

# get2college

WOODWARD HINES EDUCATION FOUNDATION



## College is a big deal. Choose wisely!

**GET2COLLEGE IS COMMITTED TO HELPING YOU  
PLAN, PREPARE, AND PAY FOR COLLEGE.**

This booklet is your guide to getting started on your journey to graduation and beyond! Make an appointment for virtual counseling or visit one of our centers.

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# How to choose the right college for you

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## ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS.

Answering questions like these will help you focus your college search.

- What interests me?
- How do I spend my free time?
- What makes me feel passionate?
- How do I learn best?
- What do I think I want to do in the future?
- What type of degree am I seeking?

## GET TO KNOW THE OPTIONS.

There are different types of colleges/universities. Do your research to determine the right fit for you.

- Public or private
- Community college or four-year institution
- Historically Black College or University (HBCU)
- All male or female student body
- Religious affiliation
- Military academy

## WHERE DO I WANT TO LIVE?

- Urban, suburban, or rural
- Live at home and commute
- Move away from home and live on campus

## HOW LARGE IS THE STUDENT BODY?

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

## DECIDE WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOU.

For some students, sports and activities are very important. Other students want a challenging academic environment. Some students want both.

## SEARCH FOR COLLEGES

Visit school websites, request brochures and catalogs, and talk to admission and financial aid staff.

- Check out a great resource at [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org).
- Make campus visits.
- Look at colleges' Net Price Calculators to determine your cost of attending.



# Visit your favorite colleges

## DURING YOUR VISIT:

- Read the student newspaper and other student publications.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.

## QUESTIONS FOR YOUR TOUR GUIDE OR STUDENTS YOU MEET ON CAMPUS:

- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to go from high school to college?
- What do you do in your free time and on the weekends?
- What is transportation like if you don't have a car?
- What would you have changed about your college search?

## OTHER GOOD QUESTIONS TO ASK DURING YOUR VISIT:

- What forms are required for admission, and what are the deadlines? Are there any advantages to applying early?
- What special programs are available such as honors programs, study abroad, learning communities, freshman experience, or internship opportunities?
- Do the faculty and students rely on network-sharing for assignments?
- How do I apply for financial aid? What forms are required, and when are the deadlines?
- What percentage of your students go on for graduate or professional degrees? What type of career services do you have?
- What types of support services are available to students on campus such as tutoring programs and writing centers?

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# Your pre-college courses:

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## THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM (CPC)

ENGLISH: 4 Carnegie units

\_\_\_ English I or equivalent

\_\_\_ English II or equivalent

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

MATHEMATICS: 3 Carnegie units

\_\_\_ Algebra I or its equivalent

\_\_\_ Math higher than Algebra I (2 units)

SCIENCE: 3 Carnegie units

\_\_\_ Biology I or its equivalent

\_\_\_ Science higher than Biology I (2 units)

SOCIAL STUDIES: 3 Carnegie units

\_\_\_ U.S. History

\_\_\_ World History

\_\_\_ U.S. Government (½ unit)

\_\_\_ Economics (½ unit) or Introduction to World-Geography (½ unit)

ARTS: 1 Carnegie unit

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

ADVANCED ELECTIVES: 2 Carnegie units

\_\_\_ Option 1: Foreign Language I and Foreign Language II

\_\_\_ Option 2: Foreign Language I and Advanced World Geography

\_\_\_ Option 3: Any combination of English, Mathematics higher than Algebra I, Science higher than Biology I, Advanced Elective category, any AP course, any IB course

TECHNOLOGY: ½ Carnegie unit

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

**DO YOU KNOW HOW  
TO CALCULATE  
YOUR GPA?**



The “Five P’s” are key elements of importance in the college admission process. They are touchstones for admission and scholarship decision-makers. It is imperative that you clearly understand how you will be evaluated.

