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Rev. Dr. Lee Strawhun
Asbury Seminary Graduate, 1985

Rev. Dr. Strawhun is the senior pastor at Westwood United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, OH. Visit asbury.to/voices to read his story.
No amount of studying can help you nail the college essay. Maybe that’s why, in a 2015 survey of 14,000 high-school students, nearly half said that the most challenging part of the admissions process wasn’t taking tests but writing the essay. With many colleges going test-optional, essay writing has taken on even greater importance. It’s all too easy to procrastinate on writing these short personal statements (they’re typically only 500 words), but if done right, your essay can make your application shine far more than good grades can. We asked a few college-admissions essay experts to share what they look for, and, more importantly, what students should avoid. Here is a short list of what they say are the most common mistakes, as well as some tips on how to write a compelling essay—no matter where you apply.

SET YOURSELF APART WITH A STRONG ADMISSIONS ESSAY.

Admissions counselors read through thousands of essays each year, most of which cover a narrow range of subjects and themes. While there are engaging ways to write about common topics, Margot Starbuck, author of Writing College Application Essays That Shine, points to originality as the most important aspect of a strong college essay. “There are two key things you want your essay to do,” she explains. “One is to share a unique story that only you could have written. The other is to reflect on the meaning of that story in a way that gives the reader a glimpse into what makes you, you.”

Since many popular college essay topics are something you can list in the extracurricular section of the application, Ethan Sawyer, also known as the “College Essay Guy,” urges his students to spend time listing out potential experiences that show, not tell, who they are. “I think the key to having a great personal statement is doing awesome brainstorming,” he says. “Focus on uncommon topics, or make uncommon connections that show what you care about.”

Sierra Kinslow, assistant director of admissions at Messiah College, tells her students to consider what sets them apart from their friend in the same class who might participate in the same activities. While she encourages students to talk about their spiritual journey, Kinslow says it’s important that each writer personalize their faith and show how they will contribute to conversations on campus. “We see a lot of generic essays about growing up in a Christian home or going to a Christian school,” she says. “The good ones are from students who don’t have a traditional faith experience or students who have really grappled with their faith.”

The original opening does a good job of giving the reader an idea of what the essay will cover but does little to convince someone to keep reading. “It’s important that the first couple of sentences draws us in and gets us invested in the story and how it’s going to play out,” says Kinslow.

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Before even getting started, Sawyer suggests students brainstorm not only unique essay topics but how to grip the reader from the get-go and keep them engaged throughout. Here are a few successful strategies he suggests:

- Raising a question or a problem that will be answered or solved later
- “The Hemingway,” or opening with an image-based description that sets the scene
- “The Trailer,” or opening with a moment of high tension that gives a sneak peek of where things are headed
BE PASSIONATE. BE PREPARED. BE TRANSFORMED.

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BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY AT uu.edu

The first lists information about the student’s accomplishments, but Starbuck urges students to avoid using their essay as a short autobiography and instead focus on a single story and theme.

“This isn’t the part of the college application where students should be listing their achievements,” she says. “It’s best to give a little slice of your life. It doesn’t need to be something spectacular like being a backup dancer for Beyoncé or jumping out of an airplane. Maybe you have a passion that nobody else in your class has, or there’s a social issue that you’re really invested in and have taken steps to change.”

“Having someone proofread it is so important,” she says. “Another set of eyes reading through it can help you make sure that things are making sense.”

Struggling with getting started? Even the best wordsmiths get writer’s block. Luckily, people have been writing college essays for years, and many of the best ones have been posted online as resources. Instead of twiddling your thumbs, Starbuck suggests reading both good and bad essays and making a list of specific techniques that you can use in your own piece, like closing on a powerful takeaway instead of a short summary as in the above example.

“I tell students, ‘Don’t just read one essay—read 10 or 20,’ and it tends to get the creative juices flowing,” she says.

Crafting a memorable college essay is not easy. And not everyone has gone through a life-changing experience or overcome some huge obstacle before college. That’s okay. Here’s the last and maybe most important thing to remember: You have a story to tell. Sometimes it’s the small, less obvious moments of your life that speak the most to who you are.

“Don’t feel like you have to write about a challenge,” Sawyer says. “You don’t need one to write a great story and demonstrate the awesomeness of who you are. The college essay is your canvas. You can paint however you want.”
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- Human Services (Residential or Online)
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- Intercultural Studies
- International Community Development
- Media Arts
- Middle Eastern Studies
- Music
- Pastoral Theology (5-year B.A./M.Div.)
- Philosophy
- Psychology (B.S. only or B.S. and M.A. in Counseling in five years)
- Social Media Strategist
- Sport Management
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- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)
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OTHER PROGRAMS
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College is the time to start asking tough questions. During these years, you’re likely to adopt a belief system that’s truly your own, rather than continuing to carry the faith of your parents or church or community. As you shift from knowing what you believe to why you believe it, you can find a deeper, richer, fuller faith that will sustain you for years to come.

Broadening Horizons
College isn’t solely defined by your degree or classes. Rather, these years provide countless opportunities to meet people whose lives and interests intersect—and deviate from—your own. Unexpected friendships will form, and origin stories will emerge. Sure, you’ll meet some students who share your denominational history, but you’ll meet others whose faith backgrounds are dramatically different. These relationships and this process were so beautiful for me. I went to worship services and saw people experience God in ways that were entirely unfamiliar to me. I also made friends who didn’t lay claim to the Jesus I love. Instead of shy-ing away, I got curious, and I started asking questions.

Asking Questions
Asking questions gets answers. But if you’re like me, those answers often stir up more questions. That’s a
good thing. By digging into why others didn’t follow Christianity, I was better able to articulate why I found unshakeable truth and hope in my faith. Through these conversations with friends, I discovered more than a few doctrinal differences. This forced me to examine my own specific beliefs and convictions more deeply. I held tightly to some, changed my views on others, and emerged with a fuller picture of God and of the people he created.

DON’T SETTLE—SETTLE IN
Whether you’re remotely learning through a community college or opting for a residential term on a Christian campus, you’re going to have access to some kind of faith-based community. I loved the moments I spent worshipping with other students, organizing prayer nights, and hosting Bible studies on dorm room floors. But I also attended a local church, where I found myself joining family dinners, small groups, and even the worship team. Of the two, I can honestly say that my local church was far more formative to my faith. Of the two, I can honestly say that my local church was far more formative to my faith.

College can be insular. Spending four years with only those who share similar interests, life experiences, or beliefs can’t compare to the value and beauty of diversity. A multi-generational church takes you outside of the sameness found on many college campuses. As you chase young children at a church cookout, hug greeters that remind you of your grandmother, and listen to the wisdom of older single leaders, you see how faith was always meant to be experienced.

I have sacred memories from the days I spent at large Christian conferences for college students, jumping up and down in arenas with thousands of other students at my side. But my deepest growth came in the moments when I settled into a community that held young and old alike, learning about faith from those I had little in common with.

RHYTHMS AND PRACTICES
As I navigated seismic shifts in my faith, I desperately needed time to sit with myself and my beliefs. I had to turn these new ideas over in my mind, constantly weighing and assessing them, comparing them to Scripture. My residence hall was often loud and chaotic, which, while fun, didn’t offer much space for quiet reflection. However, I was lucky enough to have a car on campus, and I would often hike the mile-long trek to the freshman lot just to sit in it and pray and think.

Through the years, I learned that while the rhythms provided by my faith community were wonderful, I needed to move beyond Sunday church attendance or a weekly Bible study to develop a spiritual practice of my own. Carving out time and space for my individual faith, apart from group experiences, allowed me to explore parts of God I hadn’t seen in corporate worship.

DEEPER WATERS
Sorting through your beliefs can feel like doggie paddling in the deep end: It requires intention and effort, but you don’t often feel like you’re gaining any ground. There’s no blueprint for growing into a more robust belief system. And honestly, there’s no right or wrong way to make your way through this. The season ahead will allow you to deepen your faith through new experiences and honest questions. Don’t fear that process. Breaking down your faith into core elements and turning those into the building blocks of your life is a fun, fruitful time. My prayer is that you will find that God is not shaken in the face of any doubt or question, and as you walk with him through these formative years, you’ll actually learn how to swim.
WHERE WILL YOU BECOME?

College is about becoming. It is about discovering who you were created to be. Where do you want to spend your college years learning and growing?

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BUY AN UMBRELLA
& other advice for college freshmen

SOME RAIN BOOTS
AND A DAY PLANNER
WOULDN’T HURT, EITHER.
By Abby Perry

As I was unpacking T-shirts and towels in my freshman dorm, I found a letter from my dad. He wrote about how proud he was of me and how excited he was to see my future unfold. And then he wrote something like:

Make new friends and memories.
But go to class.
Join organizations that interest you.
But go to class.
Stay up all night a few times.
But go to class.

