Formula

$$\left( \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$$

Midpoint Formula:

\* Used only with right triangles, where  $a$  and  $b$  are legs, and  $c$  is the hypotenuse.

\*\*  $(h,k)$  represents the center point of the circle

### EXAMPLE

#### Use the Answer Method

*Marc is half as old as Tony and three times as old as Ben. If the sum of their ages is 40, how old is Marc?*

- A. 3
- B. 6
- C. 12
- D. 18
- E. 24

**Step 1:** Whose ages are represented in the answer choices? Label the answer choices.

**Step 2:** Solve the problem using the answer choices, beginning with C. How do we get from Marc's age to Tony's age? How do we get from Marc's age to Ben's age?

Answer: C

## READING SECTION

There are four types of reading passages: Prose Fiction/Literary Narrative, Social Science, Humanities, and Natural Science. Practice each of these, and determine which is easiest for you. Answer those first!

### Speed Reading Steps

#### 1. Read the **First Paragraph**

After reading the blurb, read the first paragraph in full. The first paragraph usually gives readers a description of what the passage will be about.

#### 2. Read the **Last Paragraph**

The last paragraph typically sums up all of the preceding information in the passage. Again, you get a good idea of what the passage covered.

#### 3. Read the **first sentence of each of the Middle Paragraphs.**

The topic sentences of the middle paragraphs give the reader an idea of supporting details to back up the main idea. Additionally, they give you a good idea of where to find certain information that the questions may ask.



Another strategy you can use is the “Cover and Predict” strategy. Practice covering the answers and answering for yourself. Seeing the answer choices may cause you to second-guess yourself.

## SCIENCE SECTION

The ACT Science test isn’t a science test at all. It’s more of a reading test. You do not have to know any scientific facts to do well on the science test. There are three types of science passages: Data Representation, Research Summaries, and Conflicting Viewpoints. Practice with these types and determine which ones are easiest. Answer those first!

### EXAMPLE

#### Passage I

Finch beak depth (see Figure 1) is an *inheritable* trait (it can be passed from parents to offspring).



Researchers studied the beak depth of 2 species of finches, *Geospiza fortis* and *Geospiza fuliginosa*. Both species live on Island A. *G. fortis* alone lives on Island B, and *G. fuliginosa* alone lives on Island C. For both species, the primary food is seeds. Birds with shallower beaks can efficiently crush and eat only small seeds. Birds with deeper beaks can crush and eat both large and small seeds, but they prefer small seeds.



### Substitute to Simplify

If a Latin word is used to name something, replace it with a more familiar word to make it easier to understand. For example, use “Cat” in the place of *Geospiza fortis* and “Dog” in the place of *Geospiza fuliginosa* when preparing to answer this question.

# How am I going to **PAY FOR COLLEGE**

## Where is the money?

### Terms to Know

**Cost of Attendance (COA)**

The COA is the total estimated cost of attending a college and includes tuition, fees, housing, meals, books, and other living expenses.

**Scholarship**

A scholarship is free financial aid awarded based on academic or other achievement.

**Work-study**

Work-study is a federal need-based aid program that provides funds for students to work part-time at the college.

**Grant**

A grant is a form of financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid and is typically need-based.

**Loan**

A loan is money you borrow and must pay back with interest.

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**

The expected family contribution is determined by the FAFSA formula. The college uses the EFC to determine how much financial aid you are eligible to receive. Use Get2College's EFC Calculator to get an approximate EFC before completing a FAFSA: [bit.ly/EFC-CAL](https://bit.ly/EFC-CAL)

