EXPERIENCE A LEADING UNIVERSITY THAT FEELS LIKE HOME.

- An Ole Miss education is ranked as one of America’s Best College Buys by Forbes magazine. You can compete for prestigious scholarships and save for graduate school.
- Our top-ranked Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College offers small, seminar-style classes and college-sponsored travel opportunities.
- With more than 200 areas of study, such as forensic chemistry, Chinese and Southern studies, we’ve got a major you.
- Ole Miss offers a number of elite programs such as the Center for Manufacturing Excellence, Lott Leadership Institute and Croft Institute for International Studies.
- Ole Miss encourages leadership through service, and lots of students are happy to help. For example, more than 3,000 students volunteered for The Big Event, a one-day community service project.
- Our campus was named “most beautiful” by Newsweek, and Oxford was featured as “one of the coolest towns in America” in Travel + Leisure.
- The Ole Miss campus is one of the safest in the SEC and ranks in the top 30 in the nation.
- You’ve never seen anything like game day in Oxford. Tailgating in the Grove is unrivaled.

Schedule a visit today and experience Ole Miss firsthand. Go to www.olemiss.edu/visitolemiss or call 662-915-7226.
ECONOMIC IMPERATIVE

- 24% of Mississippi adults have some college but no degree
- 29.9% of Mississippi working-age adults hold an Associate’s degree or higher
- 54% of Mississippi jobs will require training or education beyond high school by 2018

PROJECT IMPACT

- Interacted with 177,468 students, parents and school staff during workshops, community events, presentations and exhibits.
- Distributed 232,252 post-secondary education planning and preparation publications to students, parents and community events.
- Provided professional development opportunities to 2,385 counselors and teachers.
- Assisted 3,747 students with FAFSA completion.
- Delivered College Knowledge Toolkits to 522 counselors and librarians.

PROJECT SERVICES

- Middle School Outreach
- College Access Website and Transfer Tool
- Community Partnership Building
- Professional Development

TARGET AUDIENCES

- First Generation students
- Low-income students
- Parents
- Teachers
- Community Leaders

PUBLICATIONS

For more information, contact Marsha Watson, College Knowledge Project Director, at 601-432-6177 or mwatson@mississippi.edu.
Dear Students:

In high school, defining success is easy: getting an ‘A’ in class, being named first chair in the band or being a starter on the football team are just a few ways that you can succeed in high school. Once you become an adult, success becomes more difficult to define. Is success defined by the title you have? The company or organization that employs you? The amount of money you earn?

Those running for public office define success by winning elections. Athletes define it by winning championships and setting records. However you define success, there is a common denominator in every form of success from a gold medal to a presidential election: Hard work.

Hard work, determination and an unwavering belief in yourself are the key ingredients that will make success—in any form—possible. There is no doubt that education, beginning with earning a high school diploma, is the cornerstone on which all success is built.

I urge you to mix hard work, determination and self-confidence into every facet of your life and see where success takes you. I am certain it will give you the most fulfilling kind of success: knowing you made a difference in the world.

Good luck as you complete your high school career and embark on the next chapter of success in your life!

Hank M. Bounds, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education
At every graduation, and with each diploma, Baptist College of Health Sciences changes a life. Each degree from Baptist goes on to change more lives. For one hundred years, our graduates have touched many lives with dedication, expertise and compassion.
How To Choose A College Or University

What kind of degree is appropriate for my interests/goals?
- Bachelor’s degree (Bachelor of Arts or Science) – generally 4 years
- Associate’s degree (Associate of Arts or Applied Science) – generally 2 years
- Certificate Program (related to specific occupation, generally less than 1 year)

What kind of school interests me?
- Public or private
- Community college or 4-year college or university
- Historically black
- All-male or female student body
- Religious affiliation
- Military academy

What special opportunities are available for me?
- Honors programs
- Special services for students with learning and physical disabilities
- Athletic participation at varsity/NCAA level
- Study-abroad programs
- Student organizations and clubs
- Fraternities and sororities
- Internship programs

What majors are offered by the school, and for what academic programs is it known?
- What are the job-placement rates in your areas of interest?
- What are graduates doing 5 years out? 10 years out and more?
- What is the acceptance rate into medical school, law school, and graduate school?

Can I get in?
- Admission to Mississippi’s eight public universities is guaranteed with successful completion of the college prep curriculum with specific GPA and test score requirements.
- Community colleges offer open admission to any high school graduate or GED recipient.
- Nationwide, 70% of high school seniors are accepted at their first-choice school.
- Compare the median ACT and SAT scores of incoming students of your top schools.

Where do I want to live?
- Urban, suburban, or rural area
- Live at home and commute
- Move away from home and live on campus

What about cost and financial aid?
- What is the annual cost of attendance, including room and board?
- What is the availability of financial aid and scholarships?
- What percentage of students receive financial aid and merit-based scholarships?

How large is the student body?
- What is the student-to-faculty ratio?
- What is the average class size?
- What is the student-to-faculty ratio?
- How many states and foreign countries are represented?
- What percentage of students are minorities?

Have you made a campus visit? The best visit may include:
- Meeting with an admission counselor
- Taking a campus tour
- Sitting in on a class
- Having lunch with current students
- Meeting faculty or staff who teach or work in your interest areas

As you explore all the different colleges and universities, ask lots of questions. Visit school websites, request brochures and catalogues, and talk to admissions and financial aid staff.
College Tour Trips for High Schools

By Salem Chism

College recruitment experts have said that if you can imagine yourself eating in the college’s cafeteria, then that college probably is a fit for you. However, it usually takes more than the cafeteria to convince a student to apply or enroll. Group tours are an effective way for high school students to experience a typical day on a college campus. While individual tours are available at almost every college through a simple scheduling process, group tours require a bit more planning. The admissions offices at various private and public universities, however, are eager to assist you in planning your group’s tour.

The majority of private and public universities offer group tours through earlier scheduling. The University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University, University of Southern Mississippi, and the University of Alabama are no exception. Most tours begin with a brief welcome and information session where students are invited to listen and ask questions regarding the university and its accomplishments. Following this meeting, students are generally led on a guided campus tour where they are invited to view classrooms, gymnasiums and fitness centers, cafeterias, and, often, residential dorms. The length of the tour, as well as the amount of detailed information, varies for groups differing in age, size, and overall interest in the college. However, information packets, brochures, and access to an admissions representative are always available.

Jake Donald, associate director of admissions at Belhaven, says the university will award a $1000/year scholarship to enrolling students who have formally visited campus.

At Millsaps, groups truly have a tailor-made tour. Students and advisors are invited to eat lunch in the cafeteria for $5 per person, and, afterwards, shop in the bookstore for Millsaps gear. Smaller groups of older students are invited to sit in on a class to experience what college would be like at Millsaps.

Tulane University in New Orleans offers convenient online scheduling for group tours. Students can enjoy a trip to the Big Easy if reservations are made at least four weeks in advance. Tulane does not allow groups of over 60 people. In addition, there are no tours conducted over the weekend or from mid-March to the end of April. If a traditional campus tour lacks luster, Tulane offers a self-guided tour. For more information, or to schedule a tour, visit http://admission.tulane.edu/visit/grouptours.php.

Cline Tours

- Highly Experienced in:
  - School Trips / Sports Trips
  - Choral / Band Festivals
  - Company Trips / Meetings
  - Boy / Girl Scouts Trips
  - Corporate / Church / School Shuttles
  - Family Reunions / Weddings
  - Church Functions

- Customized trips across the U.S. since 1983

- Four Locations: Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee
Rhodes College in Memphis requires that there is one chaperone per every five students. Students will be split into smaller groups of ten that will be led by guides at Rhodes—this assures a personable visit! Students have the opportunity to look inside the library, shop in the bookstore, and visit one of Rhodes’ unique casual dining facilities, the Lynx Lair. Mariam Ebeid, who will attend Rhodes as a freshman in the fall, said, “I knew Rhodes was the place for me because I didn’t feel like I was just a number. I spoke with the president while I was there, and he later called me. The students and teachers were very welcoming, and I felt as though the faculty was especially concerned with helping me succeed not only in college but also after I graduate.” She added that her numerous college visits allowed her to ask questions and further narrow her college preferences.

Kandi Walker, an upcoming sophomore at Boston University, said that after a while, the organized college visits and tours began to run together. It wasn’t until she visited Boston University that she realized, “I could really picture myself here.” She adds, “I kept other things in mind, such as the strength of a certain school’s programs for my major…but the overall atmosphere was equally, if not more, important to me.”

As a whole, colleges and universities are eager to host you and your group on campus for an information session, tour, and additional activities. To schedule any such activities, contact the specific school’s office of admissions.

Additionally, should you wish to tour a few college campuses all in one trip without the hassle of travel arrangements, a charter bus service company may be a unique and safe way to do just that. According to John McCommon, owner of Cline Tours, Inc., a customized trip can be designed based on your group’s specifications, allowing for a comprehensive but tailored visit to colleges of choice.

Salem Chism, after visiting MANY colleges, will leave Ridgeland, MS, for New York University in the fall.