You get the idea.
While I might not have followed it every day, I’d like to think that my dad’s advice helped me get the most out of my college experience. Now, 15 years later, I’ve set out to put together a similar compendium of advice for new college freshmen, procured from the place where all the best advice lives: Twitter. With the help of these bits of counsel, you’ll be better prepared to build a college career, and a life, with a good balance of work, play, service, and creativity (with a few necessary—and delightful—middle-of-the-night tacos thrown in for good measure).

EASE FINANCIAL WORRIES WITH SIMPLE BUDGETING PRACTICES
As tuition, student debt, and the cost of living increase year after year, it’s no surprise that students are worried about finances. The Trellis Company Financial Wellness Survey found that 70 percent of students at four-year institutions worry about having enough money to pay for school. Such financial stress can lead to outcomes for students—declining grades, failure to graduate, and poor mental health.

The same Trellis Company report noted that of those students who felt financially stressed, only 51 percent said they frequently or always follow a budget. Remember that stewarding your finances wisely will help keep your stress levels in a manageable range, and consider these helpful hints:

Every little bit counts
“You don’t have that many clothes. Your heat is free. Use a drying rack for your lighter-weight items and save your dryer money for your jeans, sheets, and towels only.”
EMILY, @EMILY7804

“You can get most of your textbooks through an Interlibrary Loan system available at the library. Use it—it’s free and saves you $100s.”
COURTNEY, @COURTNEYSLAVIN

“Don’t open credit cards from people handing you a T-shirt on the lawn.”
LC, @LCOFQC

Communicate early and often with the financial aid office
“Make sure those institutional scholarships the financial aid office tells you that you qualify for do indeed stack like they will lead you to believe they will.”
ADAM, @ADAMWM89

“You can set up a payment plan with the financial aid office even if the official line is that ‘you can’t register for next semester’s classes until your balance is paid.’”
GRACE, @GRACEHUMBLES

Build your resume and bank account
“Get your social security card from your mom so you can get a job!”
KRISTI, @PASTOR_KRISTI

“ASAP, get an undergrad research assistant job—ask your advisor, ask older students, ask your professors, even ask in other departments. It gets you connections [and] experience for grad school and the work conditions are usually better than food jobs!”
JESSICA, @JESSKEEPTALKING

APPROACH YOUR STUDIES WITH CONFIDENCE
An all-too-common student response to academic anxiety is to withdraw into fear and shame. Students may feel like they’re disappointing their parents or professors, embarrassed that others seem to understand a subject that just isn’t clicking for them, or afraid of what will happen if they fail a class. Another is displacement, attributing the stress of academic fears to other causes, like frustration at a professor’s teaching style, hurt over being left out of a study group, or annoyance at a teaching assistant’s unhelpful response. These feelings are all valid, but they shouldn’t be—and don’t have to be—the end of the road. Rather than letting yourself be sidelined by the fear of a dipping GPA, try a tip or two from people who have been there.

Simplify studying
“If you own your textbooks, mark them up. If you own your textbooks, mark them up. If you own your textbooks, mark them up. Just do it. If the professor references a particular page in a lecture, star/underline
it. Your markings will help you remember what’s important so you’re not left trying to study everything before an exam.”

AUDREY, @OREYA_HOPE

“Find your learning style. I’ve never been a reader and struggled to read large pieces of text. I used to record my notes and play them during the day and use the read out loud tool on Word or Speechify to read essays and papers.”

ANTHONIA, @ANTHONIAADE_

**Look for the helpers**

“Go say hello to your friendly university librarian (by virtual reference chat if you like it or phone! They exist for you!) on any day except the day before your paper is due. I liked to schedule my librarian chats about 3-4 weeks out from the paper due date.”

EMILY, @EMILY804

“Do the readings in the syllabus. Absorb as much as you can for your own edification (not grades). You’re paying so much money and school is the only time in life for hyper-concentrated learning.”

MELISSA, @MELISSAMWEAR

“Don’t wait until you’re struggling in a class to get help. Make use of professors’ emails and office hours, and take full advantage of student resources like tutoring or study help.”

YVETTE, @YLEWISGRACE

**Take the long view**

“Don’t be afraid to take or even make an alternate route to your career goal. I had journalism experience and wanted to get into j-school, but couldn’t due to grades, so I majored in fine arts and focused on photography. I currently have worked in the field for 10 years.”

JASON, @JRV7104

“Interview people doing the kind of work you want to do, or people you want to emulate. Call them, introduce yourself, ask them to coffee. You’ll learn everything they don’t teach in school.”

GRANT, @GRANTPASCHKE

“At some point during the first year of college you may realize you’re at the wrong school or in the wrong major, but making a change feels like a world-ending event. It’s not. Looking back through a 10- or 15-year lens you’ll wonder what you were so worried about.”

JOHN, @JBGRAEBER

**SHOW KINDNESS TO YOUR MIND AND BODY**

Without someone telling you to go to sleep, eat your vegetables, or swap out the soda for a glass of water, it’s easy to let healthy habits slip. In similar fashion, it’s all too easy to neglect your mental and emotional health and all the ways physical, emotional, and mental health intertwine.

A little grace and self-discipline can help you pursue a holistic approach to health that will serve you long beyond your college years.

Don’t set goals like “looking perfect” or “eliminating every negative feeling.” Rather, approach caring for yourself as an act of faith—a way to demonstrate your belief that God means it when he says that you are precious in his sight.

**Connect with resources**

“The Rec center is an underated perk that I wish I had taken advantage of way more often, and now would have to pay a lot of money to be a part of anything close to similar.”

MICHAEL, @MOANDERSON

“Your school most likely offers free/affordable mental health counseling and/or resources. Use them!”

MORGAN, @MORGANSTREHLOW

“Reach out for help early. Don’t be afraid to ask for guidance counseling or tutoring, or to talk to your professor. If you need medical, mental, or financial help, campus has those resources too. Communication is key with parents, mentors and peers.”

KERRI, @KERRIRAWSON

**Find your safe havens**

“Find a church ASAP! In the 12 years I’ve taught college so few freshmen find a church their first year, if ever. The ones who get plugged into church or a faith community right away typically do much better all around (spiritually, emotionally, academically).”

CHRISTINA, @CRENSHAWPHD

“Not getting into that student organization could be the best thing to happen to you. College students are led to believe that certain student groups are the gateway to more opportunities. Most of the time I’ve found students have more space to be their authentic selves when they aren’t defined by the group. Unfortunately, that might take a denial. Apply for whatever you want, but hold it loosely. Even if you get in, be open to the likelihood it doesn’t live up to your expectations. ‘Not getting in’ isn’t an indicator of your worth.”

KYLE, @KYLEGAMMM

“[Freshman] orientation is intense—it’s worthwhile & overwhelming. It is not what the rest of college will be like. You are an introvert don’t get discouraged if not your cup of tea. Give yourself permission to skip something and set up your room, your retreat bubble?”

LISA, @LISAREEAE

**Embrace your needs**

“Be gentle with your body. It might change, and that’s OK.”

LAUREN, @LAUREN_CLAWSN

“You’re not invincible. Trying to survive on 5-6 hours of sleep a night now will destroy your health by junior/senior year (and what will your great freshman year GPA matter when you start having to skip assignments because you just can’t do it?”

KATHERINE, @KAT_FORSTER

“Eat more meals with friends. The social aspect of food is necessary for your well-being.”

SARAH, @JUSTMISSJACKSON

**FIND FREEDOM IN YOUR FRIENDSHIPS**

Your college years can be the time you meet some of your best pals, friends who will walk with you throughout life. It can also be a time you bump up against other people’s insecurities, expectations, and desires in ways you haven’t before. College students are usually young adults leaving home for the first time, and experience friendship in new ways: Some gravitate toward deep, meaningful connections that function like family bonds. Others prefer to keep some distance and maintain firmer boundaries.

Whatever your personality and preferences, it’s likely that you’ll find yourself in a sticky situation or two navigating college friendships. As you strive to live peaceable with all people (Rom. 12:18) these words of wisdom may help you heal from hurts, treat others with kindness, respect your own needs, and build beautiful relationships.

**Branch Out**

“If you are an introvert, make friends with some extroverts. Let them know if you want to be involved but won’t make yourself go. Let them drag you to things. And then know when you are done and be able to go home. Extroverts and introverts can have a great symbiotic relationship.”

LISA, @LPARKE

“You may find your ‘people’ in your major, but you may not. Join other groups like marching band or intramural sports or another club because those people could be your people and become life-long friends.”