**WHAT IS YOUR PERSONALITY TYPE?**

**HOW WILL YOU USE YOUR TRAITS TO STAND OUT IN THE CROWD?**

1

**PERFORMANCE:**

Grades  
Class rank

3

**PARTICIPATION:**

A difference the student made in his or her school or community

5

**PROGRAM:**

High school profile  
Curriculum  
Classes completed compared to what is available

2

**POTENTIAL:**

Test scores - ACT, SAT, AP, IB, Dual Enrollment

4

**PERSONALITY:**

Essays  
Recommendations  
interviews

# ACT TEST DATES FOR 2017-18

ACT		
TEST DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE FEE REQUIRED
September 9, 2017	August 4, 2017	August 5-18, 2017
October 28, 2017	September 22, 2017	September 23-October 6, 2017
December 9, 2017	November 3, 2017	November 4-7, 2017
February 10, 2018	January 12, 2018	January 13-19, 2018
April 14, 2018	March 9, 2018	March 10-23, 2018
June 9, 2018	May 4, 2018	May 5-18, 2018
July 14, 2018	June 15, 2018	June 16-22, 2018

## ACT Fees (subject to change)

Test Info Release \$20.00 (get copy of test questions, your answers, and answer key.

Only available for December, April, and June tests.)

Late Fee \$29.50

ACT (no Writing) \$46.00

ACT plus Writing \$62.50

Fee waivers are offered to help lower income students pay for the ACT and SAT. Ask your high school counselor if you qualify!

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) or 319.337.1270.

# What is the ACT used for?

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:

- Admissions
- Scholarship evaluation
- State aid (MTAG, MESH and HELP Grant)
- Academic advising
- Course placement (remedial classes or summer development options)

GET2COLLEGE OFFERS FREE ACT PREP WORKSHOPS. ONLINE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. DATES AND AVAILABILITY MAY VARY. LEARN MORE AT [GET2COLLEGE.ORG](http://GET2COLLEGE.ORG).

# What is the cost of college?



**Basics total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Tuition \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Housing \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Meals \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Books/supplies \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal care and clothing total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Clothing purchase \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Laundry \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Toiletries \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Haircuts \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Utilities total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Water \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Electricity/Gas \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TV Subscriptions \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Netflix, Hulu etc.)  
Internet \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(off campus only)

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

**Entertainment/social total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Fraternity or sorority dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Movies, concerts, etc. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Athletic uniforms, shoes \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Eating out, snacks etc. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Miscellaneous \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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# Four steps to get financial aid for college

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## STEP

# 1

### APPLY NOW FOR PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS.

- Many scholarships are not posted until the fall of your senior year, but deadlines start popping up as early as December.
- See your high school counselor or career center manager for a list of scholarships.
- 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!
- There are several free scholarship sites on the Internet. Some popular sites are:  
[WWW.BIGFUTURE.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG](http://WWW.BIGFUTURE.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG)  
[WWW.MERIT.AID.COM](http://WWW.MERIT.AID.COM)  
[WWW.MYCOLLEGE.DOLLARS.COM](http://WWW.MYCOLLEGE.DOLLARS.COM)  
[WWW.FASTWEB.COM](http://WWW.FASTWEB.COM).
- Read your local newspaper every day to look for announcements about scholarships or photos of winners.
- If you attend a community college, check the requirements to join Phi Theta Kappa which offers great scholarships.

### CHECK OUT COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS, LOCAL AND STATE SCHOLARSHIPS AT [GET2COLLEGE.ORG](http://GET2COLLEGE.ORG).





STEP

2

## APPLY EARLY FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

- Most scholarships come directly from individual colleges.
- 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. Most can be found online at each college's website. **MAKE SURE YOU MEET ALL DEADLINES!**
- If you attended a community college, be aware that 4-year colleges may have transfer scholarships for Phi Theta Kappa members.

STEP

3

## FAFSA COMPLETION BEGINS OCTOBER 1

### COMPLETE THE FAFSA TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID:

[WWW.FAFSA.GOV](http://WWW.FAFSA.GOV)

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is required to receive any federal funds. Federal funds include need-based and non-need-based grants, work-study programs, and student loans. The FAFSA may also be used for awarding some state aid, institutional aid, and even private scholarships.

You can file the FAFSA as early as October 1 of your senior year. Make sure you meet state grant deadlines and your prospective colleges' priority deadlines for filing the FAFSA.

