

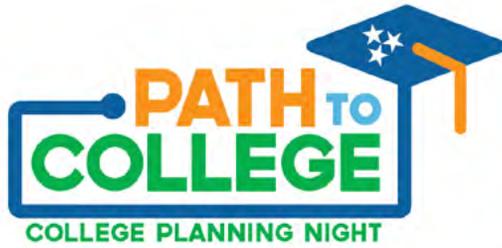


College Planning Night

Site Coordinator Handbook

Sponsored by:





Dear College Planning Night Coordinators:

On behalf of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), thank you for hosting a Tennessee College Planning Night event during the spring at your school or organization! The goal of Planning Night is to create greater clarity in the college-going process that students and their families will undertake during the senior year of high school.

The purpose of College Planning Night is to provide an opportunity for students and their families to prepare for the college application and selection process. The college application process is one that is often seen as intimidating and full of mystery, but this event is designed to help you shed light on the process. By holding this event during the spring of students' junior year, College Planning Night gives students a chance to start the planning process early and start the application, selection, and financial aid process when they have many options open to them.

College Planning Night is part of Tennessee's Path to College events. By participating in all four Path to College events (College Planning Night, College App Week, College Goal Tennessee, College Signing Day), you can be a part of the Tennessee's statewide plan to increase the college-going culture in our schools. Please contact Mary Laphen, Statewide Services Coordinator for THEC's Office of P-16 Initiatives, at mary.laphen@tn.gov or at (615) 253-1155 if you have any questions or concerns about planning and implementing College Planning Night at your school. We will keep you updated regarding any changes or additional information you may find useful.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to participate in this important college access event. Your participation will encourage Tennessee students and their families to make college a part of their future.

Sincerely,

Troy Grant
Director, College Access Challenge Grant
Tennessee Higher Education Commission
(615) 532-0423
Troy.Grant@TN.gov

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Section 1:

Introduction to College Planning Night

As the school year winds down, college planning is ramping up for your juniors. College Planning Night is a time for juniors and their parents to jumpstart the college-going process.

As you begin to think about hosting College Planning Night at your school, tailor the event to the needs of your school community. In the following pages, you will find more information on College Planning Night and research supporting the importance of the event in supporting a college going culture at your school.

IN THIS SECTION

- [College Planning Night Welcome Letter](#)
- [About College Planning Night](#)

About College Planning Night

What is Tennessee's College Planning Night?

College Planning Night is an event designed to prepare high school juniors and their parents/guardians for the college enrollment process. The event is designed to be hosted in high schools in late spring. Part of the statewide Path to College initiative, College Planning Night invites parent and students to learn more about the college-going process. Specifically the event provides a detailed timeline of what steps students need to take to decide on, apply to and attend the college that will be the best fit for them. The format of College Planning Night is what works best for your school, but we typically suggest an hour-long session where a high school counselor or other college-access professional talks to parents and students about college and the application process.

Expectations of Host Sites

The event can be designed in a manner that works best for your individual school. In order to best utilize the materials, we recommend hosting your College Planning Night in the auditorium, gym or large classroom. The event should be held somewhere in your school that has seating for a large group, but also has access to a projector/screen, allowing you to present the accompanying slide deck. Additionally, though the event is targeted to high school juniors and their parents, we encourage schools to invite underclassman and their parents to inspire an earlier start to college preparation.

When is College Planning Night?

The event is encouraged to be held in late spring as juniors are preparing for the summer between their junior and senior year. However, the exact time will be different for every school dependent upon your school calendar.

What is the Purpose of College Planning Night?

College Planning Night has several purposes that contribute to the college-going success of Tennessee students.

- 1) To provide information about the college-going process to high school juniors so they can begin the process over the summer and return to school in the fall to continue, rather than to begin, to consider their best postsecondary options.
- 2) To provide parents and students with the most up-to-date information regarding Tennessee higher education and financial aid options. For example, the Tennessee Promise scholarship has brought many new postsecondary options and opportunities to students.
- 3) To provide a venue where families and students can learn about what options are available to them and also have the opportunity to ask questions and receive clarification.

What counts as college?

For the purpose of the Path to College events, college means any formal education that is continued after graduating from high school. This means community college, four-year degree programs, pursuit of a technical certificate or diploma, and many more forms of higher education.

Section 2:

Planning Your College Planning Night

The key to a parent event is advertising and relevance. In the next few pages you'll find suggestions and tools to get the word out about your College Planning Night and also explain to families why it is so important for them to attend!

As you begin to plan your College Planning Night, tailor the event to the needs of your students and their families. From the timing of events to the location, consider what would work best for your families and when would allow for the highest participation.

IN THIS SECTION

- Site Coordinator Checklist
- Who to Involve
- Promotion Ideas
- Reminders for the Day of the Event
- Best Practices from Similar Events
- Reporting Procedures
- Resource: Event Survey
- Resource: Sign In Sheet
- Resource: Sample Student/Family Letter
- Resource: Sample Event Flyer

Site Coordinator Checklist

This is a recommended planning process and timeline for a College Planning Night. You can rewrite the checklist with dates and tasks that work best for you and your school.

March

- Review the Site Coordinator Handbook and add any additional items to your checklist.
- Confirm the College Planning Night location, date and time. Consider other school and community events when choosing a date to minimize the possible scheduling conflicts of parents.
- Talk with teachers and administrators at your school to encourage them to help and/or attend the event.
- Invite representatives from your Tennessee Promise partner organization and local colleges to attend the meeting to provide a short presentation or answer questions. A list of contacts for Tennessee's public higher education institutions can be found on page 5.
- Reach out to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission or the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation to let them know about your events.
- Begin to advertise the event to parents and students. Outreach ideas and sample materials can be found starting on page 8.
- Review the College Planning Night Slide Deck and choose which slides you would like to present at your College Planning Night.
- Create or determine with College Planning Night handouts you want to provide for parents.

April

- Ramp up your advertisement efforts the week leading up to the event to ensure a great turnout at your event.
- Confirm all attendees for the event, such as speakers or college admissions representatives.
- Ensure your event space is set up for the event the day before or the day of your College Planning Night.
- Host your event!

May

- Send a follow up communication to the students and families who attended your event, highlighting next steps.

Who to Involve?

Within Your School Community

- Invite your principal to attend the event and talk to parents about how your school approaches the college-going process.
- Encourage teachers who teach 12th grade classes to attend the event so they can talk about how they incorporate the college-going process into their classes. Many of them can also talk about the experiences of past students from your school who have attended college.
- Invite all of the college counselors from your school to attend so that you have as many people on hand as possible to answer questions.

External People to Involve

- Invite recent alumni of your school to come back and speak about their college experience and the application process.
- Invite the parent(s) of a recent school alumni to talk at the event about their experience in the college-going process. For many parents, hearing from someone who has been in their shoes can be an inspiring message.
- Reach out to your Tennessee Promise partnering organization (tnAchieves, REDI, or Ayers) and ask them to send a representative to the event. Many parents will likely have questions about Tennessee Promise and they can answer all of those.
- Invite your Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation outreach specialist to the event. He or she could speak about financial aid options.
- Invite admissions representatives from local colleges to your event. You can incorporate them either as a speaker or host a mini-college fair before and after the event, so that parents and students can meet the representatives in person.

Contact Information for Tennessee's Public Four-Year Universities

Austin Peay State University
Clarksville, TN
www.apsu.edu
Admissions Office:
admissions@apsu.edu
(931) 221-7661

Tennessee State University
Nashville, TN
www.tnstate.edu
Admissions Office:
admissions@tnstate.edu
(615) 963-5101

University of Tennessee - Knoxville
Knoxville, TN
www.utk.edu
Admissions Office:
admissions@utk.edu
(865) 974-2184

East Tennessee State University
Johnson City, TN
www.etsu.edu
Admissions Office:
go2etsu@etsu.edu.
(423) 439-4213

Tennessee Tech University
Cookeville, TN
www.tntech.edu
Admissions Office:
admissions@tntech.edu
(931) 372.3888

University of Tennessee - Chattanooga
Chattanooga, TN
www.utc.edu
Admissions Office:
utcmocs@utc.edu
(423)425-4662

Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN
www.mtsu.edu
Admissions Office:
admissions@mtsu.edu
(615) 898-2111

University of Memphis
Memphis, TN
www.memphis.edu
Admissions Office:
admissions@memphis.edu
(901) 678-2111

University of Tennessee - Martin
Martin, TN
www.utm.edu
Admissions Office:
admitme@utm.edu
(731) 881-7020

Who to Involve?

