



2025-2026

The Get2College Guide to

# COLLEGE & CAREER

Readiness



A supplemental workbook for  
students completing the CCR course

get2college

WOODWARD HINES EDUCATION FOUNDATION



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*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 ask all your  
college questions.



.....  
**get2college**  
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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



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



**Create an email address to use specifically for colleges, so you know exactly where to go and check for college information.**

## ☐ 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 admissions counselor who can help you learn 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)
- ☐ Research college types and options
- ☐ Visit your favorite campuses
- ☐ Create your high school resume
- ☐ Job shadow (in-person or virtual) or apply for internships
- ☐ Use Net Price Calculators to see the cost of attending college
- ☐ Seek out scholarship opportunities
- ☐ Create a list of your top 5 colleges
- ☐ Schedule community service hours
- ☐ Find a way to keep track of important dates that works best for you (planner, phone, calendar, etc.)

## 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
- ☐ Download the course curriculum for your top major choices
- ☐ Order your ACT® My Answer Key (pg. 34)

## October - December

- ☐ Complete your FAFSA - [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)
- ☐ Complete the Mississippi Aid Application (MAAPP) - [msfinancialaid.org](http://msfinancialaid.org)
- ☐ Complete applications to meet scholarship deadlines on time



## January - April

- ☐ Complete verification, if selected by the college
- ☐ Submit any required documents for Mississippi Aid
- ☐ Log into student portal and begin checking college email address
- ☐ Review and compare financial aid offer 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
- ☐ Begin planning money management for college (checking account, savings, etc.)
- ☐ Two weeks after graduation, request a transcript for any dual credit courses taken while in high school be sent to the college you choose to attend

**WHAT'S  
NEXT AFTER  
GRADUATION?**

Visit pages 54 & 55 for a college prep checklist!

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.

### **Graduate Student**

A college student who has completed a bachelor's degree and is pursuing advanced education in a specific field, typically a master's or doctoral 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.

### **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.

### **Public College**

A college funded primarily by state government that typically has a large student enrollment and offers a wide variety of academic programs and has standard published admission requirements.

### **Private College**

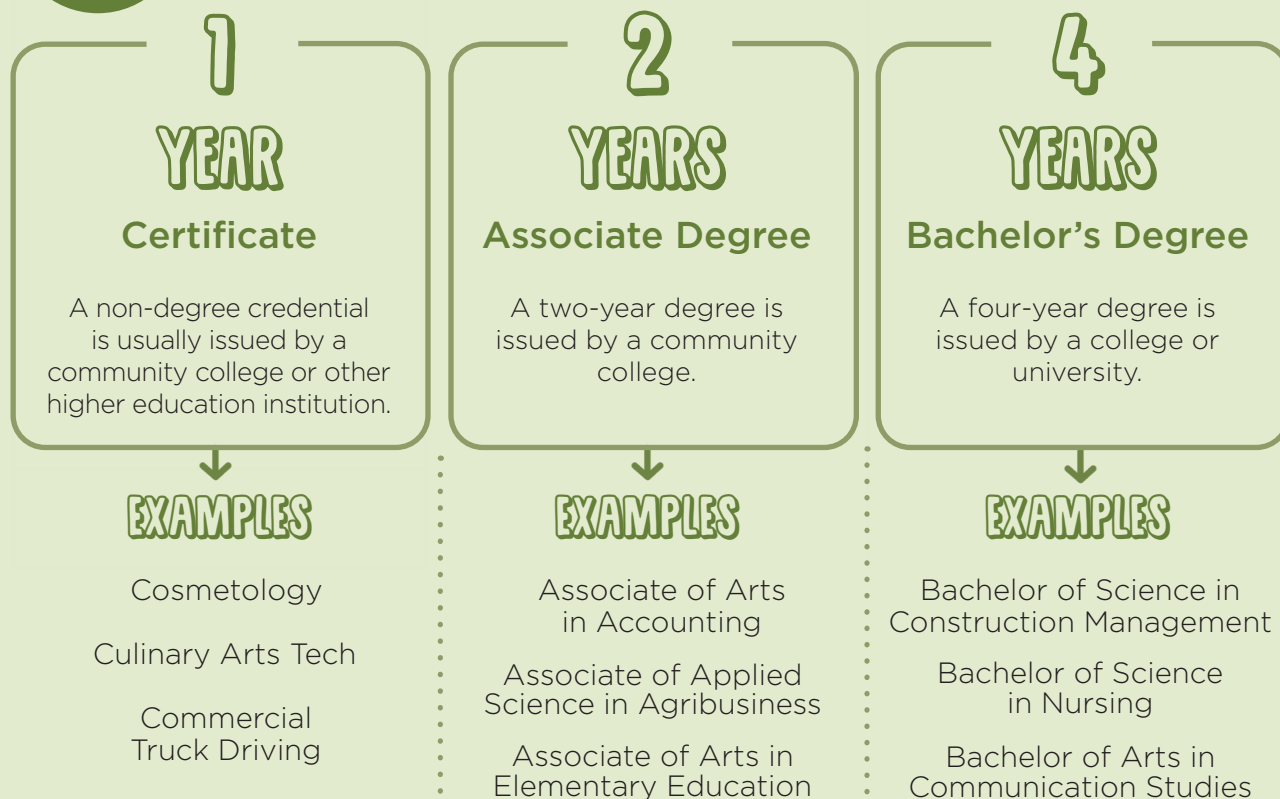
A college that operates as an educational nonprofit organization that does not receive its primary funding from a state government and is typically smaller in size. The schools may have a smaller selection of majors but may offer more specialized academic programs.

# 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.



**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. See an example of this on pages 12-13.**



## GRADUATE DEGREES

### EDUCATION BEYOND A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

#### Master's degree

After receiving a bachelor's degree, many 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 at the bachelor's, master's, or doctoral level. Some occupations have more than one level of professional degree.

### 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. Use the table below to figure out what is most important about a college and consider those things as you begin your search.

## 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"/>

### Geography

	1 <i>low</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>high</i>
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

	1 <i>low</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>high</i>
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

	1 <i>low</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>high</i>
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"/>

## Things to research about the college:

- What is the average class size for freshman classes?
- Explore majors and special programs offered.
- What percentage of students are from in-state vs out-of-state?
- Is there diversity on campus (ethnic, geographic, family income)?

## Understanding College Types:

See page 14 for these types of colleges in Mississippi.



### 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's).

An associate degree from a community college can be transferred to a four-year institution to complete the final two years of a bachelor's degree. There are many 2+2 programs available.



### 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 does not admit every applicant. The level of selectivity is measured by the percentage of admitted students. Selective colleges use many factors in a 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.