**STUDENTS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO:**
- Ask questions! This could be your future home for the next few years. Don’t be shy!
- Fill out MANY contact cards so colleges can keep in touch and send you information about applying, etc. Bring a pen!
- Walk a lot. College campuses are much larger than high school campuses!
- Buy gear from your favorite schools. Show school spirit early!
- Keep an open mind and be polite. First impressions last a lifetime!

**IS THIS SCHOOL FOR ME? Think about…**
- The majors offered
- The most well known department
- Student research opportunities
- Available scholarships
- Financial aid
- Opportunities for club or intercollegiate sports
- Student publications
- Internship availabilities
- Study-abroad options
- Quality of dorms and guarantee of on-campus living
- Greek life
- Deadlines for applying
HOW CAN YOU MAKE College a Reality FOR YOUR KIDS?

Visit Riseupms.com to find out about schools, majors, careers, and financial aid. It’s the knowledge to get to college.
Homeschool Documentation for Higher Education

by Natalie Winningham

Home educators in Mississippi consider themselves fortunate to live in a relatively regulation-free state. There is no oversight in regard to educational materials, testing, reporting, and tracking of school-aged children who learn at home. This allows families to customize their children’s educational experiences and pursue many different avenues of learning without having to stay within a set of mandated parameters.

However, when a homeschool student begins high-school-level courses, many families start preparing for college with a focus on the bigger picture and the transition to a more traditional learning environment. At the very least, this may include preparing for standardized tests, maintaining a transcript, and the completion of high-school-level prerequisites to meet college admissions criteria.

Documentation of academic and educational history is an important consideration for college-bound homeschoolers. Unless they are enrolled in an accredited online curriculum, they are not issued an official transcript for their classes. Many colleges and universities have streamlined the admissions process to include a Common Form transcript which can be filled out, notarized, and confirmed through affiliations and personal recommendations.

In lieu of a Common Form, many homeschooling parents may participate in online transcript-writing seminars, purchase software like TranscriptPro, or hire professional transcript writers. Most simply, students and parents can access free online samples of homeschool transcripts, choose one that best reflects the student’s educational experiences, and use it as a model to customize a document for the graduate.

Some students may elect to get their General Equivalency Diploma (GED), but ACT or SAT scores that demonstrate a corresponding level of mastery are often accepted in place of a diploma.

Interestingly, not all schools will request the same forms of documentation from homeschoolers. State universities seem to focus primarily on standard predictors of performance like transcripts, test scores, admissions essays, and interviews. In this case, the more a homeschool applicant’s documentation conforms to standard procedures, the more likely it will move through the application process.

Private colleges are more willing to consider less-traditional credentials from non-traditional students, which allows homeschoolers to accentuate their strengths and varied experiences. Liberal arts universities are especially attracted to homeschool graduates and will often be more accommodating to entice homeschool graduates to attend.

June McIntosh has homeschooled her five children in several states, including Mississippi. Her twin daughters, Ellen and Jessie, graduated in May with BA’s in theatre from two different private colleges. Jessie attended University of Dallas in Texas, and Ellen stayed in Mississippi to go to Millsaps College.

“Both girls prepared extensive portfolios to gain admission,” McIntosh explains. “Ellen, for example, included an extensive theatre resume, an extracurricular resume, and examples of artwork she’d done, as well as a list of all the books she’d read in high school, all the plays she’d seen, and all the historical sites, museums, art galleries, etc., she’d visited. She also included photos from plays she’d directed.

“Establishing a relationship with an admissions person early on is good,” she says. “The Lehigh University counselor who met my son Andrew at a college fair in his freshman year kept talking to him every year and found him an additional scholarship from the theatre department—which didn’t actually exist until she pulled a few strings.”

When parents document their children’s educational performance and history, it is an opportunity to also promote the unique experiences home education has afforded them as well as demonstrate what kinds of students these homeschool graduates will become by putting this information directly in the hands of decision-makers.

“Admissions departments, particularly at private schools, will review anything you send them,” McIntosh concludes, “and the more you send them aside from the usual transcript/scores, the more they’ll take it into account.”

Natalie Winningham lives in D’Lo with her family, where she writes, homeschools, and volunteers in her community. She is also the founder of Parent Educators and Kids (PEAK) Homeschool Network, a member-led organization serving families in Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas. She can be reached at natalie.winningham.writer@gmail.com.
Jumping the Gap Between High School and College: Students with Disabilities and the Transition to Higher Education

by Stacey Reycraft

According to an October 2009 U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) report titled “Higher Education and Disability: Education Needs a Coordinated Approach to Improve Its Assistance to Schools in Supporting Students,” approximately 10% of college students identify as having a disability. Providers of disability services in higher education expect this percentage has increased because of continued advancements in health care treatment and medication, as well as the recent amendment to the Americans with Disabilities Act, which expands the definition of disability and “major life activities.”

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, supported by the Americans with Disabilities Act, requires all colleges and universities that accept federal funds to have an office or a person to provide assistance to qualified students with disabilities. A student is “qualified” when he or she meets the admission criteria determined by the college or university.

There are significant differences in how K-12 schools and colleges and universities are required to assist students with disabilities. Colleges and universities are not required to ensure that students with disabilities succeed academically. Rather, colleges and universities are required to ensure that qualified students with disabilities have the opportunity to succeed. This opportunity to succeed is provided by leveling the playing field for students with disabilities, removing physical and academic barriers, and providing reasonable classroom accommodations.

For instance, depending on the impact of a student’s disability, the college or university might allow the student the opportunity to have extended time on exams or have access to the notes of another student in the class. It is up to the student with the disability to take advantage of this assistance. It is the student’s responsibility to self-advocate, to talk with instructors, and to articulate his or her academic needs.

It is important that families educate themselves about the differences between high school and college well in advance of the first day of college classes. The law allows each college and university to have its own process for determining if an admitted student qualifies for disability-related assistance. This process can be time consuming and may include the necessity for updated evaluations. Because of this, families and students are encouraged to contact the disability services office of colleges and universities during the student’s senior year in high school. The goal is to ensure that the student is registered with the disability services office and is receiving accommodations on the first day of college classes. It is the family’s responsibility to start the process early enough that this goal is met.

A great place to begin researching the issues of disability assistance in higher education is to visit the disability section Rise Up, a website sponsored by the Mississippi Institutes of Higher Learning. The website address is http://www.mississippi.edu/riseupms/. Here you will find all you need to begin the exciting process of planning for college. With advanced planning and accurate information, students with disabilities can successfully jump that gap between high school and college and can have an enriching and satisfying college experience.

Stacey Reycraft is the founder and current president of the Mississippi Association on Higher Education and Disability. She is also the director of student disability services at the University of Mississippi.
As you enter the gates of Blue Mountain College, you read the phrase, “Enter to grow in wisdom.” As you leave, you read the phrase, “Depart to better serve thy country and thy kind.” At BMC, we believe that everything you do from classes to chapel to club meetings prepares you to serve God and mankind.
ACT or SAT scores are requested by most colleges and universities as a part of the admission process. Your results provide one way for colleges to measure your potential for academic success. Colleges may also use these scores for course placement, academic advising and scholarship evaluation.

There are many kinds of preparation courses available, and you may be able to prepare just as well in your own home using books or software. You can use testGear™ software at no cost—for information about accessing testGear, contact us at 601.321.5533, toll-free at 800.986.4322 or email info@Get2College.org.

### 2012-2013 ACT Test Dates

<table>
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<th>TEST DATE</th>
<th>REGISTRATION DATE</th>
<th>LATE FEE REQUIRED</th>
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<td>August 17, 2012</td>
<td>August 18-24, 2012</td>
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<td>October 27, 2012</td>
<td>September 21, 2012</td>
<td>September 22-October 5, 2012</td>
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<td>December 8, 2012</td>
<td>November 2, 2012</td>
<td>November 3-16, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8, 2013</td>
<td>May 3, 2013</td>
<td>May 4-17, 2013</td>
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### ACT FEES: (subject to change)

- **ACT (no Writing)**: $34.00
- **ACT plus Writing**: $49.50
- **Late Fee**: $21.00

**NOTE:** PHOTO IS REQUIRED AT REGISTRATION AND TEST!

FOR ACT INQUIRIES, CALL 319.337.1000 OR VISIT WWW.ACTSTUDENT.ORG.

### 2012-2013 SAT Test Dates

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<th>TEST TYPE</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 1, 2013</td>
<td>SAT &amp; Subject Tests</td>
<td>May 2, 2013</td>
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</tbody>
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### SAT FEES: (subject to change)

- **SAT Registration Fee**: $49.00
- **Late Fee**: $26.00
- **Subject Test Base Fee**: $22.00
- **Language with Listening Tests**: $22.00
- **All other Subject Tests**: $11.00 each

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- Full-time $980 per semester
- Part-time $100 per credit hour
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Academic Transfer
- 63 individual programs guaranteed to transfer to Mississippi’s public universities
- Honors Studies, Leadership Studies and International Studies

Career/Technical Programs
- 50 plus career and technical programs and
- 13 nursing and allied health programs

Scholarships
- ACT scholarships: 21-24 half tuition, 25-28 full tuition, 29-above room, board and tuition
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To create your own résumé, follow the basic outline below. After your “Heading” and “Education,” feel free to rearrange, rename, combine, or omit categories so that they make the most sense with your unique background.

