

# FRESHMAN



**1. Start early.** Thinking about college? Yes, you are just beginning high school but this is the perfect time to start thinking about your options.



**2. Freshman year counts.** Many colleges and universities give scholarships (as much as \$36,000 or more!) based on your cumulative GPA and SAT or ACT scores. Study hard right from the start!

**3. Get involved.** Look for opportunities at school, church or community. Build your leadership skills. Colleges notice these things when reviewing your application and may provide scholarships for your leadership experience. Plus, getting involved in high school makes it easier to get involved in college, which can help you get a job or enroll in graduate school.



**4. What's your passion?** Have you thought about your career? Now is the time to start. Make friends with the career or guidance counselor. Arrange to job shadow a professional in an area of interest. Start exploring all your options. And it's ok to change your mind.



**6. Go for college prep.** Don't take the easy way out in high school. Go for the **college preparatory diploma**. It really helps prepare you for college!



**5. Learn about advanced placement.** Ask your school if you are eligible to take any courses or pass an exam for college credit. This is a great way to get a head start on college.



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**7. Why bother?** Here are three reasons to consider college:

- **REASON ONE: Income.** A non-college graduate can expect to earn as much as 75% less than a bachelor's degree holder, who can expect to earn \$2.7 million over their lifetime.

Type of Degree	Annual Salary
High school diploma	\$28,380–\$39,010
Associate degree (2 yr.)	\$36,760–\$50,150
Bachelor's degree (4 yr.)	\$47,030–\$65,800
Master's degree	\$57,510–\$80,960
Professional degree	\$71,300–\$100,000
Doctorate degree	\$74,030–\$100,000

- **REASON TWO: Expand your horizons.** College helps you look outside the small radius around you and see the world from someone else's point of view. You can take advantage of a year studying in another country through the Adventist Colleges Abroad Program or a year of service in the U.S. or another country as a task force worker or student missionary.
- **REASON THREE: Make a difference.** A college education helps you prepare to make a difference in your community and beyond. Imagine being the next Frank Lloyd Wright, one of America's great architects, or Dr. Ben Carson, neurosurgeon—now public figure. The possibilities are endless.

# SOPHOMORE

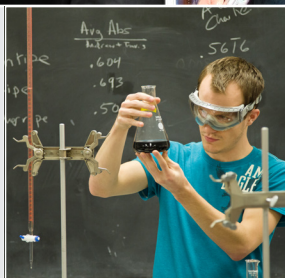
**1. Focus on grades.** Most colleges and universities pay attention to cumulative grades. That means your grades throughout high school can have an impact on your admissions and scholarships. Take school seriously. Manage your time wisely.



**2. Take challenging courses.** College prep courses get you ready to meet the requirements of your college or university of choice. For example, take more math instead of PE or shop.

<http://www.actstudent.org/college/courses.html>

**3. Meet a pro.** Explore your area(s) of interest by job shadowing a professional.



**4. Stay involved, get scholarships.** Involvement in extracurricular activities during your high school years helps you practice what you're learning in the classroom, exposes you to new areas of potential interest, and can get you scholarships and awards (up to \$36,000 or more!) at many Adventist colleges and universities. Plus, getting involved in high school makes it easier to do so in college, which can help you land a job or enroll in graduate school.



**5. Get to know colleges and universities.** Explore school web pages. Visit as many campuses as you can. A lot of Adventist colleges and universities offer travel reimbursement programs to help save you money so check these out at the schools you are considering.



**6. Start learning about scholarships.** Students who make it their full time job to learn about and apply for scholarships can get thousands of dollars in outside scholarships besides what is provided by your school of choice. Start learning about the various types of scholarships, awarding criteria and deadlines here:



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- [www.Fastweb.com](http://www.Fastweb.com)
- [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)
- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)
- [www.scholarshipmonkey.com](http://www.scholarshipmonkey.com)

Go to [www.AdventistColleges.org](http://www.AdventistColleges.org) to learn more.

# JUNIOR

**1. Grades matter.** Keep doing well in your classes. Take college preparatory courses. These requirements can vary. Check directly with the schools you are considering.

**2. What's important?** Make a list of what's important to you about a college. Start here: size, location, majors offered, religious affiliation, honors or athletics or music programs, cost, etc.