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



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

- **Common App** (see pg. 14)
- **Universal College Application**
- **Common Black College Application**

## 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:







# 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. You may have several characteristics in more than one personality type, but identifying your top types can help you explore career areas that may be a good fit.

### 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.

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.

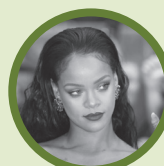
Persistent  
Athletic  
Reliable  
Reserved  
Down-to-earth  
Handy

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

### Here are some examples of the types:



**Jeff Bezos**  
Doer



**Robyn Fenty**  
Helper



**Harry Styles**  
Creator



**Michelle Obama**  
Persuader

## 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. **Huntington 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/career-planning/](https://get2college.org/career-planning/)

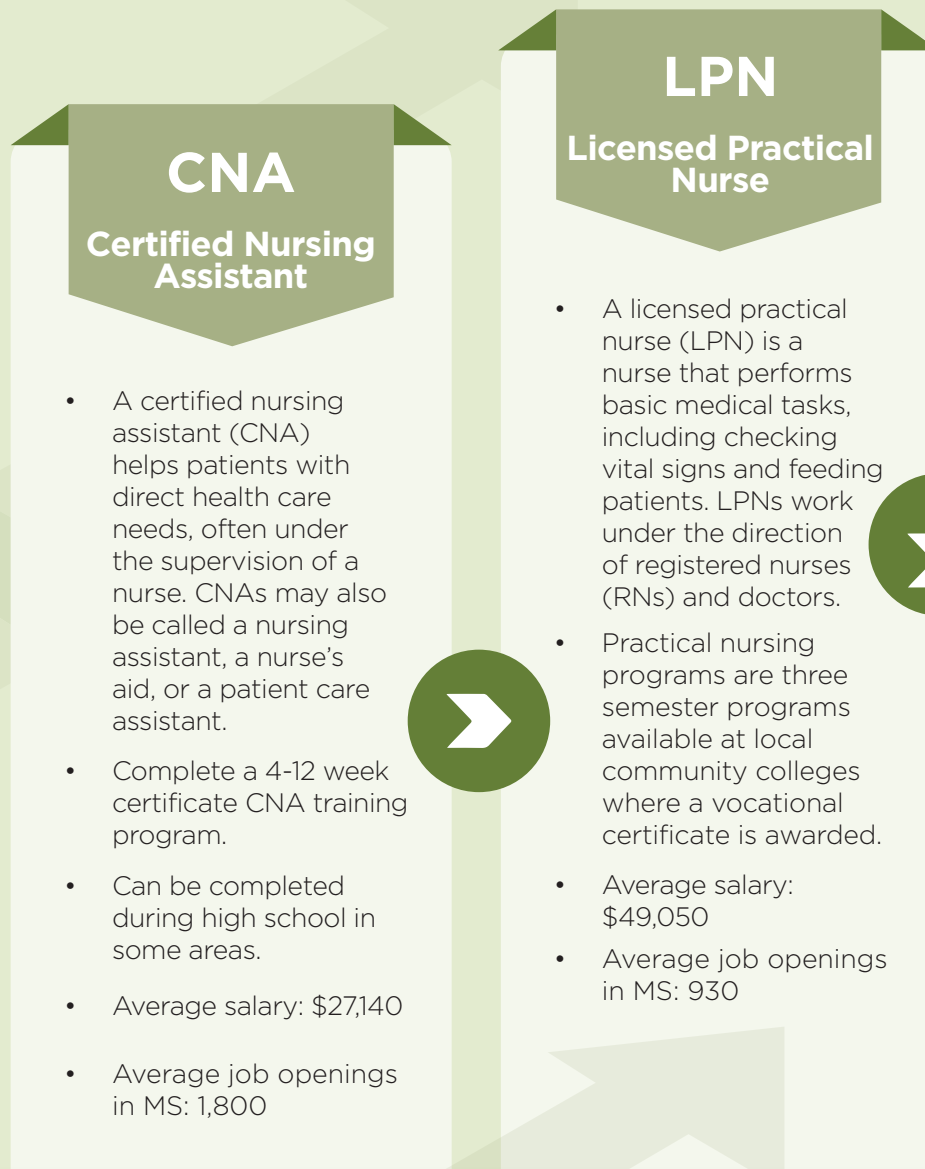
Occupation Type	Avg. Salary	Education Level
Medical and Health Services Manager	\$100,680	Bachelor's
Financial Managers	\$95,120	Bachelor's
Registered Nurses	\$61,250	Associate
General and Operations Manager	\$89,350	Bachelor's
Insurance Sales Agent	\$59,680	Bachelor's
Industrial Engineers	\$83,140	Bachelor's
Computer & Info Systems Manager	\$107,170	Bachelor's
First-line Supervisors of Construction Trades & Extraction Workers	\$60,390	Certificate
Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialist	\$47,300	Bachelor's
Accountants and Auditors	\$66,450	Bachelor's
Construction Managers	\$84,280	Bachelor's
Human Resources Manager	\$94,570	Bachelor's
Electrician	\$49,980	Certificate
Paralegal & Legal Assistant	\$48,240	Associate
Respiratory Therapist	\$51,480	Associate
Physical Therapist Assistant	\$50,120	Associate

Source: Ithaka S+R  
Date: 2024

# CAREER LADDERS

What is a career ladder? In a word, it's a promotion. This can normally be achieved by working your way up from entry level positions to careers with more advanced degrees and higher pay. In many industries, career ladders can provide a range of different pathways to interesting and rewarding careers. While these ladders provide you with examples of how to advance your career, you can start anywhere on the ladder with proper training and education. Below is an example of a healthcare career ladder.

## NURSING CAREER PATH



What does the career ladder look like for the job you're interested in?




