

get2college

WOODWARD HINES EDUCATION FOUNDATION

COLLEGE

GUIDE

START HERE

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS

ADULT LEARNER

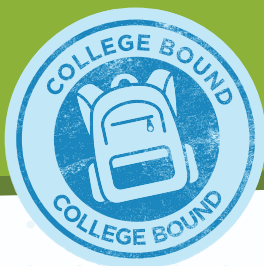


YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE ↷

There are lots of ways to get to college, whether you're starting to think about your future in middle school, after high school, or returning to school as an adult. Start at the beginning and then flip ahead to wherever you are in your college journey.





COLLEGE

GUIDE



The Get2College “College Guide” is your college planning companion to help you plan, prepare, and pay for college.

get2college

WOODWARD HINES EDUCATION FOUNDATION



WHAT IS YOUR DREAM?

It starts with your dream. What do you want to do? Where do you want to go? College may help you achieve that dream. College is any education after high school that leads to financial stability. College can be a certificate training program, a two-year associate degree, a four-year bachelor's degree or beyond.

Certificate & Programs

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

Example:
Certificate in Practical Nursing

2 YEAR Associate Degree

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

Example:
Associate of Arts Degree

4 YEAR Bachelor's Degree

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

Example: Bachelor of Science in Sociology

YOUR COLLEGE FIT

Finding the kind of college that fits your needs is an essential first step. A good college fit is when a college meets a student's needs and wants academically, geographically, socially, and financially. Your ideal college may look different from where your family or friends attended.

TYPES OF COLLEGES & DEGREES

TYPES OF COLLEGES



- Public Institution**
- Private Institution**
- Community College**
- Four-Year Institution**
- Online Programs**
- All Male or Female**
- Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs)**
- Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs)**
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)**
- Tribal Colleges & Universities (TCUs)**
- Religiously Affiliated**
- Military Academies**
- Transition Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability (TSID)**

OTHER DEGREES

Some certificates or degrees can stack like building blocks for your education and career, where you can earn multiple certifications or degrees step by step. Refer to page 37 for more about stackable credentials.



Master's Degree

After receiving a bachelor's degree, some students decide to continue their studies with a master's degree. This degree requires at least one year of study beyond the bachelor's degree.



Doctoral Degree

Following a master's degree, students earn their doctorate (PhD or EdD) by completing one to three years of study, a comprehensive test(s), a written dissertation and often an oral presentation and exam.

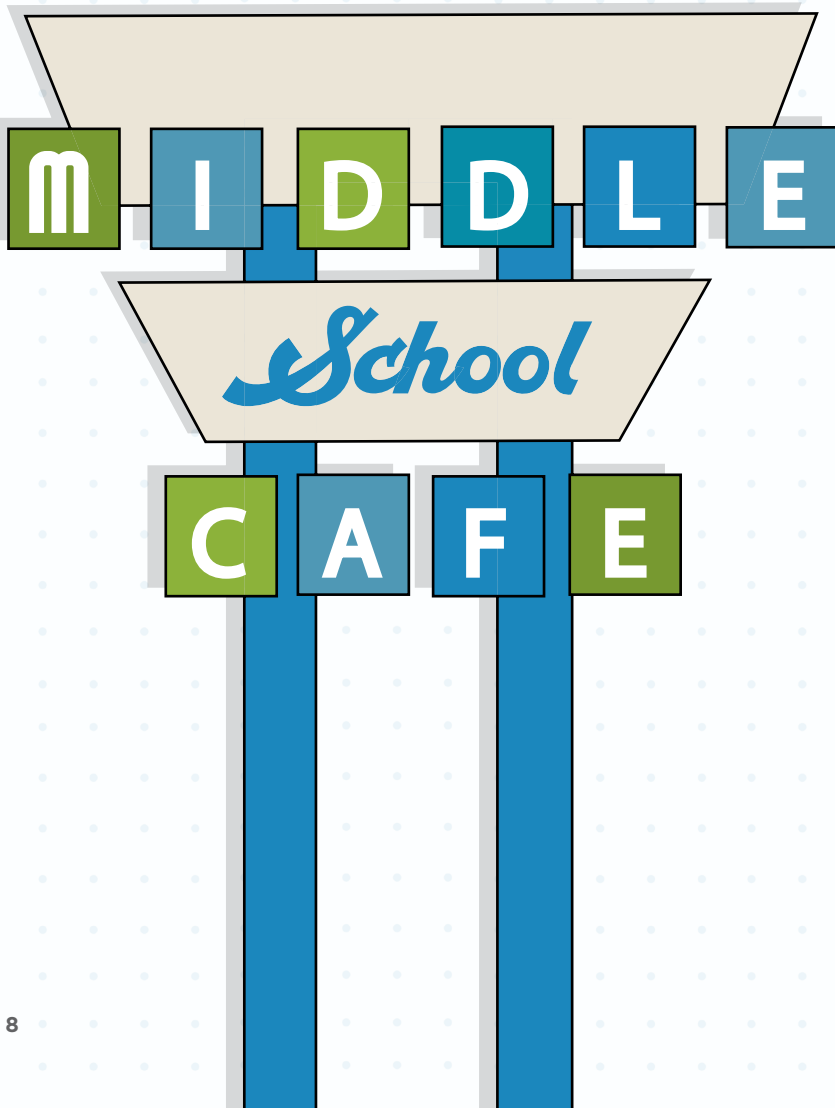


Professional Degree

Certain careers, such as medicine, law, and dentistry, require a professional degree. Depending on the field of study, professional degrees can be awarded on the bachelor, master, or doctoral level. Some occupations have more than one level of professional degree.