@FRAUFALVEY

“Make friends with professors, make them know you. Those letters of rec are gold. It can also really help a grade. I had a professor raise a paper grade significantly because I was very vocal in class. She literally said ‘I know you, you’ll be fine.’”

KELEY, @KELSEYHORTON

**Reason with your roommates**

“It’s good to have boundaries with your roommates. Say no often. Accept others saying no to you as well. Don’t loan anything you want back. Have fun, explore, and forgive yourself for missteps. You’re growing. Accept change in friends. It’s growth. Be kind to yourself.”

N_, @NKOSTELIC

“Agree to rank importance of room activity then just use [that to see] what trumps what.”

ABBY, @ABBYNORMANSAYS

“You won’t necessarily become besties with your roommate.”

JANNA, @FISQUEOUTMYLIFE

**Say hello to new faces**

“Be willing to ask people to hang out first, text first and just be the person giving more effort. You’re not too cool for that and it pays off.”

JACKIE, @JACKIE_GILES

“Is it OK that the first group of friends you click with at orientation and the first few weeks of school don’t end up being your friends in 6 weeks. You all are learning and growing. There is nothing wrong with you.”

SUZAN, @SUSSANKI0S

“You’ve got this, freshmen. Work hard, rest easy, laugh till you ache. And have a 2 a.m. taco for me.”
Be Confident in Your Calling and Your Training.

DISCOVER A PROGRAM THAT’S RIGHT FOR YOU.

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- Discipleship Curriculum
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- Church Leaders
- Small Group Leaders
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“On Creation and Existence:
Before God spoke creativity to bring anything into existence, darkness, the power of darkness (Colossians 1:13) had entered Creation (Genesis 1:2).

On the Origins of God:
God is from the spiritual realm; and the spiritual world is a pre-Creation eternal realm of existence.”

On the Fall of Satan:
Jude writes, “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending (fighting) with the devil (Rev. 12:7), he (the devil) disputed about the body of Moses, (yet, Michael!) burst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. “Jude 9 Therefore, Jude maintains, when Satan was cast out of heaven (Rev. 12:7), Moses, at minimum, was dead.”

Available on amazon.com

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What should families who are making college decisions know about higher education under the newest administration?

In trying to answer this question, I found that so much is still being decided. As exciting as it is to be inspired by a presidential candidate’s platform, to rally around his ideas, and then to see him take office, the changes he promised are often years, not months, in the making. But what do we know? What has President Biden done thus far, and where are we going?

In our interviews together, Terry Hartle, senior vice president for government relations and public affairs at the American Council on Education, and Shirley Hoogstra and Joy Mosley, president and director of government relations, respectively, of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, predicted what will unfold in the next few years.

Hartle, Hoogstra, and Mosley share a steadfast, long view of education that does not avoid policy—but also does not elevate it beyond its rightful position.

What did they elevate? You, the student.

They described significant potential positive impacts of laws that have already passed, pending legislation, and possible future bills, and they each identified a few points of concern, all with a focus on what’s best for you and your future.

THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

When President Joe Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act into law on March 11, 2021, many people rejoiced to hear there would be a new round of stimulus checks. And understandably so. After a year like 2020, many Americans were struggling to make ends meet, and a few thousand dollars represented a rent payment, a trip to the grocery store, or an electric bill.

But the benefits to families didn’t stop at the individual level. The American Rescue Plan also included $40 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. This, Hartle says, was a “significant success” for higher education institutions, students, and families. Hoogstra agrees, calling the stimulus package’s education funding “a lifeline for our institutions.”

The ARP Act designated nearly $170.3 billion in funding for education—elementary through high schools, colleges and universities, and other educational programs—the single largest investment ever in public education. The $40 billion of that earmarked for higher education will flow to students and families in several ways.

First, as the National Education Association explains, public institutions that receive ARP funds are required to spend at least as much on emergency financial-aid grants to their students as they received from the CARES Act. For-profit institutions will be required to spend every dollar on student grants. These grants will change the future of some students, whose financial needs have only grown during the COVID-19 pandemic: Many lost their jobs. Some are struggling to find (and pay for) childcare. Grant money can help cover basic expenses: course materials, of course, but also food, housing, childcare, transportation, and technology.

“A lot of people who have faced significant economic dislocation as a result of the pandemic will find that [higher education] institutions will have resources to help them finance a post-secondary education,” Hartle says. “Not as much money as we would like, not as much money as colleges and universities have lost during the pandemic, but a significant boost in funding.”

ARP funds will also make their way to students and families in ways that aren’t as direct but are no less impactful. For example, higher education institutions can use their ARP funds toward payroll for faculty and staff, which stands to benefit students tremendously over time. When schools have the ability to stay well-staffed and well-supported, their professors are less stressed and, consequently, have more time and energy for student-facing activities like office hours.

Colleges and universities that do not have to lay off instructors will be able keep their class sizes smaller, providing students with greater opportunity to participate in class, get to know their professors, and ask specific questions. A 2011 Robins School of Business study found that having to juggle large classes appears to prompt faculty to alter their courses in ways that negatively affect their students. In addition, “large class sizes are correlated with less clarity in class presentations, less preparation, less enthusiasm, lower effectiveness in stimulating interest, less effective teaching methods, less adequate graded material, slower return of assignments, and less useful course
THE PELL GRANT
President Lyndon B. Johnson passed the Higher Education Act of 1965, aimed at funding college education or vocational studies for students in need by means of grants, which do not require repayment. Seven years later, in 1972, Rhode Island senator Claiborne Pell oversaw revisions to the act, hoping to make higher education accessible to a much larger swath of students. In 1980, grants awarded under the program were given his name to recognize his work in substantially expanding financial aid.

The Pell Grant still exists today, but its value has greatly diminished. A Pell Grant “used to cover about three-quarters of the cost of a public, four-year college,” Mosley explains. “Now it covers less than a third.”

Mosley, Hoogstra, and Hartle all agree that if President Biden’s campaign platform position advocating for doubling the maximum Pell award were implemented, it would be a great step. It would increase the purchasing power of the Pell Grant, Hartle explains, and restore, or begin to restore, its value to its original intent and efficacy.

“As costs rise, we need to be sure that our students can afford the college education that’s the best fit for them,” Mosley says. “Pell Grants are especially critical for students of color. About 60 percent of Black students and about half of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Latino students receive Pell Grants. We should double Pell to create more access to college and make it more affordable. It’s also the best way to treat colleges equitably.”

This last point—the ability to treat all colleges equitably—is key for students and families considering Christian colleges. If the Pell Grant were to be doubled, it could make attending a private school within reach for more low- and middle-income students.

“As costs rise, we need to be sure that our students can afford the college education that’s the best fit for them.”

-JOY MOSLEY, CCCU

Other approaches to lowering the cost of higher education are of less use to students who hope to go to Christian colleges and universities. While potential policies that offer free tuition at state colleges and universities may dominate the news, this change is of little benefit to those who believe their best fit would be a private Christian school. So students with a vested interest in Christian colleges should monitor the Pell Grant legislation and advocate for increasing the amount offered.

WHAT MATTERS MOST
On one point, all of our experts agreed: finding a good fit is of utmost importance.

“The key is always to pick the school that is right for you,” Hartle says. “Getting the most out of your college experience depends a great deal on finding the college that is best suited to your needs: academic, social, financial, and spiritual.

The past year has made all schools look inward, identifying their core values and offerings. Higher education institutions have figured out how to provide fully online education, teaching even when classrooms themselves are empty. They’ve launched tremendous mental health and telemedicine campaigns to care for the needs of their students. And they’ve considered what it looks like to form a community around that which is most meaningful.

As you visit campuses, fill out applications, and make your decisions, there are people paying attention to higher education legislation and advocating for your ability to learn in the place that fits you best. Your only responsibility at this point? Figure out exactly where that is.

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• Connect in a Christian community with a shared purpose.
• Make a difference in the world for Jesus Christ.

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DECIDE: narrow your choices and zero in on your calling
DO: start acting on your calling, one step at a time

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DOLLARS & SENSE
FIND FINANCIAL LITERACY
By Angela Denker

Deciding where to attend college has always been a tough decision. Figuring out how to pay for it is tougher. Figuring out where to attend and how to pay for college in the wake of a global pandemic—well, that can seem almost insurmountable.

These questions are understandably daunting. Even before COVID-19 struck, a national survey from the Ohio State University found that 70 percent of college students were stressed about finances. More than half of students surveyed said they were worried about paying for both school and monthly expenses. If you're stressing over that last $5 in your checking account, how can you focus on History of Western Civilization or Intro to Philosophy?

In short, you can’t—at least not completely. So, alleviating financial stress actually allows you to fully embrace your time at college.