Contact Information for Tennessee's Community Colleges

Chattanooga State Community College
Chattanooga, TN
www.chattanoogastate.edu
Admissions Contact:
Kisha Caldwell
kisha.caldwell@chattanoogastate.edu
(423) 697-3250

Motlow State Community College
Tullahoma, TN
www.mscc.edu
Admissions Contact:
Greer Alsup
galsup@mscc.edu
(931) 393-1520

Southwest Tenn. Community College
Memphis, TN
www.southwest.tn.edu
Admissions Contact:
Vanessa Dowdy
vdowdy@southwest.tn.edu
(901) 333-4399

Cleveland State Community College
Cleveland, TN
www.clevelandstatecc.edu
Admissions Contact:
Suzanne Bayne
SBayne@clevelandstatecc.edu
(423) 472-7141

Nashville State Community College
Nashville, TN
www.nsc.edu
Admissions Contact:
Jen Evernham
jennifer.evernham@nsc.edu
(615) 353-3265

Volunteer State Community College
Gallatin, TN
www.volstate.edu
Admissions Contact:
Tim Amyx
Tim.Amyx@volstate.edu
(615) 230-3614

Columbia State Community College
Columbia, TN
www.columbiastate.edu
Admissions Office:
admissions@columbiastate.edu
(931) 540-2790

Northeast State Community College
Blountville, TN
www.northeaststate.edu
Admissions Contact:
Jennifer Starling
jgstarling@northeaststate.edu
(423) 323-0253

Walters State Community College
Morristown, TN
www.ws.edu
Admissions Contact:
Mike Campbell
mike.campbell@ws.edu
(423) 585-2682

Dyersburg State Community College
Dyersburg, TN
www.dscc.edu
Admissions Contact:
Shawn Dye
dye@dscc.edu
(731) 286-3324

Pellissippi State Community College
Knoxville, TN
www.pstcc.edu
Admissions Contact:
Cindy Atchley
catchley@pstcc.edu
(865) 539-7174

Jackson State Community College
Jackson, TN
www.jscc.edu
Admissions Contact:
Andrea Winchester
awinchester@jscc.edu
(731) 424-3520 x50484

Roane State Community College
Harriman, TN
www.roanestate.edu
Admissions Contact:
Priscilla Gitschlag
gitschlagp@roanestate.edu
(865) 481-2000 x2200

Contact Information for the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology

TCAT - Athens
www.tcatathens.edu
Kim Davis
Assistant Director
kim.davis@tcatathens.edu
(423) 744-2814 x204

TCAT - Covington
www.tcatcovington.edu
Amanda Heath
Coordinator of Student Services
amanda.heath@tcatcovington.edu
(901) 475-2526

TCAT - Crump
www.tcatcrump.edu
Joe Paul Bryant
Student Services Coordinator
joe.bryant@tcatcrump.edu
(731) 632-3393

TCAT - Chattanooga
www.chattanoogastate.edu/tcat
Sandra Winters
Enrollment Services Counselor
sandra.winters@cattanoogastate.edu
(423) 697-4433

TCAT - Crossville
www.tcatcrossville.edu
Alison Nunley
Student Services
alison.nunley@tcatcrossville.edu
(931) 484-7502 x126

Who to Involve?

Contact Information for the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (continued)

TCAT - Dickson

www.tcatdickson.edu
Lisa Sullivan
Student Services Coordinator
lisa.sullivan@tcatdickson.edu
(931) 393-1520

TCAT - Livingston

www.tcatlivingston.edu
Teresa Johnson
Financial Aid Coordinator
Teresa.Johnson@tcatlivingston.edu
(931) 823-5525

TCAT - Oneida

www.tcatoneida.edu
Tim Smith
Coordinator of Student Services
tsmith@tcatoneida.edu
(423) 663-4900

TCAT - Elizabethton

www.tcatelizabethton.edu
Ashley Edens
Financial Aid Coordinator
ashley.edens@tcatelizabethton.edu
(423) 543-0070

TCAT - McKenzie

www.tcatmckenzie.edu
Daphne Brown
Student Services Coordinator
daphne.brown@tcatmckenzie.edu
(731) 352-5364

TCAT - Paris

www.tcatparis.edu
Jan Latimer
Student Services Coordinator
Jan.latimer@tcatparis.edu
(731) 644-7365

TCAT - Harriman

www.tcatharriman.edu
Becky Gilbert
Student Recruiter
bgilbert@tcatharriman.edu
(865) 882-6703

TCAT - McMinnville

www.tcatmcminnville.edu
Mike Garrison
Student Services Coordinator
mike.garrison@tcatmcminnville.edu
(931) 473-5587 x235

TCAT - Pulaski

www.tcatpulaski.edu
Mattie Bledsoe
Coordinator of Student Services
Mattie.Bledsoe@tcatpulaski.edu
(931) 424-2404

TCAT - Hartsville

www.tcathartsville.edu
Kevin Harrison
Admissions Counselor
kevin.harrison@tcathartsville.edu
(615) 374-2147 x137

TCAT - Memphis

www.tcatmemphis.edu
Felicia Lee
Student Affairs Manager
felicia.lee@tcatmemphis.edu
(901) 543-6132

TCAT - Ripley

www.tcatripley.edu
Gwen Fleming
Financial Aid Coordinator
gfleming@tcatripley.edu
(731) 635-3368

TCAT - Hohenwald

www.tcathohenwald.edu
Andrea Cooper
Student Services Coordinator
andrea.cooper@tcathohenwald.edu
(931) 796-5351

TCAT - Morristown

www.tcatmorristown.edu
Pam Ruffner
Student Services/Financial Aid
pruffner@tcatmorristown.edu
(423) 586-5771

TCAT - Shelbyville

www.tcatshelbyville.edu
Jim Potts
Evening Supervisor
jim.potts@tcatshelbyville.edu
(931) 685-5013 x100

TCAT - Jacksboro

www.tcatjacksboro.edu
Rita Broyles
Student Services
rita.broyles@tcatjacksboro.edu
(423) 566-9629 x117

TCAT - Murfreesboro

www.tcatmurfreesboro.edu
Cindy Beverley
Student Services
CBeverley@tcatmurfreesboro.edu
(615) 898-8010 x132

TCAT - Whiteville

www.tcatwhiteville.edu
JacQuene Winfield
Student Services Coordinator
jacquene.winfield@tcatwhiteville.edu
(731) 254-8521

TCAT - Jackson

www.tcatjackson.edu
Amanda Bevis
Student Services Coordinator
amanda.bevis@tcatjackson.edu
(731) 424-0691

TCAT - Nashville

www.tcatnashville.edu
Jerry King
Assistant Director
jerry.king@tcatnashville.edu
(615) 425-5530

TCAT - Knoxville

www.tcatknoxville.edu
Patrick Wade
Assistant Director
patrick.wade@tcatknoxville.edu
(865) 766-4340

TCAT - Newbern

www.tcatnewbern.edu
Nikki Burns
Recruiter
nburns@tcatnewbern.edu
(731) 627-2511 x102

Promotion Ideas

Flyers

A few weeks before your College Planning Night, place flyers in places that your students and parents will see. Think about what parts of the school your parents frequent such as the main office or where other school activities like sporting events take place. Consider hanging up flyers in the community at high traffic areas like the grocery store, community centers or churches.

Wall Cling

Hang your Path to College wall cling in a high traffic area, such as the front hall of the school or the cafeteria. You can post the College Planning Night cling under it and include a flyer with the dates next to the wall clings. You can promote your other Path to College events, such as College Signing Day, in the same place.

All Call

Utilize your school's mass-calling or e-mail software to reach out to advertise the event to students' parents and families.