## RN

### Registered Nurse

- A registered nurse is a healthcare professional who has been licensed by the state to provide and coordinate patient care after receiving specialized education and passing a comprehensive national test (NCLEX-RN). RNs work in a wide range of direct patient care roles and are able to specialize in any field in medical care today.
- LPN to RN accelerated bridge programs can typically be completed in two semesters at a local community college where an Associate's degree is earned.
- Traditional Associate degree nursing programs are completed in four semesters and an Associate's degree is earned.
- Average salary: \$61,250
- Average job openings in MS: 2,100

## BSN

### Registered Nurse

- A Bachelor of Science in Nursing is an undergraduate-level degree for registered nurses (RNs) that introduces nurses to topics such as patient care technology, research, health promotion, safety, and quality within the healthcare system.
- RN (ADN) to BSN bridge programs are available with additional coursework that is typically completed in 12 months and a Bachelor's degree is earned.
- Traditional BSN programs are completed in four semesters and a Bachelor's degree is earned.
- Average salary: \$75,510
- Average job openings in MS: 2,015

## NP

### Nurse Practitioner

- A nurse practitioner works directly with patients and is typically responsible for providing urgent, primary, and specialty care to a specific population of people. They are able to diagnose, treat, and manage patients' care under the oversight of a collaborating physician.
- BSN to Nurse Practitioner programs are typically completed in 2 years and a Master's degree is earned.
- Average Salary: \$117,490
- Average job openings in MS: 330



# Colleges in Mississippi

*All colleges listed are nonprofit.*

## COMMUNITY & JUNIOR COLLEGES

**Coahoma CC**   
coahomacc.edu

**East MS CC**  
eastms.edu

**Itawamba CC**  
iccms.edu

**MS Delta CC**  
msdelta.edu

**Northwest MS CC**  
northwestms.edu

**Copiah-Lincoln CC**   
colin.edu

**Hinds CC**  
hindscc.edu

**Jones College**  
jcc.edu

**MS Gulf Coast CC**  
mgccc.edu

**Pearl River CC**  
prcc.edu

**East Central CC**  
eccc.edu

**Holmes CC**  
holmescc.edu

**Meridian CC**  
meridiancc.edu


**Northeast MS CC**  
nemcc.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 University**  
bmc.edu

**Millsaps College**   
millsaps.edu

**Mississippi College**   
mc.edu

**Rust College**   
rustcollege.edu

**Southeastern Baptist College**  
southeasternbaptist.edu

**Tougaloo College**   
tougaloo.edu

**William Carey University**  
wmcarey.edu



### ONE CLICK TO APPLY

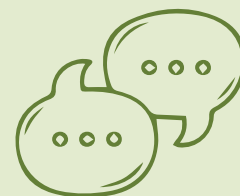
Apply to these colleges with one admission application, the Common Application, at [commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org).



### HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs)

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

# 20 Questions to ask college representatives



Whether you meet them at a college fair or on a campus visit, college reps play a key role in interacting with high school students and addressing their questions about 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 the weekends, or do most students go home?

6.

What are the dining and flex spending plan options?

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 is the best way to receive updates about your school?

14.

How would you describe the academic pressure and workload?

15.

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

16.

What is public transportation around campus and town like?

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?

# College and Career Fairs


College and career fairs are a great way to check out your options all in one place. You'll get to talk to people from colleges, universities, the military, and even companies from industries like tech, healthcare, business, public safety, and the trades. These events can help you get info, make connections, and ask the questions that matter to you. Use the chart below to keep track of college and career fairs near you and don't miss the do's and don'ts to help you prep like a pro.



## COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR DO'S & DON'T'S



When you're heading to a college and career fair, first impressions matter. Whether you're talking to a college rep, someone from the military, or a company looking for future employees, how you present yourself can make a big difference. To help you feel confident and make the most of your time, check out these quick tips on what to do—and what to avoid—at college and career fairs.



### 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.



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


### 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

Recruiter's name

Recruiter's email or phone

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

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# 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. There are many types of college visits: in-person (group or individual), VR, or virtual videos. Check out college's websites or social media for these opportunities.



Interview an admissions staff member.



Ask for information on scholarships and financial aid.



Sit in on a college class.



Meet and collect contact information from a professor 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:





# 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 per week equals 1 credit hour earned per semester. Most college classes are 3 hours each. Full-time enrollment is 12 hours each semester for both MS and Federal aid.

### **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.

## Resume building

You may be asked to submit a resume to apply for college admission or some scholarships. To create the best representation of yourself, now is the time to think about how you will shape it. Begin brainstorming who is in your network that could help build up your resume and connect you to future opportunities.



Who I know	Opportunities they can connect me to
<i>Pastor</i>	<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

## Community Service

Use the table below to keep track of any community service you may have completed. This information will be useful to add to your resume as you build it out.

Community Service	Location (City, State, or Country)	Dates of Service	Total Hours
<i>Mississippi Food Network</i>	<i>Jackson, MS</i>	<i>May 3rd-May 6th</i>	<i>12 hours</i>



# 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 2026

GPA: 3.74 • Rank in Class: 22 of 379

ACT Superscore: 23

**Activities**

- High school Symphonic and Jazz Bands (2022 - Present)  
Band Section Leader (2024 - Present)
- Gulf Coast Band Director's Association (GCBDA) Clinic (2022 - 2025)
- Puppet Crisis Founder and Bass Guitar Player (2023 - 2024)

**Awards**

- Nominated for membership in the National Society of High School Scholars (2025)
- Selected to attend National Youth Leadership Conference and Forum on Medicine (2025)
- Assemblies of God State & National Fine Arts Competition & Performance, Louisville, KY (2023)  
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 (2025 - Present) Total Hours: 45
- Youth Christian Assembly Biloxi, MS (February 2024) Total Hours: 25
- Hearts & Hands Homeless Ministry (2022-2023) Total Hours: 220

**Work Experience**

- Seasonal Worker  
Arrons Music Shop | (2024 - 2025)  
- 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 any advanced courses (AP, honors, IB, dual enrollment), and strong scores - this helps the admission officer understand you have chosen rigorous 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 briefly 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 or internships.

# Interview questions

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

- Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- What are some things that tend to frustrate you?
- Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- Discuss a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time.



## 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



# 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?

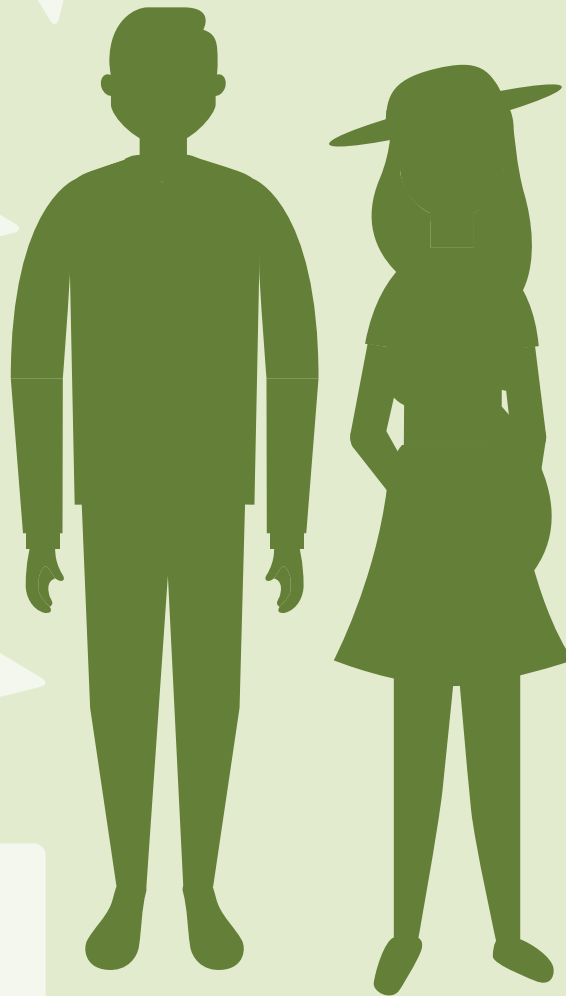


What is the most **significant moment** in your life?