**Room & Board**

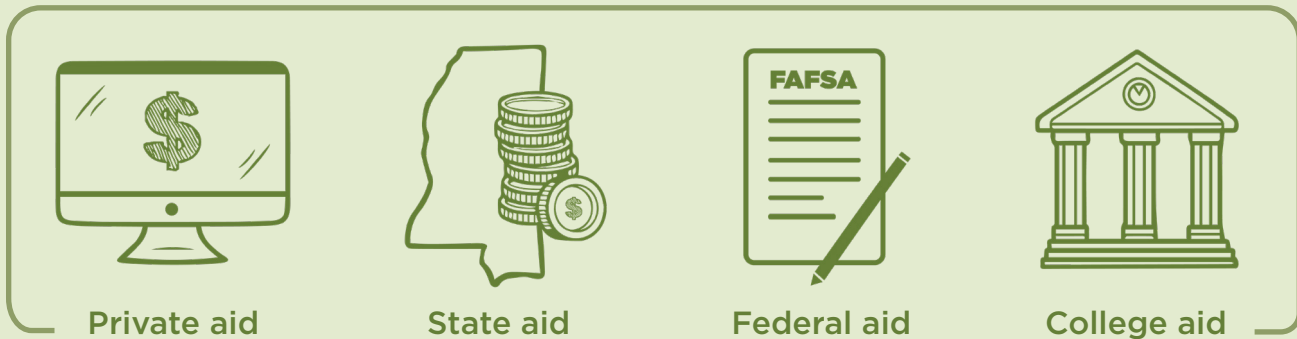
Room and board includes the cost of housing and the cost of meals.

**Tuition**

Tuition is the cost of taking a class. Colleges usually have a set tuition price for full-time students, so you can take five or six classes for the same price.



# Four sources of financial aid



## Private Scholarships

Financial aid comes in many forms, and it all can help you pay for college. To maximize the amount of aid you receive, you should apply for it all!

### APPLY FOR PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Begin research as early as junior year. Many scholarships are not posted until the fall of your senior year, but deadlines start popping up as early as December. See your high school counselor or career center manager for a list of scholarships.

Use the Get2College Scholarship search tool and browse other popular scholarship sites like:

- [unigo.org](http://unigo.org) • [bold.org](http://bold.org)
- [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
- [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)



### GET2COLLEGE Scholarship Search

This tool provides a quick way to look for Mississippi and national scholarships in one location at

[bit.ly/G2Cscholarships](http://bit.ly/G2Cscholarships)

### APPLY EARLY FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Most scholarships come directly from individual colleges. Some colleges require you to complete a scholarship application after you complete the admission application in the fall of your senior year. You must be accepted for admission to receive scholarships and financial aid. Most admission applications open on August 1 and can be found online at each college's website. **Make sure you meet all deadlines!**

## TIME TO APPLY

There are scholarships for every kind of student. The scholarship criteria could be academic achievement, community service, athletic, musical or artistic ability, or even your interests. Many private scholarships do not even require an ACT score. Private scholarships can range in the amount awarded, and the money often follows you to the college you plan to attend.

# Completing the FAFSA

[studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)

It is important to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the application used to help determine student eligibility for financial aid.

You can file as early as October 1 of your senior year. Make sure to file the FAFSA before your college's priority filing deadline to qualify for the most money.



## FEDERAL AID THAT A STUDENT CAN RECEIVE BY COMPLETING THE FAFSA:

- ☐ **Pell Grant**- Need-based grant for undergraduate students
- ☐ **Work-Study**- Part-time job for students with financial need
- ☐ **FSEOG**- Grant for undergraduate students with exceptional financial need at participating schools
- ☐ **Student & Parent Loans**- *Learn more on pg 50*

## THE FAFSA IS FREE!

If a website asks you to pay to fill it out, you're not dealing with the official FAFSA site, [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov).



## DOCUMENTS YOU NEED

(for starting college fall 2023)

The FAFSA asks for basic information about the student and parent and the family's financial situation. Depending on your circumstances, you might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA.

Parent(s) & student's:

- Legal names
- Social Security numbers
- Dates of birth
- Email addresses
- 2021 W-2 forms and other records of money earned
- 2021 Federal Income Tax Return (the 1040 form). If your parents or parent and step-parent file separately, have copies of both
- Mississippi ID or driver's license
- Alien Registration Number or Green Card (if applicable)

## IMPORTANT NOTE

You'll need marriage date, divorce date, or separation date for the parent with whom you live.