The first step in confronting the cost of college and finding freedom from overdraft fees is increasing your financial literacy. Sixty-four percent of college students polled for the Ohio State national survey used loans to help pay for college, and 57 percent used credit cards. Without fully understanding how to manage and pay off debt, the price tag on a college degree can haunt you for decades to come. Rising indebtedness or financial stress can lead to underperformance, dropped classes, or even dropping out of college completely.

That’s why it’s essential to learn what to invest in and what to avoid.

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY
As you can imagine, family support—financial and emotional—is probably the largest factor in student financial success in and after college. Students who come from families with greater financial means have an advantage when it comes to paying for college. Luckily, families of a variety of means can help prepare their children for financial success by providing education, encouraging saving, and motivation to save, budget, and invest money.

Mike Martin works for a Christian financial services company in the Midwest. He’s a graduate of a small private Christian college, and he was a first-generation four-year college student. Martin says that despite middle-class means, part of his family’s ability to make private college possible for his children comes from planning and frank discussions about finances. While private colleges have a higher sticker price, through scholarships and grants, “we were able to whittle down the cost to a level we could afford,” Martin says.

Martin suggests that parents talk about funding college as a partnership between students and families and colleges, finding ways for each to contribute in a way that feels good to them. He says his kids all understood the cost of college, noting that his middle daughter would say, “Every class you miss is $168 you just threw away.”

BREAKING DOWN THE BASICS
The first step in managing debt and finances is understanding how to budget. Most colleges offer personal finance classes, and banks like Wells Fargo have online tools to help you budget. But if you want to keep it simple, you can set up a spreadsheet yourself. Budgets are most effective when people have a goal of how much they are aiming to spend (and save) each month. Here’s an example of how your spending might be allocated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>25–35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>10–15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>10–15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>5–10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>10–20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings</td>
<td>10–15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>5–10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun (entertainment and recreation)</td>
<td>5–10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You need to find the formula that works for your needs and spending tendencies, but avoid a scarcity mindset. If you enjoy going to the movies, figure out a way to work that into your budget. Make sure that the numbers reflect what’s most important to you.

As you’re looking at your budget, cut your college expenses wherever possible—even if that means relocating to a different area. As the cost of living varies wildly (for example, Chicago costs 22 percent more than Grand Rapids, Michigan), you need to consider where and how you’re able to make smarter choices. While their tuition may be higher or comparable to state schools, some private Christian colleges are located in smaller towns and cities, so expenses like housing and food are cheaper month-to-month.

Combined degree programs also offer shortcuts that could shave years off your schooling and save you thousands in tuition. Grant Bagne, 24, chose to attend a Christian college about an hour north of his home in Orange County, California, where rent and...
cost of living are high. But he took advantage of a five-year pro-
gram at his college where he could earn first a bachelor’s degree in
business with an information technology emphasis and then
an MBA with an IT emphasis. While working full-time for a tech
company after completing these degrees, he then graduated in
spring 2020 with a master of science in information technology.
He’s now focusing on jobs in cybersecurity.

One of the more mysterious, potentially dangerous tools
at your disposal is a credit card. Low-interest, low-limit credit
cards help build your credit history, which is essential when
you’re looking to buy a car or even rent an apartment. But you
may be too tempted by a new spring wardrobe, or you might
sign up for a card with a 21.3 percent interest rate without
knowing your other options. In an attempt to avoid both of
these outcomes, Nerd Wallet has provided seven important
questions to consider:

1. What are the rates and fees associated with late payments?
2. Will a credit card issuer forgive a late payment?
3. Can cardholders choose the payment date?
4. Will card issuers lower the interest rate with demonstrated
on-time payments?
5. What does it take to raise the credit limit?
6. Which credit score does the card issuer use?
7. Are there additional fees for international transactions?

As you look through budget
tips and credit card applications,
do n’t be afraid to look up unfa-
miliar terms, like annual percent-
age rate, interest rate, and credit
score. Understanding these will
also help you better compare stu-
dent loans or be able to prioritize
paying off your debt based on the
highest interest rates.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED
Dana Howell, 19, was just finishing
her freshman year at a small
Midwest private Christian college
when the pandemic hit. She had
to pack up her dorm months
early and finish her spring classes
online.

Howell found her family’s
stress growing when she returned
home. Her dad was furloughed due
to the pandemic, and her mom was
waiting for a new job to start that
summer. Howell now had to cope
with the change in living situa-
tion as well as worrying about her
family’s finances. She returned to
her high school summer job at a
QuikTrip gas station and balanced
that with online classwork, even
though it meant putting herself in
close contact with people during
the COVID-19 outbreak. Her fam-
ily survived with help from meals
provided by the school district.

Despite financial stress, How-
ell is still grateful she’s chosen to
go to college. Howell has worked
hard to make her dream possi-
ble. She’s saved money on future
semesters by taking as many AP
classes as were available at her public
high school. She also earned scholar-
ships through her college, her high
school, and her church, while saving
money from her jobs.

Howell’s one piece of advice?
Remember that the costs can change
from year to year, as many scholar-
ships are for one year only, and budget for increasing potential
costs in sophomore year and beyond.

THE MISSING PIECE
Martin says that while educating his children about saving
for college, budgeting, and investing, he also taught them the
importance of giving money and time back to church and worthy
causes. Martin leads by example as he volunteers for Habitat
for Humanity trips nationally and internationally.

“Your kids see what you do and they follow it,” Martin says.
“They know it’s important to make room for all the things in
your life you want to spend money on, and that includes giving
back financially and of your time.”

This idea can drive how you spend your money and time—by
remembering God’s generosity and finding a way to participate
in that generosity, even when you’re financially strapped or
when your schedule is packed with classes.

“My kids see what you do and they follow it. They know it’s important to make room for all the things in your life you want to spend money on, and that includes giving back financially and of your time.”

-MIKE MARTIN
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND ONLINE
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College is exciting and scary and completely overwhelming. As you explore your residential campus or set up your desk for remote classes, you’ll quickly learn that there’s more to this college thing than schedules and syllabi. Surviving, and thriving, in this transition can be difficult—but not impossible. Spend time over the next few months building rules and rhythms into your routine. These anchors will keep you grounded, inspire reflection, and direct your growth in the years to come.

FIND YOUR RHYTHM

For the first time, your daily life isn’t dictated by the ringing of a class bell. You’re still taking classes, of course, but you’ll be able to work out a schedule that fits your personal needs. This is your first chance to build an educational schedule that works for you, and as an added bonus, you’ll get to hit the reset button with every semester. If 18 credit hours feels overwhelming, you can cut it to 15 after your holiday break. If you’re not functioning at your peak at 7:00 a.m., you can build a schedule that allows you to sleep in or even choose night classes. If you prefer to stack most of your classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays so you can ease in to and out of your weekend, that’s possible at most universities. Take advantage of this freedom, and you may find yourself performing better and enjoying classes more.

The rhythms of college life aren’t limited to class schedules, of course. With no one reminding you to move your body, eat a good lunch, wash your clothes, or settle in at the library, the work of managing your time and health falls to you. This is, indeed, a big responsibility, but it’s also made possible by an accommodating college. Campus gyms often host extended hours, mealtimes are flexible, and the library is available from sunrise until well after dark. The beauty of finding a good rhythm is that
a healthy, balanced life looks different for each person. There are some universal truths—finishing papers at 2:00 a.m. is not the best practice, and skipping meals will make you grumpy—but there’s also a great deal of room to flourish in the way you were uniquely designed, from structuring your course load to choosing your bedtime. A quick word of caution: with so much flexibility, important things fall through the cracks. Don’t let your freedom threaten your success.

DECIDE ONCE
Kendra Adachi, better known to many as “The Lazy Genius,” insists there’s an easy way to combat the overwhelming number of decisions and choices coming your way: being a genius about the things that matter and lazy about the things that don’t. Not everything is equally important, and learning to prioritize the things that matter most will streamline your days in the best of ways.

Adachi’s “Decide Once” mantra minimizes decision fatigue and can help you sort through all the questions to come. The concept is simple: make a decision once and stick with it. As it’s incorporated into your daily life, you’ll find that being “lazy” with tiny decisions frees up your mental capacity for what’s most important.

Practically speaking, this decision method can be as simple as doing laundry every Thursday night. Because you’ve set a weekly time to wash your clothes and linens, you’ll never run out of socks at an inopportune time. Better yet, you won’t have to think about the best time to do your laundry every week. It happens on Thursday nights—that’s already been decided, and you never have to waste time fretting over it again.