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?





The personal statement is a great time to share what you plan to major in and why. If you don't know that yet check out this free resource!



## 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 job shadow in your desired field to get a better understanding of the daily duties.



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

## STILL FEELING STUCK?

Check out our **YouTube series** to get help on topics such as choosing your career path and **MORE!**



Find us on YouTube  
@Get2College!

# Why does my GPA matter?

Your Grade Point Average (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 specific core classes (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, etc.) that colleges may require for admission. The NCAA has its own list of core 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 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!*

*More questions can be found on page 23.*



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.

## COLLEGE PREP CURRICULUM REQUIRED CLASSES



### How to Calculate my GPA

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

#### I took other classes!

If you took additional math, English, 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.

Key equiv.  
total of  
**ALL** classes

÷

Total number  
of **ALL** classes

=



Your  
Cumulative GPA

This is the  
magic number  
for colleges!



#### English Courses

English I

English II

#### Math Courses

Algebra I

#### Science Courses

Biology I

#### Social Studies Courses

US History

World History

#### Art Course

#### Advanced Electives

#### Technology Course

#### Other Classes

#### Letter Grade

#### Letter Grade

#### Letter Grade

#### Letter Grade

#### Letter Grade

#### Letter Grade

#### Letter Grade

#### Letter Grade

#### Key Equivalent

#### Key Equivalent

#### Key Equivalent

#### Key Equivalent

#### Key Equivalent

#### Key Equivalent

#### Key Equivalent

#### Key Equivalent

Total  
number of  
ALL classes

=

Total of all  
classes key  
equivalent

=



# Requirements for College Admission

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

## TRACK 1

**3.2 GPA**  
minimum

— + —

Complete high school grad requirements

— + —

explained more  
on next page!

**CPC**

College Preparatory Curriculum

Complete CPC with a minimum 3.2 high school grade point average (GPA) cumulative or determined by IHL college

## TRACK 2

**16+**  
ACT®

— + —

**2.5 GPA**

minimum or top 50% of class

— + —

Complete high school grad requirements

— + —

**CPC**

College Preparatory Curriculum

Complete CPC with a minimum 2.50 high school cumulative GPA or determined by IHL college or a class rank in the top 50% and a score of 16 or higher on the ACT®

## TRACK 3

**18+**  
ACT®

— + —

**2.0 GPA**

minimum or top 50% of class

— + —

Complete high school grad requirements

— + —

**CPC**

College Preparatory Curriculum

Complete CPC with a minimum 2.0 high school cumulative GPA or determined by IHL college and a score of 18 or higher on the ACT®

## TRACK 4

**NCAA**

National Collegiate Athletic Association

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.

For more details, visit [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org).

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

# DON'T MEET THE CRITERIA?

Students who do not meet the above criteria may still be eligible for admission and can be reviewed by the IHL college. The review shall involve a consideration of high school performance, ACT® or SAT® scores (if available), placement testing, special interests, and skills as well as

other non-cognitive factors. The review shall result in one of the following categories: (1) Full Admission, or (2) Full Admission with Academic Deficiencies (required enrollment in a developmental program concentrating on high school subject areas — English, reading, and mathematics).



# The College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC)

Classes needed for college admission (18 units)

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

### ALGEBRA I

or equivalent

### MATH HIGHER THAN ALGEBRA I

(2 units)

### ADDITIONAL MATH HIGHER OR LOWER THAN ALGEBRA I

(1 unit)

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 (A) as noted in the Office of Academic and Student Affairs CPC Manual and/or (B) 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.

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

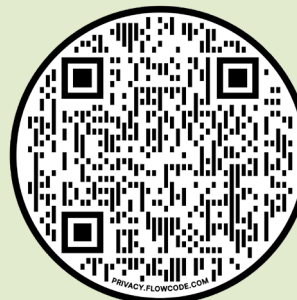
Includes any one Carnegie unit (or two ½ units) of visual and performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for high school graduation.

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!



# 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

Your ACT® WorkKeys® certificate level is based on your lowest test score. If one section is holding you back, you can retake just that test to boost your score and qualify for a higher certificate!

*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*

3

### 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*

4

### 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*

5

### 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*

6

Based on the most recent ACT®/WorkKeys® linking study, students who earn an ACT® Composite score of:

<13

13-16

17-21

22-26

27-36

BRONZE

SILVER

GOLD

PLATINUM

are unlikely to obtain an ACT® NCRC®

are most likely to obtain a bronze ACT® NCRC®

are most likely to obtain a silver ACT® NCRC®

are most likely to obtain a gold ACT® NCRC®

are most likely to obtain a platinum ACT® NCRC®

# NCAA ELIGIBILITY FACTS:



If you're looking to play sports in college, make sure you are familiar with the NCAA eligibility and requirements.

1

**Student-athletes must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center ([eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org)) to play Division I or II in college.**

2

**NCAA Eligibility Center reviews your academic record and amateur status to certify if you are eligible to play sports at a Division I or II college.**

3

**You should register with NCAA at the beginning of your junior year in high school.**

4

**There are 3 types of NCAA accounts- Profile Page Account** (*unsure which division or plan to compete at a Division III school*); **Academic & Amateurism Certification Account** (*to compete at a Division I or II school*); **Amateurism-Only Account** (*transferring from a 2-year college to a division I or II school*).

5

**You must complete the Academic & Amateurism account registration, including payment or fee waiver, before you can go on official visits, receive an athletic scholarship, or compete at a Division I or II school.**

6

**Documentation needed for NCAA registration:** email address, personal information, educational history, sports participation history (including details of expenses or awards received, teams, and individuals who have advised or marketed your skills), payment (\$100).

7

**The registration fee is waived if you have received or are eligible to receive an SAT® or ACT® fee waiver.**

8

**You must send your high school transcript to the Eligibility Center.**

9

**You should plan to regularly update your athletic participation information on your account up until you get final certification of your status (usually around graduation time).**

Details are subject to change. Check the [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org) for current information.