Review for accuracy your Student Aid Report (SAR), which is sent to you after you file your FAFSA. If necessary, you will be allowed to make corrections. If you have any special circumstances, contact the Financial Aid Office of the school you plan to attend.

Some schools may require the CSS/Financial Aid Profile® in addition to the FAFSA.



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# Your guide to completing the FAFSA

## FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

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It is important to complete the FAFSA, and you can file as early as October 1 of your senior year. Make sure to file the FAFSA before your college's priority filing deadline to qualify for the most money.

### GET HELP FILING THE FAFSA

Check with your counselor to see if Get2College or your local community college is hosting a FAFSA Completion Day at your school. If so, make an appointment for one-on-one assistance for you and your parents to complete the FAFSA. If we are not coming to your school, call your nearest Get2College Center to make an appointment to visit our office or ask for remote online, screenshare assistance. We will be glad to help you file your FAFSA online. As always, this service is free!

### GATHERING THE DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA

The FAFSA asks for basic information about the student and parent (your name, date of birth, address, etc.) and about the family's financial situation. Depending on your circumstances, you might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA for both you and your parents:

- Parent(s) and student's legal names
- Parent(s) and student's Social Security numbers
- Parent(s) and student's dates of birth
- Parent's driver's license number
- Email address for student and parent
- Info for parents with whom you live: marriage date, divorce date, or separation date
- If you are in a legal guardianship, bring court papers for the guardianship.
- Do not bring information on a grandparent, aunt, or anyone other than a parent unless you have been legally adopted (even if someone else claims you on the federal tax return)
- W-2 forms and other records of money earned in 2016 (student and parents)
- 2016 Federal Income Tax Return (the 1040 form for student and parents) – If your parents or parent and step-parent file separately, bring copies of both tax returns
- Value of bank accounts and investments

The FAFSA is FREE, so if a website asks you to pay to fill it out, you're not dealing with the official FAFSA site, [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

# FYI: You need to know about the EFC



The information you reported on your FAFSA is used to calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The formula used to calculate your EFC is established by law and is used to measure your family's financial strength on the basis of your family's income and assets. The EFC is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid and may be used for institutional need-based aid or state financial aid.

**The FAFSA does not award financial aid.** The FAFSA processors simply process the data, calculate the EFC, and send the information to the colleges you listed on the FAFSA. The college determines the federal aid and other need-based aid you are eligible to receive.

## WHAT IS THE FORMULA THAT DETERMINES FINANCIAL NEED?

If your EFC is below a certain number, you may be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, assuming you meet all other eligibility requirements. For need-based aid programs, the Financial Aid Administrator at your college takes the cost of attendance and then subtracts your EFC to determine your financial need. Your financial need is simply defined as your eligibility for need-based financial aid.

### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Cost of Attendance (COA)  
 - Expected Family Contribution (EFC)  
 = Financial need

## THE EFC IS THE SAME AT EACH COLLEGE.

The higher the cost of a college, the more eligibility you will have for financial aid! Schools will try to meet 100% of your financial need using federal aid, state aid, and institutional aid (scholarships and grants), work-study, student loans, and parent loans. Financial Aid Administrators will work with you to make their college affordable. The following example shows your need using sample Cost of Attendance and Expected Family Contribution figures.

	COLLEGE A	COLLEGE B	COLLEGE C
Cost of Attendance (COA)	12,000	21,000	48,000
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	- 9000	- 9000	- 9000
<b>= Financial need</b>	<b>= 3,000</b>	<b>= 12,000</b>	<b>= 39,000</b>

# Not done yet! After the FAFSA



## **FAFSA ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

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, you will receive an initial email 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.

## **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 Student Aid Report (SAR) online. If you did not provide an email, you will receive the SAR in the mail. If the information is incorrect, it may be necessary to go back into your FAFSA and make corrections. Got questions about the FAFSA? Call 1.800.4FEDAID (1.800.433.3243), or contact Get2College.

## VERIFICATION

Some financial aid applications will be selected for a federally required verification process. This means that you will be expected to provide supporting documentation for the information on your FAFSA. You may be asked to verify numbers from your FAFSA such as household size, number in college, or untaxed income. You may be asked to upload your tax return directly from the IRS using the FAFSA IRS Data Retrieval tool. Or you can provide an IRS Tax Return Transcript by requesting online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or by calling 800.908.9946.

