



College Planning Timetable

Freshman and Sophomore Years:

- Create a file for all of your records
- Keep academic records and lists of awards, honors, and activities at school and in the community
- Participate in extracurricular activities, academic programs, summer camps and workshops. Add this to your record of activities and awards/honors
- Start thinking about the colleges you want to attend - Create lists of colleges and universities
- Gather information about the colleges from their Web sites
- Request brochures and applications
- Take the ASPIRE
- Prepare for standardized testing:
Answer the [ACT Question of the Day](#) and the [SAT Question of the Day](#)

Junior Year:

- Plan to visit one of the three "Get2College" Centers. These centers help Mississippi students plan for college. The Mississippi Get2College Centers offer a variety of free information and college planning services to help Mississippi's high school students get to college. The Centers offer a friendly environment where both students and parents can come to learn more about what it takes to be accepted and to pay for college. Students and parents can receive free help with ACT preparation, completing admissions and financial aid applications, resume building, career exploration, college selection, essay writing and more! The website is www.get2college.org

<u>North Mississippi</u> 5699 Getwell Road, Building H, Suite 3 Southaven, MS 38672 662-349-2789	<u>Metro Jackson</u> 2600 Lakeland Terrace Jackson, MS 39216 601-321-5533	<u>Mississippi Gulf Coast</u> 715 Cox Avenue Ocean Springs, MS 39564 228-875-4441
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- Continue to prepare for standardized testing:
Answer the [ACT Question of the Day](#) and the [SAT Question of the Day](#)
- Start researching colleges. Begin developing lists of schools to which you may want to apply. Send for their literature or check out their web site to learn about these schools. Next year, you will narrow this list down to the finalists.
- Start thinking about the characteristics of colleges that appeal to you in order to help make your selection.



- Take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT), which is given in October. Besides helping you practice for the ACT and SAT, high scores can qualify you for lots of scholarship money.
- Prepare diligently to take the ACT and/or SAT. Thorough preparation is the best way to ensure success. You should take these once or twice in your junior year so that you have time to retake them in the fall of your senior year, if necessary. Check with the colleges you are interested in to see if the ACT Writing Section is required.
- Do the colleges that you are considering require the SAT Subject Tests? If so, take them this year while the subjects are fresh in your mind.
- Go to your Pillow Academy's College Night. Collect information and talk to representatives from colleges and the military.
- Begin to research financial aid sources and the availability of scholarships. Some scholarships have deadlines in the junior year.

Senior Year:

- Plan to visit one of the three "Get2College" Centers. These centers help Mississippi students plan for college. The website is www.get2college.org
- Answer the [ACT Question of the Day](#) and the [SAT Question of the Day](#)

Fall Semester

- Make campus visits to colleges and universities.
- Contact military liaisons if interested in ROTC scholarships or military academies.
- Continue your extracurricular involvement.
- Take the ACT, SAT, and SAT II (if required).
- Narrow down college choices and apply for college admission, meeting priority deadlines.
- Ask the guidance counselor to send transcripts to schools.
- Finalize résumé and write required essays.



- Request letters of recommendations and other admission requirements two to four weeks before due.
- Apply for housing at each college considered.
- Inquire about scholarship qualifications at each college where applied. Start the financial aid application process for each school.

Spring Semester

- Update resume
- Attend Financial Aid Meeting at Pillow Academy in January
- Complete the "Complete your Mississippi Grant (MTAG and MESH) Application" by going to <http://riseupms.com/>
- Final transcripts should be sent after graduation. If you take a dual enrollment class, send transcript after graduation from MDCC to the college you plan to attend.
- Keep track of important financial aid and scholarship deadlines.
- Observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork including award letters, promissory notes, housing information, etc. You may be required to log in to the college Web site to complete these steps.
- Decide which college to attend and notify the school of your decision. Notify the schools you will not attend of your decision.

Summer before College

- Ensure final transcript arrives at chosen school
- Getting a summer job can help pay some of the college expenses.
- Attend summer orientation if offered.
- Check into buying books and supplies early.
- Call or meet assigned roommate to get acquainted and to make a list of what is needed for the residence hall.