# Prepare to Apply to College

## Before Applying Checklist:

- ☐ Have your contact information on hand.
  - Legal name
  - Social Security Number (SSN)
  - Mailing address
  - Personal email address
  - Parent/guardian contact information



- ☐ Be able to list extracurricular activities (example: Student Government Association, Greek Life) 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, if applicable.

## After Applying Checklist:

- ☐ Request your high school transcript 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.

### 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.



### Check out the 500+ other top occupations in Mississippi

Use the link below to explore more jobs available in Mississippi.  
[get2college.org/career-planning](https://get2college.org/career-planning)

### 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

# Time to Apply!

So, what are you waiting for? Seniors, completing college applications is your first step to getting accepted into college. Applications typically open by August 1 on college websites.

My top college pick:



☐ Applied    Date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Admitted    Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Student account info

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

**Major department/program  
app deadline:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Important dates:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship app deadline date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Housing app deadline date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

College choice #2:

☐ Applied    Date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Admitted    Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Student account info

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

**Major department/program  
app deadline:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Important dates:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship app deadline date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Housing app deadline date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

College choice #3:

☐ Applied    Date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Admitted    Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Student account info

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

**Major department/program  
app deadline:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Important dates:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship app deadline date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Housing app deadline date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

College choice #4:

☐ Applied    Date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Admitted    Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Student account info

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

**Major department/program  
app deadline:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Important dates:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship app deadline date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Housing app deadline date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

College choice #5:

☐ Applied    Date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Admitted    Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Student account info

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

**Major department/program  
app deadline:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Important dates:**

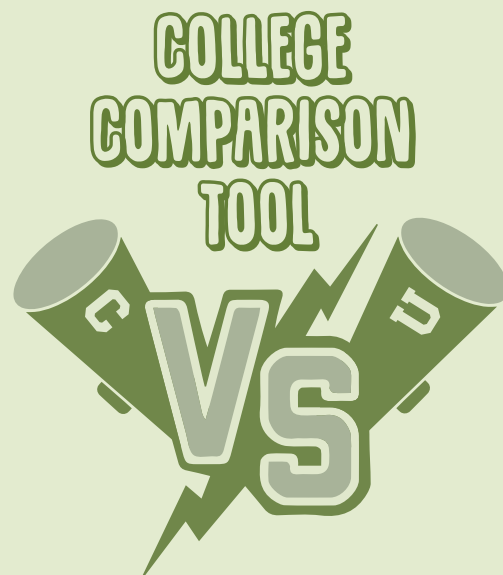
\_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship app deadline date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Housing app deadline date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

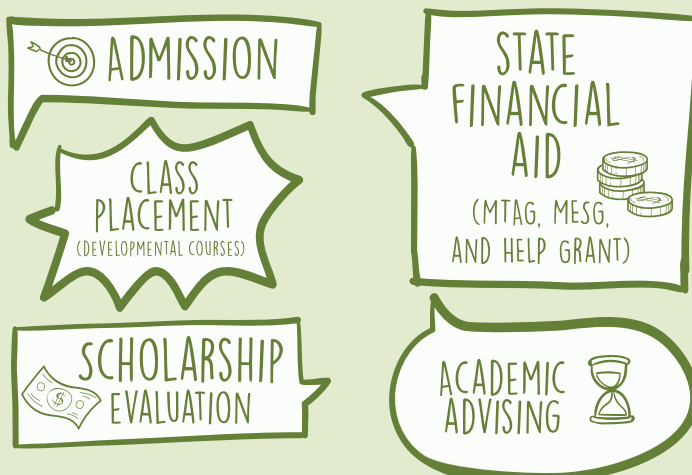


Use Get2College's College Comparison Tool to help narrow down your college choices and compare costs such as tuition, housing, and more on our website at:

**[bit.ly/G2CComparisonTool](https://bit.ly/G2CComparisonTool)**

# The ACT® & SAT®

ACT® or SAT® scores are requested by most colleges and universities as a part of the admission process. You don't have to take both tests, and most students select just one. Your results provide one way to measure your potential for:



Get2College has free ACT® prep resources available online: [bit.ly/ACTg2c](https://bit.ly/ACTg2c)

ACT® TEST DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION
Sept 6, 2025	Aug 1	Aug 19
Oct 18, 2025	Sept 12	Sept 30
Dec 13, 2025	Nov 7	Nov 24
Feb 14, 2026	Jan 9	Jan 23
April 11, 2026	Mar 6	March 24
June 13, 2026	May 8	May 29
July 11, 2026	June 5	June 24

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

## ACT® Fees\*

ACT®, no writing	\$65.00
ACT®, plus writing	\$90.00
Late Fee	\$38.00
Standby Testing	\$69.00
Change Fee	\$44.00
Science Add-On Fee	\$4.00

## 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 32.

## NEED MORE TEST PREP HELP?

Request a ACT® My Answer Key to receive a copy of your test questions and answers.

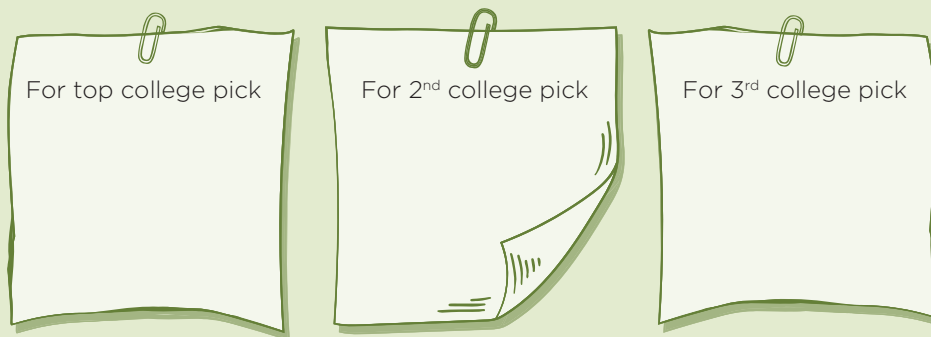
Select national test dates only. See [act.org](https://act.org) for more details. ACT® My Answer Key is \$32.00 before the test date and \$40.00 after the test. If you register with a fee waiver, it is free.



*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 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 ACT® superscore for college admission and scholarships. In addition, the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid (MOSFA) will accept the ACT® superscore for their grants.

