2026-2027

The Get2College Guide to COLLEGE & CAREER Readiness

This book belongs to:

Full name

A supplemental workbook for students completing the CCR course

get2college
WOODWARD HINES EDUCATION FOUNDATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PLAN

For additional resources and help visit get2college.org

Receive Text Updates

Scan me to get text updates and ask all your college questions.

get2college

WOODWARD HINES EDUCATION FOUNDATION

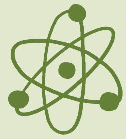
PREPARE

PAY FOR COLLEGE

BEYOND

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.

☐ Prepare for standardized testing

Your ACT® or SAT® scores may be considered for admission into your desired college as well as for awarding financial aid and scholarships. One way to prepare for these standardized tests is by taking the PSAT®, which helps you practice for the SAT® and can qualify high-scoring juniors for the National Merit Scholarship Program. You can also prepare by taking test-prep classes offered by your school or attending free workshops.

☐ Self exploration and essay writing ideas

You can complete college applications as early as August of 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.

(See pg. 32 for ideas)

☐ 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.

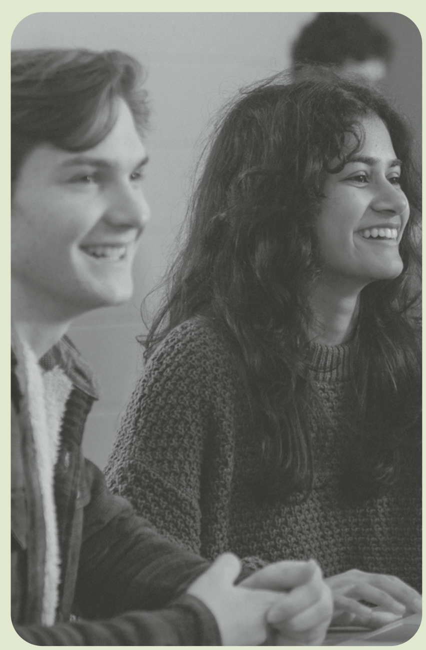
☐ Explore your best college fit

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.



CHECKLIST FOR SENIORS

Start Here

- ☐ Sign up for the ACT®/SAT® at act.org or sat.org
- ☐ Research college types and options
- ☐ Take a campus tour
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Send transcript and ACT* scores
- ☐ Secure letters of recommendation for admission or scholarships, if needed
- ☐ Download the course curriculum for your top major choices
- ☐ Order your ACT* My Answer Key (pg. 37)

October - December

- ☐ Complete your FAFSA - studentaid.gov
- ☐ Complete the Mississippi Aid Application (MAAPP) - msfinancialaid.org
- ☐ Complete applications to meet scholarship deadlines on time
- ☐ Log into student portal and begin checking college email address
- ☐ Apply for student housing and pay the deposit, if required

January - April

- ☐ Complete verification, if selected by the college
- ☐ Submit any required documents for Mississippi Aid
- ☐ Review and compare financial aid offers and make your final decision
- ☐ 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

Visit pages 53 -55 for a college prep checklist!

Ok, let's PLAN

What matters most to YOU in your college selection?

Terms to Know

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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

Public College
A college funded primarily by state government, offers a wide variety of academic programs and, has standard published admission requirements.

Undergraduate
A college student who has not yet earned a bachelor's degree.

What is my definition of college?

We think of college as any education or training after 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. How you define college is unique to you.

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 20-21. A 2+2 program lets you start at a community college for two years and then seamlessly transfer to a four-year university to finish your bachelor's degree.

1 YEAR

Certificate

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

EXAMPLES

- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts Tech
- Commercial Truck Driving

2 YEARS

Associate Degree

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

EXAMPLES

- Associate of Arts in Accounting
- Associate of Applied Science in Agribusiness
- Associate of Arts in Elementary Education

4 YEARS

Bachelor's Degree

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

EXAMPLES

- Bachelor of Science in Construction Management
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies

WHY IT MATTERS

WHY THIS MATTERS:
Understanding your options early helps you choose a path that fits your goals, budget, and timeline to graduation.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN BA AND BS?

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

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

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)

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

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.

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:

	1 *low*	2	3	4	5 *high*
Academics Majors offered Honors program Study abroad	○	○	○	○	○
Location Urban, suburban, rural Live on campus or commute Distance from home	○	○	○	○	○
Financial Affordability (tuition, meals, housing, books, spending money) Scholarship opportunities	○	○	○	○	○
Social Student body diversity Class size Athletics Clubs and organizations	○	○	○	○	○

Things to research about the college:

- What is the average class size for freshman classes?
- What is the total cost to attend?
- How far is the nearest large grocery or retail store?
- Is there diversity on campus (ethnic, geographic, family income)?

WHY IT MATTERS

WHY THIS MATTERS:
Students who choose a college that fits them academically, socially, and financially are more likely to stay enrolled and graduate.

Understanding College Types:

See page 10 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.

Selective vs. Non-Selective
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.

Colleges in Mississippi

All colleges listed are nonprofit.

COMMUNITY & JUNIOR COLLEGES

Coahoma CC
coahomacc.edu

Copiah-Lincoln CC
colin.edu

East Central CC
eccc.edu

East MS CC
eastms.edu

Hinds CC
hindscc.edu

Holmes CC
holmescc.edu

Itawamba CC
iccms.edu

Jones College
jcjc.edu

Meridian CC
meridiancc.edu

MS Delta CC
msdelta.edu

MS Gulf Coast CC
mgccc.edu

Northeast MS CC
nemcc.edu

Northwest MS CC
northwestms.edu

Pearl River CC
prcc.edu

Southwest MS CC
smcc.edu

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Alcorn State University
alcorn.edu

Delta State University
deltastate.edu

Jackson State University
jsums.edu

Mississippi State University
msstate.edu

Mississippi University for Women
muw.edu

Mississippi Valley State University
mvsu.edu

University of Mississippi
olemiss.edu

University of Southern Mississippi
usm.edu

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Belhaven University
belhaven.edu

Blue Mountain Christian University
bmc.edu

Millsaps College
millsaps.edu

Mississippi Christian University
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.

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs)

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

Selective Colleges

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

QUICK TIPS

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

- **Coalition for College**
- **Common Black College Application®**
- **QuestBridge is a program that connects high-achieving, low-income high school seniors with top colleges and financial aid.**

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.

WHY IT MATTERS

WHY THIS MATTERS:
Binding applications limit your ability to compare financial aid offers. Ask questions before choosing this option.