Heading
At the top of your resume, include your name, address, phone number, and email address. Do not include your birth date, health status or Social Security number. Only report these on your college application if requested. Make sure your email address is professional. Use Mary.Smith2012@gmail.com rather than sassymary@gmail.com.

Education
List your high school(s), including location and years attended. List your GPA and class rank. If you have taken AP or honors classes, list these here. Include strong AP scores. Adding the number of AP classes your high school offers helps the admission officer understand that you have chosen to take rigorous courses.

Activities
Keep in mind that your activities should demonstrate your interests. Think about everything you’re involved in: clubs, sports, art, music, drama, journalism, religious groups, and so on. List your activities with the most significant or most recent at the top. (If this list seems to be overwhelming, consider grouping it into sub-categories like “Music” or “Sports.”) Include leadership or where you made a significant contribution to those activities in which you are involved.

Awards
You can mention your honors and awards here, or simply include them in your “Education” and “Activities” categories. Specify the date and describe the awards if necessary. If, for example, you received the “Jaguar Award,” briefly describe what this means.

Community Involvement/Volunteer Work
Colleges are looking for involvement in activities that demonstrate your desire to make a difference in your community. This category allows you to separate your activities in your high school from your activities or community service outside of the school.

Work Experience
Colleges want to see examples of maturity and responsibility. Some examples might be your work experience. Don’t forget non-traditional work, such as babysitting or helping out with the family business. For each item, include the job title, name of organization, location, dates, and description of responsibilities.

Other
Feel free to mention any special skills, summer activities such as camp or travel, taking community college classes, participating in internships, or hobbies that are important to you.

References
Some colleges like to see references such as a teacher, coach and employer.

Résumé Tips
• Keep the résumé on one page if possible. Students with a long list of awards and activities will need two or even three pages.
• Don’t include activities from before 9th grade unless you have continued those activities or you have received exceptional recognition.
• Use plain white paper. Resist colors or designs as you want to impress your reader with content.
• Provide high quality original copies. Copying a copy is not acceptable. Update your resume regularly adding new summer activities, courses, community service, honors and activities.

Tip! It is better to have a few activities to which you dedicate a significant amount of time (one to three activities). A long list does not impress admissions committees.
BONES. DOUGH. BENJAMINS.
LOOT. MOOLAH. PAPER.
Whatever you call it, we know that you want to save as much of it as you can.

At Holmes Community College, we are proud to offer high school juniors and seniors an affordable head start on their college education through the Advanced College Enrollment (ACE) Online Program. This online program gives eligible high school students an opportunity to take college credit courses via the Internet and at a deeply discounted rate, potentially saving thousands of dollars.

Classes begin as low as $25**, plus the cost of books.

For more information about classes offered, contact eLearning at (662) 472-9162.

**ACE classes are $25 for students who live in a poverty district receiving the Sansom scholarship. For all other students, the tuition for ACE classes is $100. Books are not included in the cost of tuition.
Some colleges require an essay as part of the application or scholarship process. The essay helps the admissions officers or scholarship committee understand who you are. While grades and test scores help determine your ability to handle the academic rigor of the college, the essay offers an insight into your background, experience and personal strengths which make you a good candidate for their college.

Goals of the essay:
• To give readers a better understanding of who you are beyond your transcript, test scores and list of activities
• To show the depth of interest and passion you may have in a certain area
• To show something significant about yourself that the readers wouldn’t otherwise know
• To show your reader that you can think logically and analytically
• To set yourself apart from the many other applicants who will apply with equally good academic records, scores and recommendations

Things you absolutely should do:
• Comply with the requests of the application (essay length, format, topic)
• Type your essay
• Double space your essay (easier to read)
• Answer the question that was asked
• Send the correct essay with the correct application
• Write your own essay

While there is not a magic formula that works for every great essay, here are some tips to guide you:
• Start your essay by grabbing the reader’s attention. Don’t start your essay by repeating the question.
• Make sure your essay sounds like you and don’t try to be someone else. Present yourself in an honest way and you’ll find it much easier to write and essay about your genuine thoughts and feelings.
• Choose a topic that is meaningful to you that you can write about in a personal way. Take the thumb test – as you are writing your essay, place your thumb over your name. Could you put another name at the top or is the essay personal to you?
• Answer the question. Don’t try to recycle an essay that doesn’t answer the essay topic.
• Share something about yourself in your essay that you have not already listed somewhere else in your application.
• Remember your audience - you are addressing adults rather than your peers and your essay should not be too informal.
• Be specific and provide as many details as possible. Don’t tackle too much of your life or try to make too many points.
• Ask for feedback from one or two people. If you ask more than that, you may lose the focus of your writing trying to please all readers.
• Feel free to use humor if you are someone that is funny and it’s not forced.
• Don’t wait until the last minute write your essay!

Tell me about yourself.
What are your short-term and long-term goals?
Tell me about your interests.
What is your best subject in school and why. What is your worst?
Give us your definition of success.

What leadership roles have you held? Describe a good leader.
What volunteer or extracurricular activities have you been involved in and what have you gained from those experiences. Which ones will you continue during college?

Why are you looking at our college or university? What are you looking forward to in your college experience?
What contribution do you want to make to your college during your years as an undergraduate?
What is your pet peeve and why?

Who is someone you admire and why?
What will be your major?
What are your strengths and weaknesses? How do you use your strengths to help you accomplish your goals?
What do you do to compensate for your weaknesses?

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Want to go to one of Mississippi’s public universities, but don’t have the grades...or the cash?

If you don’t meet the requirements for admission into one of the state’s eight public universities, you still have options for getting in.

Apply for admission into the Summer Developmental Program. Then apply for a Summer Developmental Program Grant to pay for it.

Learn more at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid.

Got Questions?

Contact the MS Office of Student Financial Aid
3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211-6453
Toll-free (MS residents only) 800-327-2980
p. 601-432-6997
e. sfa@mississippi.edu
w. mississippi.edu/financialaid

riseupms.com
Here are some programs for Mississippi’s first-year college students (entering freshmen):

**Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG)**

Award Amount/Length of Eligibility:
- Up to $500/year for freshmen and sophomores
- Up to $1000/year for juniors and seniors
- Not to exceed eight semesters of eligibility total, regardless of the dollar amount received by an individual student

Initial Eligibility Requirements:
- Cumulative 2.5 high school GPA
- 15 ACT (national testing) or 720 SAT
- Full-time student at an eligible Mississippi institution
- Mississippi resident (one year)

Deadline Date: September 15

**Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP)**

Award Amount/Length of Eligibility:
- Not to exceed tuition and required fees at a public institution
- Not to exceed ten semesters of eligibility total, regardless of the dollar amount received by an individual student

Initial Eligibility Requirements:
- Cumulative 2.5 high school GPA
- 20 ACT (national testing)
- Ability to demonstrate financial need
- Two-year average adjusted gross income of $36,500 or less
- Specific high school core curriculum
- Mississippi resident (two years)
- Full-time student at an eligible Mississippi institution

Deadline Date: March 31

**Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG)**

Award Amount/Length of Eligibility:
- Up to $2,500/year, not to exceed tuition and required fees
- Not to exceed eight semesters of eligibility total, regardless of the dollar amount received by an individual student

Initial Eligibility Requirements:
- Cumulative 3.5 high school GPA
- 29 ACT (national testing) or 1280 SAT
- Full-time student at an eligible Mississippi institution
- Mississippi resident (one year)

Deadline Date: September 15

**Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship Program (LAW/FIRE)**

Award Amount/Length of Eligibility:
- Tuition, required fees and average cost of campus housing not to exceed eight semesters

Initial Eligibility Requirements:
- Must be spouse or child of a fatally injured or totally disabled law officer/fireman
- Full-time student at an eligible Mississippi institution
- Mississippi resident

Deadline Date: Open

**Got Questions?**
Contact the MS Office of Student Financial Aid:
3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211-6453
Toll-Free (MS residents only) 800-327-2980
p. 601-432-6997
e. sfa@mississippi.edu
w. mississippi.edu/financialaid

The program requirements listed should not be considered as the only requirements for participation in these programs. Please review all requirements at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid. Program requirements are subject to change without notice.
Parents & Kids® Magazine Presents

MISSISSIPPI’S PREMIER COLLEGE FAIR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

Jackson Convention Complex
105 East Pascagoula Street • Jackson, MS 39201
Contact Parents & Kids® Magazine at: 601-366-0901

Counselors, contact Parents & Kids® Magazine for information on getting your high school involved.

College Admissions Officers, reserve your booth now, as well as your program profile at collegeinfo@parents-kids.com.