## 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 \$19 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.

## Websites



**Get2College  
ACT® resources**  
Scan QR code to  
learn more



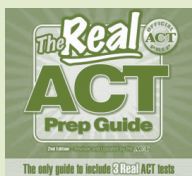
**Kaplan and  
ACT® Test Prep**  
Visit the link  
below to learn more  
**bit.ly/ACTKaplan**  
*if you use a fee waiver to  
register for the test, some of  
this prep is free.*



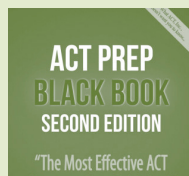
Find helpful tips and tricks  
for the ACT® in short 1-minute  
videos and a full workshop on  
our YouTube channel at:

**bit.ly/youtubeG2C**

## 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® ACT(R) Prep &  
Practice By Magoosh

**TAKE THE  
ACT® ONLINE!**



ACT® offers a new option  
to take the test online on  
select national test dates and  
locations.

Check the ACT® website  
regularly as they expand the  
online testing option.



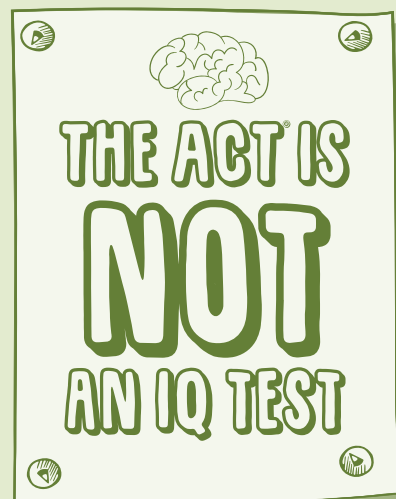
**ACT.ORG**



# 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. By junior year, you've probably completed the coursework corresponding to the test material.



## QUICK TIPS



Approach questions on the ACT® in one of three ways:

## 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 (such as A,B,C, or D). 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.

## 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?”*

## QUICK TIPS



### EXAMPLE

#### 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.

*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

## 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®.

$$x = y^2$$

QUICK TIPS



### 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.  $(p+3)/3$

**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

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

**Step 2:** Solve the problem using the answer choices below. 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



**Starting in September 2025, the science section will be optional for both online and paper-based formats. Keep updated on the latest changes by checking [act.org](https://act.org).**

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!

The ACT® Science section generally organizes the questions in order of difficulty. The challenge on this test is not allowing one question to take up too much of your time.

### Strategies to Science Questions:

#### EASY

##### “Fetch the Answer”

These questions ask about the passage and often come from a chart or graph. They usually come first, so answer them right after analyzing the information given. Do not rush and make careless mistakes on these questions.

#### MEDIUM

##### “Read and Reason”

These questions ask you to slightly analyze the information presented. We recommend doing these second. When using process of elimination, look out for trap answer choices.

#### HARD

##### “Big Picture”

These questions ask about the passage as a whole. Typically, you want to save these for last. By the time you answer these questions, you will have analyzed the information multiple times and hopefully have a very good idea about the general purpose of the passage.



### 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.

**Student Aid Index (SAI)**

The Student Aid Index is determined by the FAFSA formula. The college uses the SAI to determine how much financial aid you are eligible to receive.

**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

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!



Private aid



College aid



Federal aid



Mississippi aid

## Private & College Aid

### 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 college & career readiness teacher for a list of scholarships.

Use the Get2College Scholarship Search Tool and browse other popular scholarship sites like:

- **bold.org**
- **bigfuture.collegeboard.org**
- **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!**

QUICK TIPS

As you learn about colleges, track their scholarship application deadlines on page 33.

## 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.

# Federal Aid

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

The Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) opens each year on October 1 (of your senior year) at [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 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 (typically ~ 20 hours/week) with financial need

**FSEOG**- Grant for undergraduate students with exceptional financial need (at participating schools)

**Student & Parent Loans**- *Learn more on pg. 51*



**Both the student and parent(s) must create a StudentAid.gov (FSA ID) username and password before starting the FAFSA.**

## 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 2026)

The FAFSA asks for basic information about the student and parent 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
- Mailing Address
- Dates of birth
- Email addresses
- 2024 W-2 forms and other records of money earned
- 2024 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

If your parents are divorced or separated, the parent who provided the most financial support in the last 12 months is the parent on the FAFSA.

**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).

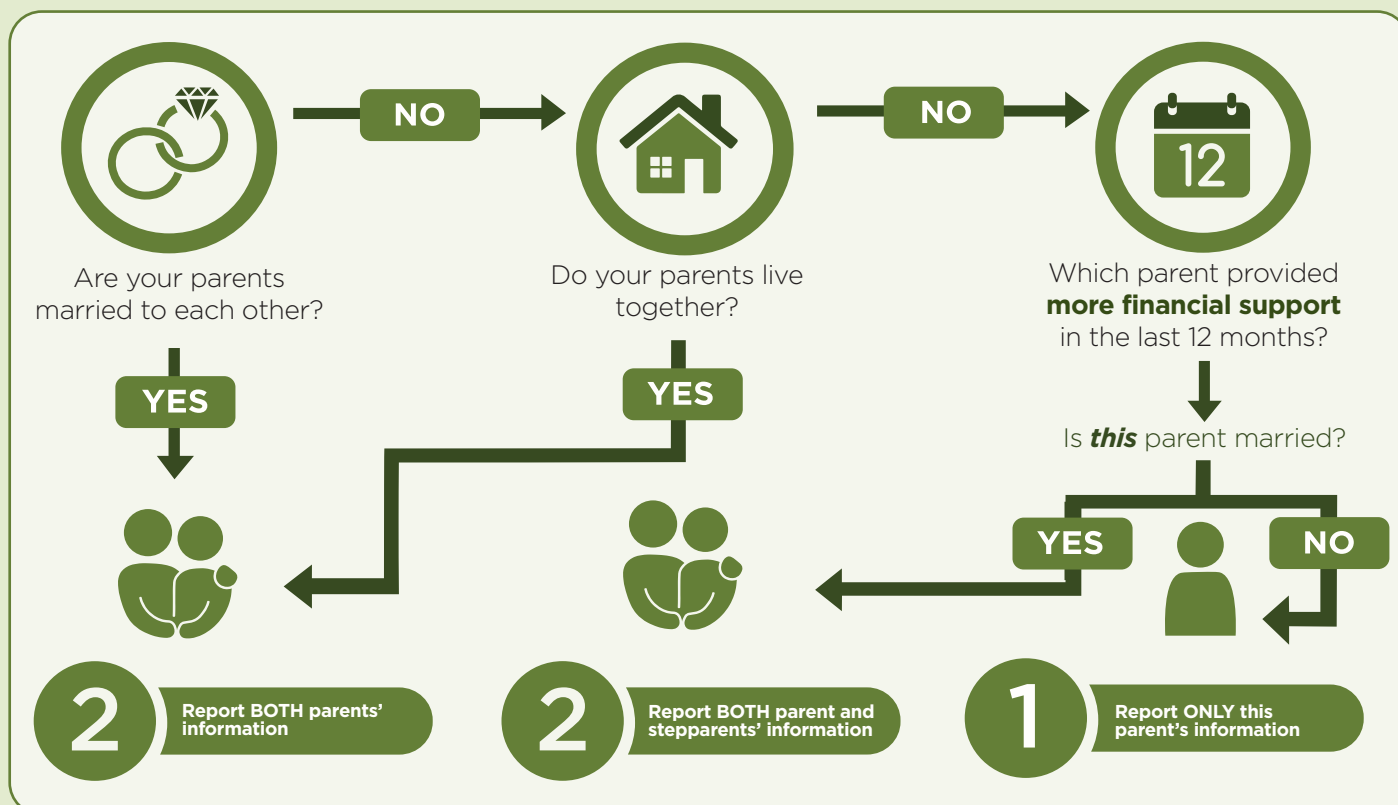
**FYI**

## FAFSA SUBMISSION

Make sure your parent knows the FAFSA isn't complete until they provide consent and submit their section of the application.