**Do not** use information from a grandparent, aunt, or anyone other than a parent unless you have been legally adopted (even if someone else claims you on the federal tax return).

**FYI**

**CLASS OF 2024**  
will have a simplified FAFSA!

# Financial Aid Data Sheet

Use this data sheet to record the required Federal Student Aid ID and Mississippi Aid login. These log-ins will be used to log into the studentaid.gov and msfinancialaid.org websites throughout your college career.

## The FAFSA

studentaid.gov

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date FAFSA submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
FAFSA Save Key: \_\_\_\_\_

### STUDENT FSA ID:

Student Username: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Password: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Verified  
Student Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Verified  
Question #1: What city were you born in? Answer #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Question #2: What is your mother's maiden name? OR What is your high school's mascot?  
Answer #2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Question #3: \_\_\_\_\_  
Answer #3: \_\_\_\_\_  
Question #4: \_\_\_\_\_  
Answer #4: \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENT FSA ID: Parent 1 or Parent 2 (circle one)

Parent Username: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Password: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Verified  
Parent Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Verified  
Question #1: What city were you born in? Answer #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Question #2: What is your mother's maiden name? **OR** What is your high school's mascot?  
Answer #2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Question #3: \_\_\_\_\_  
Answer #3: \_\_\_\_\_  
Question #4: \_\_\_\_\_  
Answer #4: \_\_\_\_\_

## Mississippi Aid Application

msfinancialaid.org

Student Username: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Password: \_\_\_\_\_

### RENEW YOUR FAFSA & MISSISSIPPI AID ANNUALLY

Renew your financial aid with the step-by-step tutorial on the Get2College YouTube channel.

# Top 6 tips for completing the FAFSA

1

You cannot create a new username for the FAFSA. Once a FSA ID username is created, it is linked to your social security number. You will have to use the “forgot username/password” option.



2

Clear your browser cache before you start. The FAFSA technology requires the browser history and cache to be cleared for a smooth submission process.

3

**TAX RETURN CLAIMING NEVER MATTERS!** Don't get caught up on which parent claimed you on their tax form or if you claimed yourself. For the FAFSA, this does not matter. You will use the parent you lived with the most in the last year.

4

Step-parents are included on your FAFSA if your parent is remarried as of the day you submit your FAFSA. Make sure to include their tax information as well.

5

Always use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) in the FAFSA. It will simplify the form for you.

6

Your FAFSA must always be signed to submit it. Never submit a FAFSA without signatures to avoid delays and an unprocessed FAFSA!



Scan the QR code for more tips about the FAFSA.



NOW WHAT  
DO I DO?

# What to do after submitting your FAFSA

## STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR)

The processed FAFSA results will be sent to the colleges you listed on the FAFSA, and the college's Financial Aid Office will determine the amount of financial aid you will receive.

Review your Student Aid Report to make sure the information is correct. If the information is incorrect, it may be necessary to go back into studentaid.gov and make corrections to a processed FAFSA.

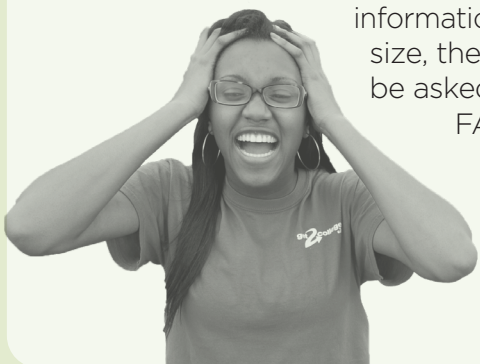
## FINANCIAL AID APPEAL

There are certain circumstances where you can file a financial appeal. For example, if your family's financial situation has changed since you completed your FAFSA or if the FAFSA didn't capture a financial obligation or difficulty your family is facing, you can request to have your financial aid offer reviewed again by the financial aid office. SwiftStudent is a FREE resource that helps you write your financial aid appeal letter. You'll be able to pick the situation that most applies to you and build your letter from their templates.

<https://formswift.com/swift-student>.