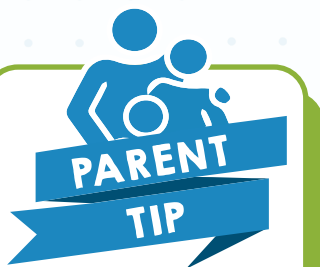


For all the resources mentioned and more on redefining college, scan here!



CAREER OPTIONS

You are starting to make more decisions about your future. What kind of car do you want to drive? Where do you want to live? How much money could you make in the career you want to pursue? These are valid questions that deserve a well-thought-out plan. Along with learning about college, having your eyes set on a career that interests you is essential. You don't have to have it figured out right now, but begin exploring your options. With a degree that fits your interest, you will be on your way to making your dreams a reality.



Talk with your student about their personal goals. Discuss how they came up with those goals and the steps to achieve them.



Make sure to check out the videos of HOT in-demand Mississippi careers on our YouTube channel by scanning the QR code at the end of this section.

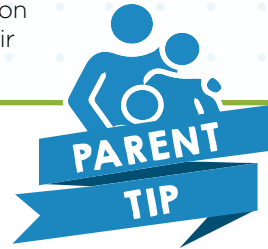


Not sure what your interests are? Use the **FREE** career assessment on the Get2College website to help figure out your career goals.

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS PLANS (ISP)

An Individual Success Plan (ISP) is a five-year career exploration plan revisited and revised yearly between the student and their school counselor.

The ISP is a process, NOT a document, that begins in 7th grade and is reviewed often until graduation.



DIPLOMA WITH ENDORSEMENTS

Explore the different diploma and endorsement options for high school graduates.

DIPLOMAS

ALTERNATE DIPLOMA
(for students with Significant Cognitive Disability)

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA

Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma should identify an endorsement option before entering 9th grade. There are three endorsement options and students can stack CTE with either academic option:

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Endorsement
- Academic Endorsement
- Distinguished Academic Endorsement

Each endorsement option will prepare students to succeed after graduation, whether in the workforce, a career and technical training program, or college. Students who earn an academic or distinguished academic diploma endorsement from a public high school will be accepted into any of the state's eight public four-year universities.

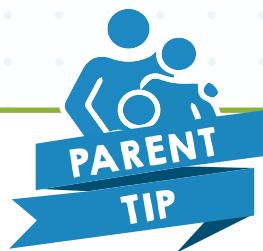


REVIEW DIPLOMA OPTIONS

Schedule a meeting with your counselor to learn more about Mississippi's diploma and endorsement options.

mdek12.org/ESE/diploma

Talk to your student about your career path, your interests, and how you got to where you are today.

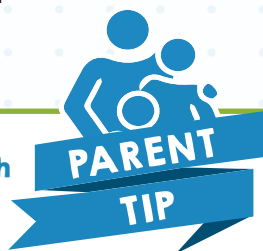


START NOW

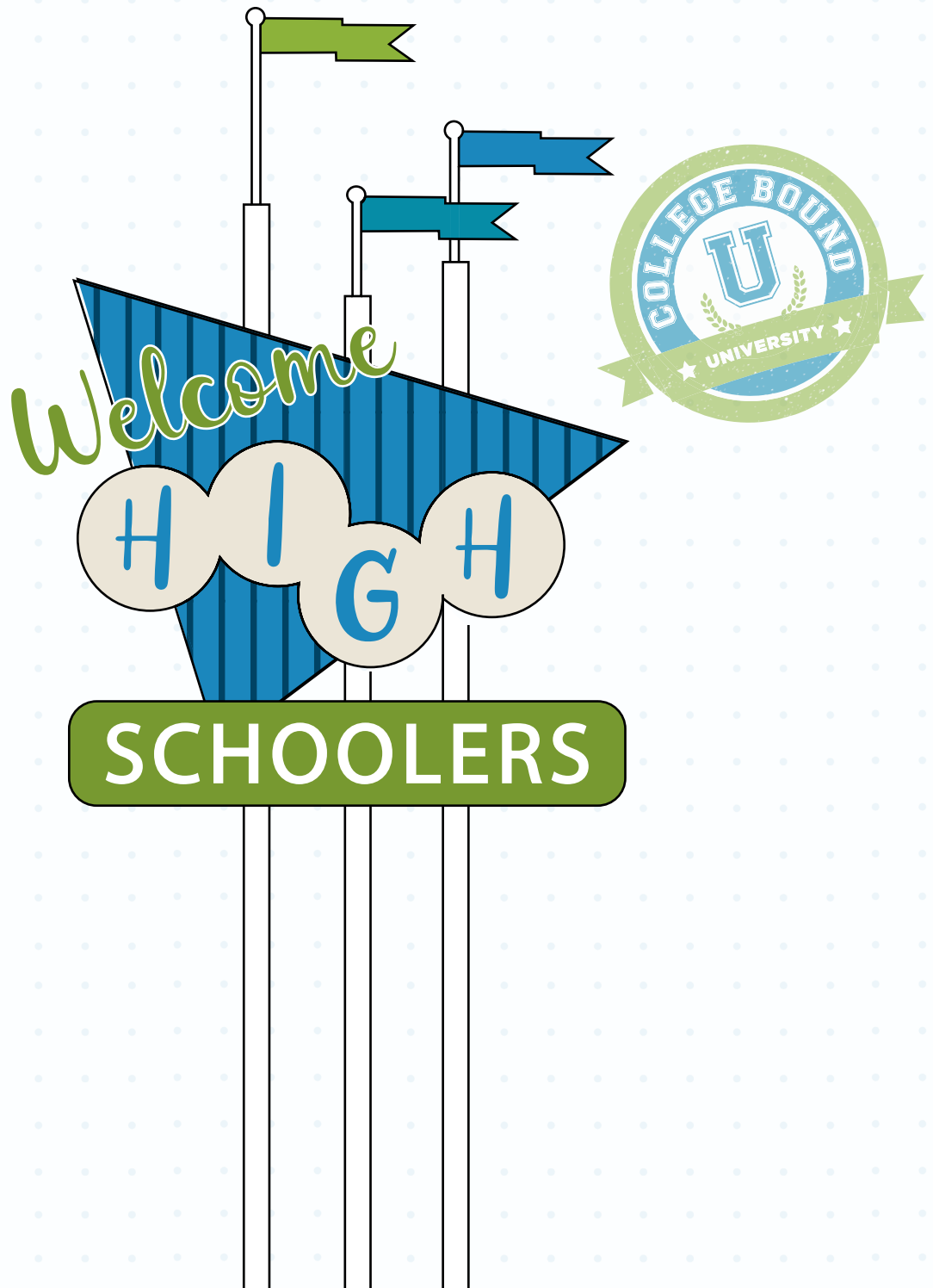
Turn your passion into your reality. Consider trying something new:

- Explore the clubs or groups offered at your school. If you don't see one you like, consider starting one with the help of a teacher to create a space for yourself and others.
- Try out for that sport you have always dreamed of participating in. Middle school is the perfect time to try several sports with your school or local area.
- Volunteer in your school, church, or with community-based organizations. You could establish a working relationship with those spearheading the volunteer work and become their future volunteer or employee.

Now is a great time to add a drive through a college campus on your next road trip or family visit.



For all the resources mentioned and more on what to do in the middle school years, scan here!



SELF DISCOVERY

In college, you will have a chance to discover who you are and take control of your education. That means allowing you to explore new subjects and ideas that align with your interests and goals. During this time, you'll discover your capabilities, build confidence, and shape a path that reflects your unique strengths and passions.

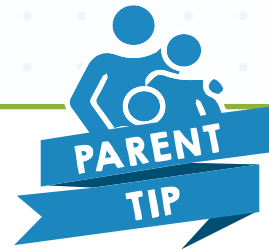


Band, sports, and community activities are all great things to include in your college resume, but it is important to start this document early.

Need some help getting started? Use the resume template on our website by visiting the QR code at the end of this section.

Your voice matters, so choose a college where you can express yourself and thrive academically and personally. Take the time to explore programs, campuses, and cultures to find the place where your unique voice can thrive. Choosing the path for your career means finding a balance between your interests and skills, job opportunities, and earning potential.

It's never too early to expose your child to different career options. Use this checklist to begin that conversation and activities.



THINGS TO DO NOW TO EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE

WHAT DO YOU LIKE DOING?

Think about what you enjoy doing in your free time or what subjects you find interesting in school. See how your interests match courses and subjects you can study in college.

EXPLORE DIFFERENT JOBS

Take time to learn about different careers to see what catches your eye. Once you know the jobs you like, check out what you need to study in college to do those jobs.

LEARN SKILLS YOU CAN USE ANYWHERE

Solving problems and thinking critically can be learned in many classes. Communication is required for nearly every job. Talk to people doing the jobs you are interested in. Ask them how they got there and key skills they utilize for their job.

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT IN LIFE

Do you want a job with a self-directed approach, or do you thrive with a structured routine? Thinking about what you want can help you pick a job that fits your lifestyle. If you can, try doing internships or job shadowing.

IT'S OK NOT TO HAVE EVERYTHING FIGURED OUT

Big dreams are awesome, but starting with small goals is okay, too. What can you do right now to get closer to your dream job? It could be taking a specific class or joining a club. Remember, it's normal not to know exactly what you want to do after graduation.

CAREER EXPLORATION TOOLS



O*NET Interest Profiler



mynextmove.org/explore/ip



careeronestop

CareerOneStop



careeronestop.org



GLADEO

Gladeo Quiz



foothill.gladeo.org/gladeo-quiz-landing

Mississippi Top Jobs Explorer



get2college.org/career-planning

If your school offers a college and career platform, take advantage of it!

JOB SHADOWING

What is it like to work in a job you're curious about? That's where job shadowing comes in. It's like a backstage pass to the working world. You get to follow someone around, see what they do, and decide if it's what you want to do. You can find job shadowing opportunities through various avenues:

Career Services

Check with your school's career coach or career services center.

Family & Friends

Ask about their day-to-day responsibilities and see if you can tag along for a day.

Community Events

Keep an eye on local events and festivals.

Town Hall or Community Center

Your town's official offices might have connections or know about people willing to show you the ropes in different jobs.

Community Organizations

Contact local community organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce or economic development organization.

Remember, it's all about reaching out, expressing your curiosity, and showing a genuine interest in what they do. You'd be surprised how many people are excited to share their knowledge with someone eager to learn!

HOW TO GET THERE

COURSES OF STUDY & ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Why does my GPA matter?