Contact: Gretchen Cook
Parents & Kids® Magazine
601-366-0901
gretchen@parents-kids.com

Free programs distributed to Mississippi High Schools prior to event.
College profiles inside
Admissions and Financial Aid information

This event brought to you by parents&kids® magazine

Our Partners
Education Services Foundation
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GEAR UP Mississippi
College Knowledge Project
MILLSAPS COLLEGE is the top-ranked national liberal arts college in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana, according to the U.S. News & World Report’s 2012 edition of America’s Best Colleges.
There are four ways to gain full admission to the eight public universities in Mississippi:

1. Complete the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) with a minimum of a 3.2 high school grade point average (GPA); or

2. Complete the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) with a minimum of a 2.5 high school GPA or a class rank in the top 50% and a score of 16 or higher on the ACT (Composite); or

You should apply to the public university of your choice. The university will require you to undergo an on-campus placement process which includes taking the ACCUPLACER exam.

The placement process will determine whether you may be enrolled in regular freshman-level courses with academic support or be required to enroll in the summer semester with mandatory participation in the Summer Developmental Program.

Students who successfully complete the Summer Developmental Program may enroll in the fall semester with mandatory academic support.

In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores.

3. Complete the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) with a minimum of a 2.0 high school GPA and a score of 18 or higher on the ACT (Composite); or

4. Satisfy the NCAA standards for student-athletes who are “full qualifiers” under Division I guidelines.

Financial aid is available for Mississippi students enrolled in the Summer Developmental Program in the form of a grant. For more information on the Summer Developmental Program Grant, visit www.mississippi.edu/financialaid.

For more information about Mississippi public university admission standards, call 601.432.6501 or visit www.mississippi.edu.
In Mississippi high schools, credits are referred to as Carnegie units: 1 Carnegie Unit = 1 year, ½ Carnegie Unit = 1 semester (1/2 year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>High school Carnegie units required for regular admission to an IHL institution</th>
<th>Recommended high school Carnegie units to enhance preparedness for college-level work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 All must require substantial communications skills (i.e. reading, writing, listening, and speaking).</td>
<td>4 Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 Biology, Advanced Biology, Chemistry, Advanced Chemistry, Physics, and Advanced Physics, or any other science course with comparable rigor and content. One Carnegie unit from a physical science course with content at a level that may serve as an introduction to physics and chemistry may be used. Two of the courses chosen must be laboratory based.</td>
<td>4 Includes Biology I, Chemistry I, and any two Carnegie units of comparable rigor and content (i.e. Physics, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, Physics II, AP Physics B, AP Physics C-Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C-Mechanics, Botany, Microbiology, or Human Anatomy and Physiology).</td>
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<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3 Courses should include U.S. History (1 unit), World History (1 unit with substantial geography component), Government (½ unit), and Economics (½ unit) or Geography (½ unit).</td>
<td>4 Includes World History, U.S. History, Introduction to World Geography, U.S. Government, Economics, and Mississippi Studies (credit earned for state/local government course in any other state may stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies).</td>
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<td>Arts</td>
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<td>1 Includes any one Carnegie unit of visual and performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for high school graduation.</td>
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<td>Advanced Electives</td>
<td>2 Requirements may be met by earning 2 Carnegie units from the following areas/courses, one of which must be in foreign language or World Geography. • Foreign language • World Geography • 4th-year lab-based science • 4th-year mathematics</td>
<td>2 Includes any two Carnegie units of foreign language (I and II), Advanced World Geography, and a foreign language I or any combination of English, mathematics, or lab-based science courses of comparable rigor and content to those required above.</td>
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<td>Computer Applications (Both ½ Units)</td>
<td>Course should emphasize the computer as a productivity tool. Instruction should include the use of application packages, such as word processing and spreadsheets. The course should also include basic computer terminology and hardware operation.</td>
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<td>Pre-High School Units</td>
<td>Algebra I, first year foreign language, Mississippi Studies, or Computer Applications taken prior to high school will be accepted for admission provided the course content is the same as the high school course.</td>
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Total: 15.5

College Prep
# College Application Organizer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Test Scores</th>
<th>Letters of Recommendation</th>
<th>Essays</th>
<th>Interviews</th>
<th>Application Checklist</th>
<th>Financial Aid Forms</th>
<th>After Acceptance</th>
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<td>Request info/application</td>
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CHECKLIST
FOR COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS
A month-by-month guide to get you ready for college

Ask for More Collaborative is a visionary partnership of schools, community organizations and families in Jackson that seeks to increase the level of student achievement by “asking for more” of teachers, principals, students, parents, and the community. The collaborative serves as a laboratory for systemic school reform in the Jackson Public School District.

Parents for Public Schools of Greater Jackson (PPSJ) is a community-based organization working to engage parents and concerned citizens in improving public schools through broad-based advocacy. Our work includes providing information, training, and materials to parents about school issues (testing, Mississippi curriculum standards, school accountability, Title 1 requirements, site governance, etc.); convening citizens throughout the community to share the responsibility for quality public education; advocating for all children by bringing parents together across lines of race, class and geography; and hosting monthly programs to inform the public about education, and community issues.

ESF’s Get2College Centers provide outreach in schools across Mississippi and provide free services to help you plan and pay for college – ACT prep, Scholarship Search, Career Assessments, hands-on help completing Financial Aid forms.

ESF College Planning Centers
2600 Lakeland Terrace
Jackson, MS 39216
601-321-5533
1-800-986-4322
www.esfweb.com

715 Cox Avenue
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
228-875-4441

WE VIEW MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE AS A FAMILY. Our thriving campus life keeps students busy, challenging academics keep students sharp, and our solid Christian foundation keeps them grounded. MC’s smaller size gives students big opportunities to excel in the classroom, build life-long friendships, and grow personally and spiritually. If your teenager is looking to be a part of a growing college family, MC is a great place!

admissions@mc.edu | 601.925.3800
Box 4026 | Clinton, MS 39058 | 800.738.1236

Visit us at www.mc.edu & start your application today.
AUGUST
17 Registration deadline for September 8th ACT
• School begins—Start off the year right—prepare to do your very best!
• Remember every Mississippi senior should take the ACT and/or SAT. Refer to the test registration deadlines. Eleventh and twelfth grade students who qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch may receive two fee waivers for the ACT or SAT. See your counselor for details.
• Register to take an ACT and/or SAT Prep Course, such as ESF’s Get2College Center’s free ACT workshops, in-school ACT/SAT prep courses, college courses, www.act.org, or community service organizations.

SEPTEMBER
3 No school—Labor Day
7 Registration Deadline for October 6th SAT
8 ACT test date
• Visit the websites of all colleges/universities that interest you. Call or email for information (catalog, applications for admission, scholarships, financial aid, etc.) and plan to make campus visits. See essay help on page 18.
• Update your resume detailing your academic achievements/awards, school activities, community service, sports, and work experience. Submit your resume to your counselor so that he/she may have your information to write letters of recommendation and scholarship opportunities. A resume may be a requirement for admission applications. See résumé help on page 16.
• Plan to attend a college fair at your high school and visit with all participating college and/or military representatives that interest you.

NOVEMBER
1 Registration deadline for December 1 SAT
2 Registration Deadline for December 8 ACT
3 SAT test date
21-25 Thanksgiving Holiday
(This is a good time to work on college applications.)

OCTOBER
6 SAT test date
4 Registration Deadline for November 3 SAT
21 Ask for More/JPS College Spirit Day
27 ACT test date
• It’s time to apply for college admission! You may be able to submit your college application for free. Discuss fee waiver options with your counselor.
• Remember to give the teachers and/or counselors plenty of time to assist you with letters of recommendation.
• Be alert to sources of financial aid. Watch the bulletin board near your counselor’s office and listen to daily announcements for information regarding scholarships. See page 31.
• College campus visits are encouraged, but make sure your principal clears school absences in advance. Most universities host a High School or Senior Day for scholarship interviews, detailed program information, housing tours and other information. Watch for details!

DECEMBER
1 SAT test date
8 ACT test date
12-16 Study hard and do well on semester exams
28 Registration deadline for January 26 SAT
December – January (varies)
Semester break.
• This is a good time to complete college applications on-line.
• Turn in any Mid-Year Report Forms if required by colleges or universities that will be submitted along with your seventh semester transcript.
• Some colleges/universities may require interviews. Local or regional alumni typically conduct these. Sample interview questions are on page 18.

JANUARY
3 Classes resume. Don’t give in to “senioritis”
11 Registration deadline for February 9 ACT
21 Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday

• Student athletes MUST have ACT and/or SAT scores sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center. Visit www.ncaa.org to register. Use the Code of 9999 to have your score sent directly to NCAA. Discuss fee waiver options with your counselor.
• Continue strong study habits; senior grades are extremely important.

26 SAT test date
• Check college priority deadlines for submitting your FAFSA and parents and students need to complete 2012 tax forms as early as possible because this information is used to complete the FAFSA.
• Complete your FAFSA by the schools priority deadline—Call ESF’s Get2College Center for assistance in completing the FAFSA.
• Find out if your school is hosting A Financial Aid Completion Day at your school for seniors and families to help complete their FAFSA forms in their high schools A laptop computer, donated by Tatum & Wade Attorneys at Law, will be awarded to one Jackson Public Schools’ college-bound senior who participates in the JPS Financial Aid Completion Day.
• Between January and March: Complete application for Mississippi Student Financial Aid Programs like MTAG, MESG, etc. if you are a Mississippi resident. The application can be found at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid and must be completed online. Some scholarships are first come, first served!
• Be aware that many private college scholarship deadlines are in January.
• Keep working on your grades. Courses continue to count throughout the senior year.

