

## HOW TO GET YOUR HOMESCHOOLED STUDENT TO COLLEGE

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### **Gathering Information:**

#### **Internet**

The internet is a great way to begin your college search. The following two websites have a wealth of information about preparing for college. Yes, there are others also!

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

A good way to begin comparing colleges is to use some of the national rankings that are done. Here are two websites that offer this service. Be aware that what is important to these ranking organizations may not be important to you. So check to see what criteria they use to rank the schools. This does not substitute for personal visits or God directing your steps. It is simply an objective way to compare colleges. Use this information to ask questions, to decide which colleges to look at, but not to make the final decision.

<https://usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings>

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings/best-colleges>

Every **college has a website**; some are better than others; they nearly always end with “edu”.

**College Fairs:** National College Fair [www.nacacnet.org/college-fairs](http://www.nacacnet.org/college-fairs)  
Christian College Fair [www.naccap.org](http://www.naccap.org)

#### **Campus Visits**

Make campus visits. Check to see when their preview days are. They have special seminars planned for those days which are helpful, especially when it's your first student to apply for college. Check out the college website to find out when special weekends/days are planned, for prospective students. If you need to schedule a special appointment, you can do that via e-mail as well.

#### **Academic Common Market**

The Academic Common Market is a tuition-savings program for college students in 15 SREB (Southern Regional Education Board) states who want to pursue degrees that are not offered by public institutions in their home state. You can go to a college in a neighboring state for in-state tuition. Check their site and see what schools and programs qualify and what the requirements are. Keeping a certain GPA...not changing your major...

#### **The Admission Process**

Every college is different, but there are many similarities also! Some use what is called a “common” application, which can be used for a number of colleges. Some combination of the following is probably going to be required:

- Counselor recommendation/pastor or youth pastor
- Teacher recommendation/character references
- Transcript
- Student application (fill in the blank stuff)
- Student essay/personal testimony

That's why we say “start early.” It's difficult to do all this, apply online, with a midnight deadline looming!

There is usually an application fee. Sometimes that can be waived if it's early in the year (September or October), or if you turn in your application at a campus preview day. It doesn't hurt to ask someone if there is any way the application fee can be waived. This is one of the reasons that students don't apply to 100 different schools; you have to pay an application fee. So try to narrow down the schools you want to apply to.

## **Financing College**

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – must complete this for nearly **ALL** colleges, to be considered for all financial aid, including grants, scholarships, loans, etc. <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Scholarships and grants – Money that does not need to be repaid. Family income has to demonstrate financial need; grants are a gift, must not be repaid. College financial aid office is the best source of this information: merit-based, need-based, academic, institutional, departmental. But also check with foundations, religious organizations, community organizations, civic groups, organizations related to your field of interest (medical, legal, etc.), your employer or your parents' employers, or your union or your parents' unions, military (ROTC, national guard). Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant, Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant. [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)  
<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/scholarships>

## **Websites**

College Board  
US News Scholarship Finder  
Appily formerly Cappex  
JLV College Counseling – you have to sift a lot  
Unigo

## **APPS**

Scholarship System App  
Google Calendar – Electronic Reminders to stay on top of deadlines  
Scholly – database  
Raise Me – based on accomplishments

Student loans – loans for students, and loans for parents. Direct Subsidized, Direct Unsubsidized, Direct PLUS, are subsidized student loans; Perkins are unsubsidized student loans; PLUS are unsubsidized loans for parents. [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

Work study – Federal, state, and campus-based programs. Tax-free money for campus jobs.

## **Academic Preparation for College**

### **Course of Study**

Following are the current state requirements for high school graduation. Be aware of what the colleges specify as admission requirements. Some state colleges say they require “the equivalent of an Alabama high school diploma”, which means these requirements!

English	4 units
Math	4 units (must include both Algebra I & II, and geometry)
Science	4 units (must include biology and a physical science)
Social studies	4 units (1 world history/geography, 2 US history, 1/2 government, 1/2 economics)
P.E.	1 unit
Career Preparedness	1 unit
Health	1/2 unit
CTE (Career and Technical Education) and/or Foreign Language and/or Arts Education	3 units
Electives	<u>2-1/2 units</u>
	<b>24 UNITS TOTAL</b>

### **FUTURE TIP:**

#### **Alabama Transfer:**

Transfer program. Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System –Now known as Alabama Transfers. This allows public two-year students in Alabama to obtain a Transfer Guide/Agreement for the major of their choice. This guide/agreement, if used correctly, guides the student through his/her first two years of coursework and prevents loss of credit hours upon transfer to the appropriate public four-year university in Alabama.

Look at the colleges your student is interested in and print the course of study for the program and use it as a guide.

**Extra-Curricular Activities:** Academic and/or service clubs; any offices held in these clubs; part-time job, apprenticeship, internship, job shadow in a profession that interests you; extra educational opportunities (college level courses, Summit student leadership conference). Work on a resume that summarizes your personal data: education, extra-curricular activities, job experience, special skills or talents, volunteer work, etc.

**Test Taking:** Graded achievement tests, PSAT, SAT, ACT - writing portions optional. Test scores mean a lot for academic scholarships.

#### **Skills Needed for College:**

- Notetaking (sermons, videotapes, books, etc.)
- Research and library skills
- Computer skills (word processing, Excel, PowerPoint, e-mail, on-line courses)
- Projects that require independent work
- Reading college level books - Read! Read! Read!
- Critical thinking and analysis, verbally and in writing
- Adhere to semester syllabus; learn how to budget time
- Write! Write! Write!
- Ability to function away from parents for an extended amount of time

- Laundry, mending, grocery shopping, cooking, handling money
- Seek out help when needed (house directors or resident advisors, counselors, medical clinic)
- Beliefs, convictions, moral standards that the teen has adopted as his/her own, and not just the parents' CPYU – Center for Parent and Youth Understanding