Some other “decide once” hacks: set up a recurring study group for your biology lab, wear your favorite black T-shirt to that early Monday morning class each week (it will be clean, since you’ve done your Thursday laundry), or head to the gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays after your 10:00 a.m. class. By automating some of life’s mundane moments, you’ll create routines that clear brain space for the things that matter most, like studying for midterms, spending time with friends, or taking time to relax without having to worry about a running list of things you should be doing.

BECOME A GOOD ROOMMATE
Sharing a room or an apartment means lots of hours spent together in close quarters, so building a good relationship here is important. Even if you don’t become lifelong best friends, your semester will be much more peaceful if you create good boundaries and care about one another’s preferences. Healthy roommate habits go a long way.

The first bit of advice is perhaps the most obvious: care about cleanliness. Be mindful that almost no one enjoys living amid someone else’s clutter. Clean up after yourself at every opportunity, especially if you share bathroom or kitchen space. Keeping your desk, bed, and closet tidy will help you stay organized, and it’s an easy way to show kindness to your roommate.

If you live in a dorm, the noise can seem endless, but it’s still worthwhile to have a conversation about sound levels. If your roommate prefers going to bed early, it’s best not to schedule frequent late night Zoom calls with your long-distance boyfriend. If you prefer studying in silence, your roommate may want to have her Airpods on hand. Taking care of one another by creating an environment that works for everyone will create a happy, healthy space that you’ll all enjoy.

The best roommates prioritize good communication. By setting clear boundaries and expectations, you’ll eliminate most potential problems before they’ve even come up. As you settle in together, set aside time early on to order a pizza and chat through your pet peeves and preferences. Setting study hours when unexpected guests won’t pop in, creating a bathroom cleaning schedule, or deciding which items will and won’t be shared can stop conflicts before they start.

If conflicts do arise, extend empathy and grace as often as you can. You’re both navigating a new space, likely in a new city, with a brand-new person. There will be a few bumps in the road, but by handling them with clarity and kindness, you’ll be able to defuse conflicts before they have a chance to become explosive. If you need help with healthy conflict resolution, remember that your RAs and on-campus counseling services are always available.

CULTIVATE COMMUNITY
College friendships add value and purpose to our lives. While you’re sure to find friends in your classes and residence halls, don’t forget to expand your relational horizons. Seek out groups and activities you enjoy. Like a garden, community is a thing to be cultivated, and you’ll find deeper roots as you invest in your friendships more fully.

Believers often find depth and diversity at a local church that college campuses simply can’t offer. As you spend time worshiping with young kids, retirees, and every generation in between, you’ll find a beautiful picture of Christian community. Getting involved in your church is also a way to serve others, whether through leading a small group of teenagers, watching babies in the nursery, greeting newcomers at the door, or singing on the worship team.

Become a student who gives back to the city you’re in, even if your time there is likely temporary. Most cities welcome and encourage the support and service students can provide. Walk dogs at the animal shelter, serve meals at your local soup kitchen, or join a city clean-up project. By engaging with your city off-campus, you’ll find ways to serve those you may never have brushed shoulders with otherwise, and you’ll be leaving your college home even better than you found it.

Finally, don’t forget to find a community that’s fun. Intra-mural sports teams offer many opportunities to stay active and build relationships. Join a theater production crew for a chance to flex your artistic muscles. At many universities, you can find chapters of faith-based sororities and fraternities where you can reap the benefits of a social club without dipping into the wilder side of Greek life. Even academic clubs can feel more like play than work when you’re passionate about the subject. Finding communities beyond your residence and your major will enrich your social life and keep you on balance.

FIND YOUR THRIVING
You may be going to college to earn a degree, but this time also provides valuable opportunities to learn independence, discover new passions, serve the city around you, and build lifelong healthy habits. You may find yourself overwhelmed with all the changes as you first settle into a new home and schedule—and there’s no shame in that. But these ideas will ground you, bringing you out of survival mode and into a college experience in which you truly thrive.
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From coast to coast and border to border, Christian colleges serve thousands of students across America. These schools share a common love for God, the church, and the Scriptures. Rather than limiting creativity or unique expression, the boundaries of Christian education provide a strong and sturdy framework for imagination and innovation that reflects the character of God in multifaceted ways.

These profiles offer you a glimpse into various academic environments. In addition to textbooks, degree plans, and research areas, these campuses shape students through extracurricular activities, mentorship, and participation in their local communities. Don’t see your state represented? Check out our full index on page 92.
BE THE LIGHT

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We believe every student was created by God for a purpose, and that it’s our mission to help develop their unique gifts, talents and passions to engage and transform the world in meaningful ways. Learn more about why Belmont is among the fastest-growing Christian universities at BELMONT.EDU.

FIELDS OF STUDY

FAITH-BASED MAJORS

BELMONT UNIVERSITY

FIND YOUR FIT AT BELMONT UNIVERSITY

A PLACE TO BELONG
Belmont University is home to 8,700 students who come from every state and more than 28 countries. Committed to being a leader among teaching universities, Belmont brings together the best of liberal arts and professional education in a Christian community of learning and service. With 105 areas of undergraduate study, more than 25 master’s programs and five doctoral degrees, there is no limit to the ways Belmont can expand an individual’s horizon.

A LEADER IN ACADEMICS
Belmont’s boasts a 14:1 student-to-faculty ratio and is committed to leading the way by pioneering exciting majors like supply chain management, public health and music technology. Our facilities offer state-of-the-art technology and students work directly with faculty on research, health care simulations, audio productions, film making and more. Abundant opportunities exist for internships and students are encouraged to participate in study away in numerous locations in the U.S. and abroad.

A THRIVING COMMUNITY
Belmont’s beautiful 93-acre campus is brimming with possibilities to help you enjoy your new home-away-from-home. Belmont offers 160 student organizations including sports clubs, Greek organizations, service-minded groups, faith development fellowships and several niche honor societies. Sports fans have plenty to cheer with 17 NCAA Division I teams to follow (Go Bruins!).

A GROWING, URBAN HOMETOWN
Belmont’s hometown, Nashville, provides the backdrop for an amazing college experience while setting the stage for limitless career potential. Local internship opportunities are plentiful. In fact, Belmont students have connected with the Country Music Association, HCA Healthcare, The Nashville Predators, Caterpillar Financial and Nissan. Nashville also offers countless opportunities for fun with professional sports teams, art museums, parks and outdoor recreational areas.

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Who says a quality education can’t be affordable? CBS is one of only a few Bible colleges in the nation with both regional and national accreditation. And we offer one of the lowest tuitions for private schools, along with financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS
Every class is rooted in the word of God. From your first class to your last, you’ll learn how to use God’s biblical principles to excel in your career and transform your life. Students enjoy personal attention, engaging curriculum, and life-long friendships between faculty, staff, and other students.

CBS offers undergraduate degrees, a Bible certificate program, and a degree program taught entirely in the Spanish language. Every program is designed to equip you to lead with excellence in a changing society as you impact others for Christ.

• Biblical Studies
• Biblical Counseling
• Organizational Leadership
• Women’s Ministry
• Bible Certificate
• Degree Program Taught in Spanish

LOCATION
Online, Houston, TX, Indianapolis & Fort Wayne, IN

TUITION
$285/credit hour

ENROLLMENT
500

STUDENT FACULTY RATIO
12:1 Student to Faculty

PROGRAMS DESIGNED FOR YOU
• Personal attention from your application through graduation
• Dual credit opportunities
• Home-school friendly
• Veterans and dependent benefits
• Accelerated degree completion
• 4+1 and 4+2 master’s with CBS and Dallas Theological Seminary
• 5-week courses
• 844.232.9673 | admissions@cbshouston.edu

CBS HOUSTON.EDU

$285/credit hour
What is the DBU Difference?

DBU students not only learn from Christian professors who integrate faith into everything they teach, they become servant leaders ready to impact the world for Christ—all within a supportive community in the heart of Dallas.

Learn more about the DBU Difference by visiting discover.dbu.edu.

Through a Christ-centered education, Dallas Baptist University strives to develop servant leaders ready to impact the world through service. By fully integrating biblical faith with academic learning, DBU prepares students to excel in any calling.

Recognized as a nationally ranked, comprehensive, liberal arts university by U.S. News and World Report, DBU offers 84 undergraduate degree programs and 67 accelerated bachelor’s/master’s degrees. DBU’s professors focus on teaching and mentoring of students to help them experience a transformative education that challenges students to not only discover their calling but also prepare them to live out that calling.

DBU has one of the lowest costs among Christian colleges in the U.S., while its proximity to the Dallas–Fort Worth Metroplex gives students numerous opportunities for internships and service-learning experiences. From taking mission trips abroad to volunteering at local homeless shelters and food banks, DBU students have a heart for changing the world for the glory of God.