# WHO IS MY FAFSA CONTRIBUTOR?

To complete the FAFSA, you will have to know who your contributors are so you can invite them to the form. A contributor refers to anyone (you, your spouse, your biological or adoptive parent, or your parent's spouse) who is required to provide information on your FAFSA. Use the chart below to identify your contributors.



## Top 3 tips for completing the FAFSA

1

Gather all information before you start. The FAFSA uses 2-year old tax information, including 1040 tax forms and W-2s for you and your parents, if applicable.

2

You cannot create a new username for the FAFSA. Once a studentaid.gov account (FSA ID) is created, it is linked to your social security number or identity. You will have to use the "forgot username/password" option.

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 who financially supported you the most in the last 12 months.

# Financial Aid Data Sheet

Use this sheet to record the required studentaid.gov account (FSA ID) information. These log-ins will be used to log into the studentaid.gov website throughout your college career. Make sure to keep this document in a secure location since it has personal information unique to you and your parent(s).

## The FAFSA

studentaid.gov

### STUDENT ACCOUNT:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Backup Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTRIBUTOR'S ACCOUNT:

Contributor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Backup Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTRIBUTOR'S ACCOUNT:

Contributor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Backup Code: \_\_\_\_\_

# What to do after submitting your FAFSA\*

NOW WHAT DO I DO?



## FAFSA SUBMISSION SUMMARY

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.

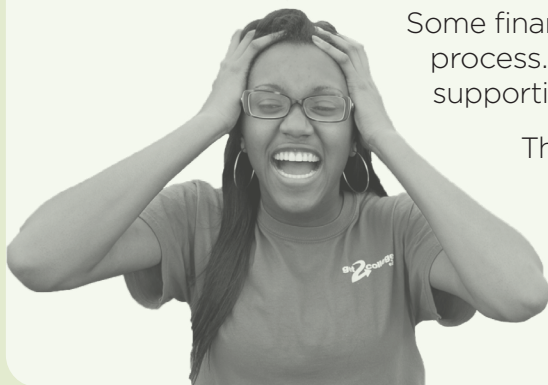
Log into [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov), *My Activities* to review your FAFSA Submission Summary, check your FAFSA status, make corrections to a processed FAFSA, review your estimated federal aid, and check next steps.

## FINANCIAL AID APPEAL

There are certain circumstances where you can file a financial aid 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 verification process. This means that you will be expected to provide supporting documentation for the information on your FAFSA.

The requested 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. Some college have a specific online portal with its own username and password you will use to upload documents to complete the verification process.



## Federal Student Aid

Got questions about your FAFSA or [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) account (FSA ID)?  
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](http://msfinancialaid.org)

The Mississippi Aid Application (MAAPP) opens each year on October 1 (of your senior year) at [msfinancialaid.org](http://msfinancialaid.org).



## MTAG - Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant

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

Pays \$500/year for freshmen and 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

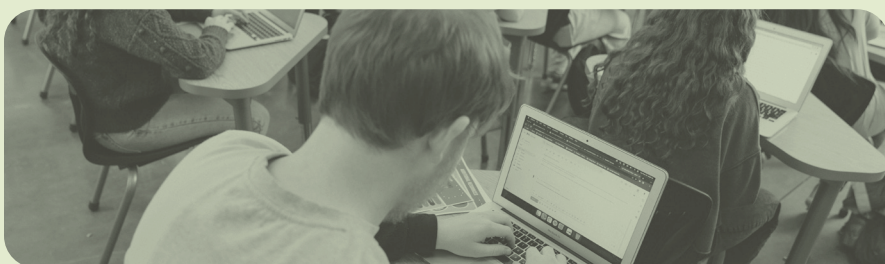
**Application deadline: March 31, with supporting documents due by April 30.**

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 (\$42,500 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 grant-eligible
- **Must apply within one year of high school graduation and enroll full-time.**



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



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

Check your MAAPP dashboard at [msfinancialaid.org](http://msfinancialaid.org) for more information!

## Mississippi Aid Application

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

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

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



As a reminder, the MAAPP is a completely different online application than the FAFSA. Make sure you are completing both applications for a chance to receive maximum financial aid for college!

**Mississippi Office of  
Student Financial Aid**  
msfinancialaid.org  
800.327.2980

## 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 for 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.

There is no deadline for FAITH, but students do need to apply while the application is open for the aid year they want to attend.

Eligible students must meet the following criteria:

- Complete the MAAPP & FAFSA
- Be under the age of 25 as of October 1 of the academic year for which the student is applying
- 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.



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

- ☐ Check the status of your application on your MAAPP dashboard at **msfinancialaid.org** using your username and password (*noted on page 48*).
- ☐ 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, except FAITH, you must take and pass at least 12 hours each semester (fall/spring).
- ☐ If you are male, make sure you have registered for the Selective Service, which is required to receive Mississippi aid.



## Financial Aid Offer

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

### Sample financial aid offer

<b>Estimated Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Student Aid Index</b>	<b>-0</b>
<b>Total Financial Need</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

Award Description	Fall	Spring	Total	Accept	Decline	Partial
Pell Grant	\$3,697	\$3,698	\$7,395	✓	( )	
HELP Grant	\$4,699	\$4,699	\$9,398	✓	( )	
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>\$24,493</b>			

# DON'T FORGET TO CHECK!

Typically, you will receive your financial aid offer 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) will not 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 communication 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.

# Federal Direct Loans

*Direct Subsidized & Unsubsidized Loans are federal student loans offered by the U.S. Department of Education to help eligible students cover the cost of college. Loans are offered by the college to cover cost gaps. You qualify for them by submitting the FAFSA and accepting on your financial aid offer. Direct Loans have a fixed interest rate and each year you accept the loan has its own interest rate specific for that year. For current interests rates, visit [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov).*

## Loan Limits

Your college determines the loan types(s), if any, and the actual loan amount you are eligible to receive each year. However, there are annual Direct Loan limits for undergraduate students.