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:

Stanford University	University of Georgia	Spring Hill College
MOST SELECTIVE	SOMEWHAT SELECTIVE	LESS SELECTIVE
53,733 Applied; 4% Admitted	43,419 Applied; 37% Admitted	2,279 Applied; 59% Admitted

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 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 a 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:

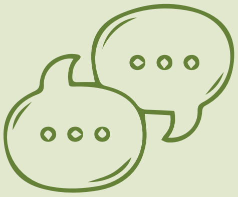
Cons

College 1:

College 2:

College 3:

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 there clinics on campus (health, pharmacy, mental health)?

Student Athletes

NCAA ELIGIBILITY: THINGS TO KNOW

1. Student-athletes must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center **(eligibilitycenter.org)** to play Division I or II in college. You should register with NCAA at the beginning of your junior year in high school.
2. The NCAA has three types of accounts: Profile Page, Academic & Amateurism, and Amateurism-Only. If you plan to play Division I or II, you must complete the Academic & Amateurism account (with payment or fee waiver) before receiving a scholarship or competing. **Note:** Division II allows official visits with a Profile Page, but requires the Academic & Amateurism account for aid or competition.
3. To register with the NCAA, you'll need an email, personal and educational information, sports history (teams, awards, coaches, and any marketing of your skills), and a $110 fee. The fee is waived if you qualify for free or reduced lunch.
4. You must send your high school transcript to the Eligibility Center account.
5. You should plan to update your athletic participation information on your account each semester until you get final certification of your status (usually around graduation time).

**Details are subject to change. Check eligibilitycenter.org for current information.*

College Divisions Explained

Division I:
Big schools with high-level competition. Full athletic scholarships are often available.

Division II:
Medium-sized schools that are competitive with some athletic scholarships available.

Division III:
Smaller schools that focus more on academics with no athletic scholarships available.

What are the NCAA colleges in Mississippi divisions?

DIVISION I
- ALCORN
- JACKSON STATE
- UNIVERSITY OF MS
- MS STATE
- MS VALLEY STATE
- UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MS

DIVISION II
- DELTA STATE
- MS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY (MC)

DIVISION III
- BELHAVEN
- MILLSAPS
- MS UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN (MUW)

You may find that some sports at these colleges compete in different divisions.

NAIA

The NAIA is a college athletics governing body for small, mainly private, colleges and universities across North America.

Which MS Colleges?

Blue Mountain Christian, Rust College, Tougaloo College, William Carey University

Things to Know

- Freshman eligibility is simple. NAIA has no core course requirements, and eligibility can be checked as early as the end of junior year.
- All student-athletes (high school or transfers) must register with the NAIA Eligibility Center **(PlayNAIA.org)** to play sports at an NAIA school.
- To register with the NAIA, you'll need your contact info, schools attended, sports history, ACT®/SAT® scores, and an official transcript from your counselor, plus a one-time $110 fee—fee waivers are available if you qualify for free or reduced lunch.
- In the NAIA, only amateur student-athletes can compete. This means you play for education, personal enjoyment, and love of the sport—not for money or other material rewards.

NJCAA

The NJCAA governs athletics at two-year colleges and has its own Division I, II, & III schools.

Which MS Colleges?

All Mississippi Community Colleges.

Things to Know

- To play in the NJCAA, you need to graduate high school (diploma, GED, or equivalent), take a full-time course load (usually 12 credits), and keep up good academic progress.
- You must keep your amateur status: no pro or semi-pro sports and no extra pay beyond sport-related expenses. This must continue after age 19 or once you enroll full-time—whichever comes first. Always check with your athletic director to be sure.
- Letter of Intent (LOI) is used by NJCAA, which commits you to one NJCAA school for a full year—once you sign, other schools must stop recruiting you.
- After junior year, student-athletes can take official visits, but they are only allowed one official visit per NJCAA school.

Takeaway:
NJCAA is not a fallback option. It's a strategic pathway to develop, compete, and transfer.

QUICK TIPS

Some smaller colleges are a part of other athletic associations, so don't be surprised if you hear about others outside of the NCAA, NAIA, or NJCAA.

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. These representatives may come from industries like tech, healthcare, business, public safety, and manufacturing. These events can help you get info, make connections, and ask the questions that matter to you.

COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR DO'S & DONT'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. Introduce yourself (first & last name, school and grade level).
2. Give the recruiter a firm handshake.
3. Ask about a specific program.
4. Make eye contact.
5. Get business cards from the recruiters and email them soon after the college event.

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 your phone.
5. Ask the recruiter to "tell you about their school" without specifying a field of interest.

What was the most surprising thing you 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.		

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.

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.

Competitive
Optimistic
Adventurous
Assertive
Witty
Energetic
You are a **persuader (P)**. Consider careers in sales, politics, entrepreneurship, or legal services.

Creative
Passionate
Impulsive
Expressive
Sensitive
Unconventional
You are a **creator (C)**. Look for careers in music, advertising, photography, or theater.

Independent
Curious
Self-Motivated
Thoughtful
Nonconforming
Critical
You are a **thinker (T)**. Contemplate jobs in industries like medicine, science, engineering, or computer technology.

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:

Serena Williams
Doer

Mr. Beast
Helper

Billie Eilish
Creator

Barack Obama
Persuader

STEP 2

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

Mississippi's Largest Companies

1. **Wal-Mart Associates Inc.**
   Statewide retail stores
   # of employees: 25,000+
   Employs: Persuaders, Organizers, Thinkers, Creators, and Doers

2. **Huntington Ingalls Inc.**
   Pascagoula
   # of employees: 11,000
   Employs: Doers, Thinkers, Organizers, and Persuaders

3. **North Mississippi Medical Center Inc.**
   Tupelo and regional hospitals
   # of employees: 7,200
   Employs: Helpers, Thinkers, Organizers, Persuaders, Creators, and Doers

4. **Nissan North America Inc.**
   Canton
   # of employees: 6,400
   Employs: Doers, Thinkers, Organizers, Persuaders, and Creators

5. **Ashley Furniture Industries Inc.**
   Ecru, Ripley, Verona, Saltillo, Tupelo
   # of employees: 6,000+
   Employs: Creators, Doers, Thinkers, and Organizers

6. **Amazon.com Services Inc.**
   Olive Branch, Byhalia, Jackson
   # of employees: 5,000-6,000
   Employs: Organizers, and Doers

7. **Peco Foods Inc.**
   West Point, Bay Springs, Sebastopol
   # of employees: 4,000-5,000
   Employs: Doers and Thinkers

8. **Sanderson Farms Inc.**
   Laurel, McComb, Hazlehurst
   # of employees: 4,600+
   Employs: Doers, Thinkers, Organizers, Persuaders, and Creators,

9. **Beau Rivage Resort & Casino Inc.**
   Biloxi
   # of employees: 4,000
   Employs: Persuaders, Organizers, Creators, and Doers