Marquee

Capitalize on the exposure of your school's marquee and advertise your event there.

Radio

Consider contacting your local radio stations and ask them to mention your event on air. When calling the station, we recommend having a short summary of what the event is, who should attend, and the time and location of the event.

Newspaper

Place an ad in the community events section of the newspaper to advertise your event and provide some detail of when the event is.

Community Organization's Newsletter

Along with contacting your local newspaper, consider also contacting local community organizations such as Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, church, Rotary Club, Elks, Masons, library and placing advertisement in their newsletter.

School Website

Reach out to your technology person to advertise on your school's website.

School Announcements

Remind students of the event in morning announcements or homeroom.

Reminders for the Day of Your Event

On the day of your College Planning Night, please keep the following things in mind:

- Consider having a sign-in sheet at your event. You can use the contact information to provide parents with important reminders during their student's senior year.
- Have plenty of copies of each handout available at the door.
- Set up a few hours ahead of the event so that featured attendees, such as college admissions representatives, can set up their materials as soon as they arrive.
- Test your technology early, at least an hour ahead of the event, to be sure you are able to show the slide deck without technical issues.
- Be prepared to meet speakers or other attendees at least 30 minutes prior to the event you can go through the event with them and make sure they know where to sit and/or set up their materials.
- Review the materials in Section 3. This section will contain answers to many questions that will likely come up during or after your session.
- Take pictures of the event to post on your social media pages. This will help you promote future events. You can also post what some of the questions that were asked at the event, along with the answers, since students and families following your social media pages will likely have similar questions.
- Be prepared to stay late after the event to answer questions that students and families may have.

Best Practices from Similar Events

These best practices were gathered from participants attending the Path to College breakout session at Tennessee School Counselor and Administrator Leadership Institute on March 10, 2015. The counselors in attendance recommended the following tips based on their experiences hosting parent nights and college planning events.

Parent Involvement

- Try using technology tools, such as Remind 101, which can allow you to send out automated email and/or text message invitations and reminders. Many of these services also allow you to send out flyers and other attachments.
- Use your school's automated call system to let parents know that the event is happening.
- As an incentive for getting parents to attend, work with local organizations or businesses to donate items as door prizes for attending the event.
- Send home a flyer for the event with other mailings that your school does, such as report cards or school announcements.

Planning the Event

- You can try to piggy back your event off of another event, such as a school baseball game or a school-wide parent meeting.
- Try to provide food and other refreshments, or have local community members donate them. Indicate on any outreach you do prior to the event that food will be available.
- Get your teachers involved in recruiting attendees for the event. Offer to throw a pizza party or a donut party for the junior homeroom that has the highest level of participation at the event.
- Invite the parents of recent graduates to come speak about their experiences in the college-going process. Parents in attendance will connect with their experiences and it might decrease some of the fear that some families may have about college.
- Arrange for seniors to help with childcare at the event for families that have younger children. This is also a great opportunity for your seniors to get a few Tennessee Promise volunteer hours.

After the Event

- Send out follow-up information to attendees. Also consider sending out the presentation and materials to all parents, even those who weren't able to attend.
- If possible, work to set up a college tour for the families that attended the event, so that both the students and the parents can have a chance to visit a college campus.

Reporting Procedure

As College Planning Night is a new initiative in Tennessee, we are constantly looking for best practices and areas of opportunity! Collecting feedback and data is an important part of accomplishing that goal.

Following your College Planning Night, we ask that you complete the online survey to help us collect data and best practices to improve the event. The survey will ask for specific data points as well as a summary of responses to the parent survey.

The parent survey (found on the next page) is optional, but designed to help each school identify best practices so that you can grow your event in future years. The survey also helps us to gather best practices and identify areas of opportunity at the state level.

In the survey we will ask for the following data points:

- How many parents attended the event?
- How many students attended the event?
- How long was your event?
- Where was your event held?
- What time was your event held?

The survey link will be e-mailed to all site coordinators the first week in April and the first week in May. Additionally, a link to the Site Coordinator Survey will be available on CollegeforTN.org homepage in the “What’s Happening in Tennessee” box March 1st through May 30th. If you have difficulty locating the survey, please e-mail Mary Laphen at Mary.Laphen@tn.gov or call at 615-253-1155.

College Planning Night Family Survey

Thank you for attending our College Planning Night! We want this evening to be as helpful as possible as you and your student prepare for the college application and financial aid process. Please take a moment to provide us with your feedback to help us make this event as valuable as possible. Thank you in advance!

What is your relationship to the student?

Will this be your first child to go to college?

What is your highest level of education?

- Some high school High school diploma Some college, but no degree Associate degree
 Bachelor's degree Master's degree Doctoral degree Professional degree (J.D., M.D., etc.)

What schools is your student currently considering?

What was the most helpful part of the presentation?

What was the least helpful part of the presentation?

What questions do you still have about your child's college-going process?

If you would like us to follow up with you regarding your questions, please provide the contact information below.

Parent/Guardian Name:

Student Name:

Parent Phone Number:

Parent E-mail Address:

Sample Student/Family Letter

Update the bold pieces with your school's event information and add any other event details.

[School Logo]

[School Address]

Dear Students and Families,

On **[Date(s) of Event]**, all juniors and their parents are invited to **[LOCATION]** for College Planning Night. The event will help your family learn about what steps they should be taking over the next year to ensure a smooth college and financial aid application process.

Senior year can be a very busy time for students and their parents. This session will inform families on what steps they can be taking over the summer to jumpstart the college-going process. Students and families will learn about what types of college options are available to students and how they can determine what is the best choice for their student. College Planning Night will also provide information on financial aid options such as the Tennessee Promise available to Tennessee students.

Throughout this month, high schools across the state will host College Planning Night events to help high school juniors and their families prepare for the college and financial aid application process senior year. The events are sponsored by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and CollegeforTN.org, Tennessee's free one-stop college portal.

If you have any questions about the event, please feel free to contact **[NAME OF CONTACT]** at **[888-888-8888]**.

Thank you in advance for your support of your student's college-going goals!

Sincerely,

[School Counselor/Principal/Site Coordinator]

College Planning Night for Juniors

Who?

- Students in the Class of 2016 and their families.

What?

- Learn all about the steps you can start taking NOW to prepare for the college application process next year. We'll cover everything from financial aid planning, available scholarships, the timeline of the college-going process, and lots more.

Where?

-

When?

-

Why attend College Planning Night?

- Get information about college that is specific to juniors so that you can plan ahead for senior year.
- Learn about Tennessee-specific scholarships, such as Tennessee Promise.
- Meet with representatives from local colleges to learn more about their institutions.
- Find out what steps you can take over the summer to prepare for the college application process during your senior year.
- Learn all you need to know about applying for financial aid and planning to pay for college.



For more information about College Planning Night contact:

Section 3:

College Preparation, Admissions, and Financial Aid Information

This section will provide you with information that will help you in presenting your slide deck at College Planning Night. This section includes additional details to supplement the slide deck, including information that will help you answer questions that come up during College Planning Night. Due to the overwhelming popularity of the program, we've included a number of pages of information about Tennessee Promise.

This section also includes a number of handouts and worksheets that can be helpful to students and their families as they begin planning for the college-going process and senior year. Decide which worksheets will be most helpful to your students. We've also included a handout with information about going back to school for any parents or family members in attendance at College Planning Night.

IN THIS SECTION

- Dual Enrollment Information
- Tennessee HOPE Scholarship Information
- State Grants for Financing Higher Education
- Tennessee Promise Quick Facts
- Tennessee Promise FAQs
- Tennessee Promise Program List
- Handout: Early Postsecondary Opportunities
- Handout: Federal Student Aid at a Glance
- Handout: Why Go to College?
- Handout: Types of Undergraduate Degrees
- Handout: Types of Undergraduate Institutions
- Handout: Choosing a College
- Handout: College Fair Tip Sheet
- Handout: 12th Grade Timeline
- Handout: CollegeforTN.org for Students
- Handout: CollegeforTN.org for Parents
- Handout: Resources for Adult Education
- Worksheet: College Match Comparison Chart
- Worksheet: Activities Resume



Statewide Dual Credit 2015-16

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Statewide dual credit provides academically challenging, high school courses that are aligned to postsecondary standards.

