



# College Guide

**Get2College** counselors can provide you with personalized advice on how to do everything outlined in this booklet. Just call one of our Centers listed on the back cover or chat with us live at [get2college.org](http://get2college.org).

**SENIORS**

**get2college**

WHERE THE BEST ADVICE IS FREE

# How to choose the right college for you



## 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 introductory 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.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Increasing the number of college applications from one to three increases the probability of enrollment by 50%!





Make sure  
you visit  
your favorite  
colleges





The best visit may include meeting your admission counselor, taking a campus tour, sitting in on a class, having lunch with current students, and meeting faculty or staff who teach or work in your interest areas.

### **DURING YOUR VISIT:**

- Listen to the college radio station.
- 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 do you love about this college?
- 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?
- What percentage of the campus is wireless? 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?

# What you'll need for college admissions



## FOUR WAYS TO GAIN ADMISSION TO A MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UNIVERSITY

1. Complete the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) with a minimum 3.2 high school grade point average (GPA) on the CPC; or
2. Complete the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) with a minimum 2.50 high school GPA on the CPC or a class rank in the top 50% and a score of 16 or higher on the ACT\* (Composite); or
3. Complete the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) with a minimum 2.00 high school GPA on the CPC 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.

## WHAT IF YOU DO NOT MEET THE CRITERIA?

Students who do not meet the above criteria are nonetheless eligible for admission. Such students must participate, however, in an on-campus placement process at the university of their choice. The process will determine whether the student may be enrolled in regular freshman-level courses or be required to enroll in the summer semester with mandatory participation in the Summer Developmental Program. Successful completion of the summer semester entitles the student to continued enrollment in the fall semester at the university of his or her choice.

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

# MISSISSIPPI COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

## PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Alcorn State University  
[www.alcorn.edu](http://www.alcorn.edu)

Delta State University  
[www.deltastate.edu](http://www.deltastate.edu)

Jackson State University  
[www.jsu.ms.edu](http://www.jsu.ms.edu)

Mississippi State University  
[www.msstate.edu](http://www.msstate.edu)

Mississippi University for Women  
[www.muw.edu](http://www.muw.edu)

Mississippi Valley State University  
[www.mvsu.edu](http://www.mvsu.edu)

University of Mississippi  
[www.olemiss.edu](http://www.olemiss.edu)

University of Southern Mississippi  
[www.usm.edu](http://www.usm.edu)

## PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Belhaven University  
[www.belhaven.edu](http://www.belhaven.edu)

Blue Mountain College  
[www.bmc.edu](http://www.bmc.edu)

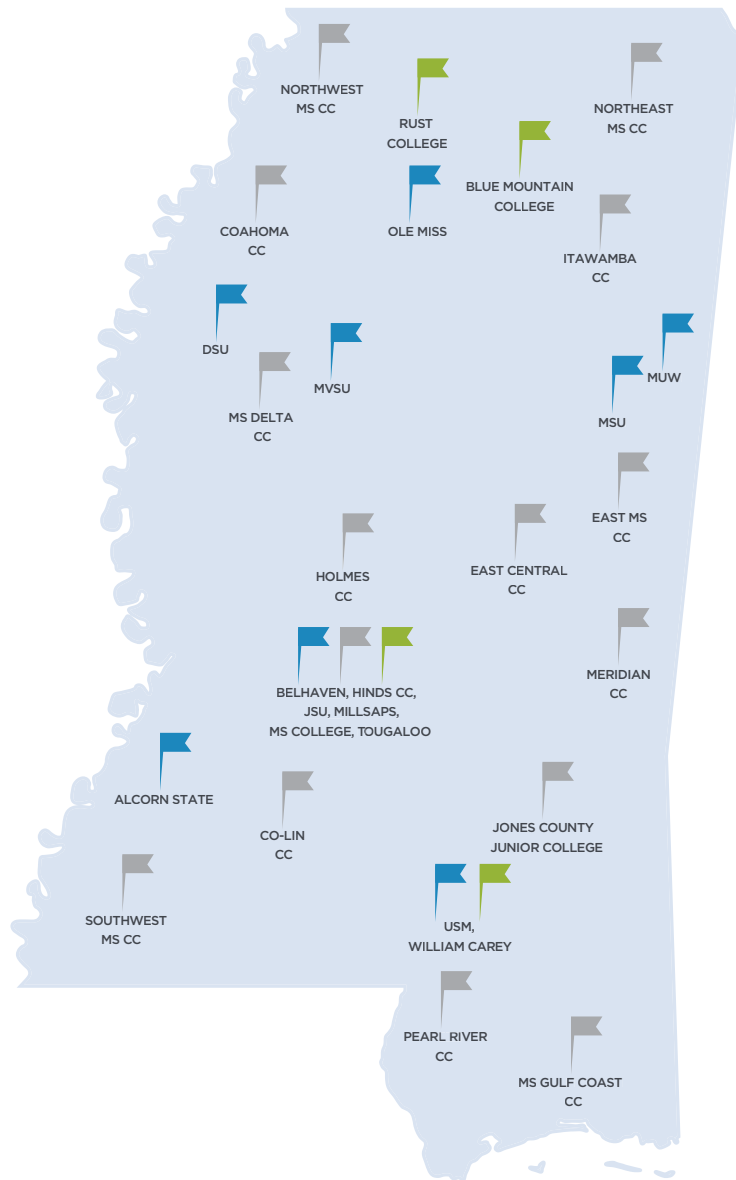
Millsaps College  
[www.millsaps.edu](http://www.millsaps.edu)