10. **Tyson Foods Inc.**
    Forest, Carthage, Union City region
    # of employees: 3,000-4,000
    Employs: Doers, Organizers, Creators, and Persuaders

11. **Koch Foods of MS LLC**
    Morton, Forest
    # of employees: 3,000-4,000
    Employs: Doers, Thinkers, Organizers, and Persuaders

12. **Dolgengroup LLC (Dollar General)**
    Statewide retail stores
    # of employees: 3,000-4,000
    Employs: Persuaders, Organizers, and Doers

13. **Howard Industries Inc.**
    Laurel
    # of employees: 3,700
    Employs: Doers, Thinkers, Organizers, Persuaders

14. **Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation**
    Olive Branch
    # of employees: 3,600
    Employs: Doers, Thinkers, Organizers, Persuaders, and Creators

15. **Lowes Home Centers Inc.**
    Statewide retail stores
    # of employees: 2,500-3,000
    Employs: Persuaders, Organizers, and Helpers

Source: Accelerate MS, 2026

In-demand & Growth Jobs in Mississippi

Sorted by highest demand.

Occupation Type	Avg. Salary	Education Level
Medical and Health Services Manager	$103,770	Bachelor's
Financial Managers	$123,590	Bachelor's
Software Developers	$87,990	Bachelor's
Industrial Engineers	$96,060	Bachelor's
Management Analysts	$88,590	Bachelor's
Computer & Info Systems Managers	$126,210	Certificate
General & Operations Manager	$112,540	Bachelor's
Construction Managers	$103,850	Bachelor's
Logisticians	$79,540	Bachelor's
Personal Financial Advisors	$154,090	Bachelor's
Transportation, Storage, & Distribution Managers	$88,420	Bachelor's
Project Management Specialists	$85,410	Bachelor's
Mechanical Engineers	$96,510	Bachelor's
Administrative Services Managers	$108,520	Certificate
Information Security Analysts	$89,910	Bachelor's
Electrical Engineers	$102,990	Bachelor's
Physical Therapist Assistants	$60,570	Associate

Scan the QR code to discover more careers

Source: Ithaka S+R
Date: 2026

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

CNA

Certified Nursing Assistant

- A certified nursing assistant (CNA) helps patients with direct health care needs, often under the supervision of a nurse. CNAs may also be called a nursing assistant, a nurse's aid, or a patient care assistant.
- Complete a 4-12 week certificate CNA training program.
- Can be completed during high school in some areas.
- Average salary: $31,750
- Average job openings in MS: 1,700

LPN

Licensed Practical Nurse

- A licensed practical nurse (LPN) is a nurse that performs basic medical tasks, including checking vital signs and feeding patients. LPNs work under the direction of registered nurses (RNs) and doctors.
- Practical nursing programs are three semester programs available at local community colleges where a vocational certificate is awarded.
- Average salary: $49,960
- Average job openings in MS: 743

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: $79,470
- Average job openings in MS: 1,856

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: $122,930
- Average job openings in MS: 396

WHY IT MATTERS

WHY THIS MATTERS:
Career ladders show how education can build over time. Starting at one level doesn't limit you — it can move you closer to your long-term goal.

Now to PREPARE

Are you on track for college success?

Terms to Know

Academic Resume
A document that focuses on your school life—classes, grades, projects, activities, leadership and academic awards. This can be used by colleges for admission applications, awarding scholarships, or acceptance into special programs.

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.

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.

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

Professional Resume
A document that focuses on work experience, job skills, and accomplishments related to a specific job.

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.

Requirements for College Admission

The type of college admission policy depends on the college.
Here are types for the colleges in Mississippi:

Open Admission

Colleges accept students on a rolling basis with no minimum GPA or test score requirement for those with a high school diploma or equivalency.

Rolling Admission

Admissions applications are evaluated as they are received versus waiting to evaluate all applications after a deadline.

Holistic Admission Review

Admission decisions consider multiple factors, including GPA, curriculum rigor, essay, and letters of recommendation.

PUBLIC 2-YEAR COLLEGES

All 15 of Mississippi's community colleges have an open admissions policy, which means they accept students on a rolling basis with no minimum GPA or test score requirement for those with a high school diploma or equivalency.

Transfer Admissions Options

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

OPTION 1

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

OPTION 2

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

OPTION 3

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC 4-YEAR COLLEGES

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 graduation 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®

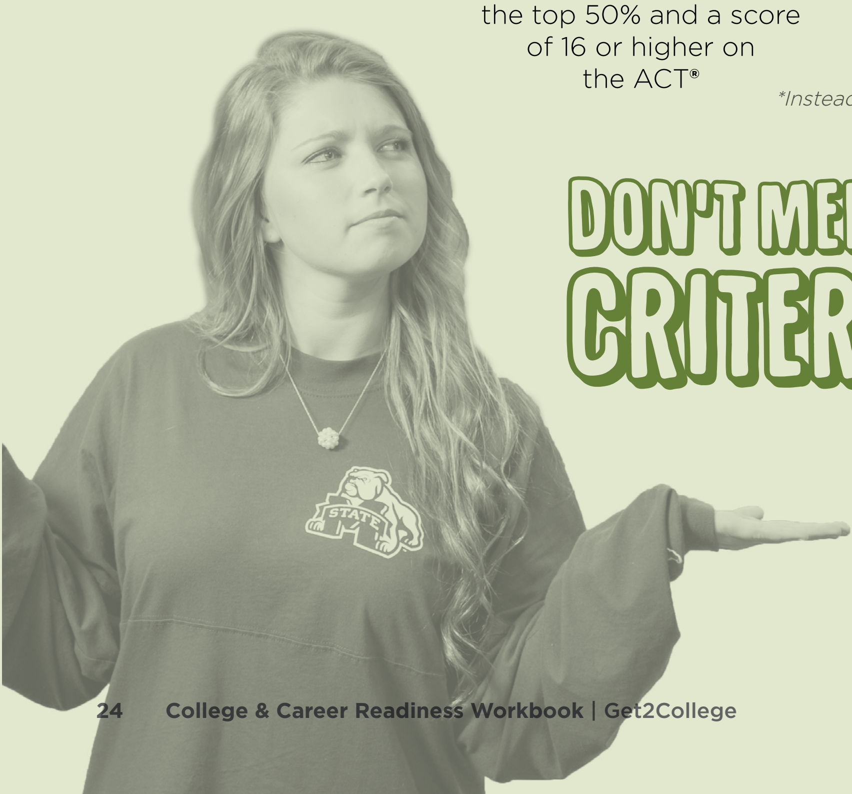
TRACK 4

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.