**3. Talk to your family.** Tell your family about your career goals. Ask about their college experience (if any). Find out what kind of support you can expect from them.

**4. Talk to your counselor.** Schedule an appointment with your college counselor, principal or favorite teacher. Tell them about your college plans. Ask for help researching options.



**5. Shoot for the moon.** If you want to aim for National Merit Scholar, YOU MUST TAKE the PSAT in mid-October of your junior year. Check out [scheduled test dates](#). Several Adventist colleges and universities offer full scholarships for finalists.

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>

**6. Prepare.** Prepare to take the SAT or the ACT by the spring of your junior year (or see #5.)

- a. **Go local.** Check out test prep resources online, at your local library or taught by a local instructor.
- b. **Remember the Sabbath.** Most Adventist academies, colleges and universities offer testing dates that don't conflict with Sabbath. Contact them about this.
- c. **Think early bird.** Register and schedule your test several weeks in advance.
- d. **Retesting is allowed.** If you take it the first time and don't like your scores, retest. Many students take the test multiple times and improve their scores.



**7. Compare your colleges.** Make a list of the colleges and universities that interest you most and begin to compare them on the areas that matter most to you.

**8. Talk to a recruiter.** Find out if the [Adventist Choice College Fair Tour](#) is coming to your school or area.



<http://www.adventistcolleges.org/college-fairs>

**9. Prepare to attend college fairs.** Here's a [checklist](#) to help you get the most out of a college fair.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-to-find-your-college-fit/college-fair-checklist>



**10. Start visiting.** Talk with your parents about your top college. Tell them which schools you want to visit. Check out the list of [visit tips](#) and the [schedule of Adventist college/university visit days](#). Some colleges offer reimbursement for an official campus visit. Ask for details.

<http://www.adventistcolleges.org/campus-visit-tips>

<http://www.adventistcolleges.org/Adventist-college-visit-guide>



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**11. Ask questions.** Compile a list of [questions](#) to ask when you visit campus.



<http://www.actstudent.org/college/visit.html>

**12. Put your best foot forward.** Prepare a portfolio and/or resume of all your special skills and accomplishments in high school.



**13. Check out the application.** Browse the [Adventist Choice online application](#) and see what questions you are likely to be asked.

<http://www.AdventistColleges.org/apply>

**14. Find free money.** Learn about the [scholarships offered](#) at the Adventist colleges and universities that interest you most. Some students get \$36,000 or more!

<http://www.AdventistColleges.org/scholarships>

**15. Get involved.** Join a club, volunteer, or start a part-time job or internship. Look for leadership opportunities. Extracurricular activities add appeal to your application, upping scholarship possibilities. Plus, getting involved in high school makes it easier to get involved in college, which can help you get a job or enroll in graduate school.

**16. Watch your mailbox.** Pay attention to the college brochures and emails you receive. Take the time to look through and read the materials and see if it's helpful.



# SENIOR



1.

**Take a deep breath.** Preparing for college can be a stressful and overwhelming process. There are many things to do but ask God to give you wisdom and guidance.

2.

**Track your progress.**  
Here's your checklist:

**Apply** (May/October). Submit applications to the school(s) of your choice at the end of your junior year or early in your senior year.

**Submit supporting documents** (ASAP). Send transcripts, test scores, references, and all acceptance/enrollment forms.

**Plan more campus visits.** Watch this short video from College Board on when and why to visit campus

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide/when-to-visit>

**File for financial aid** (October/February). Start at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**Count the costs.** Get the full picture on what a school costs. Many students look at the "sticker price" of a college, meaning the cost of attendance instead of factoring in financial aid. There are many scholarships, grants and loans available that will help you to pay for college. Here are [answers to many of your financial aid questions](#) from *U.S. News & World Report*.

<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college>

**Sign financial aid award letter** (November/April).

**Make a payment plan** (May/June).

**Register for classes** (summer).

**Finalize details** (summer). Things like housing, insurance, health records, registering your car, and many other things should come in the acceptance packet or can be submitted online.

**REMEMBER DEADLINES!!!!**

**Keep your grades high.** Challenge yourself with harder classes. They will help you prepare for college!

3.

**One last thing.**  
**DO NOT BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS.**



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