## VERIFICATION

Some financial aid applications will be selected for a federally required verification process. This means that you will be expected to provide supporting documentation for the information on your FAFSA. You may be asked to verify household size, the number of students in college, or untaxed income. You may be asked to upload your tax return directly from the IRS using the FAFSA IRS Data Retrieval Tool, or you can provide an IRS Tax Return Transcript by requesting online or by calling **800.908.9946** for further assistance.



The information must be sent to the financial aid office at the college. Most colleges will not make a financial aid award for you until verification is complete.



## Federal Student Aid

Got questions about your FAFSA?

Call 1.800.4FEDAID  
(1.800.433.3243)

## IMPORTANT INFO FOR YOU

Visit our website to learn more about scholarship opportunities.  
[bit.ly/G2Cscholarships](https://bit.ly/G2Cscholarships)

# Mississippi Aid Application (MAAPP)

[msfinancialaid.org](https://msfinancialaid.org)

Apply as early as October 1 (of your senior year) at [msfinancialaid.org](https://msfinancialaid.org). A link to the state aid website is also available from the FAFSA confirmation page.



## MTAG - Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant

**Application deadline: September 15, 2023, with supporting documents due by October 15, 2023**

Pays \$500/year for freshmen or sophomores and \$1,000/year for juniors and seniors.

- Requires a 15 ACT
- 2.5 GPA
- Students cannot be maximum Pell-eligible

## MESG - Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant

**Application deadline: September 15, 2023, with supporting documents due by October 15, 2023**

Pays \$2,500/year.

- Requires a 29 ACT
- 3.5 GPA
- **Must apply within three years of high school graduation**

## HELP - Higher Education Legislative Plan

**Application deadline: March 31, 2023, with supporting documents due by April 30, 2023**

Covers **full tuition and required fees** for eight semesters at a public institution. Students attending a private institution in Mississippi will receive an award amount equal to the average tuition costs for the public Mississippi universities. Eligible students meet the following criteria:

- Requires a 20+ ACT
- 2.5+ GPA
- College Prep Curriculum
- Meet income requirements (\$39,500 adjusted gross income for a family with one dependent). \$5,000 added to the requirement for each sibling under the age of 21.
- Be Pell-eligible.
- **Be within one year of high school graduation.**

**The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid accepts ACT superscores through the July 2023 test date.**

## What's next after applying for state aid?



**Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid**

[msfinancialaid.org](https://msfinancialaid.org)

800.432.6997

- ☐ Check the status of your application on your MAAPP dashboard at **[msfinancialaid.org](https://msfinancialaid.org)** using your username and password (*noted on page 45*).
- ☐ After March, verify that your counselor has individually certified your coursework for the HELP Grant and submitted your GPA and ACT score by April 30.
- ☐ To continue to receive Mississippi aid, you must take and pass at least 15 hours each semester (fall/spring).

## Are you getting Missing Documents emails from Student Financial Aid?



Check your MAAPP dashboard for more information!



# Your ACT score and Mississippi financial aid

This chart should be encouraging because getting a few more questions correct in each section can boost your composite score. Applying specific testing strategies you learn during ACT prep ought to help you get a few more questions correct in each section.

*\*These numbers can vary on test day.*

Scaled Score	English	Math	Reading	Science
36	72-75	58-60	39-40	38-40
35	70-71	56-57	38	37
34	68-69	54-55	37	36
33	67	53	35-36	35
32	66	51-52	34	34
31	65	49-50	33	-
30	64	48	-	33

**MESG** | Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant      **29**      **62-63**      **46-47**      **32**      **32**

28	61	44-45	31	31
27	60	41-43	30	-
26	58-59	39-40	29	30
25	56-57	37-38	28	28-29
24	53-55	35-36	27	26-27
23	51-52	33-34	26	25
22	48-50	31-32	24-25	23-24
21	45-47	30	23	22

**HELP** | Higher Education Legislative Plan      **20**      **42-44**      **28-29**      **21-22**      **20-21**

19	40-41	26-27	20	19
18	38-39	24-25	19	17-18
17	36-37	21-23	17-18	15-16
16	33-35	17-20	16	13-14