**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 4-year 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)

3 UNITS

SCIENCE

BIOLOGY I
or equivalent

SCIENCE HIGHER THAN BIOLOGY I
(2 units)

3 UNITS

SOCIAL STUDIES

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

1 UNIT

ARTS

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

2 UNITS

ADVANCED ELECTIVES

Option 1: Foreign Language I and II

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

Option 3: (1) Any combination of advanced electives above the required Carnegie units (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.

1 UNIT

TECHNOLOGY OR COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE

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

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

Psst.... Scan me!

PRIVACY.FLOWCODE.COM

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 use your GPA and ACT® score to award merit-based scholarships once you're admitted. Check the websites of the colleges you're considering and use the chart below to find the minimum GPA needed to qualify for scholarships.

College Name:
1. ____________________

Minimum GPA Required:
2. ____________________

ACT® Score:
3. ____________________

Scholarship Amount for that GPA and ACT®:
4. ____________________

College Name:
1. ____________________

Minimum GPA Required:
2. ____________________

ACT® Score:
3. ____________________

Scholarship Amount for that GPA and ACT®:
4. ____________________

College Name:
1. ____________________

Minimum GPA Required:
2. ____________________

ACT® Score:
3. ____________________

Scholarship Amount for that GPA and ACT®:
4. ____________________

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 36.

WHY THIS MATTERS:
Your GPA affects admission, scholarships, financial aid, graduation, and more.

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

How to Calculate my GPA

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

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.

$$\frac{\text{Key equivalent total of ALL classes}}{\text{Total number of ALL classes}} = \bigcirc$$

Your Cumulative GPA

COLLEGE PREP CURRICULUM REQUIRED CLASSES

English Courses	Letter Grade	Key Equivalent
English I		
English II		

Math Courses	Letter Grade	Key Equivalent
Algebra I		

Science Courses	Letter Grade	Key Equivalent
Biology I		

Social Studies Courses	Letter Grade	Key Equivalent
US History		
World History		

Art Course	Letter Grade	Key Equivalent

Advanced Electives	Letter Grade	Key Equivalent

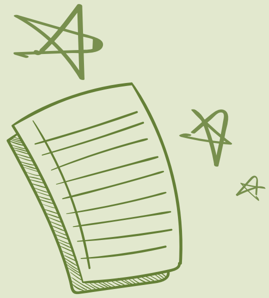
Technology Course	Letter Grade	Key Equivalent

Other Classes	Letter Grade	Key Equivalent

Total number of ALL classes = ______

Total of all classes key equivalent = ______

RESUME BUILDING



You'll use resumes in more places than you might expect—applying to colleges, scholarships, and jobs. This page is your space to brainstorm for both an academic and professional resume—who's in your network that can help you gain opportunities, and all the activities, experiences, and accomplishments that deserve a spot on your resumes.

Who I know	Opportunities they can connect me to
Pastor	*They know a lot of business owners in the community that attend the church and could connect me to job opportunities.*

Power verbs

Use these verbs in your 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
Mississippi Food Network	*Jackson, MS*	*May 3rd-May 6th*	*12 hours*

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	Years participated	Positions held
Band	*Three*	*Section Leader*
Duties	**Awards/Honors**	
Lead marching practice	*Willis High School jazz award for solo*	

Activity 1

Activity	Years participated	Positions held
Duties	**Awards/Honors**	

Activity 2

Activity	Years participated	Positions held
Duties	**Awards/Honors**	

You've done the planning—now it's time to build something real. Scan the QR code to customize a resume template and bring your ideas to life.

Scan the QR code to customize a resume template!

Work Experience

1. Place of employment

Years worked

Positions held

Duties

2. Place of employment

Years worked

Positions held

Duties

Angela Q. Redwood
Ocean Springs, MS
aqredwood@gmail.com | 123.456.6789

Education
Ocean Springs High School
Ocean Springs, MS

Expected Graduation: May 2027
GPA: 3.74 • Rank in Class: 22 of 379
ACT Superscore: 23

Activities
- High school Symphonic and Jazz Bands (2024 - Present)
  Band Section Leader (2025 - Present)
- Gulf Coast Band Director's Association (GCBDA) Clinic (2023 - 2026)
- Puppet Crisis Founder and Bass Guitar Player (2024 - 2025)

Awards
- Nominated for membership in the National Society of High School Scholars (2026)
- Selected to attend National Youth Leadership Conference and Forum on Medicine (2026)
- Assemblies of God State & National Fine Arts Competition & Performance, Louisville, KY (2024)
  1st and 2nd places: Saxophone solo, choir, drums for Praise & Workshop Band

Community Service
- Humane Society of South Mississippi
  Gulfport, MS (2026 - Present) Total Hours: 45
- Youth Christian Assembly
  Biloxi, MS (February 2025) Total Hours: 25
- Hearts & Hands Homeless Ministry
  (2023 - 2024) Total Hours: 220

Work Experience
- Seasonal Worker
  Aarons Music Shop | (2024 - 2025)
  - Polished instruments
  - Assisted with customer service
  - Maintained and managed instrument inventory
  - Managed customer profiles and newsletter

SAMPLE

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.

ACT® WorkKeys® Career Readiness Certificate

ACT® WorkKeys® are assessments that measure "real world" skills required for success in the workplace. You can earn your National Career Readiness (NCRC®), an assessment-based credential issued at four levels: Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Your ACT® WorkKeys® certificate level is based on your lowest score, and you can retake just one section to earn a higher certificate.

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

- Applied Math
- Workplace Documents
- Graphic Literacy

QUICK TIPS

Make sure to include your NCRC® level on your professional résumé—it shows employers your skills and readiness to work.

NCRC® Skill Levels

3

BRONZE
LEVEL 3
score minimum on all assessments

Relevant Occupations

Auto Body Repair Technician

Veterinary Assistant

Pharmacy Aide

4

SILVER
LEVEL 4
score minimum on all assessments

Relevant Occupations

Administrative Manager

Medical Assistant

Engineering Technician

5

GOLD
LEVEL 5
score minimum on all assessments

Relevant Occupations

School Counselor

Pharmacy Technician

Electrician

6

PLATINUM
LEVEL 6
score minimum on all assessments

Relevant Occupations

Accountant

Sales Manager

Registered Nurse Manager

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.

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®

WHY IT MATTERS

WHY THIS MATTERS:
These requirements explain some pathways to college. Many students begin in non-credit workforce training program, enroll at community college or career program, and transfer later.