- Tennessee high school and college faculty worked together to develop the learning objectives and challenge exam for each course.
- Students have the opportunity to earn credit that can be applied to any TN public postsecondary institution.
- Prior academic performance, ability, and interest should be used to inform student placement decisions.

Students who participate in early postsecondary courses are more likely to enroll and persist in college.

- The courses add to the portfolio of available early postsecondary credit opportunities, but do not replace local agreements.
- High schools can offer early postsecondary credit courses regardless of their access to a local postsecondary partner or funding for other courses.

Students can earn postsecondary credit if they meet or exceed the established cut score for the challenge exam.

- All students enrolled in a statewide dual credit course take the online challenge exam, which is used to assess mastery of the postsecondary-level learning objectives.
- Exam scores are reported on the high school transcript to ensure postsecondary credit is accurately awarded but are not used in any state accountability measures.

2015-16 STATEWIDE DUAL CREDIT COURSES

Available to All Schools	Available to Returning Schools Only
College Algebra Statistics Sociology Criminal Justice I Health Information Technology	Greenhouse Management Agriculture Business Finance



Statewide Dual Credit 2015-16

DID YOU KNOW?

- ❑ The state's [Uniform Grading Policy](#) has been updated to include statewide dual credit courses, allowing for an additional four points.
- ❑ The statewide dual credit courses are college-level classes that are a positive reflection of student achievement and do not impact state and district accountability measures.
- ❑ It is a local decision whether or not to include the challenge exam score as part of a student's overall grade for the course.
- ❑ Upon matriculation, a student is responsible for contacting the institution's Records Office and providing his/her statewide dual credit course/exam information in order for postsecondary credits to be awarded.
- ❑ It is important that students and families understand their early postsecondary and postsecondary options in Tennessee. CollegeForTN and the Office of Postsecondary Coordination and Alignment have resources available online at: www.CollegeForTN.org and <http://www.tn.gov/education/cte/postsecondary.shtml>

Early postsecondary opportunities allow students to:

- Earn postsecondary credits while in high school
- Become familiar with postsecondary expectations
- Develop confidence and skills for success in postsecondary
- Decrease the time and cost of completing a certificate or degree

Contact: Emily Carter, Executive Director
Emily.Carter@tn.gov
615.532.2841

Patrice Watson, Program Director
Patrice.Watson@tn.gov
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Tennessee HOPE Scholarship

Entering freshmen must meet one or more of the following requirements:

- Apply by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at www.fafsa.gov. Applications must be received by September 1st for fall semester, February 1st for spring and summer semesters. Early application is recommended.
- Have been a Tennessee resident for one year by September 1 of the application date. For students beginning spring and summer terms, residency determined by February 1 as of application date,
- Graduate from a TN eligible high school
 - Exceptions may be granted to TN residents who graduate from high schools located in states other than Tennessee. They include:
 - High schools located in bordering out-of-state counties
 - High schools in which dependents of active duty military members or civilian workers of the US Department of Defense, Tennessee National Guard on active duty may attend
 - *Members of the Armed Forces or TN National Guard must have Tennessee as the Home of Record at the time of entry into military service.*
 - High schools in which dependents of full-time religious workers in foreign nations may attend
 - Out-of-state boarding schools that are regionally accredited or accredited by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- Enroll in an eligible Tennessee college or university
- Entering freshmen must achieve a minimum of a 21 ACT (980 SAT), exclusive of the essay and optional subject area battery tests OR
- Overall weighted* minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA)
- Home School graduates – minimum 21 ACT (980 SAT), exclusive of the essay and optional subject area battery tests
- GED recipients – minimum 21 ACT (980 SAT), exclusive of the essay and optional subject area battery tests and qualifying GED ® score. Minimum GED ® score will be determined by the Tennessee General Assembly during the 2015 legislative session
- HiSET recipients – minimum 21 ACT (980 SAT), exclusive of the essay and optional subject area battery tests and qualifying HiSet score. Minimum HiSet scores will be determined by the Tennessee General Assembly during the 2015 legislative session
- ACT/SAT exams must be taken on a national test date or state test date and prior to the first day of college enrollment after high school graduation. The ACT Residual test is not accepted.
- Must enroll within 16 months following high school graduation at an eligible postsecondary institution. However, enrollment at an ineligible postsecondary institution during the 16 months will make the student permanently ineligible. For more information about eligible or ineligible institutions, please contact the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.

*Weighted grade point average means a grade point average on a 4.0 scale calculated with additional internal quality points awarded for advanced placement, honors or other similar courses according to the Uniform Grading Policy adopted by the State Board of Education.

Tennessee HOPE Scholarship (continued)

AWARD AMOUNTS FOR THE TENNESSEE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

For entering freshmen beginning with fall 2015 and thereafter

- **Four-year institutions and two-year institutions with on-campus housing:**
 - Up to \$1,750 per full-time enrollment semester as a freshmen and sophomore; then up to \$2,250 per full-time enrollment semester as a junior and senior
- **Two-year institutions:**
 - Up to \$1,500 per full-time enrollment semester
 - Award amounts are available for summer enrollment
- Class status is determined by the postsecondary institution

For students who first received HOPE in fall 2009 through summer 2015

- **Four-year institutions and two-year institutions with on-campus housing:**
 - Up to \$2,000 per full-time enrollment semester; including summer
- **Two-year institutions:**
 - Up to \$1,000 per full-time enrollment semester; including summer

TENNESSEE HOPE RENEWAL CRITERIA

For students who first received the HOPE Scholarship in fall 2009 and thereafter

- The student must have a minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA at the end of the semester in which the student attempted 24 and 48 semester hours.
- The student must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA at the end of the semester in which the student attempted 72 and 96 semester hours.
 - If the student's program of study is greater than 120 semester hours in length (not to exceed 136 semester hours or the number of semester hours required to earn the degree), the student must have a minimum 3.0 at the end of the semester in which the student attempted 120 semester hours.
- If the student does not have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA at the end of the semester in which the student attempted 72 and 96 semester hours, then the student must:
 - Have a minimum 2.75 – 2.99 cumulative GPA and have a semester GPA of at least 3.0 at the end of the semester in which the student attempted 72 and 96 semester hours. The student's continued eligibility will be determined on a semester-by-semester basis and must maintain full-time enrollment.
- If a student ceases to be academically eligible for the HOPE Scholarship, the student may regain the award one-time only. The award may be re-established once the student meets any of the above criteria and maintains continuous enrollment and satisfactory academic progress at an eligible postsecondary institution without the HOPE Scholarship.
- Must be continuously enrolled at an eligible postsecondary institution in the fall and spring semesters and maintain satisfactory academic progress

Adapted from www.tn.gov/collegepays/mon_college/hope_scholar.htm

State Grants Available to Tennessee High School Students for College

Tennessee Student Assistance Awards

The Tennessee Student Assistance Award Program (TSAA) was established to provide non-repayable financial assistance to financially-needy undergraduate students who are residents of Tennessee. Applicants must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment, at least half time, at a public or an eligible non-public postsecondary institution in Tennessee. The TSAA is a state-funded grant program and includes funds from the Tennessee Education Lottery.

Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant

The Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant is available to Tennessee students who enroll in a certificate or diploma program at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology and maintain satisfactory academic progress and continuous enrollment.

Tennessee Hope Access Grant

The Tennessee Hope Access Grant is available for Tennessee students who have graduated from a Tennessee eligible high school (for exceptions, see www.tn.gov/collegepays/mon_college/hope_grant.htm). Students must enroll in a Tennessee public college, university or private college. Entering freshman must have a minimum weighted* 2.75 GPA and 18-20 ACT (860-970 SAT), exclusive of the essay and optional subject area battery tests. Additionally, ACT/SAT exams must be taken on a national test date or state test date and prior to the first day of college enrollment after high school graduation. Furthermore, parents' or independent student's and spouse's adjusted gross income must be \$36,000 or less on IRS tax form.