**MTAG** | Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant      **15**      **30-32**      **13-16**      **14-15**      **12**

14	27-29	10-12	12-13	11
13	25-26	8-9	11	10
12	23-24	6-7	9-10	9
11	19-22	5	7-8	8
10	16-18	4	6	7
9	13-15	-	5	6
8	11-12	3	-	5
7	9-10	-	4	4
6	7-8	2	3	3
5	6	-	-	-

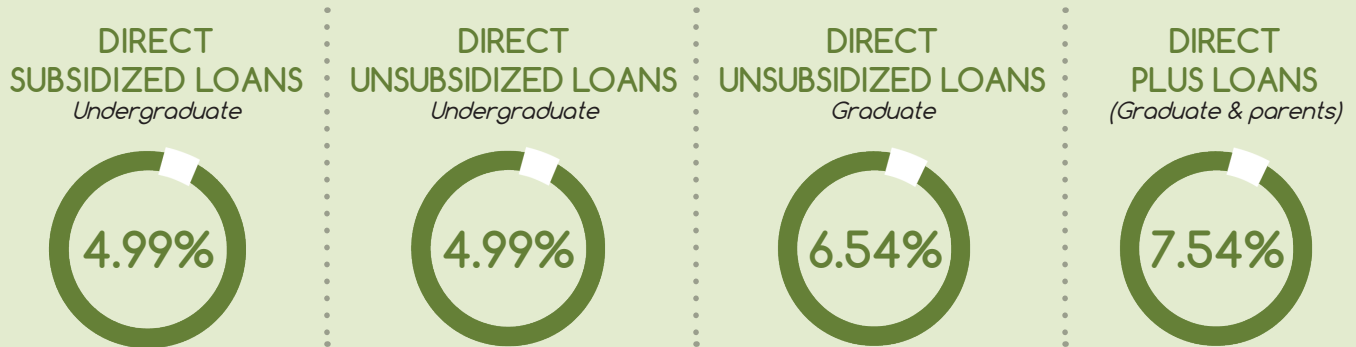
**MY TARGET SCORES**

ENGLISH	_____	READING	_____
SCIENCE	_____	MATH	_____
WRITING (Optional)	_____	COMPOSITE	_____

# Federal Direct Loans

studentaid.gov | 2022-2023 Interest Rates

The following loan interest information provides the fixed interest rates for new Direct Loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2022, and before July 1, 2023. These rates will apply to new Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and Direct Plus Loans made during this time.



## SUBSIDIZED

To be eligible, students must show financial need. The government pays the interest until six months after graduation or after dropping below half-time enrollment.

## UNSUBSIDIZED

These loans are available to any undergraduate student. The student borrower is responsible for interest payments from the time it is disbursed until the loans have been paid in full.

### Entrance Counseling

You must complete entrance counseling at studentaid.gov before your school can make the first disbursement of your student loan. This helps you to understand your responsibilities regarding your loan.

### Master Promissory Note

To take out a Direct Loan for the first time, you must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN). Your college or the federal Department of Education will provide the MPN.

**You don't have to accept the entire loan amount!**

It is good practice to only accept the dollar amount you need for your educational expenses each year.

**GET2COLLEGE**  
**STUDENT LOAN**  
**REPAYMENT**  
**CALCULATOR**  
[bit.ly/repaymentcal](https://bit.ly/repaymentcal)



If you're not sure how much you'll owe monthly on your student loan after graduation, Get2College's Student Loan Repayment Calculator is the perfect tool for you. Simply input the amount of your loan, loan interest rate, and how long you have to pay it back, and it will estimate what your monthly bill will be.



## AWARD NOTIFICATION

You will receive a financial aid award notification only from those colleges to which you have been offered admission. The award notification will tell you what financial aid you are eligible to receive, how to accept it, and the next steps in the process. Typically, schools will allow you to accept your award online. However, you may receive an award letter by mail. You should determine which of the awards you will accept and which you will decline.