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

TYPES OF GPA



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

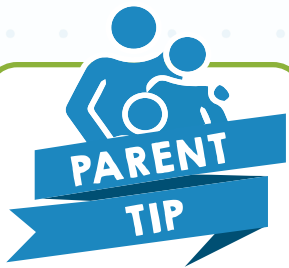
This GPA is determined when considering the difficulty of your courses (regular, honors, dual credit, AP). The more difficult a course, the higher the weight it is given in your GPA calculation.

RIGOR OF COURSES

Not only is GPA critical, but class rigor is equally important. You are encouraged to take as many challenging or rigorous courses as possible. This will often include Honors, AP, IB, or college courses. There are other options to take courses that give you additional experience or a head start on your college career while in high school.

Dual Enrollment/Credit

These courses are considered earned college credits. Your college GPA begins with any dual enrollment coursework, so it's important to take these classes seriously! Before college orientation, request an official college transcript of your dual enrollment and credit classes to avoid duplicating credits on your college class schedule.



Some community colleges offer a CTE scholarship to high school graduates after completing two years of a CTE program in high school.

Early College

This experience allows high school students to complete both a high school diploma and an associate degree at the same time. Students who complete an Early College program and plan to enroll at a four-year college should communicate with that admissions office about the Early College program hours earned and how that college handles scholarship opportunities.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

High schools partner with community colleges to offer numerous CTE programs, some leading to a credential, certificate, or even an associate degree.







Early Graduation

If you are considering graduating high school early, make sure to discuss the different college enrollment options and deadlines with your high school counselor. Not all schools and school districts participate in early graduation, so make sure to confirm that this option is available for you.

College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC)

CPC is the standard list of classes students need for Mississippi's four-year public colleges. The curriculum, which includes a certain number of units per subject, is aligned with Mississippi high school graduation requirements.

Admissions Requirements and Types For Mississippi Colleges & Universities

	 1 YEAR CERTIFICATE/ TECHNICAL DEGREE	 2 YEARS ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE	 4 YEARS BACHELOR'S DEGREE
CREDENTIAL EARNED	EXAMPLE Welding Certificate	EXAMPLE Associate of Applied Science in Nursing	EXAMPLE Bachelor of Science in Accounting
AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MS	\$44,240	\$61,250	\$66,450
IS ACT® OR SAT® REQUIRED FOR ADMISSIONS?	No. However, scholarships may be available and certain programs may require ACT®/SAT® scores. Check with college.	No. However, scholarships may be available and certain programs may require ACT®/SAT® scores. Check with college.	Yes. Check the Institutions of Higher Learning website for admission requirements.
IS COLLEGE PREP CURRICULUM (CPC) REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION?	No	No	Yes; however, students who do not meet CPC requirements should work with their college counselor for admission options.
EXAMPLES OF SCHOOLS	 MISSISSIPPI DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	 MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	 Alcorn State University

See the map on page 37 for a full list of schools in Mississippi.

Here are some assessments students may see during their high school years.

PSAT

This assessment is used for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. It is offered through the College Board by the high school during sophomore or junior year. The junior year scores will count for the national scholarship competition. Learn more on the different PSAT test offerings on the CollegeBoard website.

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 admission, class placement, state financial aid, scholarship evaluation, and academic advising.

ACT® WorkKeys

This assessment measures “real world” skills required for success in the workplace.



Find helpful tips and tricks for the ACT® in short one-minute videos on our YouTube channel at: bit.ly/g2cyoutube

ACT® for Free

Four fee waivers are offered to help lower-income students pay for the ACT®. Ask your high school counselor if you qualify!

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.



The SAT® is a national college admission test alternative to the ACT®.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)

If you are planning to enter the military after high school graduation, talk to a local recruiter to understand the process and taking the ASVAB in high school. The military can help with paying for college after service. If you want to go to college before service, ask a college recruiter about Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs on campus and scholarship requirements.

HOW TO GET THERE

CAMPUS VISITS, APPLICATIONS, & TYPES OF ADMISSION

CAMPUS VISITS

The best way to get an authentic feel for whether a college is the right one for you is to make a campus visit! Check the college's website or call the admissions office to find out about campus visit options. An ideal campus visit should include: meeting with an admissions recruiter, taking a tour, visiting a residence hall, eating in the cafeteria, and if possible, meeting with a current student or faculty member in your major.

You can also visit campuses virtually. Visit our 3D College Tour videos of all of Mississippi's two-year and four-year colleges on YouTube: bit.ly/G2CPlaylists

TRANSCRIPT

Your transcript is your high school or college academic record. It lists all the coursework you have taken. You will request a transcript to be sent to all the colleges you are applying to as part of the application process.

APPLICATIONS AND TYPES OF ADMISSION

Application types will vary depending on the school and the selectivity of the institution.

College specific application - This application can be found on the college's website.

Other applications - Depending on the college, you can apply to multiple selective colleges with one of these applications:

COMMON APP

UNIVERSAL COLLEGE APP

BLACK COMMON APP

COALITION APP

NON-RESTRICTIVE APPLICATION PLANS

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.

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.

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.

HOW TO GET THERE

FINANCIAL AID & THINGS YOU NEED

College is an investment. Figuring out how to pay for it can be crucial to planning. When you look at how much it costs to attend a college, look beyond tuition. Research the Cost of Attendance (COA) - this is the total estimated cost of attending a college, including tuition, fees, housing, meals, books, and other living expenses.