Situated atop a hill overlooking Mountain Creek Lake, DBU’s gated campus community features lakes, gardens, gazebos, fountains, waterfalls, and nature trails. Christian Universities Online rated DBU as #1 among the “50 Most Beautiful Christian Colleges and Universities” in Texas, and DBU was named a College of Distinction for 2021-2022.
TURN GOALS INTO victories

Make your educational journey a successful one with Liberty University. Liberty has been Training Champions for Christ since 1971 and has the world-class faculty and resources you need to thrive in any career. At Liberty, it’s our goal to help you accomplish yours.

Pursuing a college education is a great way to turn your passions into your livelihood. Whatever career field you choose, Liberty will prepare you to excel in the most competitive industries by providing you with the practical knowledge, personal experience, and leadership training you need to transform your goals into career victories.

With 700+ degree programs residentially and online in fields like medicine, cybersecurity, ministry, and more, you’re sure to find the path that will lead you to your dream career. And if you can’t find the exact program you want — you can create it through an interdisciplinary studies degree!

RESIDENTIAL
At Liberty, you’ll learn from professors who are leaders in their industries. You’ll also enjoy a 7,000+ acre campus tucked away in the Blue Ridge Mountains and filled with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. Here, you can choose from 300+ residential programs and graduate with the knowledge and skills you need to stand out in today’s job market.

You’ll also find generous scholarships and other assistance programs to put the quality Christian education you want within reach. We are constantly seeking new ways to make your education affordable. Our Middle America Scholarship, for example, is specifically designed for families that typically earn between $35,000 and $95,000 a year and don’t qualify for the Federal Pell Grant. Plus, we’ve frozen our tuition rates for the third year in a row.

ONLINE
Liberty University Online Programs allows you to take charge of your degree. If you want the benefit of a strong, faith-based community, the rigor of top-notch academics, and the flexibility of an online education, Liberty has you covered. With more than 450 online programs, you can take your education wherever life leads you.

Liberty is also one of the nation’s most affordable options, which means you won’t have to worry about the burden of financial stress. Our tuition rates, which are frozen for the sixth consecutive year, are in the bottom third of top online universities — some of the lowest in the nation — and more than 85 percent of Liberty students qualify for financial aid.
You come to Lipscomb with faith, a yearning for knowledge and ambition to excel. Christ’s light shines in our community, magnifying the best in you. At this intersection, a life of purpose awaits.

BRING all you Welcomed in faith. Shaped through learning. Ready to Go.

ACTIVATE BOLD FAITH
At Lipscomb University, we believe your gifts are God-given—that’s why it’s our highest priority to help you discover how you’ll use them for the rest of your life. And we’ve found that in the context of a faith-based, service-minded community, education becomes a gateway for good. Learn how to harness your vocation to create meaningful change.

DEVELOP DEEP KNOWLEDGE
Experience the opportunity of an institution with rigorous academic programs sustained by exceptional faculty. Be prepared to lead by extending a hand, inviting others into deeper knowledge and faith. Earn a degree that ignites your ideas and puts purpose to your passions—you’ll have over 200 areas of study to choose from.

SEIZE BIG OPPORTUNITIES
We believe that experience is the best teacher. That’s why on any given day, your classroom might relocate to a recording studio, the Capitol building or an outreach organization. The city’s top leaders might guest lecture for a class—or teach it all semester. In a city like Nashville, there’s no shortage of opportunity.

FIND PROFOUND BELONGING
Our close-knit, Christ-centered community is rooted in connection. That means that your favorite professor will invite your class over for dinner, or that your campus minister will take you to coffee. Experience small classes, profound spiritual formation, vibrant student life, D1 athletics—along the way, you’ll find a herd that sticks with you for life.
Small Town Charm, Big City Amenities
Wake Forest offers small-town living near a bustling capital. Living here means you’ll have everything you need within a few miles. Just 30 minutes from the capital, Raleigh, you can enjoy a wide variety of restaurants, entertainment, parks and more.

The House System
Live life with your peers in our collegiate House System where you’ll foster intentional, gospel-centered community during your time in college.

4 Advanced Track Degrees
Get your bachelor’s and master’s in just 5 years through one of our 4 Bachelors to Masters degree programs.

Financial Aid
73% of college students who come to Southeastern receive financial aid, including a substantial amount of aid to students who are members of SBC-affiliated churches.

The College at Southeastern
DISCERN YOUR CALLING. FULFILL THE MISSION.

The College at Southeastern equips students to give their lives for the cause of Christ in the Church, among the nations, and in every aspect of society. At Southeastern, we want you to discover your calling, so you can fulfill the Great mission wherever you go. That’s why we offer a range of bachelor’s and associate’s degrees and offer degree programs that allow you to get your bachelor’s and master’s in just five years.

At Southeastern, you’ll learn from over 40 college professors who know what it’s like to minister in the church and the workplace. Our world-class faculty will teach you how to think biblically and serve practically wherever you go. You’ll also interact with a community of likeminded students who love the Lord, seek to grow in Christlikeness, and encourage one another as they seek to be on mission.

The Great Commission is the heartbeat of why we exist. We often say around here that every classroom is a Great Commission classroom because our desire is for each class to train students to fulfill the mission in any context so that the gospel will go forward to all people in all places.

We are characterized as a community that is light-hearted, others-focused, and mission-oriented as we seek to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping students to serve the Church and fulfill the Great Commission. Consider joining us as you prepare the Great Commission wherever God has called you.

The College at Southeastern
Fulfill the Mission

Location
Wake Forest, NC

Enrollment
2,000+

Tuition
Master’s: $304/credit hour
College: $393/credit hour

Student Faculty Ratio
22:1 Student to Faculty
Through Northwest’s brand new Creatio Center for Technology, Media, and Design, you can now earn a top-notch degree in UX design, computer science, audio production, data science, or video production, all with an emphasis on faith. You’ll learn from expert professors with real experience in your chosen field, and you’ll intern with companies that are shaping the future. Come take a tour of our state-of-the-art music studios, design labs, and more to see how NU can help you start your dream career.

Visit northwestu.edu/visit to sign up for a tour today.

NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY

YOUR FUTURE STARTS TODAY

ABOUT NU
Northwest University is a regionally accredited, Christian institution awarding associate, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees. Located in Kirkland, Washington, we have been preparing students to lead in their careers since 1934 and offer a variety of degree programs to meet the needs of an ever-changing society.

Our traditional undergraduate experience includes over 70 majors and programs—as well as off-campus internships—to equip students for success in their careers. Our online degree programs provide the flexibility of classes that can be accessed anytime, anywhere.

MISSION AND VISION
The founders of Northwest University built a community of faith and learning, focused on serving people who are pursuing God’s call on their lives. We are convinced that God continues to call every man and woman to a life of faithful, devoted service. Northwest University is committed to preparing people for service and leadership, doing God’s work in God’s world.

We believe that the best response to God’s call is to develop exceptional character and competence. A commitment to scholarship and discipleship grows out of a worldview anchored in Scripture. Northwest University integrates Faith and Truth with powerful, effective teaching in Ministry, Arts, Sciences and the Professions. The entire University community strives to engage biblical Christianity with every aspect of life.

Northwest University finds its crowning joy in thousands of alumni serving in nearly every profession around the world. They are people showing Christ’s love through hands of compassion. Our faculty model lives of wholehearted service. Our students make an impact for the Kingdom in numerous outreaches and ministries. Northwest University is committed to preparing people for service and leadership, doing God’s work in God’s world.

Visit northwestu.edu/visit to sign up for a tour today.
A GATEWAY TO WORLD SERVICE
Simpson University has been a Gateway to World Service for over 100 years. As a Christian liberal arts university, we are committed to creating an unapologetically evangelical, Christ-centered learning community. Our goal is to develop each student in mind, faith and character for a lifetime of meaningful work and service in a constantly changing world.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
Simpson University strives to create critical thinkers, not critical people. With over 20 academic programs, we provide students with the knowledge and experiences that allow them to become exuberant followers of Jesus and influential leaders in society. In an effort to meet the ever-changing needs of our community, Simpson University has added four new programs, including Engineering, Digital Media, Computer Information Systems, and Kinesiology – Applied Health.

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM
Located at the base of Mount Shasta, Simpson University’s campus has access to hundreds of miles of mountain trails and outdoor adventure experiences. Students can participate in a variety of on- and off-campus events including sporting events, spiritual development conferences, mission trips, worship teams, intramurals, and other engaging activities. All activities are designed to foster a sense of community for our students to create relationships that will last a lifetime.
Calvin University is your place to explore your interests and wrestle with questions of faith and learning. The knowledge and skills you build will prepare you to walk boldly into your career and life. This just might be the university you’ve dreamed of.

JOIN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND DISCOVERY.