### Sample financial aid letter

<b>Estimated Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Expected Family Contribution</b>	<b>-\$0</b>
<b>Total Financial Need</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

Award Description	Fall	Spring	Total	Accept	Decline	Partial
Pell Grant	\$3,448	\$3,447	\$6,895	✓	( )	
HELP Grant	\$4,359	\$4,359	\$8,718	✓	( )	
Academic Excellence						
Scholarship	\$500	\$500	\$1,000	✓	( )	
Work-Study	\$600	\$600	\$1,200	✓	( )	
Direct Loan - Subsidized	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$3,500	✓	( )	( ) _____
Direct Loan - Unsubsidized	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	( )	✓	( ) _____
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$23,313</b>			

# DON'T FORGET TO CHECK!

Typically, you will receive your financial aid award through your college's student portal in the spring semester of your senior year. Make sure to regularly check your student portal for any updates throughout the spring and summer because your Mississippi Aid (HELP Grant/MTAG/MESG) won't be added until mid-summer. It is important to know your full financial aid package of grants and scholarships before determining if loans are needed.



**Make sure you keep all letters from your school in a safe place. These will contain helpful things you need to know such as your school ID, email, and any other additional important information you may need to reference later.**

# Calculating College Cost

Financial aid offers can vary from school to school. Use this worksheet to compare your financial aid offers. Look closely at the total cost of attendance for each and understand the amount that will ultimately remain after your financial aid and scholarships are awarded.



## FINANCIAL AID COMPARISON

	School Name	School Name	School Name
	School 1	School 2	School 3
<b>COST OF ATTENDANCE</b>			
Tuition & Fees (9 months)			
Housing & Meal Plan	+	+	+
Books & Supplies	+	+	+
Personal Expenses	+	+	+
Transportation Expenses	+	+	+
Miscellaneous Expenses	+	+	+
<b>TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)</b>	=	=	=
<b>EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)</b> <i>Amount the FAFSA estimates you will pay.</i>	-	-	-
<b>FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY</b> <i>Subtract your EFC from your COA</i>	=	=	=
<b>FINANCIAL AID (PER YEAR)</b> <i>Find this listing on your award letter</i>			
Federal Pell Grant	+	+	+
Federal SEOG Grant (varies by college)	+	+	+
Mississippi grant	+	+	+
College grants & scholarships	+	+	+
Other grants & scholarships	+	+	+
Federal Work-Study	+	+	+
<b>Loans</b> <i>Money that has to be paid back</i>			
Federal Direct Loan - Subsidized	+	+	+
Federal Direct Loan - Unsubsidized	+	+	+
Federal Parent PLUS Loan	+	+	+
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL AID AWARDED</b>	=	=	=
<b>YOUR UNMET NEED</b> <i>Financial Aid Eligibility minus total Financial Aid Awarded</i>	=	=	=
<b>YOUR OUT-OF-POCKET COST</b> <i>EFC plus Your Unmet Need</i>	=	=	=

# Budgeting for College

Most students have limited funds when it comes to college. Whether your money will come from your parents, a job, or your personal savings, you must learn to make it stretch to cover your college expenses. Creating a budget will let you see where additional funds may be required.

## PERSONAL/CLOTHING

Clothing purchase.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laundry ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Toiletries..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Haircuts ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## UTILITIES

Water..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Electricity/Gas ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell phone..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spotify, Netflix ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wifi ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## TRANSPORTATION

Car payment..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gas and oil changes..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parking permit..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Car insurance ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Flights, train or bus fares ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## SOCIAL

Fraternity or sorority dues..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Movies, concerts, etc..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eating out, snacks etc..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miscellaneous ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Cost**    \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## WAYS TO SURVIVE COLLEGE ON A BUDGET



1. Make a spending plan.
2. Look for student discounts.
3. Save (rent or buy used) on college textbooks.
4. Use public transportation or carpool.
5. Limit eating out— cook or use your meal plan.
6. Get a job.
7. Take advantage of free campus activities.
8. Shop second-hand.