Tennessee Hope Foster Child Tuition Grant

The Tennessee Hope Access Grant is available to students who in addition to meeting the minimum HOPE and HOPE Access Grant eligibility requirements, presents the Corporation with official certification from the Department of Children's Services that the student meets the eligibility requirement for the HOPE Foster Child Tuition Grant. For more information on eligibility and continuation requirements, visit www.tn.gov/collegepays/mon_college/hope_foster_grant.html.

Aspire Award

Students must meet the following requirements:

- Meet Tennessee HOPE Scholarship requirements AND
- Must have parents' or independent student's and spouse's adjusted gross income of \$36,000 or less on IRS tax form
- For entering freshmen beginning with fall 2015 and thereafter
- Four-Year Institutions:
 - Up to \$750 per semester as a supplement to the HOPE Scholarship; including summer
- Two-Year Institutions:
 - Up to \$250 per semester as a supplement to the HOPE Scholarship; including summer

Adapted from www.tn.gov/collegepays/mon_college/need_based_award.htm

**Weighted grade point average means a grade point average on a 4.0 scale calculated with additional internal quality points awarded for advanced placement, honors or other similar courses according to the Uniform Grading Policy adopted by the State Board of Education.*

State Grants Available to Tennessee High School Students for College

General Assembly Merit Scholarship GAMS

Students must meet the following requirements:

- Students graduating from a Tennessee public school or category 1, 2, 3 private school must have a minimum 3.75 weighted* GPA AND 29 ACT (1280 SAT), exclusive of the essay and optional subject area battery tests
- ACT/SAT exams must be taken on a national test date or state test date and prior to the first day of college enrollment after high school graduation. The ACT Residual test is not accepted
- Students graduating from homeschool programs (and non-category I, II, & III Schools), in addition to meeting the HOPE scholarship requirements, and during the course of a homeschool program, must be enrolled in at least four (4) college-level courses totaling at least twelve (12) semester hours and achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.0. Such courses shall meet or be equivalent to courses meeting the minimum degree requirements of the TN Board of Regents, other than the minimum degree requirements pertaining to physical education. The student must achieve a 29 Composite score or above, on a national test date for the ACT test or a 1280 (math plus critical reading scores only) or above, on a national test date or state test date for the SAT test for GAMS consideration.

Adapted from www.tn.gov/collegepays/mon_college/gams.htm

**Weighted grade point average means a grade point average on a 4.0 scale calculated with additional internal quality points awarded for advanced placement, honors or other similar courses according to the Uniform Grading Policy adopted by the State Board of Education.*

Tennessee Promise Quick Facts

What is Tennessee Promise?

Tennessee Promise is a financial aid program offering two years of tuition-free community or technical college to Tennessee high school graduates beginning with the Class of 2015. The program provides eligible students with a last-dollar scholarship, meaning the scholarship will cover tuition and fees not covered by the Pell grant, the HOPE scholarship, or TSAA. While removing students' financial burden is key, a critical component of Tennessee Promise is the individual guidance each participant will receive from a mentor who will provide guidance and assistance as the student enters higher education. Mentors are provided by each county's local partnering organization.

Student Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a Tennessee Promise Scholarship, a student must:

- Be a Tennessee resident.
- Graduate from an eligible Tennessee high school, complete a Tennessee home school program, or obtain a GED or HiSET diploma prior to reaching 19 years of age.
- Enroll in a community or technical college the fall after graduation (students attending a TCAT may enroll the summer following their high school graduation).
- Complete the Tennessee Promise application at www.TNPromise.gov.
- Meet all deadlines and requirements before enrolling.

Program Requirements

In order for students to participate in the program, they must meet several requirements and deadlines:

- November 1: Apply to the Tennessee Promise program at www.TNPromise.gov
- February 15: Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov
- By March 1: Attend first mandatory meeting coordinated by a partnering organization
- By May 31: Attend second mandatory meeting coordinated by partnering organization
- In the spring: Apply to and enroll in a community or technical college (TCAT)
- August 1: Complete FAFSA verification
- Before start of term: Complete first 8 hours of community service by the first day of class

For more information on Tennessee Promise, visit www.TNPromise.gov.



Tennessee Promise Frequently Asked Questions

The following pages include FAQs about Tennessee Promise, as submitted by the Tennessee Promise partnering organizations: tnAchieves, REDI, and the Ayers Foundation. Please read the FAQs, focusing on the questions from the partnering organization that serves your school.

FAQs submitted by tnAchieves

Student Eligibility and Requirements

Who is eligible for Tennessee Promise?

Any high school senior, beginning with the Class of 2015, who graduates from an eligible Tennessee high school, completes a Tennessee home school program, or prior to his or her 19th birthday, obtains a GED or HiSET diploma, can apply for the Promise. Students will apply by November 1 of their high school senior year and begin working with a mentor and attending mandatory meetings in their counties by January.

Are students from outside of Tennessee eligible for Tennessee Promise?

In some cases, students who are attending a high school bordering Tennessee will be eligible for the Tennessee Promise scholarship, but only if there is a contract between that high school and the state.

What information will students need to fill out the application?

For the Tennessee Promise application, students will need their full first name, last name, middle initial, social security number, date of birth, full address, county, email address, gender, race, home phone number, cell phone number, school name, graduation date, and an idea of which community college, college of applied technology, or eligible two-year program they would like to attend.

If students and their families haven't filed taxes by February 15, can they still file the FAFSA before the Tennessee Promise deadline?

Yes. Students can file the FAFSA anytime between January 1 and February 15 and still be eligible for Tennessee Promise. For students whose families have not filed taxes by February 15, they can use estimates when filing the FAFSA. Soon after filing taxes, students should go in and update their FAFSA with recently filed tax information.

Some students may also be asked to verify their FAFSA information. If a student is asked for verification, he or she should complete verification by June 15th to ensure time to process the paperwork at the college for the August 1 application deadline.

How long after high school graduation will students have in order to be eligible for Tennessee Promise?

To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must attend and enroll full-time in an eligible postsecondary program in the fall term following graduation from an eligible high school or homeschool program, or completion of a GED or HiSET diploma, provided that the diploma was earned before the student reached nineteen years of age.

Are GED recipients eligible for Tennessee Promise?

Students who complete a GED or HiSET diploma must enroll full-time in an eligible postsecondary program in the fall after they receive their diploma, provided that the diploma was earned before the student reached nineteen years of age.

Tennessee Promise Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs submitted by tnAchieves (continued)

Can students take time off during college and remain eligible for Tennessee Promise?

Only under special circumstances may a student take time off during college.

A student may be granted a medical or personal leave of absence from timely enrollment in the initial semester, full-time attendance, or continuous enrollment at an eligible post-secondary institution as long as all other applicable eligibility criteria are met. Allowable medical or personal reasons may include illness of the student; illness or death of an immediate family member; extreme financial hardship of the student or student's immediate family; fulfillment of a religious commitment expected of members of that faith; fulfillment of required military service; the program of study at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) only begins in the spring or summer academic term or openings are unavailable for the fall academic term; or other extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control where attendance by the student creates a substantial hardship. In the event an institution denies a student's request for a medical or personal leave of absence, the student may appeal the decision in accordance with these rules.

A student granted a medical or personal leave of absence who resumes full-time attendance at an eligible post-secondary institution shall retain the Tennessee Promise scholarship until a terminating event occurs. However, a leave of absence of six (6) months or less shall not count against the two and one-half years from the date of the student's initial enrollment at an eligible post-secondary institution.

Do non-U.S. citizens qualify for Tennessee Promise?

In order to be eligible, students must be able to complete the FAFSA, qualify for in-state tuition, and possess a valid Social Security number.

Student's U.S. citizenship or lawful presence shall be verified in one of two ways:

1. The student completes a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for which the student's U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizenship status has been confirmed by the federal government.