Let's look at the Cost of Attendance in Mississippi.



Community Colleges in Mississippi

\$11,000 - \$13,000
Cost of Attendance

\$3,000 - \$4,500
annual tuition



Public Universities in Mississippi

\$22,000 - \$26,000
Cost of Attendance

\$7,500 - \$9,500
annual tuition

Scan the QR Code on page 29 to access our College Comparison tool and compare each college's cost.

Now that you've researched the cost of attendance, it's time to take action to pay that cost with these steps.

STEP 1

SEARCH AND APPLY FOR PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Unlike government or college-funded aid, these come from private sources like companies, individuals, or groups. You can ask your school counselor for a list and use tools such as the Get2College Scholarship Search (bit.ly/G2Cscholarships).

Additionally, remember to check national sites like:



bigfuture.collegeboard.org

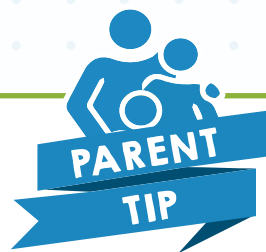
OR



fastweb.com

Begin sharpening your writing skills now because most private scholarship applications require an essay!

Does your employer offer scholarships? How about your utility companies - electric or gas? Does your church? Help your student find private scholarships from places they may not think about!



STEP 2

APPLY EARLY FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION & SCHOLARSHIPS

Most scholarships come directly from individual colleges. Aim to complete admissions applications in the early fall of your senior year. You must be accepted for admission to receive scholarships and financial aid. Check out each college's website to get the details and deadlines.

STEP 3

COMPLETE THE MISSISSIPPI AID APPLICATION (MAAPP)

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid (MOSFA) offers grants based on merit and financial need to full-time (15 credit hours per semester) Mississippi high school graduates attending eligible Mississippi colleges and universities. The application is available at msfinancialaid.org and opens on October 1 each year. It is one application for all four of the Mississippi grants.

MTAG

Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant

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

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

Must enroll full-time.

MESG

Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant

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

Pays \$2,500/year.

- Requires a 29 ACT®
- 3.5 GPA

Must apply within three years of high school graduation and enroll full-time.

HELP

Higher Education Legislative Plan

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

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 and \$5,000 added to the requirement for each sibling under the age of 21)
- Be Pell-eligible

Must apply within one year of high school graduation and enroll full-time.

FAITH

Fostering Access & Inspiring True Hope Scholarship

Covers **up to the full cost of attendance + an allowance for housing during institutional breaks (where available)** for current and former foster youth to attend college in Mississippi up to five calendar years. Students attending a private institution will receive an award amount up to the average of the prior year's published undergraduate COA of all public institutions.

Eligible students meet the following criteria:

- Complete the MAAPP & FAFSA
- Under the age of 25 as of October 1 application
- Enroll at least part-time (minimum of 6 hours) at any **approved college** in Mississippi in a program of study leading to an undergraduate certificate or degree.
- Meet at least one of the following:
 - » Have been in legal custody of MS Dept. of Child Protection Services (CPS) at any time since age of 13.
 - » Have lived in a qualified residential living facility at any time since age 13.
 - » Have been adopted from the legal custody of CPS or qualified residential living facility at any time since age 13.



MOSFA accepts ACT® superscores through the July test date.

STEP 4

FILL OUT THE FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required to receive any federal funds. Federal aid includes the Pell Grant, Work-Study jobs, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), and Direct Loans. The FAFSA may also be used to award some state aid, institutional aid, and even private scholarships. Apply at studentaid.gov. Check with your college of choice for deadlines. Scan the QR code at the bottom of this page to get FAFSA tips on the Get2College website.

HOW TO GET THERE TRANSITION

Before you can arrive at college, there are a few extra steps to check off:



Deposits

Some colleges may require a deposit to be made prior to enrolling. This will hold your spot in the class and is typically nonrefundable.



Housing

If you plan to attend class in person and live on campus, make sure you meet housing deadlines and pay deposits, if required.



Immunizations

Before you can show up at college, your immunization record will be required.



Orientation

Typically held during summer months, orientation may be in-person or virtual. During orientation, you register for classes, meet current students, and get familiar with your college. Some colleges may issue your ID card during this time.



