

3 TIPS FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Are you thinking about going to college? Whether the decision has already been made or is still years away, this tipsheet has been designed to help you ensure that you are accepted into the college of your dreams. Note that although you can complete most of the necessary tasks in your junior or senior years of high school, you should start planning as early as the eighth grade. Not only will this improve your chances of getting into the college of your choice, but it will also make applying much easier. Below are the top 3 things you should do to prepare for college.

TIP # 1: CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE COLLEGE.

Do thorough research and choose more than one college that you'd like to apply to. Most advice in the US suggests you should choose a variety of about 5-8 schools to apply to. Try applying to those that may be beyond your grades and test scores, those that are exactly where your grades and test scores are, and those where your grades and test scores may be well above the entrance requirements. Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.

Compare

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General Information	Augsburg College	Southern Utah University	Austin Community College
Type & Location			
School Type	4-Year	4-Year	2-Year
Public / Private	Private - Religious	Public - State	Public - State and Local
Location	Minneapolis, MN	Cedar City, UT	Austin, TX
Setting	Urban	Small town	Urban
Student Population			
Student Body	Coeducational	Coeducational	Coeducational
Total Students	4,073	8,019	44,100
Total Undergraduate Students	3,153	7,231	44,100
Faculty			

Find the college that's right for you through ccAchieve. You can search for colleges in a number of ways:

- **Search for Schools** by name or by state.
- **Search for Majors** by keyword or by cluster.
- Use the **School Selector** to find schools that meet your needs based on a wide variety of factors, such as size, type, athletics, and majors offered.
- Use the **Compare Schools** function to compare your top three schools side by side

You can also use the **Education** section of the career profiles that interest you to find schools offering the education and training you need to achieve your goals.

Once you have narrowed your selection, arrange to visit the campuses in person. This is an important step in the decision process, so whenever possible, plan a visit to the schools.

TIP # 2: LOOK FOR FINANCIAL AID.

College doesn't have to be as expensive as you think it is. Look for local scholarships and grants that will help you reduce the burden of financial stress.

The screenshot shows the 'Local Scholarships' section of the Career Cruising website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Assessments', 'Careers', 'Education', 'Financial Aid', and 'Employment'. Below this is a user profile for 'Kyle' and a search bar with the text 'Enter a scholarship name'. A 'Search' button and a 'Show All' link are also present. The main content area is titled 'Local Scholarships' and contains a filter sidebar on the left and a list of 9 results on the right. The filter sidebar includes 'Filter by Award Criteria' with options like 'Merit-Based', 'Need-Based', 'Service-Based', 'Specific Field of Study', and 'Other Criteria'. The list of results is a table with columns for 'Scholarship Name', 'Deadline', 'Amount', and 'Criteria'.

Scholarship Name	Deadline	Amount	Criteria
Apprenticeship Scholarship Awards	Continuous	\$1,000	Other Criteria
Bill Gates Awards	9/1	\$10,000	Merit-Based Specific Field of Study
Bill's Motor Scholarship	8/27	\$1000	Merit-Based
Christopher Martin Bursary Program	4/15	\$1,000	Need-Based Service-Based
Citizenship Award Program	3/1	\$2,500	Merit-Based Service-Based
College Access Scholarship Program	4/15	\$5,000	Need-Based
Pierre de Fermat Scholarships	2/20	\$10,000	Merit-Based Specific Field of Study

High School Seniors should complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) on or after January 1st.

You should look into scholarships, student loans, and other financial aid options before you apply to a particular college or university. The Federal government has \$80 billion available for funding education beyond high school. You can explore Federal Financial Aid Resources at <http://studentaid.ed.gov>.

Use the **Financial Aid Selector** within ccAchieve to help you find private programs for which you may qualify.

TIP # 3: MARK ALL IMPORTANT DEADLINES AND BE SURE TO FOLLOW THEM!

It's not an easy task to manage college and financial aid applications, especially when your plate is full of course work, exams, and a busy social life.

Use the **My Education** section to track dates and deadlines for college applications, financial aid, standardized tests, and other key milestones.

Specifically, use the:

- **Application Tracker** to manage each of your college applications, including deadlines, application requirements, and outcomes.
- **Scholarship Application Tracker** to manage each of your scholarship and financial aid applications, including deadlines, application requirements, and status.
- **FAFSA, CSS PROFILE, and NCAA Applications** features to learn about these important processes, organize the **To Do list** items for each one, and integrate the tasks with your personal calendar
- **School-wide Calendar of Events** to view events at your school, such as visits by college representatives, deadlines for requesting references, and other happenings.