Mississippi College  
[www.mc.edu](http://www.mc.edu)

Rust College  
[www.rustcollege.edu](http://www.rustcollege.edu)

Tougaloo College  
[www.tougaloo.edu](http://www.tougaloo.edu)

William Carey University  
[www.wmcarey.edu](http://www.wmcarey.edu)



## COMMUNITY & JUNIOR COLLEGES

Coahoma CC - [www.coahomacc.edu](http://www.coahomacc.edu)

Copiah-Lincoln CC - [www.colin.edu](http://www.colin.edu)

East Central CC - [www.eccc.edu](http://www.eccc.edu)

East MS CC - [www.eastms.edu](http://www.eastms.edu)

Hinds CC - [www.hindscc.edu](http://www.hindscc.edu)

Holmes CC - [www.holmescc.edu](http://www.holmescc.edu)

Itawamba CC - [www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu)

Jones County JC - [www.jcjc.edu](http://www.jcjc.edu)

Meridian CC - [www.meridiancc.edu](http://www.meridiancc.edu)

MS Delta CC - [www.msdelta.edu](http://www.msdelta.edu)

MS Gulf Coast CC - [www.mgccc.edu](http://www.mgccc.edu)

Northeast MS CC - [www.nemcc.edu](http://www.nemcc.edu)

Northwest MS CC - [www.northwestms.edu](http://www.northwestms.edu)

Pearl River CC - [www.prcc.edu](http://www.prcc.edu)

Southwest MS CC - [www.smcc.edu](http://www.smcc.edu)

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# How to take the ACT: Practice really helps

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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. Most students take the ACT and/or SAT during their junior or senior year in high school. At least half of all students take it twice and improve their score the second time around. Free ACT Prep resources may be available through your local library or high school, and the Get2College Centers offer free ACT Prep Workshops.



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

GET2COLLEGE OFFERS FREE ACT PREP WORKSHOPS. CHECK DATES AND REGISTER AT [GET2COLLEGE.ORG](https://www.get2college.org).



## ACT-SAT TEST DATES

ACT		
TEST DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE FEE REQUIRED
September 12, 2015	August 7, 2015	August 8-21, 2015
October 24, 2015	September 18, 2015	Sept. 19 - Oct. 2, 2015
December 12, 2015	November 6, 2015	November 7-20, 2015
February 6, 2016	January 8, 2016	January 9-15, 2016
April 9, 2016	March 4, 2016	March 5-8, 2016
June 11, 2016	May 6, 2016	May 7-20, 2016

### ACT Fees (subject to change)

ACT (no Writing)	\$39.50
ACT plus Writing	\$56.50
Late Fee	\$25.00

SAT		
TEST DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	TEST TYPE
October 3, 2015	September 3, 2015	SAT & Subject Tests
November 7, 2015	October 9, 2015	SAT & Subject Tests
December 5, 2015	November 5, 2015	SAT & Subject Tests
January 23, 2016	December 28, 2015	SAT & Subject Tests
March 5, 2016	February 5, 2016	SAT Only
May 7, 2016	April 8, 2016	SAT & Subject Tests
June 4, 2016	May 5, 2016	SAT & Subject Tests

### SAT Fees (subject to change)

SAT with essay	\$54.50
Late Fee	\$28.00
Subject Test Base Fee	\$26.00
Language with Listening Test	\$26.00
All other Subject Tests	\$18.00 each

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK [WWW.ACTSTUDENT.ORG](http://WWW.ACTSTUDENT.ORG) (319.337.1270) FOR ACT AND [WWW.SAT.ORG](http://WWW.SAT.ORG) (866.756.7346) FOR SAT.

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# Four steps to get financial aid for college

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1

## APPLY NOW FOR PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS.

- 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.MYCOLLEGEDOLLARS.COM](http://WWW.MYCOLLEGEDOLLARS.COM) AND [WWW.FASTWEB.COM](http://WWW.FASTWEB.COM).
- Read your local newspaper every day to look for announcements about scholarships. 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.

APPLY FOR THE GET2COLLEGE \$CHOLARSHIP AND CHECK OUT OTHER LOCAL AND STATE SCHOLARSHIPS AT [GET2COLLEGE.ORG](http://GET2COLLEGE.ORG).