Here are the limits:

	DEPENDENT STUDENT	INDEPENDENT STUDENT
<b>Freshman Year</b>	<b>\$5,500</b> (\$3,500 subsidized + \$2,000 unsubsidized)	<b>\$9,500</b> (\$3,500 subsidized + \$6,000 unsubsidized)
<b>Sophomore Year</b>	<b>\$6,500</b> (\$4,500 subsidized + \$2,000 unsubsidized)	<b>\$10,500</b> (\$4,500 subsidized + \$6,000 unsubsidized)
<b>Junior + Senior Year</b>	<b>\$7,500</b> (\$5,500 subsidized + \$2,000 unsubsidized)	<b>\$12,500</b> (\$5,500 subsidized + \$7,000 unsubsidized)

## 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](http://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.

**GET2COLLEGE**

**STUDENT LOAN  
REPAYMENT**

**CALCULATOR**

**[bit.ly/repaymentcal](http://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.

# 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>STUDENT AID INDEX (SAI)</b> <i>Amount the FAFSA estimates you will pay.</i>	-	-	-
<b>FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY</b> <i>Subtract your SAI 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>SAI 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**    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

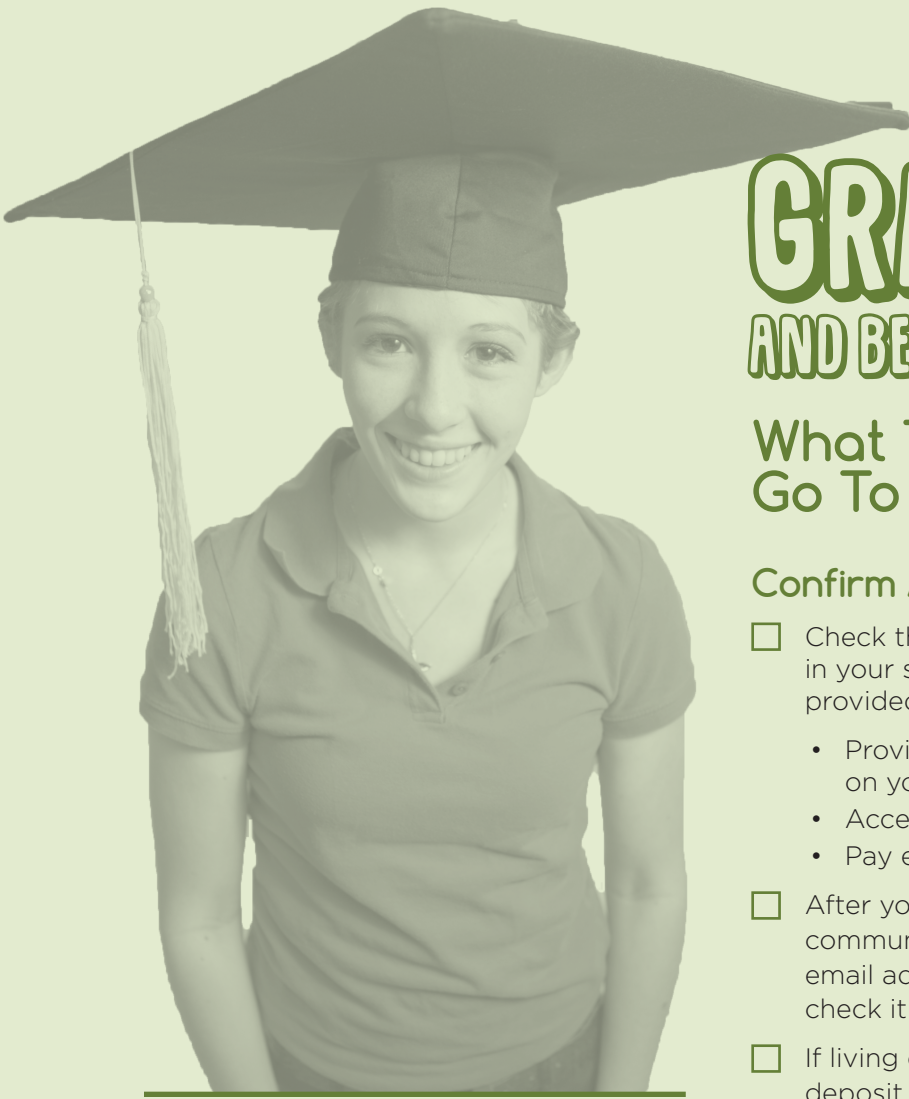


## WAYS TO SURVIVE COLLEGE ON A BUDGET



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 and thrift.





# 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.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ If living on campus, check your housing information: deposit deadline, roommate selection process, room sign up date, and your move in date.

## Top 5 list of things not to forget to pack for college

1



#### Bedding essentials:

- Sheets
- Pillows
- Blankets
- Mattress topper
- Etc.

2



#### Toiletries:

- Towels
- Shower shoes
- Shower soap
- Bathrobe
- Etc.

3



#### Laundry supplies:

- Hamper/basket
- Detergent
- Dryer sheets
- Etc.

4



#### Electronics:

- Laptop
- Charger
- Headphones
- TV
- Etc.

5



#### Important docs:

- ID cards
- Health insurance info
- Emergency contacts
- Etc.





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

### Registrar's 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

Sometimes called the Business 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. If you miss orientation, you will need to reschedule with the college.



### 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.



### REQUEST FINAL TRANSCRIPT

Request a final transcript from your high school and, if applicable, from the college where you were dual-enrolled.

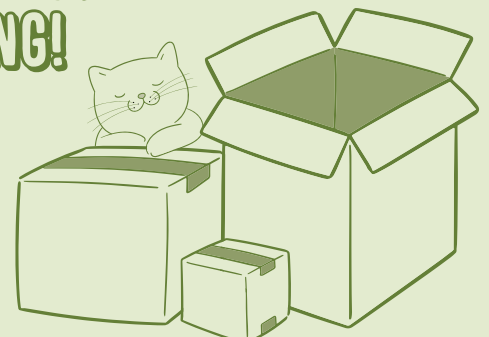


### CHECK WITH HEALTH SERVICES

Make sure you know what you might need to get from your doctor before you move on campus.



## 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



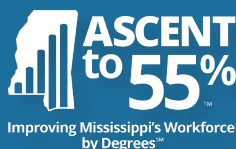
### **Jackson Get2College Center**

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  
nms@get2college.org



get2college.org