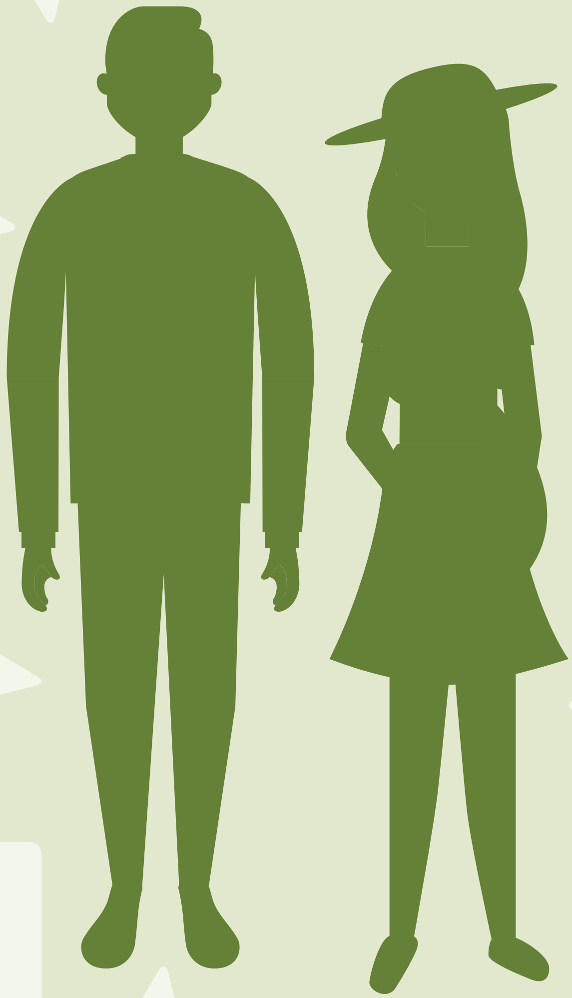
Build your personal statement

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

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

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 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 OR PROGRAM IN COLLEGE?

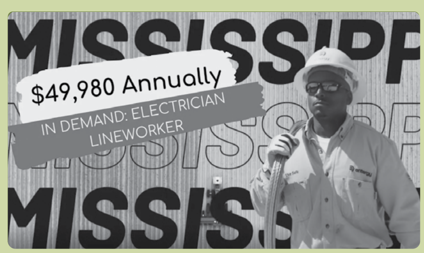
The O*NET Interest Profiler is a free career interest survey that can help you discover your academic interests and how they relate to the kinds of careers you might want to explore. After you complete the survey, your next step is to job shadow in your desired field to get a better understanding of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

bit.ly/onetcareersurvey

STILL FEELING STUCK?

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

YouTube SPOTLIGHT



Find us on YouTube
@Get2College!

Prepare to Apply to College

Before Applying Checklist:

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

☐ 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

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

WHY IT MATTERS:
After you apply, colleges communicate mostly by email and student portals. Check these often.

Time to Apply!

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

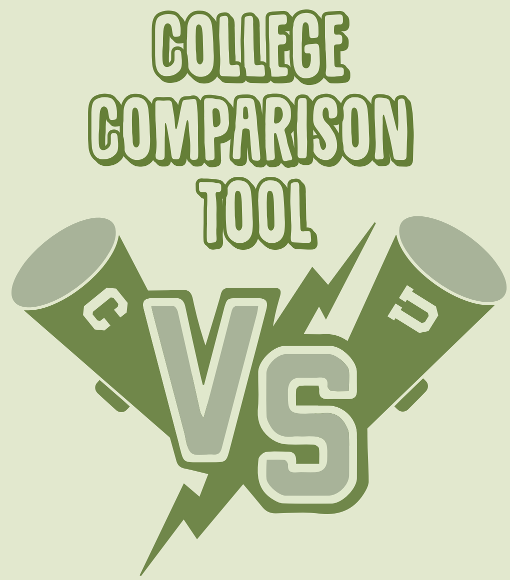
____

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

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

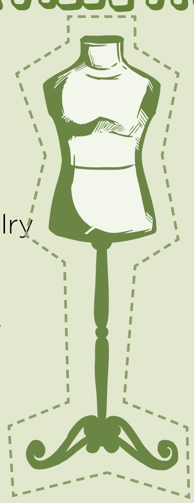
- What does persistence mean to you? Describe an example of persistence you've experienced in your life.
- How might admission at *(insert college name)* contribute most to your development as a scholar or leader?
- Provide an example of your most significant leadership experience and why it is important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

Job interview

- 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 within a team setting?

Know your value and speak up with confidence—when the time is right, clearly and respectfully share your pay expectations so you can advocate for yourself while staying professional.

INTERVIEW ATTIRE:



Business professional

Suit with jacket

Tie or simple jewelry

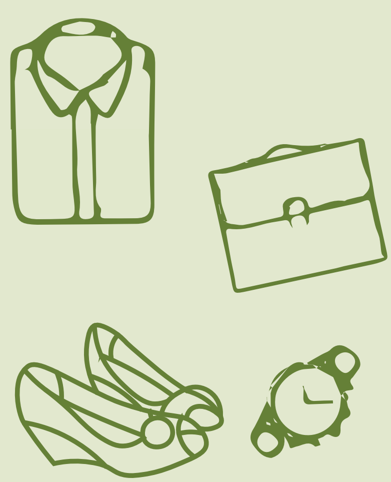
Dress shoes or comfortable heels

Business casual

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

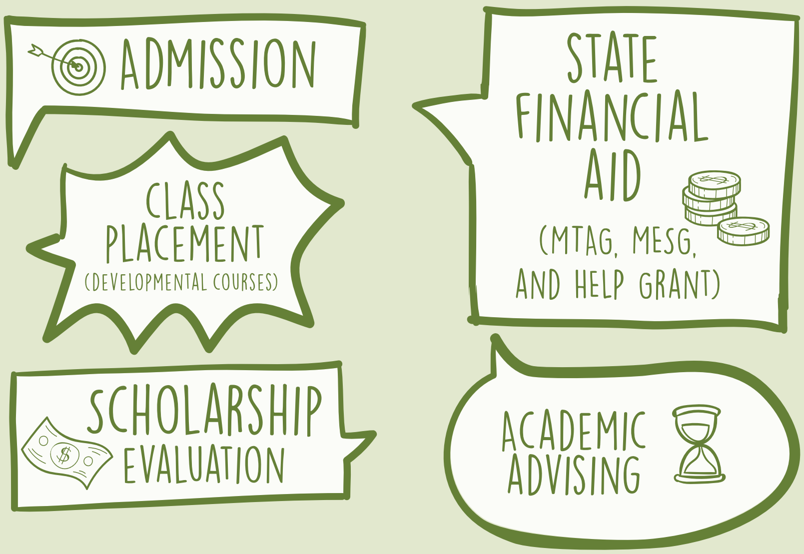
Dress pants/ pressed skirt

Professional shoes- loafers, dress shoes, pumps, flats



The ACT® & SAT®

ACT® or SAT® scores are requested by most colleges and universities as a part of the admission or financial aid 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**

ACT® TEST DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION
Sept 19, 2026	Aug 14	Sept 1
Oct 17, 2026	Sept 11	Sept 29
Dec 12, 2026	Nov 6	Nov 29
Feb 27, 2027	Jan 22	Feb 9
April 10, 2027	Mar 5	March 23
June 12, 2027	May 7	May 25
July 10, 2027	June 4	June 22

**ACT® prices and fees are subject to change. See act.org for more details.*

ACT® Fees*

ACT®, no writing	$70.00
ACT®, plus writing	$95.00
Late Fee	$42.00
Standby Testing	$75.00
Change Fee	$49.00
Science Add-On Fee	$5.00

ACT® for Free

Two 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 34.