Note: This option is only available for the following individuals:

- i. U.S. citizens
- ii. U.S. permanent residents (with an I-151, I-551, or I-551C permanent resident card); or
- iii. Individuals who have an Arrival/Departure Record (I-94) showing one of the following designations:
 - Refugee;
 - Asylum Granted;
 - Cuban-Haitian Entrant (Status Pending);
 - Conditional Entrant (Valid only if issued before April 1, 1980);
 - Victims of Human Trafficking (T-2, T-3, or T-4 visa); or
 - Parolee (who meets certain conditions)

Tennessee Promise Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs submitted by tnAchieves (continued)

What other scholarships are available for students not eligible for Tennessee Promise, such as students who graduated prior to 2015?

Additional information on scholarships available to students who don't qualify for Tennessee Promise can be found at: www.tn.gov/collegepays

For adults considering going back to school, Tennessee Reconnect provides adults with the opportunity to attend and earn a certificate free of tuition at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT). For more information on Tennessee Reconnect, visit www.TNReconnect.gov.

Is ACT an absolute requirement for all high school students? Can they be accepted into our program if they haven't it?

It is a requirement for all students to take an ACT before they graduate from high school. However, as long as a student has fulfilled all of the necessary requirements for the specific school they are attending, they will then be eligible. For example, if a student is attending a TCAT and does not have an ACT score as long as they have the required Compass test scores, they would be considered eligible. If a student is attending a community college they must have completed the ACT in order to be accepted to the institution, so in that case an ACT would be a requirement for a student.

What if they have a portion of their program where they are required to work for a semester, would that be ok?

Tennessee Promise will follow the same appeal process as the HOPE/Wilder-Naifeh. From their website (www.tn.gov/CollegePays/mon_college/tels_appeals_exception.html): Allowable medical or personal reasons shall include, but not be limited to, illness of the student, illness or death of an immediate family member, extreme financial hardship of the student or student's immediate family, to fulfill a religious commitment expected of all students of that faith, or other extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control where continued attendance by the student creates a substantial hardship. Acceptable reasons shall also include a student's participation in an internship or co-op program that is required or encouraged as part of the academic program in which he or she is enrolled.

For purposes of Tennessee Promise, the rules contain language regarding military service in the leave of absence section. Additionally, there will be language added to the statute regarding the extension of the six months leave of absence for required National Guard or military reserve service.

How do students renew the scholarship?

Once in the program, students must do the following to retain their scholarship:

- Maintain a 2.0 GPA if at a community college or eligible program at a four-year institution or satisfactory academic progress at a TCAT
- Complete a renewal application at www.TNPromise.gov by July 1 prior to the academic year
- Complete 8 hours of community service per semester enrolled, to be completed before the start of the term
- Complete the FAFSA by February 15 each year the student participates in the program

Tennessee Promise Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs submitted by tnAchieves (continued)

Funding

How does the last-dollar scholarship work?

Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship that funds any remaining tuition and mandatory fees at eligible institutions offering associate degrees once Pell, TELS, and TSAA have all been applied.

Tennessee Promise will cover all costs up to the average cost of tuition and mandatory fees at Tennessee public community colleges. The average tuition at the public community colleges in 2014-2015 is \$3,985. For example, if tuition and fees at a four-year institution in 2014-2015 were \$8,000, Tennessee Promise would cover tuition and mandatory fee costs up to \$3,985 (after Pell, HOPE, and TSAA are applied). The student would be responsible for the remaining \$4,015.

What costs does Tennessee Promise cover?

Tennessee Promise only covers remaining tuition and mandatory fees after Pell, TELS, and TSAA have been applied. Tennessee Promise funds cannot be used for books or other indirect costs, such as transportation, books, living expenses, etc.

Tennessee Promise will not pay for Regent's Online Degree Program (RODP)/Regent's Online Campus Collaborative (ROCC) classes. Institutional online courses are eligible for Tennessee Promise. However, any additional fees charged above the online course fee are not eligible for payment.

What if Pell covers everything?

Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship, meaning it will cover tuition and mandatory fees not covered by the Pell grant, the HOPE scholarship, Wilder-Naifeh grant, or TSAA funds. It will not cover books or other expenses. If a student receives enough federal or state financial aid to cover tuition and mandatory fees, he/she will not receive Tennessee Promise dollars. However, that student may still participate in the program, benefitting from the mentorship and community service components.

Are there funds for dual enrollment classes?

Students may receive Dual Enrollment Grants from the Tennessee Lottery. More information on those grants can be found here: www.tn.gov/collegepays/mon_college/dual_enroll_grant_rules.htm

Does Tennessee Promise cover remedial education?

Yes. Tennessee Promise will cover remedial classes if a student should need to take them.

How will the funds be administered?

Students will never directly receive cash from Tennessee Promise. Once Pell, TELS, and TSAA have been applied, the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) will send the funds covering the remaining costs of tuition and mandatory fees directly to institutions for students who have met all eligibility requirements.

How does Tennessee Promise change the HOPE Lottery scholarship award amounts?

Changes to the HOPE Lottery scholarship only affect students graduating with or after the Class of 2015. For students attending a community college, the new award amount will increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per semester. Students attending four-year institutions will receive \$1,750 per semester as freshmen and sophomores and \$2,250 per semester as juniors and seniors.

Tennessee Promise Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs submitted by tnAchieves (continued)

Institutions and Programs

What institutions accept Tennessee Promise?

Students can use Tennessee Promise at any of the 27 Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs), 13 community colleges (including satellite campuses), or any HOPE eligible independent or public four-year university offering an associate degree or certificate. For students interested in attending the HOPE eligible independent or public four-year university offering an associate degree or certificate, contact the institution's admissions office to confirm and ensure an associate degree program or certificate will be offered.

Can Tennessee Promise be used toward a four-year program?

No. Tennessee Promise funds can only be used toward an associate degree, diploma, or a certificate at an eligible institution. However, the Tennessee Transfer Pathways ensure that students can apply credits from an associate degree or certificate to easily transfer to a four-year program at a public institution without duplicative course requirements. To learn more about the Tennessee Transfer Pathways, visit: www.tn-transferpathway.org

Can students transfer to a four-year program or institution once they have completed their degree or certificate through Tennessee Promise?

Yes. The Tennessee Transfer Pathways ensure that students may follow a prescribed curriculum that is universally transferable, marked by clarity, and available for students to review on the first day of enrollment.

Currently, there are 49 approved transfer pathways, spanning 28 disciplines and accepted at all public institutions in Tennessee. Additionally, many private institutions accept these pathways. More information about participating institutions can be found at www.tntransferpathway.org.

How do I know which year to apply if graduating early from high school?

Students must enroll in college during the fall after high school graduation. If the student is allowed to begin college in the fall following their graduation at their selected, eligible Tennessee Promise institution, the student would need to apply for the Tennessee Promise for their current year.

An early graduate student could defer college enrollment until the following year and begin the Tennessee Promise process with the next graduating class. The student's Tennessee Promise funding would not begin until the following fall semester as long as all Tennessee Promise requirements are satisfied.

Ex: A student graduating in August 2016 could technically begin college in the fall of 2016, therefore applying for the Tennessee Promise with the Class of 2016. If the student deferred enrollment in college until the next year (2017), the student would follow the Tennessee Promise process with the Class of 2017.

Tennessee Promise Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs submitted by tnAchieves (continued)

Partnering Organizations and Mentors

What is the role of the partnering organizations?

Partnering organizations will work with the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) and the postsecondary institutions to administer Tennessee Promise. Partnering organizations will:

- Provide mentoring services
- Conduct the required meetings for students
- Approve and report community service performed by students
- Provide notification to TSAC when Tennessee Promise participants have met all scholarship requirements
- Establish local Tennessee Promise advisory councils to advocate for the program in the county

How were the partnering organizations selected?

In July 2014, county mayors and executives determined which eligible partnering organization would administer Tennessee Promise in their counties.

How does a student get a mentor?

Each student who completes the initial Tennessee Promise application on www.TNPromise.gov will be assigned a mentor. Partnering organizations will be responsible for reaching out to students to match them to a local mentor.

Who are the mentors?

Depending on which partnering organization is working with a county, mentors will either be paid employees of the partnering organization or volunteer mentors from the local community. Volunteer mentors must be at least 21 years of age and pass a background check prior to being assigned to a student. The mentors are recruited from the local community and are all trained by the partnering organization prior to meeting their students.