Parking

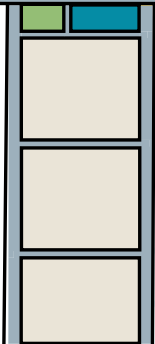
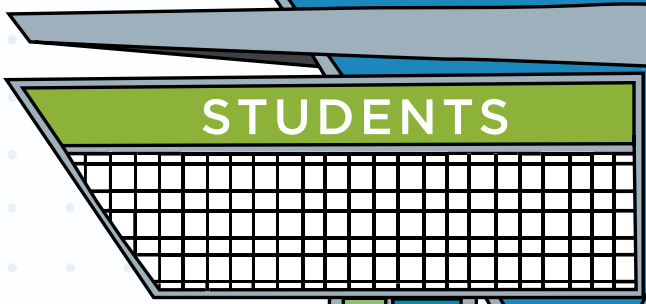
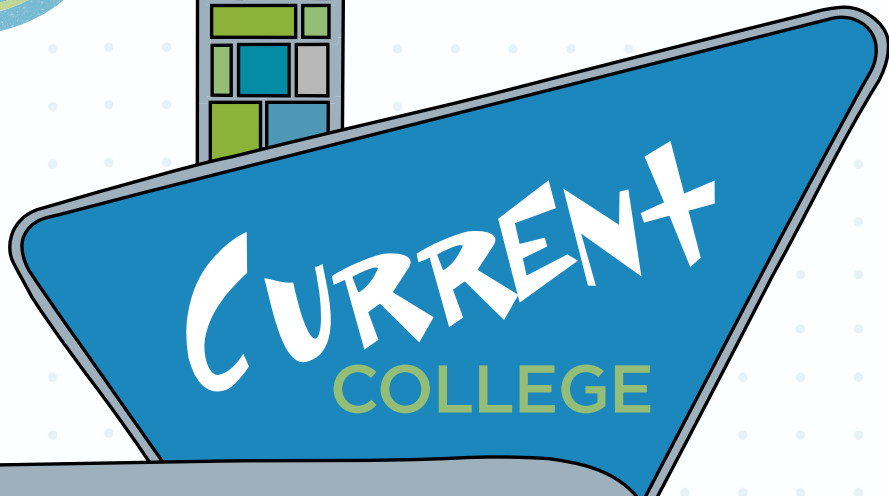
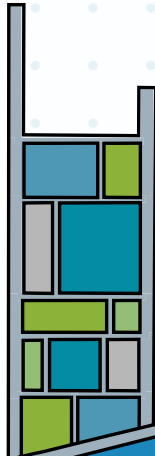
To park on campus, you may need to purchase a parking pass. Check out your college's website for specifics.



Books

Your campus bookstore is the easiest and fastest way to buy the books you need. Some schools offer book fees as part of tuition.





YOU MADE IT!

You made it to college! There are many resources on campus designed to help you thrive and support your well-being while you pursue your dreams.

Colleges offer various support services and resources to students, such as Health and Counseling Services, Tutoring and Writing, Support Disability Services, and Residence Life. Important dates to remember when you are enrolled in college:



RENEWING FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

Don't forget to renew your FAFSA and MS Aid Application (MAAPP) every year. Unless you have had a change in circumstances, you will complete the FAFSA with the same contributor(s) as the previous year.

ACADEMIC TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS

Most four-year colleges or universities offer scholarships based on your community college GPA. Scholarships based on ACT[®] scores are generally no longer available to currently enrolled college students.

PHI THETA KAPPA SCHOLARSHIP

Visit ptk.org to find out more about the opportunities they offer.

If you attend a community college, join Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)! When you transfer, there are great scholarships for PTK members. Typically, a 3.5 GPA and 12 credit hours are required. Eligible students will receive an invitation.

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIP

Use the Scholarship search Tool on our website and other national scholarship databases.

TRANSFER TIPS

Thinking about transferring from one college to another? Let's set you up for success. Review Transfer Admissions options.

As a community college transfer to a four-year public institution in Mississippi, you have three options for regular admissions:

OPTION 1



Earn an Associate of Arts degree from a regionally accredited community or junior college and have a sufficient GPA as calculated by the admitting institution

OPTION 2

Complete the 30 hours of core courses listed below with at least a 2.0 GPA on those courses and earn an overall 2.0 GPA or higher on all hours attempted*.

English Composition
6 semester hours

College Algebra or a higher-level math
3 semester hours

Natural Science
6 semester hours

Humanities and Fine Arts
9 semester hours

Social or Behavioral Sciences
6 semester hours

OPTION 3

Meet the requirements for incoming freshmen (based on your ACT®/SAT® scores and high school transcript) and earn an overall 2.0 GPA or higher on all hours attempted*.



***As calculated by the institution you are transferring to.**

Transferring from one four-year college to another four-year college is an option as well.

It is always best practice to contact the admission office of your planned transfer school to review admission requirements for four-year transfer students.

When transferring to a new college or university, look at the course curriculum of your planned major to view what courses may transfer and receive credit for. Most of the time, you can view this through the MS Articulation & Transfer Tool found at matttransfertools.com.

If an online transfer course equivalency tool is not available, seek out an advisor in the program at your prospective college or university to discuss the transfer of your courses. Don't forget to update your FAFSA and MAAPP with your transfer institution so that your federal and state aid follow you.

CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENT FAQ'S

Q.

Should I work while in college?

A.

There are many ways for students to work while in college. Look at on-campus job boards, Student Life, or ask your peers. Some students are awarded Federal Work-Study as part of their financial aid package.

Q.

How many hours can I transfer from one college to another?

A.

Most schools will only accept up to 62 hours of community college credit for a four-year college. Students transferring from one four-year college to another also have limitations on transferred hours. Contact your academic advisor to review the transfer of credits.

Q.

If I transfer from a community college to a four-year college, can I get academic scholarships with 30 hours or less of transfer credits?

A.

Yes, but every school has different requirements. Some four-year colleges require more than 30 hours of transferable credit. It is always best practice to contact the transfer admissions counselor at the four-year college or university you plan to transfer to.

Q.

What can a student do to limit the number of courses they have to retake at the university?

A.

Most colleges will only accept courses with a "C" or higher. You may be required to retake a class depending on the college.

Q.

How will I know what credits will transfer to a new college?

A.

Each college or university has different degree requirements. Request a degree audit from an academic advisor at the school you are looking to transfer.



For all the resources mentioned and more on what to do while enrolled in college, scan here!