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 for more details. ACT® My Answer Key is $36.00 before the test date and $44.00 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

For top college pick

For 2nd college pick

For 3rd college pick

REMEMBER!

THE ACT® IS A TIMED TEST!

What is a 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 $20 per test date per report.

It's Test Time!

Waiver?	Test date	ACT® prep?	Composite score	Subscores
☐	______________	☐ Y ☐ N	______________	E_____ M_____ R_____
☐	______________	☐ Y ☐ N	______________	E_____ M_____ R_____
☐	______________	☐ Y ☐ N	______________	E_____ M_____ R_____
☐	______________	☐ Y ☐ N	______________	E_____ M_____ R_____

Superscore highest: E_____ M_____ R_____

ABOUT WAIVERS

Two 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.

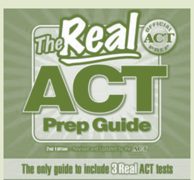
Websites

Get2College ACT® resources
Scan QR code to learn more

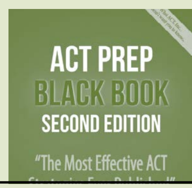
Kaplan and ACT® Test Prep
Visit the link below to learn more
bit.ly/ACTKaplan

If you use a fee waiver to register for the test, some of this prep is free.

Books



The Real ACT®
Prep Guide
(The Red Book)



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

Mobile Apps

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

ACT® Prep & Practice *by Magoosh*

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 to register for an upcoming workshop!

TAKE THE ACT® ONLINE!

ACT® offers the 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

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.

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 TIRED! 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.

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.

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 <u>matters</u> 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

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

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.

How to Use Technology for Test Prep

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Create a custom study schedule to help you find time to dedicate towards studying.

PROMPT

Help me create a custom study schedule for 10 hours a week in the evenings and only one weekend day.

Ask to generate practice questions.

PROMPT

Create a short ACT® practice set with 5 questions from each section (English, Math, Reading, Science). Do not solve them until I ask.

Get help with study time management.

PROMPT

Give me a realistic daily routine that helps me manage my time and stay on track with ACT® prep.

Reviewing work you have already done.

PROMPT

Can you give feedback on my practice essay so it is impactful and concise.

Create study tools.

PROMPT

Create flashcards to help me review SAT® vocabulary.

YOUTUBE

Do you learn better by seeing an example?

Check out YouTube! Here are some phrases to search:

- How to manage time on ACT® test
- Test anxiety tips for students
- Test taking tips that actually work

USING AI THE RIGHT WAY

AI can help you prepare for tests ***if you use it responsibly***. Keep these rules in mind:

Use AI to **help you understand**, not to do the thinking for you.

Do not use AI during tests, quizzes, or graded assignments unless your teacher says it's okay.

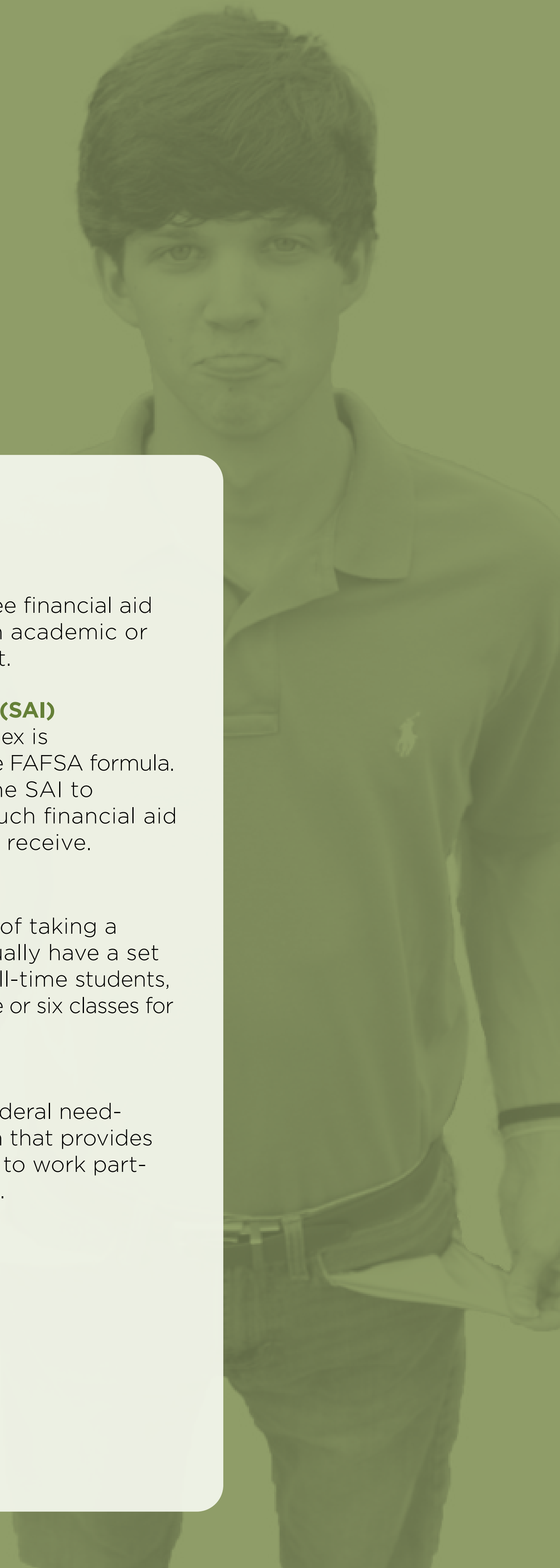
Always follow your **school rules and testing policies.**

Think of AI as a **study partner or tutor**, not a shortcut to answers.

Remember: If AI is doing the work for you, you're not actually learning—and that will show on test day.

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.

FAFSA
The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is used by colleges to determine how much financial aid you're eligible to receive, which could include grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans.

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.