JANUARY
3 Classes resume. Don’t give in to “senioritis”
11 Registration deadline for February 9 ACT
21 Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday

• Student athletes MUST have ACT and/or SAT scores sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center. Visit www.ncaa.org to register. Use the Code of 9999 to have your score sent directly to NCAA. Discuss fee waiver options with your counselor.
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• Be aware that many private college scholarship deadlines are in January.
• Keep working on your grades. Courses continue to count throughout the senior year.
Remember that all college acceptances are contingent upon satisfactory completion of the senior year.

**FEBRUARY**
- 8 Registration deadline for March
- 9 SAT
- 9 ACT test date
- 28 All FAFSAs and institutional financial aid forms should be completed and submitted to ensure best consideration by the college of your choice.
  - February is National Financial Aid Awareness Month! Check to see if your school or district is hosting a Financial Aid Night or FAFSA Completion Day in February!
- 8 February/March—consider turning in housing application and deposit to hold a space in dorms. Be aware that deposits for housing may be nonrefundable.

**MARCH**
- 8 Registration deadline for April
- 13 ACT
- 9 SAT test date

**APRIL**
- 5 Registration deadline for May
- 4 SAT
- 13 ACT test date
- 30 Deadline for all documents for the Mississippi Help Scholarship. Last Opportunity for Seniors to take SATP (subject area tests) in order to graduate in May, 2013.
- 1 Watch for award notifications from colleges of the amount of financial aid you are eligible to receive. IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY to respond to your financial aid award notifications or requests for further documentation.

**MAY**
- 1 If your college follows the National Candidate’s Reply Date, you have until May 1 to make your final decision and pay your tuition deposit. For students admitted to more than one college, the rules are simple. Choose one school and submit one deposit. As a matter of courtesy, you should notify institutions that have admitted you of your decision to enroll elsewhere. See the sample letters on page ??.
- 1 Transcripts or End of Year Report forms should be turned in to your counselor before exams begin.
- 2 Registration deadline for June
- 1 SAT
- 3 Registration deadline for June
- 8 ACT
- 4 SAT test date
- 7-18 Advanced Placement (AP) Exams
- 1 May Final Exams—Do your best!

**JUNE**
- 1 SAT
- 8 ACT
- The Records Clerk at your school will send your final transcript to your chosen college. Let the Records Clerk know of any changes by graduation.
- Use your summer wisely! ESF Get2College Centers can offer resources such as understanding your financial aid award letter, career exploration and college major selection.

**JULY**
- 1 Look for information from the college about housing, roommate(s), orientation, course selection, etc.
- 1 Watch for Advanced Placement scores.
- 1 Write a letter of introduction, e-mail or telephone your new roommate. Decide who will bring which items to decorate your room.
- 1 Register for your fall semester classes at the college of your choice.

**AUGUST**
- 1 Pack for college. Provide your high school with your college mailing address. Have a great freshman year. Give your new college email address to family and friends.
The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) is a national initiative that encourages students to have high expectations, stay in school, study hard and take the right courses to prepare for post-secondary education.

Toll Free 877.236.4327
www.gearupms.org
Scholarship Searches

ESF offers assistance with searching for scholarships in our college planning center.
Check out the ESF Freebies scholarship at www.esfweb.com.

1) FAFSA4caster – www.fafsa.gov If you want to begin exploring your financial aid options and get an early start on the financial aid process, use the FAFSA4caster. This tool will give you and your family an early estimate of eligibility for federal student aid. The Web site also provides you with an opportunity to increase your knowledge of the financial aid process, become familiar with the various types of federal student aid that are available, and investigate other sources of aid such as grants and scholarships.

2) Federal funds and state aid include many types of need-based scholarships as well as merit scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study. Simply complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Mississippi Financial Aid application after January of your senior year in high school. Once these applications are submitted, you will be considered for all the types of financial aid these two sources offer.

3) Campus visits are one of the most important steps you can take in your college selection process. After federal and state aid, colleges award the most scholarship money to their incoming students. To learn about these scholarships, make an appointment with an admissions counselor for a private campus visit. While on your campus visit, you should find out what you must do to compete for the school’s scholarships.

4) Your high school counselor can help you locate and apply for scholarships. Usually, your counselor has a list of available scholarships, and he or she can give you tips to help you better understand the scholarship process.

5) Looking locally for scholarships can produce successful search results. Start with your local community/civic organizations and businesses. Ask your parents, family, and friends what organizations they belong to and if they offer scholarship opportunities. Do your parents’ employers have scholarship competitions? Do you have an older friend who was awarded a scholarship from a local business or organization? Check it out.

6) When searching the Internet, be specific, and be prepared to spend a lot of time on your search! Internet searches produce many national scholarships. These searches can be time consuming but are definitely worth the effort. When searching a national database to find scholarships for which you may qualify, be very specific when filling out the student profile.

7) The local library is a great place to find scholarship books and access to the Internet. Just make sure the scholarship books you use have a current publication date.

8) Always have your résumé available to send to a scholarship committee. Create your résumé on a computer, and save it either to your computer or to a disk. Then you can update the résumé as needed to best display your abilities and accomplishments.

9) Read your local newspaper every day. The newspaper will have announcements on students receiving scholarships, especially during spring and summer. By seeing what scholarships are awarded, you will know what is available.

10) Never pay anyone or any company to help you search for scholarships.

College Planner | 2012 - 2013 | 31
Follow These 4 Steps 2 Financial Aid

1. Apply NOW for private scholarships
   - See your high school counselor for a list of scholarships.
   - Looking locally for scholarships can produce successful search results. Start with your local community/civic organizations and businesses. Ask your family and friends what organizations they belong to and see if they offer scholarship opportunities. Do your parents’ employers have scholarship competitions? Do you have an older friend who was awarded a scholarship from a local business or organization? Check it out!
   - Read your local newspaper every day. The newspaper will have announcements about scholarships typically as the deadline is approaching. Newspapers will also feature pictures of students receiving scholarships—by seeing what scholarships they are awarded, you will know what is available.
   - Many scholarships are not posted until the fall of your senior year, but deadlines start popping up as early as December.

2. Most scholarships come directly from individual colleges
   Apply for admission. Complete applications for admission in the fall of your senior year. You must be accepted for admission in order to receive scholarships and financial aid.
   Complete all applications for scholarships and/or financial aid for each college you are considering. Most can be found online at each college’s Web site. Make sure you meet all the deadlines. Check their Net Price or True Cost Calculators to help you estimate your financial aid options at each school. Some schools may require the CSS/PROFILE in addition to the FAFSA.

3. Complete the FAFSA for Federal Financial Aid
   WWW.FAFSA.GOV
   If you want to begin exploring your financial aid options and get an early start on the financial aid process, use the FAFSA4caster. This tool will give you an early estimate of eligibility for federal student aid.
   Federal funds include need-based and non-need-based grants, work-study programs and loans. After January 1 of your senior year, you and your parents need to complete federal tax returns for the previous year as soon as possible. Remember to make copies of your tax returns. These documents will be needed to complete your financial aid applications.
   You must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov after January 1 of your senior year. The online application process contains built-in edits to help you prevent costly mistakes. Make sure you meet your prospective colleges’ priority deadlines. Most families submit the FAFSA in February or March.
   Get Money for College and Rise Up to a Better Life!
   There is a lot of money available to help you pay for college. In addition to federal aid and aid from private organizations, the state of Mississippi provides about $30 MILLION every year for Mississippi students to go to college.
   Visit www.mississippi.edu/financialaid to learn more and apply online.
   Want to go to one of Mississippi’s public universities, but don’t have the grades ... or the cash? If you don’t meet the requirements for admission into one of the state’s eight public universities, you still have options for getting in. Apply for admission into the Summer Development Program. Then apply for a Summer Developmental Program Grant to pay for it. Learn more at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid.

4. Complete the state financial aid application
   Learn about the state grants and eligibility criteria at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid. The Mississippi Office of State Financial Aid offers scholarships and grants based on merit and financial need.
   Complete the application for state financial aid such as MTAG, MESG and HELP if you will be attending college in Mississippi. You should complete your application after January 1 of your senior year and prior to March 31 which is the earliest deadline.

Got Questions?
Contact the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid
3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211
1-800-327-2980
(toll free in Mississippi)
sfa@mississippi.edu
www.mississippi.edu/financialaid

Apply for the ESF Get2College Scholarship.
Details at www.get2college.org.

Now reap your rewards and make final college decisions!
You will typically receive award notifications indicating your financial aid and scholarship amounts in the spring. You may need to accept or reject the award(s) by a deadline, so read carefully. If you receive awards from several colleges, remember to decline those from the schools you don’t plan to attend.

Complete any additional paperwork the school requires. If you are receiving a student loan, you will need to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and entrance loan counseling.
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So you want to stay close to home while you are working on a great academic foundation for a four-year degree...without breaking the bank. Or maybe you are looking for a fast track to getting the technical skills you need for a rewarding career path. An amazing, affordable education is just a short distance from home at any of our area locations or from home in our online Virtual College.