STARTING YOUR JOURNEY BACK TO COLLEGE

Starting your journey back to college or for the first time

If you're an adult who is considering going back to school, chances are you are juggling a lot—a full-time job, family, tight budget, and an already full plate of responsibilities. Whether you are looking to complete a college degree, certificate, or credential for the first time, or you are going back to school to start a new career path, here are the resources you need. See page 8 for a list of different college types to choose from.

According to a Georgetown study, 63% of jobs in Mississippi will need a credential or a degree by 2031. Earning a credential or degree can boost your income and help you build a better future for yourself and your community. Explore a wide range of careers available in Mississippi by visiting our Top Jobs Explorer, available at the QR code at the end of this section.

PATHWAYS TO COMPLETION

NEED YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR EQUIVALENCY?

Skill UP Mississippi is an initiative of the Office of Adult Education at the Mississippi Community College Board. Individuals can pursue various High School Equivalency options, whether it's the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), General Education Development (GED), or MS Competency-Based Equivalency Diploma, while enrolling in career pathways through Smart Start and Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (MIBEST).

Learn more and find your county-specific details by visiting skillupmississippi.com.

Through career pathways, adult education focuses on a student-centered approach by connecting students to occupational training and postsecondary education to progress within a career. Mississippi allows students without a high school diploma to potentially receive federal student financial aid, through Ability to Benefit, for enrolling in a MIBEST eligible career pathway program. To learn more about MIBEST, visit mibest.skillupmississippi.com.

COMPLETE 2 COMPETE & REVERSE TRANSFER

YOUR DEGREE MAY BE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

If you have Mississippi public college credits, Complete 2 Compete (C2C) is a state program designed to help Mississippi adults complete their college degrees and create a brighter future. C2C helps adults who left college at least 2 years ago to go back to a Mississippi public university to complete a bachelor's degree. There's even financial aid assistance for those who qualify.

Mississippi's eight public universities and the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) all participate in the program.



For more information, visit msc2c.org.

REVERSE TRANSFER

Reverse Transfer allows students who have transferred from a community college to a public university with at least 16 transferable credits to transfer credits earned at the four-year institution back to the community college. These reverse transfer credits count toward earning an associate degree, which gives students an additional credential and improves employability. Contact the registrar at the community college you attended to determine if you are eligible to receive an associate degree.

ENLISTING IN YOUR EDUCATION

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides education and financial assistance to veterans, service members, and their qualified family members. The GI Bill® offers qualifying persons the money to cover all or some of the costs for school or training. Additionally, the VA offers a Readiness and Employment program as well as educational and career counseling. To learn more visit:



va.gov/education

STACKING CREDENTIALS

Stackable credentials are a series of certificates, certifications, and degrees that you can earn progressively to build upon your education and skills. Each credential in the stack serves as a stepping stone, allowing you to acquire specific, job-ready skills and knowledge that can lead to employment or advancement in your current job. Over time, you can “stack” these credentials by continuing your education, leading to more advanced certifications or degrees, such as an associate or bachelor’s degree. This approach provides flexibility, especially if you’re a working adult, enabling you to enter or advance in the workforce while continuing your education on a schedule that fits your needs. Stackable credentials are especially valuable in fields where skills development and continuing education are crucial for career growth, such as healthcare, information technology, and advanced manufacturing. Mississippi community colleges have a 30/45/60 stackable credential model.



Stacking credentials can lead to a higher earning career!

HIGHER EDUCATION IN OR AFTER PRISON

Adults who are currently or formerly incarcerated may have eligibility to receive state or federal support for higher education. The Mississippi Higher Education in Prison Program offers for-credit humanities courses at no cost to students who are incarcerated. Courses are offered to help students fulfill basic degree requirements and provide them with transformative experiences. The United States Department of Education (USDOE) reinstated Pell Grant eligibility to the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated population. For more information on eligibility and participating colleges and universities, email MCHEP@woodwardhines.org.

FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS

Embarking on a journey of adult education often comes with financial considerations, but the good news is that resources and financial aid options exist to support you in your pursuit of knowledge and skill development. Refer back to chart on page 28 for the different types of Mississippi aid available. Work with a financial aid advisor at the institution you are enrolling in to determine your options.

MY WAY MISSISSIPPI

My Way Mississippi is the no-cost, one-stop-shop to help Mississippians plan, prepare, manage, and finance their postsecondary education.



HOW TO PROSPER LOCALLY

EARN A SALARY YOU'LL BE EXCITED ABOUT

In Mississippi, a great career is just around the corner. Opportunities in advanced manufacturing, energy, healthcare, and logistics are all in high-demand and offer good wages and opportunities for advancement—with or without a four-year degree.

Use the **FREE** career assessment to help figure out your interests on the Get2College website.
get2college.org/career-planning



MISSISSIPPI APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Mississippi Apprenticeship Program (MAP) provides opportunities to learn in-demand skills while earning a good wage. Participants in Registered Apprenticeship (RA) programs receive specialized on-the-job training and can earn nationally recognized credentials that provide the skills needed to compete for top jobs in Mississippi and around the country. To learn more about Registered Apprenticeships, visit:



msapprenticeship.works

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program provides individuals with the professional tools and skills needed to successfully join the workforce and increase employment in Mississippi. Pending funding availability, WIOA provides federal aid to students enrolled in qualifying career, technical, or workforce training programs, and funds are used to assist with expenses such as tuition, required textbooks, and fees for individuals certified as eligible to receive the funds. Applications are completed once per semester during the application period at the nearest Workforce Investment Network (WIN) Job Centers. To learn more about WIOA and find a WIN Job center location that is near you, visit the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) at:



mdes.ms.gov



You've embraced the power of lifelong learning and taken a courageous step toward building a brighter future. Each new skill or credential you earn brings you closer to achieving your goals and unlocking new opportunities. Consider what adult learning opportunities best meet your needs. Your next level of success is within reach—believe in yourself and keep going. You can do this!