MAAPP
The Mississippi Aid Application is a state financial aid application used by Mississippi to determine eligibility for certain state-funded financial aid.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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 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**

Many private scholarships require essays.

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.

GET2COLLEGE Scholarship Search

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

bit.ly/G2Cscholarships

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.

College Aid

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

Even if you took dual enrollment classes in high school, once you graduate, you are still considered a first-time freshman when you start college for financial aid purposes.

CSS PROFILE

The CSS Profile is an online financial aid form used by some colleges to decide how much school-based (non-federal) financial aid you can receive, and it usually asks for more detailed family financial information than the FAFSA. Some colleges in the southeast that require the CSS profile are:

Rhodes **Samford** **Vanderbilt**

Tulane **Emory**

Find the colleges that require the CCS profile on the College Board website:

ARE YOU A PART OF A MILITARY FAMILY?

If so, you could be eligible for some GI Bill benefits to help pay for college. Make sure to contact the college's Veterans Affairs office to learn more.

PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

TAKING DUAL ENROLLMENT?

Dual enrollment courses are considered earned college credits. Your college GPA begins with any dual enrollment coursework, so it's important to take these classes seriously and study hard! You may receive an invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society because of your grades from your dual enrollment courses.

This is a big accomplishment! Check with the college you are doing dual enrollment with to see about their PTK chapter eligibility.

Scholarships are available to high-achieving community college students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university. Ask your college recruiter about PTK scholarship options if you plan to attend a community college or are a high school member.

THE FAFSA IS USED FOR COLLEGE AID TOO!

Colleges also use the information from the FAFSA to award their own financial need-based scholarships and grants. This need-based financial aid is unique to the college and to you. Learn more about the FAFSA on the next page!

Federal Student Aid

StudentAid.gov

The Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) opens each year on October 1 (of your senior year) at 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*

QUICK TIPS

TAX RETURN CLAIMING NEVER MATTERS!

If your parents aren't married 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.

DOCUMENTS YOU NEED

(for starting college fall 2027)

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
- 2025 W-2 forms and other records of money earned
- 2025 Federal Income Tax Return (the 1040 form). If your parents or parent and step-parent file separately, have copies of both
- Alien Registration Number or Green Card (if applicable)

IMPORTANT NOTE

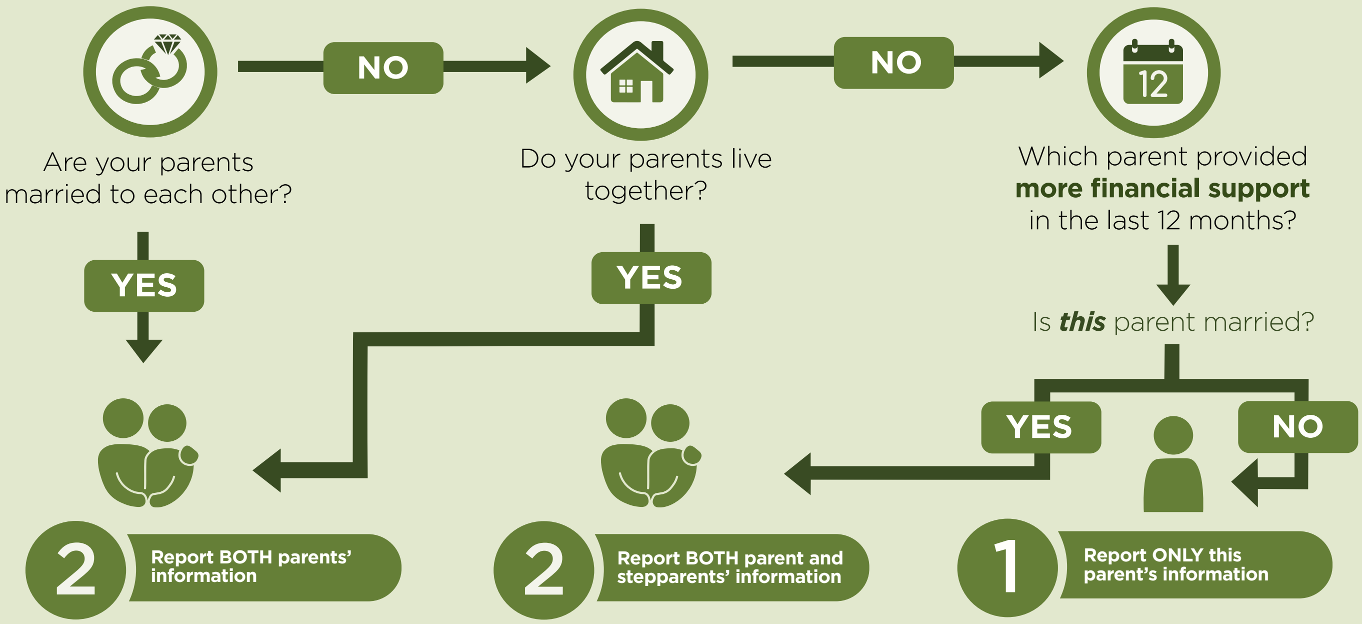
Do not use information from a grandparent, aunt, or anyone other than a parent unless you have been legally adopted (even if someone else claims you on the federal tax return).

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.

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.



Financial Aid Data Sheet

Use this sheet to record the required StudentAid.gov account 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:

Name: ____

Username: ____

Password: ____

Email: ____

Cell Phone: ____________________ Backup Code: ____________________

CONTRIBUTOR'S ACCOUNT:

Name: ____

Username: ____

Password: ____

Email: ____

Cell Phone: ____________________ Backup Code: ____________________

CONTRIBUTOR'S ACCOUNT:

Name: ____

Username: ____

Password: ____

Email: ____

Cell Phone: ____________________ Backup Code: ____________________

NOW WHAT DO I DO?

What to do after submitting your FAFSA

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, *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.
formswift.com/swift-student

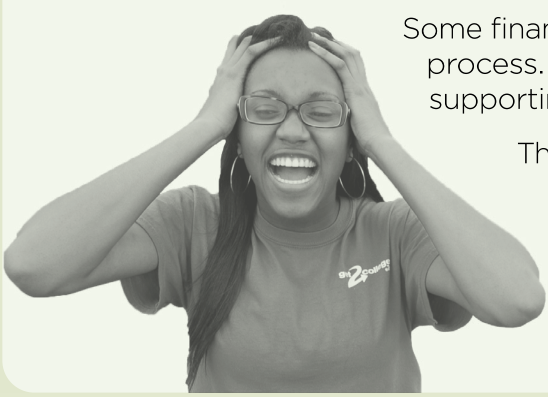
Federal Student Aid

Got questions about your FAFSA or StudentAid.gov account? Call 1.800.4FEDAID (1.800.433.3243)

IMPORTANT INFO FOR YOU

Visit our website to learn more about scholarship opportunities.
bit.ly/G2Cscholarships

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 offer 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.