THINK DEEPLY, ACT JUSTLY, LIVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY AS CHRIST’S AGENTS OF RENEWAL

THE WORLD IS WAITING
Imagine being cultivated in your gifts, activated in your faith, and equipped to follow your passions. Imagine living out the full story God is calling you to.
That’s why Calvin University exists.
You were created by a God who doesn’t want you to settle. He wants you to flourish in his kingdom. In fact, he wants to use you to help the whole world flourish.
Calvin professors, staff, and fellow students are waiting to meet you, to find out just who you are, and to journey with you in discovering your one-of-a-kind calling.
Ready?

LEARN WITH COURAGE
Join a community known for its groundbreaking scholarship and visionary teaching. Learn firsthand from forward-looking leaders in your field.
Calvin professors will partner with you to conduct world-class research, and empower you to achieve your career and graduate school goals.

ACT WITH JUSTICE
God doesn’t ask us to accept things in the world as they are. He gives us a vision for what they can be. Wherever you started, and wherever you’re headed—we’re investing in those places.
You’ll find that Calvin mentors and classmates are ready to help you on your mission. Together, you’ll pursue renewal throughout the world.

LIVE WITH PURPOSE
Calvin’s intentional Christian community is waiting for you. From Dorm activities to Student Senate and worship team, you’ll have every opportunity to get involved at Calvin. Here your God-given gifts won’t be overlooked—they’ll be celebrated, cultivated, and stretched.
Calvin grads work in careers that serve a meaningful place in God’s world. You will, too.
Prepare for it at Evangel University.

Schedule a campus visit and:
• Tour our beautiful campus
• Meet faculty and staff
• Check out a class in your anticipated major
• Attend a chapel service
• Spend the night in a residence hall

Each moment of your life has prepared you for this one. At Evangel University, you will be equipped to discover the one thing God has called you to do that no one else can do. Cultivate your unique interests and skills as you pursue your calling.

NEW DISCOVERY IS CALLING:
• Learn from professor-mentors who are personally invested in your success, both inside and outside the classroom. Our low faculty/student ratio of 15:1 means you get the one-on-one attention you deserve.
• Take advantage of internships, job-shadowing opportunities, and hands-on learning experiences that provide not only the knowledge you need, but the real-world training that builds your resume.
• More than 70 academic program options provide a wide range of professional options to fit your desired career focus and calling. Invested academic advisors will ensure you select the path that’s just right for you.

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS:
• 100% of incoming freshman receive scholarships
• Academic scholarships are available up to $27,000 per year
• Need-based grants are available up to $11,000 per year (FAFSA required)
• Scholarships are available for special talent and athletics
• Federal financial aid and Missouri grants are available to qualifying individuals
• See all the opportunities and estimate your award with our online scholarship and financial aid calculator: evangel.edu/financial

NEW COMMUNITY IS CALLING
Experiencing life together is the heartbeat of Evangel. Here you’ll find a place to belong and friends who will become like family. With over 40 campus clubs and organizations, you’ll quickly find your crew and a place to invest your time and energy.

VISIT CAMPUS TO EXPERIENCE OUR COMMUNITY FIRSTHAND
Register for an upcoming Evangel Preview event or schedule a personal tour at evangel.edu/visit or call us at 417.865.2815 ext. 7205
MIDWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AND SPURGEON COLLEGE

exist for the Church and for the Kingdom. We aim to train God-called men and women to fulfill their ministry—whatever it may be—for the glory of God and the good of his people. We offer a wide range of undergraduate, masters, and doctoral degrees.

FOR THE CHURCH. FOR THE KINGDOM.

MIDWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AND SPURGEON COLLEGE

RESIDENTIAL OR ONLINE
With both residential and online degrees available, students can pursue their education in a manner most convenient for them. So, whether you’re pursuing a degree in business, communications, Bible, theology, or something in between, Spurgeon College is equipping students to serve the Kingdom wherever God may take them. Start your journey today and apply for free using promocode: CTSPURGEON

Location
Kansas City, MO

Tuition
Master’s: $285/credit hour
College: $315/credit hour

Enrollment
4,500+

Student Faculty Ratio
16:1 Student to Faculty

MBTS.EDU & SPURGEONCOLLEGE.COM

$ $ $ $
WHERE GOD TRANSFORMS THE WORLD THROUGH YOU

We invite you to study at the world’s most influential Bible college, Moody Bible Institute. Here, you’ll be transformed. Out there, you’ll change the world for Christ.

YOUR FUTURE
Get equipped to impact the world for Christ! With more than 130 years of tradition behind us, we teach you the Bible right. You can connect to your ministry calling by attending our undergraduate school in Chicago or Aviation school in Spokane. We’ll help you prepare for a life of ministry—wherever God leads.

YOUR SURROUNDINGS
In Chicago, you’ll live just blocks away from the lakefront, restaurants, museums, public parks, and the loop—the heart of the city. And there’s plenty of ministry opportunities; you can serve in churches, rescue missions, inner-city ministries, and more! In Spokane, students receive valuable aviation training in the breathtaking beauty of the Pacific Northwest.

YOUR MAJOR
At Moody Chicago, you can choose from more than 30 undergraduate majors to pursue. At Moody Aviation, you can train to be a missionary pilot or maintenance specialist, developing the mechanical and ministry skills you need to effectively meet the demands of the mission field.

YOUR PROFESSORS
Your faculty instructors will offer a wealth of biblical knowledge and ministry strategies. They also often serve as mentors, with years of practical experience that’ll challenge you academically and spiritually—both in and out of class.

YOUR FREE TIME
There’s so much to do at Moody! Join one or more of our sports teams—we compete in basketball, volleyball, soccer, cross-country, and more. Contend on our nationally ranked debate society, or sign up for musical ensemble, yearbook staff, or other student groups. Aviation students can enjoy outdoor recreational activities like rock climbing, kayaking, and alpine skiing, in addition to joining a variety of student groups.

MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE

Tuition
- $0, Chicago ($12,960 provided as scholarships)
- $13,200, Spokane
- $10,560 Online

Enrollment
- 1,476 Chicago
- 110 Spokane

Student Faculty Ratio
- 15:1 Chicago
- 7:1 Spokane

Connect to Your Calling
moody.edu/transform | (800) 588-8344

WHERE GOD TRANSFORMS
THE WORLD THROUGH YOU
LEARN FROM HUMBLE LEADERS
From the moment you step into your first class at Wheaton College, you’ll notice the faculty at Wheaton are different. They are at the top of their disciplines, but more importantly, they are humble servants of Christ. They are eager to grow in relationships with their students and are here to be your mentors and guides. They will guide you as you embark on choosing classes that align with your interests through the general education curriculum: Christ at the Core.

NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN ADVENTUROUS THINKING
In classrooms on Wheaton’s campus to the Northwoods of Wisconsin, you’ll take your learning from hearing lectures to hands-on testing. From the Black Hills Science Station in South Dakota and HoneyRock Outdoor Center for Leadership Development to the 75+ study abroad programs and urban engagement opportunities in Chicago, there are countless ways to grow in intellect in the fields you want to pursue. The internship program is robust, and networking nights provide a way to envision what life will look like after college.

IN COMMUNITY WITH FAITHFUL BELIEVERS
In residential halls and houses to clubs and choirs and teams, Wheaton’s micro communities are the real life-force behind a complete education. In these communities, you’ll share what you are learning, the challenges you face, and the new ideas you are developing. Through it all is the grace of God experienced in the friendships you are forming. It is in this community that you will grow in your relationship with God and others.

Simply put, you don’t need to compromise when looking for a college. At Wheaton, you will learn from humble leaders at the top of their respective academic fields. You will have numerous opportunities to grow in adventurous thinking and put your new intellectual ideas to work, all while in the safe, grace-filled community of faithful believers.

Rooted in Faith.
Adventurous Thinking.
Grace-Filled, Christ-Centered Community.
You will find all of this and more at Wheaton College.
As a survivor of personal and natural disasters, Dr. Jamie Aten lends his expertise to organizations serving in the midst of tragedy. Work alongside Dr. Aten and study how to lead communities to restoration through the M.A. in Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership.

WHEATON COLLEGE GRADUATE SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTED TO SERVANTHOOD

EXCEPTIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAMS
The Wheaton College Graduate School mission is to form servant scholars and leaders through exceptional graduate programs for Christ and His Kingdom. Rooted in Wheaton College’s Christian liberal arts tradition, the Graduate School offers 19 residential and flexible graduate degrees taught by top scholars and leaders in the social sciences, biblical and theological studies, psychology, ministry, and leadership. Accelerated master’s options are also available for Wheaton College undergraduates.