For all the resources mentioned and more on what to do as an adult learner, scan here!



COLLEGES IN MISSISSIPPI



COMMUNITY & JUNIOR COLLEGES

Coahoma CC 
coahomacc.edu

Copiah-Lincoln CC
colin.edu

East Central CC
eccc.edu

East MS CC
eastms.edu

Hinds CC 
hindsc.edu

Holmes CC
holmescc.edu

Itawamba CC
iccms.edu

Jones College
jcc.edu

Meridian CC
meridiancc.edu

MS Delta CC
msdelta.edu

MS Gulf Coast CC
mgccc.edu

Northeast MS CC
nemcc.edu

Northwest MS CC
northwestms.edu

Pearl River CC
prcc.edu

Southwest MS CC
smcc.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 Christian College
bmc.edu

Millsaps College 
millsaps.edu

Mississippi College 
mc.edu

Rust College 
rustcollege.edu

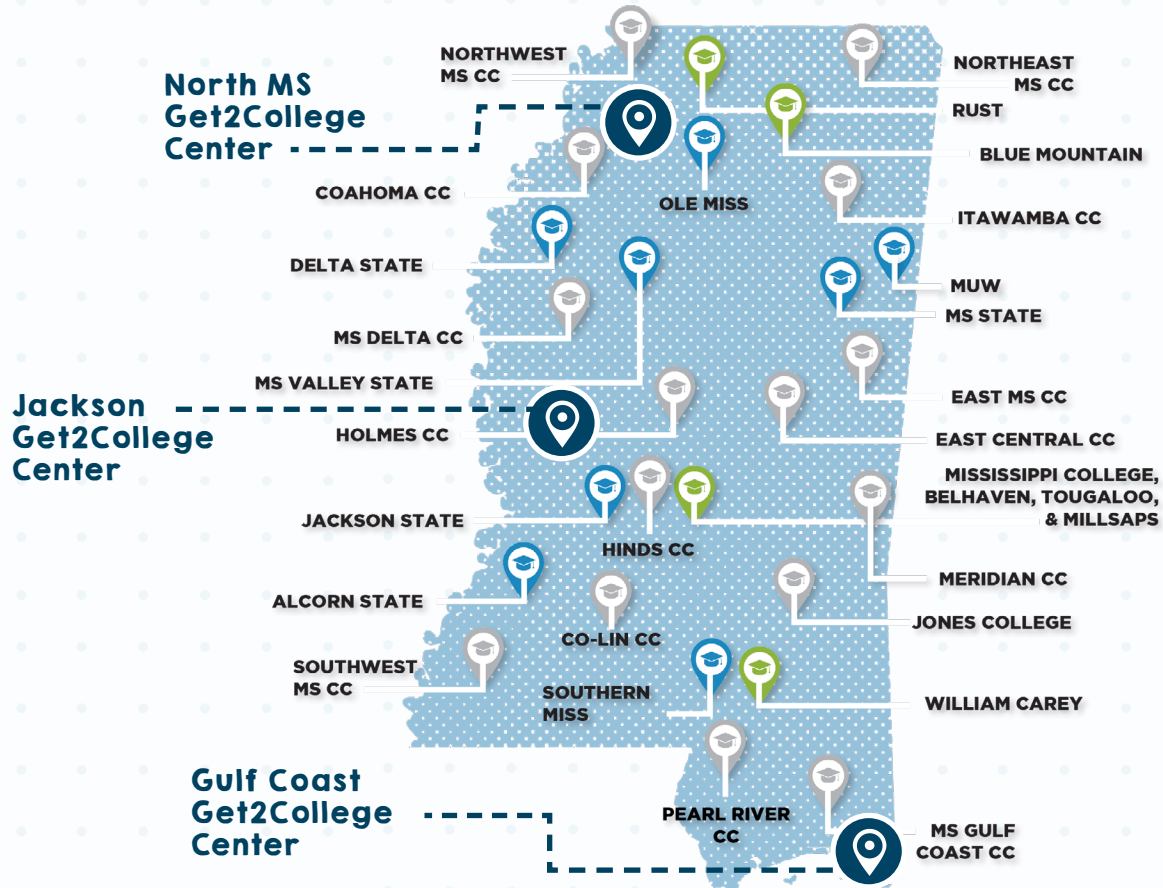
Tougaloo College 
tougaloo.edu

William Carey University
wmcarey.edu



LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT STEP ON THIS JOURNEY?

Let us help you get to college in-person at one of our three centers or virtually. Visit get2college.org to schedule an appointment!



HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs)

A college or university that was originally founded to educate students of African American descent. Most of these schools take the [Common Black Application](#).



ONE CLICK TO APPLY

Apply to these colleges with one admission application, the Common Application, at commonapp.org.

get2college.org



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! Make an appointment for virtual counseling or visit one of our centers.



WOODWARD
HINES
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Elevating Mississippi to a Higher Degree[®]



ASCENT
to 55%

Improving Mississippi's Workforce
by Degrees[™]