What is the role of the mentor?

The role of the mentor is to help reduce the barriers associated with college access by encouraging students and reminding them of requirements and deadlines. Mentors are asked to be in touch with their students at least once per month, either in person or via phone, text message, or email.

Tennessee Promise Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs submitted by REDI

Finding the Best College Fit

How can students determine the best type of college for them?

We recommend having students visit colleges if possible. For students in counties where REDI is the partnering organization, we host a college summit for high school juniors. It is one day out for juniors to come to a college (Dyersburg State Community College, University of Memphis-Lambuth, University of Tennessee - Martin at Selmer are hosts).

This provides students with more in depth knowledge of each school, including TCATs, community colleges, state and private four-year, etc. It also preps them to make better use of their time at the college fairs in the coming fall term of their senior year.

How do students know what school is best for them?

This is a big investment. Be sure the fit is right. As one would not purchase clothing that is too large or too small, too expensive, nor the right style or color, so one should not choose a higher education institution that is not an academic, financial, or social fit.

Admissions

How do admission applications to a TCAT, community college, and four-year vary?

Each school has an individual application that must be filled out for a student to be considered for admission. Each application will require you to include basic information, such as your full name, address, contact information, etc. Some institutions may require you to answer more questions, such as information about what you would like to study and some may even ask for essays to both speak about yourself and your interests and to show off your writing skills.

If I've applied to a college, does that mean I've been accepted?

Applying to a college does not mean you are automatically accepted. Although many Tennessee institutions are open enrollment, you still need to confirm with the institution after you've applied that you've met their minimum requirements for admission. Most colleges and universities in the state will confirm with you once your application for admission has been accepted.

Some institutions have competitive admissions requirements, which means that not every student that applies will be admitted. Work with your counselor to determine whether or not the institutions to which you have applied are considered open enrollment or competitive admissions.

What's the difference between being admitted and being enrolled?

Once you are admitted to a college, the next step is to enroll at that school. Being admitted means that the school has welcomed you to enroll in classes at that institution. You can be admitted to multiple institutions during the college admissions process. Typically, you only enroll at one of those institutions. Enrolling means you are officially a student at that institution and have successfully registered for classes.

Why do schools want my shot records?

Much like K-12 schools, colleges and universities will typically ask for a immunization records to ensure that all students on their campus have received basic vaccines.

Tennessee Promise Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs submitted by REDI (continued)

Communication

How will colleges communicate with me? Do I need to use email?

Many colleges and universities will communicate with you primarily through email. Establish a professional-sounding email through a site like collegefortn.org, which includes a tremendous number of other college-going resources. Use this email for all college-related correspondence—college admissions, FAFSA, scholarship, etc.

Develop a relationship with college admission counselors—stay in communication with requests for info or any questions.

One sidebar note here: Keep social media post civil and clean up any questionable postings. Scholarship judges and admission committees will look at them.

Cost of College

What are the costs of the college admissions process?

Juniors and their families should be prepped for costs. The senior year will bring many costs of its own—graduation cap, gown, invitation, souvenirs, pictures, yearbook, Project Graduation fundraisers, etc.

But remember- don't focus so heavily on the senior year of high school that you don't give any thought to the upcoming cost of attendance and cost of living for going off to college. There are books, computers, housing for students who might live on campus(setting up the dorm room or apt.—linens, personal furnishings, some kitchen, etc.), meals, entertainment, personal hygiene, clothing, transportation, etc.

When should I start to research scholarships?

Rising senior summer is a good time to start applying for scholarships from foundations and other private granting organizations. If you live in a REDI county, we host a scholarship boot camp for juniors to give competitive scholarship application tips.

Tennessee Promise

What is Tennessee Promise?

The Tennessee Promise scholarship covers mandatory tuition and fees for an associate degree program or diploma/certification program at an eligible Tennessee institution. Careful explanation must be given about what this means for a four-year institution with associate degree program offerings. Many families get confused when they see the list of four-year schools. Their thinking is that it will pay for the two years of tuition at Lincoln Memorial or Bethel or Austin Peay.

How do I apply for Tennessee Promise?

To apply for Tennessee Promise, visit www.TNPromise.gov. From there, you'll find a link to the Tennessee Student Assistant Corporation's online portal. You'll need to first register for an account on the portal and THEN you will fill out the Tennessee Promise application. Just registering for an account on the portal does not mean you have applied for the scholarship; you must fill out the Tennessee Promise application within the portal. The Tennessee Promise application will ask questions such as what school you are interested in attending.

Tennessee Promise Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs submitted by REDI (continued)

FAFSA

Why should I file?

FAFSA is like a door that opens to shelves of money from both the state and the federal government. There are HOPE, Tennessee Promise, TSAA, Wilder-Naifeh shelves. There are also Pell, Work Study, Student Loan shelves. One application—FAFSA—opens access to all these monetary resources.

Additionally, most institutions require that students file the FAFSA if they want to be eligible for ANY financial aid.

What if I make too much money?

You should still fill out the FAFSA, even if you don't believe that your income may not qualify you for need-based aid. Many scholarships, such as the HOPE and Tennessee Promise, are not based on your income, but still require you to file the FAFSA.

FAQs submitted by Ayers Foundation

Eligibility

Do I make too much money to qualify for Tennessee Promise?

No; the Tennessee Promise scholarship is open to any student, regardless of income.

What if my student gets wait listed and can't start in the Fall?

If your student is wait listed at any institution, he or she should apply to a community college or Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) as early as possible to start in the Fall. Once that semester has been completed, the student can transfer into the institution into which he or she was wait listed.

Can my student take a year off before college for a mission trip and receive Tennessee Promise after he returns?

No; a student must begin college in the summer or fall after they graduate from high school.

Transfers

Can my child transfer to a different school after one semester/ trimester/ year and still receive Tennessee Promise?

Yes, students can transfer from one school to another and still receive Tennessee Promise, as long as both institutions are Tennessee Promise eligible. Students must transfer between consecutive semesters; taking a semester off between institutions would render that student ineligible for Tennessee Promise funds.

Can my student switch from TCAT to community college or vice versa and still receive Tennessee Promise?

Yes, your student can transfer between Tennessee Promise eligible institutions, as long as they have not yet received a diploma or associate degree from one of those institutions.

Tennessee Promise Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs submitted by Ayers Foundation (continued)

Once I have completed my degree or certificate, will all my credits hours transfer from Community College A to University B?

The Tennessee Transfer Pathways ensure that students can apply credits from an associate degree or certificate to easily transfer to a four-year program at a public institution without duplicative course requirements. To learn more about the Tennessee Transfer Pathways, visit: www.tntransferpathway.org.

If my Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) program is only a year or less program and I get a certificate or diploma, can I then use Tennessee Promise scholarship to take another program at a TCAT or go to a community college?

Maybe; obtaining a diploma or associate degree is considered a terminating event for Tennessee Promise funding. If you get a certificate, but not a diploma, you may still be eligible for Tennessee Promise funding. Talk with your higher education institution for more information on your specific situation.

Tennessee Promise Costs

Does Tennessee Promise cover learning support classes?

Yes, Tennessee Promise covers learning support and remedial courses offered by Tennessee Promise eligible institutions.

Will Tennessee Promise cover the cost of books?

No, Tennessee Promise does not cover the cost of books or other indirect costs, such as transportation, housing, etc.

Can my child take all online courses for college and get Tennessee Promise?

Tennessee Promise does not cover fees charged for the Tennessee Regents Online Degree Program. Many eligible Tennessee Promise institutions offer online courses, which may be eligible for Tennessee Promise funding, but the scholarship may not cover additional fees for some online courses.

Will institutional scholarships be factored in before or after the Tennessee Promise scholarship is applied?

Institutional scholarships are factored in after Tennessee Promise funds are applied.

If my child chooses a private school for his associate degree, but Hope and Pell does not cover all his tuition, will Tennessee Promise cover the rest?