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Completing The FAFSA
(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Checklist of items needed to complete the FAFSA:

* Gather The Following Items About Yourself And Your Parents (if dependent student):
  - Copy of your and your parents’ federal tax returns (2012 returns for the Fall 2013 college term)
  - Your and your parents’ driver’s licenses, Social Security numbers, and birthdates
  - Your and your parents’ W-2 forms and other records of money earned
  - Current bank statements or an amount of your and your parents’ cash and savings and checking accounts
  - Current business information
  - Stock, bond, and other investment records or a total amount of investments not in retirement accounts
  - Your alien registration card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
  - Date of your parents’ marriage, divorce, or separation

* Use IRS Data Retrieval when possible.
* A Federal Student Aid PIN and parent PIN are required to electronically file the FAFSA. You can secure PIN numbers during the FAFSA application process. The PIN request requires your name, Social Security number, and date of birth. Keep up with your PIN numbers, because you will need them to file the FAFSA annually.
* If you choose not to sign the FAFSA electronically, you may print, sign, and mail a signature page to the address provided; however, be aware that this can delay the processing of your FAFSA.
* To complete the FAFSA online, go to www.fafsa.gov.
* Print your confirmation page with the confirmation number for your records.

Use this Datasheet to keep track of your info:

Student’s Name ____________________________________    Date FAFSA Submitted _____________________________
Password for FAFSA _______________________________________________________________________________
PIN challenge question/answer for student ________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
PIN challenge question/answer for parent _______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
Student’s Federal PIN ________________________ Parent’s Federal PIN _____________________ (circle - mother’s or father’s)
Mississippi FA PIN _________________________________
Itawamba Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President of Student Services, 602 West Hill Street, Fulton, MS 38843, 662.862.8271.

Opportunities in:

• Online
• Academic
• Technical
• Workforce

www.iccms.edu  ●  Questions? Email us: go2icc@iccms.edu
• **Affordability**- The average cost of attending a community college is only $2,242 a year in tuition and required fees.

• **Nationally Recognized**- Mississippi’s community college system has been ranked among the nation’s top four systems according to the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. We were also ranked the second most productive system according to the National Center for Higher Education and Management Systems.

• **Locations**- 15 community colleges offering classes at multiple locations across the state. No matter where you live, a community college is close to you.

• **Mississippi Virtual Community College**- The Mississippi Virtual Community College offers 3,000 courses taught online by more than 1,500 instructors and is recognized as a national leader in online higher education.

• **Adult Basic Education and GED courses** help those citizens who have dropped out of high school to greatly improve their lives.

• **Approximately a quarter of a million of our citizens will be educated at a Mississippi community college this year.**

The Mississippi Community College Board is dedicated to enhancing the education and training of all Mississippians, promoting positive leadership, and creating partnerships with business, industry, and other entities that share the same commitment and the values it embraces. For more information on Mississippi’s community college system, you may log onto www.mccb.edu or call 601-432-6518.
Not Done Yet! After The FAFSA...

1 – Initial Contact
The processed FAFSA results will be sent to the colleges you listed on the FAFSA, and the college financial aid office will determine the amount of financial aid you will receive.

After completing the FAFSA, if you provided an email address, the student and parent will receive a notification that the FAFSA was filed. In 1-3 days, you will receive another email to let you know that the data was processed and the information was sent to the school.

2 – Student Aid Report (SAR)
If you provided an email on the FAFSA, in 1-3 days you will receive an email with a secure link to access your SAR online. If you did not provide an email, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail. If the information is incorrect, it may be necessary to go back into www.fafsa.gov and make corrections to a processed FAFSA. If you have any questions about the FAFSA process, you can call 1.800.4FEDAI (1.800.433.3243).

3 – Verification (Not Everyone Is Selected For Verification. If You Are Not Contacted About This, See Step 4.
Some financial aid applications will be selected for a federally required verification process. This means that you will be expected to provide supporting documentation for the information on your FAFSA. The documents requested may include but are not limited to the following:

1. The Dependent (or Independent) Federal Verification Form
2. IRS Tax Return Transcript of 2011 tax year for the applicant and/or parents. You can request a transcript online at www.irs.gov or call 800.908.9946.
3. A signed copy of your parents’ Federal Tax Return. (If you are an independent student, you will not be required to send in your parents’ tax return.)

The information that the college requests must be mailed back to the financial aid office at the college. Some colleges will not make a financial aid award for you until verification is complete.

4 – Award Notification
You will receive a Financial Aid AWARD NOTIFICATION only from those colleges to which you have been offered admission. Some colleges may require additional forms for financial aid, and it will be your responsibility to complete and submit these documents. The AWARD NOTIFICATION will tell you what you are eligible to receive in financial aid and include specific information on how to accept and/or apply for any financial aid offered, along with next steps in the process. Some colleges send out award letters at a given date. If you complete the FAFSA after that designated date, you should receive an award letter within 3 weeks.

Typically, schools will allow you to accept your award online. However, you may receive an award letter by mail. You should determine which of the awards you will accept and which you will decline. When it comes to student loans, you can choose the amount that you would like to accept. There may be a deadline for accepting financial aid, and it is possible that there may be a deposit required to secure the aid.

5 – Student Loans
If you accepted Federal student loans (Direct Loan or Perkins Loan), you will need to follow the college’s process for completing the Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Loan Entrance Counseling.

Money-Saving Tips!
Did you know that you may be able to get FREE personal help in completing your tax return?

Anyone whose adjusted gross income is $58,000 or less can file federal income tax electronically, absolutely FREE.

The federal government provides a number of tax incentives that can help defray the cost of higher education:

- **Tax Credits** - these directly reduce the amount of tax for which you are liable
- **Tax Deductions** - these reduce the amount of income on which you pay taxes

For information, visit irs.gov.
Get Involved

Get Connected

Experience EC!

For more information call toll free 1-877-462-3222
or visit our website at www.eccc.edu

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Mississippi Community College

Call 601-276-3844 to set up a campus visit tailored to your needs!

Southwest Mississippi Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries and grievances regarding the non-discrimination policies: Mrs. Freya Biggers, ADA and OCR Coordinator, 601-276-3885; Dr. Bill Ashley, Vice President of Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator, 601-276-3717, 1156 College Dr., Summit, MS 39066.
Only 58% of Mississippi’s entering-college freshmen remain in college beyond the first year, according to the December 2011 report “College Completion in Mississippi: The Impact on the Workforce and the Economy,” released by Education Commission of the States (posted online). This represents a drain on the state’s economy through poorer households, as well as a lot of personal sadness. As a college English instructor, I see a lot of what happens during freshman year. Here are things I find myself saying to students that you may find worth sharing with your high school senior:

You have a right to a healthy life, but you must create one for yourself. If you live in a dorm and can’t sleep because of your roommate, talk to your resident assistant. Good sleep means you can concentrate on your studies and ward off illness. If your campus has a gym, use it, even if there is a fee. You will have more energy during the day and sleep better at night.

You do not have to take 8 a.m. college classes. If you are not a morning person, take your first class later in the day.

Get a clock—a real one with a cord and a back-up battery. Being on time is crucial. Yes, I know you use your phone to tell time, but if it was working for you, we wouldn’t be having this conversation, would we?

Know your advisors by name—abolish the word “they” from your vocabulary! Get the name and office phone number of every person who advises you, especially about tuition, loans, and your program of study. Your advisors will give you better advice if you build a relationship with them. That starts with knowing who “they” are!

Don’t just sign papers because “they” hand them to you. Read the paperwork and ask questions. What works for the majority of students may not work for you. College finance is not “one size fits all.”

You really will have to spend more time studying. If you assume that you can take classes from eight till noon and then work 40 hours a week, you are risking failure. I had a 30+ score on the ACT and found plenty to study in college while working no more than ten hours a week.

If you are struggling academically, seek help early in the semester. If you fail a test in a subject, or feel confused before your first test, ask your instructor if there are ways you can get help. Sometimes campuses have tutors who can work with you one on one. Sometimes, the instructor can help directly. Seek help early—before a second failure.

You have a right to a safe life, and the college can help with that. If you are depressed or the victim of a crime, talk to an instructor, a resident assistant, a counselor (even an academic counselor), or someone in the office of the dean of students. We have heard more than you think and care more than you know, and we know how to get practical help.

Cynthia Whittington, from Raymond, Mississippi, has taught English at Hinds Community College for 12 years.
Most people believe college is strictly for gaining knowledge in order to land a high-paying job and become successful. While that is one important reason to attend college, it is not the only reason why college is important. College is also about meeting new people, making life-long friends, and discovering who you really are as a person. College is an experience; it is a journey. Why not travel that journey with friends by your side?

Okay, I’m in college, and I don’t know anyone. Where do I start?

Here are many different ways of becoming involved and meeting new people while attending a university:

• **Join a club or organization.** One thing you will definitely notice about most universities is that they are made up of all different kinds of people from all over the world. Because of this diversity, there are literally hundreds of different activities and groups for each person. Check them out!