## 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!**
- Check each college's Net Price Calculator to help you estimate your financial aid options.
- Some schools may require the CSS/Financial Aid Profile® in addition to the FAFSA.



# 3

## 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.

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 FAFSA.

You must complete the FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://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.

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



# 4

## COMPLETE THE MISSISSIPPI FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION.

Learn about the state grants and eligibility criteria at [www.mississippi.edu/financialaid](http://www.mississippi.edu/financialaid). The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid offers scholarships and grants based on merit and financial need.

You should complete your application after January 1 of your senior year and prior to March 31 which is the earliest deadline.

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Check your email and/or online college student account for a financial award notification and to make sure the Financial Aid Office has received all required documents. 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 do not 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 as directed by the school.

RECEIVE YOUR  
FINANCIAL AID  
AWARD NOTICES  
AND MAKE  
FINAL COLLEGE  
DECISIONS.





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# Where to find Mississippi financial aid

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The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid provides funding to fulltime students attending eligible Mississippi colleges and universities. By completing the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid Application annually, you are ensuring that, if qualified, you will receive financial aid from state sources. The application may be accessed 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. For more information on the programs listed below and others, contact the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid at 601.432.6997 or 800.327.2980.

## **MISSISSIPPI TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANT (MTAG)**

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15

Covers up to \$500/year for freshmen and sophomores and up to \$1000/year for juniors and seniors. Initial eligibility for the student who:

- Is a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior.
- Is a resident of Mississippi.
- Has a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 and a minimum of 15 on the national ACT or 720 on the national SAT.
- Is not full Pell Grant eligible.

## **MISSISSIPPI EMINENT SCHOLARS GRANT (MESG)**

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15

Covers up to \$2500/year, but may not exceed tuition and required fees at attending institution. Initial eligibility for the student who:

- Is a resident of Mississippi.
- Achieves a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5.
- Scores a minimum of 29 on the national ACT or 1290 on the national SAT or is a National Merit/ National Achievement Finalist or Semi-Finalist.



## HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE PLAN (HELP)

DEADLINE: MARCH 31

Covers tuition and required fees for no more than 10 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 comparable Mississippi public institution. Additional documents must be submitted by April 30.

Initial eligibility for the student who:

- Is a freshman and/or sophomore who graduated from high school within the immediate past two years.
- Is a resident of Mississippi.
- Demonstrates need as determined by the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Meets the income threshold to qualify as listed on the HELP website.
- Has a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 and a minimum of 20 on the national ACT.
- Meets a specific high school core curriculum.

NOTE: Students cannot receive both MESH and HELP.

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Information about other Mississippi aid (Nissan Scholarship and Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TES), etc.) can be found at [www.mississippi.edu/financialaid](http://www.mississippi.edu/financialaid).

Supporting documents may be required by the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid. View complete rules and regulations at [www.mississippi.edu/financialaid](http://www.mississippi.edu/financialaid).

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# MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY FOR PERSONALIZED COUNSELING ON HOW TO GET TO COLLEGE

## Gulf Coast Get2College Center

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

## Jackson Get2College Center

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

## North Mississippi Get2College Center

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

## Don't live near a Get2College Center?

Live chat with us at [get2college.org](http://get2college.org), call us at 601.321.5533 or 800.986.4322, or send an email to [info@get2college.org](mailto:info@get2college.org).

## OUR SERVICES

**GET2COLLEGE ORIENTATION** - We'll tell you how we can help you prepare for college.

**COLLEGE TIMELINE** - Together we will develop a timeline for college planning to include applications for scholarships, admission, and financial aid.

**ACT PREPARATION** - Choose from a variety of options including workshops and online interactive test prep to improve your scores.

**CAREER EXPLORATION** - What field of employment best suits your personality? What will your major be? We'll use a personality and interest assessment to guide you in researching a career cluster or college major that may be a good fit for you.

**COLLEGE SEARCH** - We'll help you find colleges that provide the right fit for you and assist you with completing application forms.

**RESUME WRITING** - During this session, we'll guide you as you format your high school or college resume often required for scholarships and college admission.

**ESSAY WRITING** - We'll help you capture a college's attention with your admission or scholarship essay that illustrates who you are and what you are passionate about.

**FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS** - Learn about different types of need-based and non-need-based aid, including federal and state grants, student loans, work study, and merit-based scholarships.

**FAFSA, STATE, AND OTHER FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS** - Whether you are renewing or filing for the first time, let us guide you through the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid Application, and institutional aid applications.

**INTERVIEWING SKILLS** - Let us prepare you for your scholarship, honors college, or admissions interview. With a mock interview, we'll give you a heads-up on what to expect and the best way to prepare.

[GET2COLLEGE.ORG](http://GET2COLLEGE.ORG)

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WHERE THE BEST ADVICE IS FREE