# GRADUATION

## AND BEYOND

### What to know before you go to college

#### Confirm Admission .....

- ☐ Check the status of admission and financial aid in your student portal using the login credentials provided by the college.
  - Provide any missing documents noted on your student account.
  - Accept or decline your financial aid.
  - Pay enrollment deposit, if applicable.
- ☐ Request a final transcript from your high school and, if applicable, from the college where you were dual-enrolled.

## BEFORE YOU PACK UP!

### Housing

If you plan to live on campus, pay your housing deposit soon because residence hall availability fills up quickly.

### You've got mail

After you are admitted, your college will begin communicating with you through a school-issued email address. Make sure you set up this email and check it often for important announcements.



Reflect on what you have learned in your CCR class.







As you contact colleges, use this guide to identify the office that matches your needs.

### Registrar's Office

Sometimes called the Business Office, it's at this office where you get information about your college courses and submit or retrieve your transcripts.

### Financial Aid Office

Seek out this office if you have questions or concerns about your FAFSA, loans, and other financial aid.

### Bursar's Office

It's at this office where you make a payment toward your tuition balance.

### Online portal

You will have a college-specific online account. Use the portal to accept or decline your financial aid awards.

## The summer before college



### HOUSING

Make sure you meet housing deadlines and pay deposits if required.



### ORIENTATION

Orientation typically occurs during the summer months. During orientation, you will register for classes, meet with current students, have opportunities to discuss your potential major with an advisor, and tie up any loose ends before school begins. Make sure you pick the earliest orientation time so that you will have the most course options.



### COURSE REGISTRATION

Get to know your college advisor who will help guide you through your course selection. Every student must fulfill general education requirements before graduating with a degree. As a freshman, if you have not declared a major, taking your general education classes will allow you to explore different fields of study.



### BUYING BOOKS

Once you are signed up for classes, you can get a list of books for each class. Your on-campus bookstore is your simplest and fastest route for finding the books you need, but it also can be the most expensive. Some schools allow you to rent books. Buy and sell books wisely.

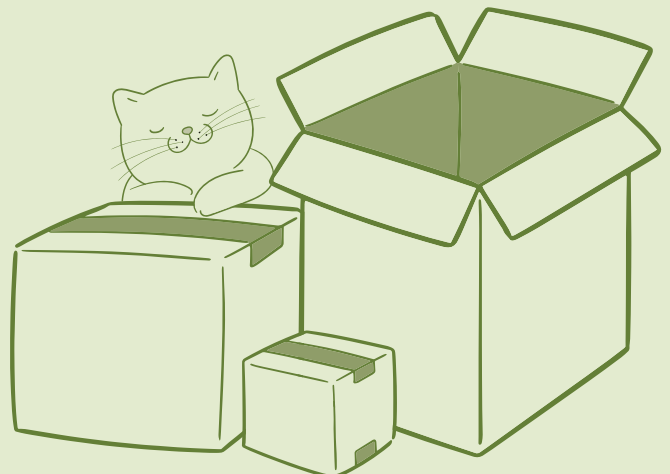


### SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAMS

These programs give students a chance to live on campus during the summer, allowing them to get familiar with the campus, their classes, and staff before the chaos of the fall semester begins. Be sure to ask your admission counselor about summer bridge programs at their college.



## LET'S START PACKING!





WOODWARD HINES EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## Your top source for planning, preparing, and paying for college

Get2College, a program of the Woodward Hines Education Foundation, is committed to helping students navigate the complex process to college. This booklet is your guide to getting started on your journey to graduation and beyond!



### **Gulf Coast Get2College Center**

715 Cox Avenue  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564  
228.875.4441  
gulfcoast@get2college.org



### **Jackson Get2College Center**

2616 Lakeward Drive  
Jackson, MS 39216  
601.321.5533  
jackson@get2college.org



### **North MS Get2College Center**

5699 Getwell Road  
Building H, Suite 3  
Southaven, MS 38672  
662.349.2789  
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get2college.org

