



## Post-Secondary Education: Options after High school

### Types of Institutions

College	Smaller in size, offers only one type or few types of majors/degrees- does not mean that is lower in value.
University	Larger in size, may contain colleges within, more opportunities to get various degrees, like PHD.
Community College	Two year institutions that grant (transferable) intermediate degrees and certifications. There are numerous types of intermediate degrees, but the most important differentiating factor is if the degree is transferable or not.
Technical School	Technical School is a general term used for two year college offering primary readiness skills for labor employment- such as welding, culinary arts, cosmetology and administration.

### Types of Titles

Associates Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Normally earned in two years of full-time study.</li> <li>- Community colleges, technical schools, and some colleges give this title.</li> <li>- Many times these are qualifications that prepare students for technical work or an industry.</li> </ul>
Bachelor's Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Earned in 4 years of full-time study.</li> <li>- Can be obtained at universities and colleges.</li> <li>- Can receive their "Masters" or "PHD"</li> </ul>

## Post-Secondary Institutions in the Birmingham Area

Community Colleges	Colleges	Universities	Technical School
Central Alabama (Alexander City) Jefferson State Lawson State Northeast Alabama Snead State Wallace Wallace State	Birmingham-Southern College* Huntington College (Montgomery)* Miles College * Stillman College (Tuscaloosa)*	Alabama State (Montgomery) Faulkner University Jacksonville State University (Jacksonville) Troy University (Troy) University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa) University of Alabama at Birmingham (University of Montevallo) Auburn University (Auburn) Samford University *	Aveda Institute Fortis Institute Regency Beauty Paul Mitchell Birmingham

### The Application Process

Requirements depends on the institution. May include:

- Personal information
- Personal essay (shows writing skills level)
- A resume – with experience and job history
- Letters of recommendation by teacher/leaders in the community
- School grades / copy of transcript
- Scores on the SAT or ACT

*Basically universities want to see that the student:*

- Takes the necessary and advanced classes
- Gets good grades
- Takes the ACT/SAT and received a permissible score
- Is involved in their school and community
- Can demonstrate experience as a leader



## Examinations

**Which tests should my child take to be able to apply for College?**

<b>Tests mandated by the State</b>	<b>PSAT</b>	<b>SAT/ ACT</b>
<p>High school students must pass specific exams in order to graduate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing, Reading, Mathematical Levels, Science and Social Studies in some schools.</li> <li>• Take the exams during the normal school day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Examination.</li> <li>• Can be taken in the 10th grade to practice</li> <li>• Is offered for all in the 11th grade.</li> <li>• Is practice for the SAT.</li> <li>• Consists of language, Reading, math and science.</li> <li>• ***Good notes on this exam qualifies a student for significant scholarships (from the National Merit Program)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nacional Examination.</li> <li>• All students in the 11th grade take the ACT.</li> <li>• They are requirements to apply to University.</li> <li>• Determines which classes students will take in the 1st year of College.</li> <li>• Consists of language, Reading, math, science, and writing.</li> </ul>

**The scale of the ACT is 36 points. The score of 21 is the nation average - 25 and above are very good grades 30 and above are excellent.**

	<b>Vanderbilt University</b>	<b>Lipscomb University</b>	<b>Trevecca Nazarene University</b>	<b>University of TN</b>	<b>MTSU</b>	<b>Nashville State Community College</b>	<b>Vol State</b>
<b>ACT to enter</b>	30	21	19	24	20	15	17
<b>ACT to obtain scholarship</b>	34	27	25	29	25	20	21

### **Free Resources:**

- [www.actstudent.org/testprep/](http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/) - The official website of the ACT offers a question of the day and other resources.
- <http://www.sparknotes.com/testprep/books/act/>
- Search preparation books in the public library
  - Exam Prep: ACT, by Susan Ludwig
  - Panic Plan for the ACT Assessment
  - ACT Math for Dummies, by Mark Zegarelli

\*\*\*Princeton Review offers FREE practice exams – [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com) search – “free events” – you have to enter a postal code

### Private or Public?

Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Usually is more expensive because it does not receive funds for the Government.</li><li>• Sometimes has a religious affiliation or other ideology.</li><li>• Has more autonomy than the public in regards to its function, but it also has to meet certain accreditation standards. ** Although it is more expensive, many (especially those of Ivy League) have larger scholarships for minority students, who demonstrate financial need, or academic success.</li></ul>
Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Receives money from the federal and state government.</li><li>• Usually is cheaper than most private schools.</li><li>• Different prices for students that reside in the state the school than those who don't.</li><li>• State Government makes general decisions on how public schools work.</li></ul>

### MY NOTES

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## What to do to prepare for College?

In the  
9th

- At the end of the year, select an academic plan with counselor
- Make a 4 year plan to verify which classes to take in the 4<sup>th</sup> year
- Make an appointment with the counselor to: 1) make sure that your plan has all the requirements to graduate and be able to apply to different types of Colleges and 2) ask how to qualify to take advance classes like AP in your plan.
- Explore an extracurricular activity - Become a member of a club, sport, or band
- Look for opportunities to become a volunteer in the community

In the  
10th

- Take the PSAT to practice.
- Look at taking advanced classes as AP – or if possible entering an IB program
- If possible, acquire a position as a leader of a club or sport.
- Continue volunteering within your community.
- Check up on grades – seek tutoring help in school or in community if necessary

In the  
11th

- Look at taking advanced honor or AP classes
- Take the PSAT (you have to register with your counselor)
- In the spring, take the ACT
- Acquire a position as a leader of a club or a sport
- Continue volunteering within your community
- Visit local universities- there are free tours offered consistently (you only have to contact the admission offices)
- Look at the requirements if you want to make an “early decision”

In the  
12th

- If you are not satisfied with your ACT score, take the free practice and take the test again at the end of October.
- Acquire position as a leader in a club or sport.
- Look on taking advance classes as AP and take the exams at the end of the year.
- Visit local Universities.
- Decide what universities you’re going to apply to
- Decide if you’re making an “early decision”
- Prepare applications: ask for recommendation letters, write essays, and ask help from a teacher to edit them. Get signatures for volunteer hours if necessary.
- Send applications to universities.
- As a family, talk about a plan for financial aid. The earlier the better!
- Look and apply for scholarships

**Over these 4 years, as a parent, I’m going to make sure that my child**

- 1) Is involved in a club or an extracurricular activity.**
- 2) Does work as a volunteer in the community.**
- 3) Meets with his advisor.**
- 4) Make sure that my child takes the entree exams at the right time.**

**What will we do to prepare for College?**

9th

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10th

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11th

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12th

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**Over these 4 years, as a parent,**

**I'm going to make sure that my child...**

- 1) Is involved in a club or an extracurricular activity**
- 2) Does work as a volunteer in the community**
- 3) Meets with his/her advisor**

My intention..  
...My action,  
My promise