Mississippi Aid Application (MAAPP)

msfinancialaid.org

The Mississippi Aid Application (MAAPP) opens each year on October 1 at msfinancialaid.org.

MISSISSIPPI OFFICE *of* STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

MTAG - Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant

Application deadline: September 15 (after graduation), **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 in at least 12 hours**

MESG - Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant

Application deadline: September 15 (after graduation), **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 in at least 12 hours**

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

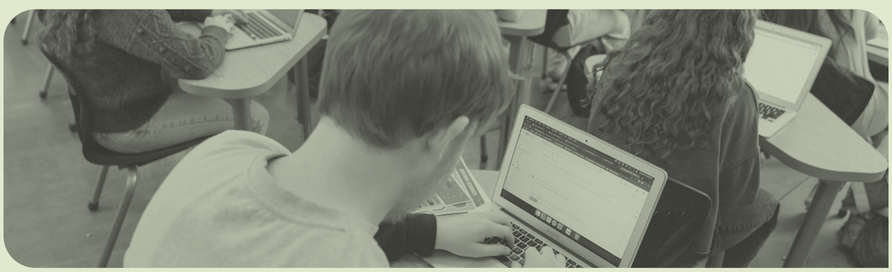
HELP - Higher Education Legislative Plan

Application deadline: March 31 (before graduation), **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
- Meet the HELP grant income requirements which can be found online at msfinancialaid.org/help
- Be Pell Grant-eligible
- **Must apply within one year of high school graduation and enroll in at least 12 hours**



Are you getting Missing Documents emails from Student Financial Aid?
Check your MAAPP dashboard at msfinancialaid.org for more information!

Mississippi Aid Application
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 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?

- [ ] Immediately after applying, check you email to create your MAAPP username and password.
- [ ] 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 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'll receive a financial aid offer from colleges that admit you, showing the money you can get—like grants, scholarships, work-study, or loans—and how to accept it. Review each offer carefully, decide what to accept or decline, and follow the school's next steps (usually online, sometimes by mail).

Sample financial aid offer

Estimated Cost of Attendance	**$25,000**
Student Aid Index	**-0**
Total Financial Need	**$25,000**

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	( )	(✓)	( ) ______
TOTAL			**$24,493**			

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK!

College emails can pile up fast, so set up an email system early and keep track of your login information for college portals. You'll typically receive financial aid offers through your student portal in the spring of senior year, with Mississippi Aid (HELP Grant, MTAG, MESG) added late summer, so check regularly to understand your full grants and scholarships before deciding if loans are needed.

If there is still a balance after student aid is applied, parents can choose to apply for a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan to help cover the remaining cost. For more information, visit StudentAid.gov.

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.

Loan Limits

Your college determines the loan type(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.

	DEPENDENT STUDENT	INDEPENDENT STUDENT
Freshman Year	**$5,500** ($3,500 subsidized + $2,000 unsubsidized)	**$9,500** ($3,500 subsidized + $6,000 unsubsidized)
Sophomore Year	**$6,500** ($4,500 subsidized + $2,000 unsubsidized)	**$10,500** ($4,500 subsidized + $6,000 unsubsidized)
Junior + Senior Year	**$7,500** ($5,500 subsidized + $2,000 unsubsidized)	**$12,500** ($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** 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 U.S. Department of Education will provide the MPN.

GET2COLLEGE

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT CALCULATOR

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
COST OF ATTENDANCE	School 1	School 2	School 3
Tuition & Fees (9 months)			
Housing & Meal Plan	+	+	+
Books & Supplies	+	+	+
Personal Expenses	+	+	+
Transportation Expenses	+	+	+
Miscellaneous Expenses	+	+	+
TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)	=	=	=
STUDENT AID INDEX (SAI) *Amount the FAFSA estimates you will pay.*	-	-	-
FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY *Subtract your SAI from your COA*	=	=	=
FINANCIAL AID (PER YEAR) *Find this listing on your financial aid offer*			
Federal Pell Grant	+	+	+
Federal SEOG Grant (varies by college)	+	+	+
Mississippi grant	+	+	+
College grants & scholarships	+	+	+
Other grants & scholarships	+	+	+
Federal Work-Study	+	+	+
Loans *Money that has to be paid back*			
Federal Direct Loan - Subsidized	+	+	+
Federal Direct Loan - Unsubsidized	+	+	+
Federal Parent PLUS Loan	+	+	+
TOTAL FINANCIAL AID AWARDED	=	=	=
YOUR UNMET NEED *Financial Aid Eligibility minus total Financial Aid Awarded*	=	=	=
YOUR OUT-OF-POCKET COST *SAI plus your unmet need*	=	=	=

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.

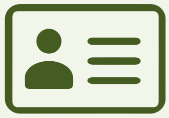
3

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.

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. Buy used or rent textbooks and sell back when possible.
4. Use public transportation or carpool.
5. Limit eating out— cook or use your meal plan.
6. Look for job opportunities.
7. Take advantage of free campus activities.
8. Shop second hand and thrift.

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.

Student Services Office
May be known as different names such as student support or success. This office helps with advising or connecting with other campus resources.

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
College orientation usually happens in the summer, and spots are limited. During orientation, you'll register for classes, meet advisors and students, and prepare for the semester—so choose the earliest date possible to get the best class options, and reschedule quickly if you miss it.

COURSE REGISTRATION
Get to know your college advisor, who will help guide your course selection. All students must complete general education requirements, which allow undecided freshmen to explore different fields of study.

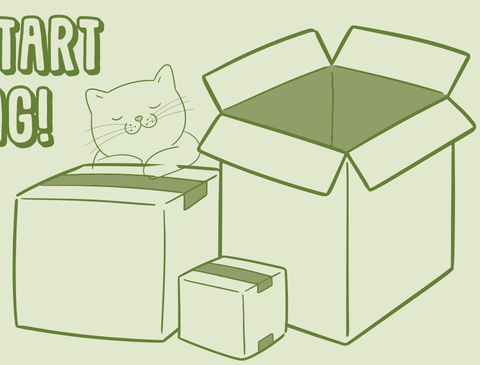
BUYING BOOKS
After registering for classes, you'll get a list of required books. The campus bookstore is convenient but often expensive, so check options like rentals or digital textbooks and buy smart.

SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAMS
These programs let you live on campus over the summer, get comfortable with your classes, meet staff and other students, and learn your way around before fall gets busy. Ask your admission counselor if your college offers a summer bridge program.

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!



get2college
WOODWARD HINES EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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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!

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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
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nms@get2college.org

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