• **Look into joining a sorority or fraternity.** As stated on the College View website (http://www.collegeview.com/articles/article/college-greek-life-101), “By far, the most popular reason for students to join a fraternity or sorority is the social life.”

• **Visit the student center.** There is a student center at most universities that will allow students to enjoy activities for free.

• **Get involved in a recreational sport.** Most universities offer intramural sports to students who do not play on the university’s team.

• **Get out and walk around.** There are almost always students hanging out around campus.

• **Get a job.** Since you’re looking for new friends, why not make some pocket money along the way? Your coworkers are there for the same reasons you are—to make friends and money. Get to know the people you work with!

• **Locate your school’s calendar of events.** Keep in mind that most universities will have an online calendar of events; there are always things going on no matter what day of the week it is.

• **Join the yearbook or student newspaper staff.** If you are involved in either the yearbook or student newspaper staff, you will definitely be informed about almost everything that’s going on around campus. Get involved!

Here are some suggestions from Kevin Bennett and Cassidy Burton, two seniors at Mississippi State University, on how to start talking to and meet new people:

• Choose two to three people from each of your classes, and become “study buddies.” Exchange email addresses and phone numbers so you will be able to communicate about class assignments.

• If you’re too shy to ask for contact information, Kevin suggested just introducing yourself to the people you sit next to on the first day of class.

• Most universities require entering freshmen to live in the on-campus dormitories during their first year of college. Most dorms will host activities each month which will help in getting everyone in the building acquainted. Cassidy said, “I always tried to participate in those activities.”

• Cassidy suggested going to several different club meetings in order to find out which clubs you like the best. Once you find the ones you want to join, attend the meetings regularly.

• Kevin mentioned that although fraternities and sororities are an excellent way to meet people, they are not the only option; they can be quite expensive. He adds that there is no reason to be shy in college, because everyone else there is just like you—looking for friends.

For more information, feel free to Google your university’s home page and search around for more specific things to get involved in around your own campus. What are you waiting for? Get out there and get involved!

**Keri Lum** is a full-time Mississippi State University student who is completing her last year of work on a bachelor of business degree in marketing. She loves traveling, sunny days, and family.
Why Teach?

by: Salem Chism

It is no surprise that students and teachers have a complex relationship. Teachers not only introduce and explain new information but also play a key role in a child’s development. And although some students may describe teachers as those who assign mountains of homework and grade papers extremely strictly, there is still a bond and sense of respect between educators and pupils.

Mississippi’s Teacher of the Year Stacey Todd most definitely bonds with and respects her students at Oak Grove High School. Growing up with parents who were teachers, Todd admits that she didn’t always take her studies seriously. However, once she began college at the University of Southern Mississippi, Todd realized how important teachers and schooling was and decided to become a teacher herself. After receiving her master’s from the University of Phoenix, Todd began working as a special-education teacher. She describes herself as the “root-for-the-underdog” type, but is careful to eliminate walls between general and special-education students. Todd’s emphasis on independence supports her teaching mantra that students have different learning styles and, thus, should be taught differently and personably. On top of Todd’s success in teaching is her success in student community involvement. Stacey started the Junior Civitan Club, which has over 155 student members and has raised over $5,000.

So, students...why teach? You may be asking yourself why you’d ever want to be back in a school building after graduation, but the benefits and rewards are immeasurable. The Mississippi Department of Education’s website describes teachers as “caring, committed individuals” whose goal is to “help Mississippi children get the education they deserve.” The website’s Teacher Center also lists the benefits of teaching: “Great retirement. Career advancement opportunities. And two months of summer vacation.” Above all, teachers have arguably the biggest impact on children. It’s not an easy job, but the power and opportunity to shape young minds is worth the struggle.

Salem Chism, a recent graduate of St. Andrew’s Episcopal School, was once envious of her teachers’ colorful supply of Expo markers.

Wondering what to do with your life after graduation?

Make a real difference... TEACH


Consider a career in child protection social work and join our team as we fight for Mississippi’s children.

To learn more, contact the Division of Family and Children’s Services at 601-359-4999 or go online to: www.mspb.ms.gov.

It’s the hardest job you’ll ever love.

Make a difference in the life of a child.
Make a Difference in the Life of a Child
Be a Social Worker

You’re down to the wire and faced with a choice: what to do when you hit college. What will you major in? How will you decide on your career choice, the path for the rest of your life?

The field of social work may be something you’re interested in. Here are some reasons to choose social work as a career:
• You’re passionate about making a difference.
• You’re devoted to helping others.
• You want to work with children, the elderly, and families in crisis.
• You have a burning desire to promote social and economic justice.
• You’re attracted to the fact that social work has its own body of knowledge, code of ethics, practice standards, and a nationwide system of accredited education programs.
• You want vast career opportunities. (With a degree in social work, you can specialize in child and family services, mental health and substance abuse, social services, and public health.)

Social work is the “helping profession.” In a recent report, social work was listed as one of the top growth fields in the U.S. With many promising job prospects, both nationally and locally, the employment opportunities for those who choose this rewarding field are increasing at a faster rate than average for all occupations through 2016, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics. The most promising area of growth for social workers is working with the elderly or working in rural areas.

Many may be turned off by those who say the pay is low, the hours long, and the work overwhelming. But the tough economic times we live in today bring an increased need for social workers and the services they provide.

“The bar is set high. The expectations and responsibilities are enormous. And although the need is great, the rewards are high; to make a difference in the life of a child or to help restore a family in crisis can’t be measured. Our services are focused on safety, permanency, and well-being for vulnerable children and families,” said Mike Gallarno, director of Family and Children’s Services for the Mississippi Department of Human Services, who adds, “We need qualified social workers to help protect vulnerable children here in Mississippi.”

The division currently has employment opportunities statewide, especially in the three coastal counties and Hinds County, where hiring incentives are being offered to help attract qualified applicants.

Increased stress on families in a tough economy brings a rise in reports to the 24-hour child abuse and neglect hotline. In state fiscal year 2011 the hotline received a record 46,192 calls. That increased need demands an increase in the number of frontline workers.

While Gallarno acknowledges that DFCS is working to fill vacancies, he notes that working with abused and neglected children is difficult.

“These jobs are some of the most difficult jobs in public service but might become the most challenging job that you will ever love,” said Gallarno.

For more information on how you can join the Mississippi Department of Human Services and make a difference in the life of a child, call 601-359-4999, or go online to the Mississippi State Personnel Board job site at: http://www.mspb.ms.gov.

To make a report of neglect or abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, call Mississippi Centralized Intake at 1-800-222-8000.
Today's economy. Jobs of tomorrow. The future prosperity of Mississippi's communities. All are built on the success of our state’s university students. That's why investing in higher education is critical.

From providing opportunities for first-generation and non-traditional students to ensuring the skills for a new generation of business, government, and community leaders, Mississippi's public universities are committed to our students’ success.

Our graduates are prepared for any career. And in every Mississippi community, they’re proving they make a difference in moving our state forward. The return on investing in higher education? Mississippi's future.
When freshman college students hear the word “plagiarism,” they think first of cheating, but the reality is more complicated. Plagiarism occurs any time a student uses another person’s thoughts, word choice, or sentence structure without giving credit to that person and punctuating the material correctly. Although college classrooms do have cheaters, freshmen often make simple mistakes that are still considered plagiarism. Sometimes this ends badly, with students telling their English instructor, “I was dropped out of ___ class for plagiarism, but I never really knew what I did.” The following tips can prevent this from happening to you:

DON’T just change a few words in a source passage and call it a summary. If you imitate the sentence structure of the original, you are still plagiarizing. To prevent yourself from doing this by accident, don’t summarize with the source passage right in front of your eyes; turn it face down while you write.

DON’T “rewrite” someone else’s paper or website in your own words. This is cheating. The whole point of college writing is to force you to think about the topic for yourself and communicate those thoughts clearly to others. (By the way, the new anti-plagiarism software programs can detect if even one phrase matches the source.)

DO name the author when you use a source. Be sure to use the correct style—APA, MLA, or whichever other style your professor requires. When professors see papers written in the wrong style, they immediately suspect that the paper has been purchased online.

DO use quotation marks when you use someone else’s words, even though you mention the author in a lead-in phrase such as “according to John Smith.” The quotation marks tell the professor that you’re using the exact words of the original and not summarizing the source.

DO write summaries using entirely different words and sentence structures from the original. Give credit to the author since the ideas did not originate with you.

GO ask your instructor for help if you suspect you are mishandling a source—or go to the campus writing center if one exists. Leah Speights, head of the Writing Center at Hinds Community College, Raymond Campus, adds, “When you visit the Writing Center, be sure to bring your sources and assignment instructions along with your draft. That way, the tutor will understand what the instructor requires.”

DO give your paper a “rest day” (or days!) between the time you finish it and the due date so that you can check your use of sources one last time.

Avoiding plagiarism requires thought and organization as well as honesty. Don’t be surprised if this feels like work to you; that’s normal. However, the rewards are worth it: a sense of accomplishment, self-esteem, and the respect of professors who can provide you with references as you seek employment or admission to graduate school.
"I WANT TO BE A GREAT DOCTOR."