FORMING SERVANT SCHOLARS
Wheaton forms servant scholars, practitioners, and leaders who invest in global service. As a residential student at our historic campus just outside Chicago, work alongside expert mentors in one of our more than 20 education-enhancing psychology labs, academic centers, institutes, or archives, including the Center for Family and Relational Health, the Humanitarian Disaster Institute, the Wheaton Center for Early Christian Studies, and the Marion E. Wade Center (an archive dedicated to C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Dorothy L. Sayers, and more). In one of our flexible learning programs, connect with students like you pursuing the benefits of an excellent Wheaton College graduate degree while remaining active in your current setting.

FOR CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM
We are driven by a vision for God transforming the world through scholars and practitioners rooted in Christ and equipped for global leadership. This vision unites our alumni who serve in over 100 countries on all six continents, as well as our current student population from 32 states and 34 countries. Notable alumni and students include best-selling author Philip Yancey, inspirational writer Ann Voskamp, activist and evangelist Christine Caine, Sustainable Medical Missions leaders David Snyder, Emmanuel Ndolimanasa, and Samuel Boateng, and rising theologian Dr. Amy Brown Hughes. When you enroll at the Wheaton College Graduate School, you join a legacy of servant scholars working to build the Church and benefit society worldwide.

Dr. Jamie Aten
2016 FEMA Award Winner
Founder of Humanitarian Disaster Institute
Author of Disaster Ministry Handbook

wheaton.edu/ctgrad
At Geneva, expectations are great. But thanks to expert, caring faculty, an environment where students share and learn together, and more than 200 student programs and activities to foster deep interactions, the support is greater.

Learn more about Geneva College, the community that inspires academic excellence and spiritual growth, by going to Geneva.edu/community or participating in an in-person or virtual visit.

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“I can’t picture myself anywhere else for the next four years of life. I am super excited for the experience and journey LBC will bring.”

- LBC | Capital Freshman

PICTURE YOURSELF

LANCASTER BIBLE COLLEGE
CAPITAL SEMINARY & GRADUATE SCHOOL

Offering Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral Degrees

Learn more or schedule a campus visit lbc.edu or 800.544.7335

LANCASTER BIBLE COLLEGE
IS LIFE-ON-LIFE

What is Life-on-Life? At Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary & Graduate School, it’s our commitment to spiritual and academic growth in a vibrant living and learning environment. Caring professors. Lifelong friendships. Living out your calling.

College is so much more than earning a degree. It’s also taking steps along a journey to fulfill God’s purpose for your life. Since 1933, LBC | Capital has been committed to our mission to teach Christian students to think and live a biblical worldview and to proclaim Christ by serving Him in the Church and society.

Sara Varela, a member of the Class of 2024 and a Pastoral Ministry major from Pennsylvania, defines her Life-on-Life experience this way: “It’s not just a community of students but a community with brothers and sisters in Christ! LBC puts actions to the faith they have. That’s true faith!”

CAMPUS LIFE

Outside the classroom, LBC | Capital offers a robust student life. With plenty of clubs, organizations, activities and 20 men’s and women’s NCAA Division III intercollegiate athletic teams, LBC | Capital students are involved and engaged to use their unique gifts and talents to make a difference in all they do.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Through the generosity of donors, LBC | Capital awards more than $2 million in scholarships annually, with 97% of all undergraduate students receiving financial aid. Students earning a degree online or in evening classes may also receive life experience credits, helping them earn their degree faster.

ACCREDITATION & ACCOLADES

LBC | Capital is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the Association for Biblical Higher Education Commission on Accreditation. With more than 50 programs, LBC | Capital offers undergraduate, seminary and graduate degrees—both in class and online. And the college is listed consistently in national higher education rankings.

Location
Lancaster, PA

Tuition
$26,690

Enrollment
1100

Student Faculty Ratio
14:1 Student to Faculty

Location
Lancaster, PA

Tuition
$26,690

Enrollment
1100

Student Faculty Ratio
14:1 Student to Faculty

NORTHEAST
Founded by Dr. Ralph D. Winter in 1977, William Carey International University, based in Pasadena, CA, offers unique online Master's Degree programs in Development Studies and Transformative Urban Leadership.

At WCIU we explore the roots of human problems from a wholistic, community centered, and interdisciplinary perspective.

Enroll now and join our global network of development professionals.

Be Changed. Bring Change.

No matter where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here.

We recognize that students arrive at Malone with different ideas about God.

Perhaps you are just beginning to ask questions about faith. Perhaps you are a committed follower of Jesus Christ, fervently pursuing His plan and purpose for your life. And maybe you fall somewhere in the middle. Whether you are exploring a newfound faith or are ready to dig deeper into your relationship with God, the Malone experience is designed to meet you where you are in your journey.

Malone is unmistakably, unapologetically Christian. We love Jesus, and we want our students to love Him too.

Educating, equipping, and enriching Christian leaders to impact the church and the world for Christ since 1927.

www.mccks.edu
785-539-3571

2600 Cleveland Avenue NW, Canton, Ohio | www.malone.edu
An accredited Christian school designed specifically to meet the learning needs of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Now offering Shepherds College Online - remote learning for students with IDD and the people who serve them.
### Florida South
1. Barry University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
2. Hobe Sound Bible College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
3. Palm Beach Atlantic University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
4. Southeastern University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
5. St. Thomas University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
6. Trinity Baptist College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
7. Trinity College of Florida (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
8. University of Fort Lauderdale (Distance Learning - Courses & Program)

### Georgia South
1. Beulah Heights University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
2. Brewton-Parker College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
3. Covenant College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
4. Emmanuel College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
5. Luther Rice University & Seminary (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
6. Payne College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
7. Point University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
8. Reformed University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
9. Toccoa Falls College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)

### Guam West
1. Pacific Islands University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)

### Hawaii West
1. Pacific Rim Christian University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)

### Idaho West
1. Boise Bible College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
2. New Saint Andrews College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
3. Northwest Nazarene University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)

### Illinois Midwest
1. Greenville University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
2. Judson University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
3. Lincoln Christian University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
4. Loyola University Chicago (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
5. Moody Bible Institute (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
6. North Park University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
7. Olivet Nazarene University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
8. Trinity Christian College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
9. Trinity International University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
10. Wheaton College & Graduate School (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)

### Indiana Midwest
1. Anderson University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
2. Bethel College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
3. College of Biblical Studies-Indianapolis (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
4. Grace Theological Seminary (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
5. Horizon University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
6. Huntington University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)

### Kansas Midwest
1. Barclay College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
2. Central Christian College of Kansas (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
3. Friends University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
4. Kansas Christian College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
5. Manhattan Christian College (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
6. MidAmerica Nazarene University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)

### Kentucky South
1. Asbury University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
2. Campbellsville University (Distance Learning - Courses & Programs)
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Oklahoma

- Family of Faith Christian University
- Oklahoma Baptist University
- Oklahoma Christian University
- Oral Roberts University
- Randall University
- Southern Nazarene University
- Southwestern Christian University

Oregon

- Corban University
- George Fox University
- Mount Angel Seminary
- Multnomah University
- New Hope Christian College
- Bushnell University
- Pacific Bible College

Pennsylvania

- Cairn University

Puerto Rico

- Universidad Pentecostal Mizpa

South Carolina

- Anderson University
- Bob Jones University
- Charleston Southern University
- Clinton College
- Columbia International University
- Erskine College
- North Greenville University
- Southern Wesleyan University

South Dakota

- Institute of Lutheran Theology
- University of Sioux Falls

Tennessee

- American Baptist College
- Belmont University
- Carson-Newman University
- Freed-Hardeman University
- Hiwassee College
- Johnson University
- Lee University
- Lipscomb University
- Mid-South Christian College
- Milligan College
- Trevecca Nazarene University
- Union University
- Visible Music College
- Welch College
- Williamson Christian College

Texas

- Abilene Christian University
- Arlington Baptist University
- Baptist University of the Americas

Virginia

- Bethel College
- Bluefield College
- Eastern Mennonite University
- Liberty University
- Regent University
- Virginia University of Lynchburg

- Baylor University
- College of Biblical Studies-Houston
- Dallas Baptist University
- Dallas Christian College
- East Texas Baptist University
- Grace School of Theology
- Hardin-Simmons University
- Houston Baptist University
- Howard Payne University
- LeTourneau University
- Lubbock Christian University
- Mid-South Christian College
- The King's University
- University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

- Clark Summit University
- Eastern University
- Geneva College
- Lancaster Bible College
- Messiah College
- Trinity School for Ministry®
- University of Valley Forge
- Waynesburg University

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- | ENROLLMENT | TUITION |
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“If things get darker...the problem is not with the darkness. The problem is with the light.” — Henry Blackaby

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