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

## 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 financial aid you are eligible to receive, how to accept and the next steps in the process.

Typically, schools will allow you to accept your award online. However, you may receive an award letter by mail. You should determine which of the awards you will accept and which you will decline. 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.



## STUDENT LOANS

If you accepted Federal student loans, you will need to follow the college's process for completing the Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Loan Entrance Counseling.

## STEP

# 4

## COMPLETE THE MISSISSIPPI FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION.

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid offers grants based on merit and financial need to full-time (15 credit hours per semester) students attending eligible Mississippi colleges and universities. The application is available at [www.mississippi.edu/financialaid](http://www.mississippi.edu/financialaid) or you can link to the Mississippi application after completing the FAFSA and most of your info will be prefilled.

- To receive any state assistance, you must take at least 15 hours each semester (fall/spring).
- Stacking state aid is no longer permitted. Students will be awarded the grant with the highest amount.

### MISSISSIPPI TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANT (MTAG)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15

Freshmen and sophomores receive up to \$500/year, and juniors and seniors receive up to \$1000/year. Eligible students meet the following criteria:

- Have cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 and a minimum of 15 on the national ACT or equivalent score on the national SAT.
- Are not full Pell Grant eligible.

### MISSISSIPPI EMINENT SCHOLARS GRANT (MESG)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15

Covers up to \$2500/year, but may not exceed tuition and required fees at attending institution. Eligible students meet the following criteria:

- Achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5.
- Score a minimum of 29 on the national ACT or equivalent score on the national SAT or are National Merit/National Achievement Finalists or Semi-Finalists.

### HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE PLAN (HELP)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 31 | SUPPORTING DOCUMENT DEADLINE: APRIL 30

Covers tuition and required fees for no more than 8 semesters at a public institution. Participants attending a private institution in Mississippi will receive an award amount equal to the award of a student attending the nearest Mississippi university.

Eligible students meet the following criteria:

- Are freshmen and/or sophomores who graduated from high school within the immediate past two years using the designated core curriculum and are residents of Mississippi.
- Complete the FAFSA and qualify for a federal Pell Grant.
- Meet the income threshold to qualify as listed on the HELP website.
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 and a minimum of 20 on the national ACT.

# Senior Year Checklist

- Sign Up for the ACT/SAT: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) and [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org)
- Get to know your college recruiters
- Schedule a campus visit
- Create your high school resume
- Utilize job shadowing or internships to learn about possible careers
- Check college websites for Net Price Calculators to see the cost of attending college
- Research scholarship opportunities
- Apply for college admission to meet priority deadlines
- Secure letters of recommendation for admission and scholarships if needed
- Complete your [FAFSA](#) and application for [Mississippi student aid](#) during your senior year anytime after October 1 - [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) and [www.mississippi.edu/financialaid](http://www.mississippi.edu/financialaid).



## Next Steps:

- Apply for Housing
- Pay Deposit if required
- Complete Verification if selected by the college
- Review and compare Financial Aid Award notices and make final decisions
- Sign up for orientation
- Request your final transcript be sent to the college of your choice upon graduation
- Complete online Loan Counseling and sign Master Promissory Note if you accept a student loan

**FOR MORE PERSONALIZED COUNSELING ON HOW TO GET TO COLLEGE,  
MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT YOUR NEAREST CENTER OR VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE FOR VIRTUAL COUNSELING, WEBINARS AND MORE!**

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**Gulf Coast Get2College Center**

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

**North Mississippi Get2College Center**

5699 Getwell Road, Building H, Suite 3  
Southaven, MS 38672  
Phone: 662.349.2789  
nms@get2college.org

**Jackson Get2College Center**

2600 Lakeland Terrace,  
Jackson, MS 39216  
Phone: 601.321.5533  
jackson@get2college.org

**Don't live near a Get2College Center?**

Live chat or schedule virtual counseling with us at [get2college.org](http://get2college.org), call us at 601.321.5533 or send an email to [info@get2college.org](mailto:info@get2college.org).

**GET IN TOUCH!**

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