DEPAUL FOXWORTH, Biology Major

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www.jcjc.edu
A wise man once said, “It’s good to learn from your mistakes.” A much wiser man said, “It’s good to learn from others’ mistakes.” I learn from my personal mistakes, but if possible, I will learn from another’s mistakes to prevent it from happening to me. Today, I want to share with you a few things that I wished I would have known as a senior in high school.

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY. I would have definitely saved my money. If and only if you can balance it with school, I would recommend getting a part-time job and SAVING your money. Learn now how to budget your money as well as shop smartly by catching sales. It’s very important for you to learn how to manage your money and to make it last, especially in today’s economy.

Besides saving money, you should really watch your weight. While at home, you usually eat breakfast, lunch and dinner, but at college you have an opportunity to eat 24\text{\slash}7. I came to college at 187 lbs looking like a shooting guard for a basketball team. Now I am 215 looking like a running back for the football team. After you sign up for class and buy your books, go join the gym! You don’t have to eat just because the food is available. Beware of the infamous “Freshmen Fifteen.” If you don’t monitor what you eat and how much you eat, you just might have to buy new clothes to fit you.

My most important advice that I can give to you is to GROW UP. If you do not know how to iron and wash clothes, learn today! There are no maids at college and laziness gets you nowhere. Also, start forming good study and sleeping habits now. These things are very vital to being a successful college student. If you do not get enough sleep BEFORE class, you might consequently catch up on your sleep DURING class. As for studying, if you don’t study you will not pass with the grades that you want. This is college; this is not the 13th grade. College requires you to study more as well as be responsible.

If only I could have read this essay two years ago, I would have a little more money in my pocket, fewer pounds on my body and an even higher GPA. So START NOW, saving your money, learning to manage it and making it stretch. START NOW watching your weight and working out regularly so you won’t be a victim to the Freshmen Fifteen. START NOW ironing, washing and folding clothes, studying and eating and sleeping properly.

Seize the moment and enjoy your senior year, but don’t forget to prepare for your future because it starts tomorrow.

Paul Calcote graduated in May 2012 from Mississippi College with a Bachelor in Christian Studies. He is currently working at Mississippi College as Ministry Coordinator and Director of Lighthouse Ministries. He plans to pursue a Masters in high education in 2013. His goals are the same. Serve God to the fullest, help others to the fullest, and live life to the fullest!
To Bring or Not To Bring…?

By Abby Browne

This is it. You’re moving out of your parents’ house and into a dorm room. If only you could take every single photo, poster, knick-knack, video game, or article of clothing. But let’s face reality. You’re moving into an area with very limited space that you’ll (probably) be sharing with someone else. There’s simply not enough room to recreate your bedroom of the past 18 years.

So, the people who have gone before you have opted to help you out. We’ve been there before and would like to save you from some of the trouble we experienced. So pull out that new pad of paper and your favorite pencil, and start taking notes.

“Man, why did I bring this toaster oven? I guess I can set it on the sink when I need to use it…”

Below you’ll find a list of the most common items to take with you to college. It includes things for the bedroom, bathroom, classroom, etc. Use discretion while going through this list, however. Remember that if you don’t already have a printer, it will save you money to simply print that 20-page end-of-term paper when you need to. Similarly, if you don’t already own a computer, you can opt to use the computers in the campus computer lab.

The most common items that you don’t need to bring are an iron/ironing board, kitchen appliances, and furniture. Most dorms these days are already supplied with all the furniture you need—even waste baskets! Every college varies, however, so if you don’t have time to check with your college before you move, wait to purchase the larger items until you have to. Believe me—you’ll have enough stuff to fit in your car without adding a desk and chair.

With all this wisdom under your belt, we now give you The List.

Abby Browne works at Parents & Kids Magazine and is married to the RD of the guys dorm at Belhaven University.
**Dorm Checklist**

**Bed:**
- Bed Sheets
- Blankets
- Comforter
- Mattress Pad
- Pillowcases
- Pillows
- Sleeping Bag
- Under Bed Storage

**Computer Related:**
- Cables
- Computer
- Headphones
- Keyboard
- Mouse
- Printer
- Printer Ink
- Printer Paper
- Surge Protector
- USB Flash Drive

**Room:**
- Alarm Clock
- Blank CDs & DVDs
- Bulletin Board
- Cell Phone
- Cell Phone Charger
- DVD Collection
- Extension Cords
- Microsoft Office
  - (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- MP3 Player/iPod
- Push Pins
- Speakers
- TV
- Video Game
- Consoles
- Wall Posters

**Appliances/Other:**
- Bath Towels
- Bathrobe
- Curling Iron
- Hair Dryer
- Hair Straightener
- Washcloths

**If you share a shower:**
- Shower Caddy
- Shower Flip Flops

**Toiletries:**
- Cosmetics & Makeup
- Cotton Balls
- Dental Floss
- Deodorant
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Eye Drops
- Eye Glasses
- Hair Brush/Comb
- Hair Conditioner
- Hair Spray/Gel
- Hand Lotion
- Mirror
- Mouthwash
- Nail Clippers
- Q-Tips
- Razor
- Shampoo
- Shaving Cream
- Soap
- Sunscreen
- Tissues
- Toilet Paper
- Toiletry Kit
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Tweezers

**Medical:**
- Antibiotic Cream
- Band-Aids
- Contact Lens Solution
- Cough Drops
- Decongestants
- First Aid Kit
- Hot/Cold Packs
- Pain Reliever
- Pepto Bismol
- Prescription Medication
- Thermometer
- Vitamins

**Clothing:**
- Belts
- Dress Clothes
- Flip Flops
- Gloves
- Hat
- Jackets
- Jeans
- Jewelry
- Nyons
- Pajamas
- Pants
- Purse
- Shirts
- Shorts
- Shoes
- Socks
- Sweaters
- Sweatshirts
- Swimwear
- Underwear
- Watch
- Workout Clothes

**Kitchen Checklist**

**Supplies:**
- Can/Bottle Opener
- Chip Clips
- Coffee Maker
- Cups
- Dish Detergent
- Dish Towels
- Knife
- Minifridge
- Mugs
- Paper Plates
- Paper Towels
- Pizza Cutter
- Plastic Food Containers
- Plastic Wrap
- Utensils
- Water Filter
- Zip Lock Bags

**Food:**
- Bottled Water
- Cereal
- Energy Drinks
- Granola Bars
- Juice Boxes
- Microwaveable dishes (Ramen, Macaroni dishes, etc.)
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Popcorn
- Soda
- Soup

**Bathroom Checklist**

**Clothing:**
- Belts
- Dress Clothes
- Flip Flops
- Gloves
- Hat
- Jackets
- Jeans
- Jewelry
- Nyons
- Pajamas
- Pants
- Purse
- Shirts
- Shorts
- Shoes
- Socks
- Sweaters
- Sweatshirts
- Swimwear
- Underwear
- Watch
- Workout Clothes

**Laundry Supplies:**
- Clothes Hangers
- Fabric Softener
- Iron/Ironing Board
- Laundry Detergent
- Laundry Hamper/Bag
- Stain Remover

**Miscellaneous Checklist**

**Important Documents:**
- Bank Info
- Calling Card
- Car Registration
- Debit/Prepaid Card/Checks
- Driver’s License
- Financial Aid Forms
- List of Emergency Contacts
- Medical Insurance Card
- Renter Insurance-optional
- Social Security Card
- Student ID

**Check with School to see if Needed**

- Corded Phone w/Answering Machine
- Desk
- Desk Chair
- Microwave
- Waste Basket
- Quarters for Laundry
- Water Bottle

*These lists are not comprehensive/do not address the specific needs of each individual. Please use discretion while working from these lists and make changes accordingly.*
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The Parents & Kids College Planner is now in its 9th year of publication. In its pages you will find solid, non-biased information that will help you make the best decisions about higher education.

There are as many options as there are college-bound students, but if you want to go to college and have the academic credentials to be admitted, you CAN go to college. We are not saying it will be easy. And we are not promising you will find the near-mythical “free ride.” That concept is becoming more rare now that virtually all families are expected to make some contribution toward a student’s college education.

But that does not mean an education is out of reach. From grants to loans to scholarship programs to the benefits provided by the military, there are ways to achieve this basic tenet of the “American dream.”

Our best advice:
Master your school’s college prep curriculum.
Take the courses that will ensure a strong foundation for your college success.
Stay informed.
Check out www.riseupms.com, which gathers a wealth of information at your fingertips.
Start early.
Look for the month-by-month calendar on page 27 to discover what you need to be doing now.
Stay organized.
Maintain a portfolio of all the important materials you need to document your credentials and financial status.

Best wishes to all of our students!

Parents & Kids Magazine

Gretchen Cook- Publisher/Editor, Scott Anderson- Designer

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If you would like copies for your group, we’ll be happy to make them available. Email collegeinfo@parents-kids.com. Please put “College Planner Request” in the subject line and provide us with your address. We will mail you as many as you need until our supply is depleted. And, of course, they are free of charge. For conferences and other scheduled events, please give us enough time to get the magazines to you. They are sent through the US Postal Service.
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