Tennessee Promise will cover all costs up to the average cost of tuition and mandatory fees at Tennessee public community colleges. The average tuition at the public community colleges in 2014-2015 is \$3,985. For example, if tuition and fees at a four-year institution in 2014-2015 were \$8,000, Tennessee Promise would cover tuition and mandatory fee costs up to \$3,985 (after Pell, HOPE, and TSAA are applied). The student would be responsible for the remaining \$4,015.

Tennessee Promise Program List

TENNESSEE COLLEGES OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY (TCATs)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Athens
Athens, TN
www.tcatathens.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Chattanooga
Chattanooga, TN
www.chattanoogaastate.edu/tcat

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Covington
Covington, TN
www.tcatcovington.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Crossville
Crossville, TN
www.tcatcrossville.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Crump
Crump, TN
www.tcatcrump.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Dickson
Dickson, TN
www.tcatdickson.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Elizabethton
Elizabethton, TN
www.tcatelizabethton.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Harriman
Harriman, TN
www.tcatharriman.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Hartsville
Hartsville, TN
www.tcathartsville.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Hohenwald
Hohenwald, TN
www.tcathohenwald.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Jacksboro
Jacksboro, TN
www.tcatjacksboro.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Jackson
Jackson, TN
www.tcatjackson.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Knoxville
Knoxville, TN
www.tcatknoxville.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Livingston
Livingston, TN
www.tcatlivingston.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- McKenzie
McKenzie, TN
www.tcatmckenzie.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- McMinnville
McMinnville, TN
www.tcatmcminnville.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Memphis
Memphis, TN
www.tcatmemphis.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Morristown
Morristown, TN
www.tcatmorristown.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Murfreesboro
Murfreesboro, TN
www.tcatmurfreesboro.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Nashville
Nashville, TN
www.tcatnashville.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Newbern
Newbern, TN
www.tcatnewbern.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Oneida/Huntsville
Huntsville, TN
www.tcatoneida.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Paris
Paris, TN
www.tcatparis.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Pulaski
Pulaski, TN
www.tcatpulaski.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Ripley
Ripley, TN
www.tcatripley.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Shelbyville
Shelbyville, TN
www.tcatshelbyville.edu

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Whiteville
Whiteville, TN
www.tcatwhiteville.edu

Tennessee Promise Program List

TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Chattanooga State Community College
Chattanooga, TN
www.chattanoogastate.edu

Cleveland State Community College
Cleveland, TN
www.clevelandstatecc.edu

Columbia State Community College
Columbia, TN
www.columbiastate.edu

Dyersburg State Community College
Dyersburg, TN
www.dsc.edu

Jackson State Community College
Jackson, TN
www.jscc.edu

Motlow State Community College
Tullahoma, TN
www.mscc.edu

Nashville State Community College
Nashville, TN
www.nsc.edu

Northeast State Community College
Blountville, TN
www.northeaststate.edu

Pellissippi State Community College
Knoxville, TN
www.pstcc.edu

Roane State Community College
Harriman, TN
www.roanestate.edu

Southwest Tennessee Community College
Memphis, TN
www.southwest.tn.edu

Volunteer State Community College
Gallatin, TN
www.volstate.edu

Walters State Community College
Morristown, TN
www.ws.edu

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES WITH ELIGIBLE TWO-YEAR PROGRAMS

Austin Peay State University
Clarksville, TN
www.apsu.edu

- Chemical Engineering Technology
- Engineering Technology
- Liberal Arts
- Management Technology

Tennessee State University
Nashville, TN
www.tnstate.edu

- Dental Hygiene
- Nursing

PRIVATE COLLEGES WITH ELIGIBLE TWO-YEAR PROGRAMS

Aquinas College
Nashville, TN
www.aquinascollege.edu

- Liberal Arts
- Nursing

Art Institute of Tennessee- Nashville
Nashville, TN
new.artinstitutes.edu/nashville

- Baking & Pastry
- Culinary Arts
- Digital Image Management
- Fashion Retailing
- Graphic & Web Design
- Video Production
- Web Design & Development
- Web Design & Interactive Communications

Bethel University
McKenzie, TN
www.bethelu.edu

- General Studies
- Accounting (Online)
- Business (Online)
- Criminal Justice (Online)
- Customer Relationship Management (Online)
- Information Technology (Online)

Bryan College
Dayton, TN
www.bryan.edu

- Business Administration
- Liberal Arts

Carson-Newman University
Jefferson City, TN
www.cn.edu

- Liberal Arts

Christian Brothers University
Memphis, TN
www.cbu.edu

- Business Studies
- General Studies
- Psychology

Cumberland University
Lebanon, TN
www.cumberland.edu

- General Studies
- Business
- Criminal Justice
- Education

Tennessee Promise Program List

PRIVATE COLLEGES WITH ELIGIBLE TWO-YEAR PROGRAMS

Aquinas College

Nashville, TN

www.aquinascollege.edu

- Liberal Arts
- Nursing

Art Institute of Tennessee- Nashville

Nashville, TN

new.artinstitutes.edu/nashville

- Baking & Pastry
- Culinary Arts
- Digital Image Management
- Fashion Retailing
- Graphic & Web Design
- Video Production
- Web Design & Development
- Web Design & Interactive Communications

Bethel University

McKenzie, TN

www.bethelu.edu

- General Studies
- Accounting (Online)
- Business (Online)
- Criminal Justice (Online)
- Customer Relationship Management (Online)
- Information Technology (Online)

Bryan College

Dayton, TN

www.bryan.edu

- Business Administration
- Liberal Arts

Carson-Newman University

Jefferson City, TN

www.cn.edu

- Liberal Arts

Christian Brothers University

Memphis, TN

www.cbu.edu

- Business Studies
- General Studies
- Psychology

Cumberland University

Lebanon, TN

www.cumberland.edu

- General Studies
- Business
- Criminal Justice
- Education

Hiwassee College

Madisonville, TN

www.hiwassee.edu

- Agri-Business Technology
- Allied Health
- Business
- Dental Hygiene
- Education
- Forestry Technology
- Liberal Arts
- Music
- Science

John A. Gupton College

Nashville, TN

www.guptoncollege.edu

- Funeral Services

Johnson University

Knoxville, TN

www.johnsonu.edu

- Biblical Studies
- Intercultural Studies

Knoxville College

Knoxville, TN

www.knoxvillecollege.edu

- Business and Computer Science
- General Studies and Communications
- Social Services and Public Administration
- Pre-Professional Services

Lincoln Memorial University

Harrogate, TN

www.lmunet.edu

- Nursing
- Veterinary Medical Technology
- Veterinary Health Sciences

Martin Methodist College

Pulaski, TN

www.martinmethodist.edu

- General Studies

South College

Knoxville, TN

www.southcollegetn.edu

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Criminal Justice
- Medical Assisting
- Elementary Education
- Health Science
- Paralegal Studies

Southern Adventist University

Collegedale, TN

www.southern.edu

- Accounting
- Auto Service
- Business Administration
- Construction Management
- Culinary Arts
- Engineering Studies
- General Studies
- Graphic Design
- Media Technology
- Nursing
- Personal Selling
- Pre-Dental Hygiene
- Pre-Nutrition & Diabetes
- Pre-Physical Therapy
- Pre-Speech Language Pathology & Audiology
- Religion

Tennessee Temple University

Chattanooga, TN

www.tntemple.edu

- Bible
- Early Childhood Development
- General Studies

Trevecca Nazarene University

Nashville, TN

www.trevecca.edu

- Business Administration
- Christian Ministry
- General Studies
- Information Technology
- Mathematics
- Praise & Worship
- Professional Communication

Union University

Jackson, TN

www.uu.edu

- Divinity
- Early Childhood Development
- General Studies

Welch College

Nashville, TN

www.welch.edu

- General Studies
- Biology: Pre-Nursing
- Business
- Ministry
- Early Childhood



Getting an Early Start on Postsecondary Education EARLY POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES IN TENNESSEE

	AP Advanced Placement	CIE Cambridge	CLEP College Level Exam Program	DE Dual Enrollment	IB International Baccalaureate	LDC Local Dual Credit	SDC Statewide Dual Credit
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College-level high school courses offered in multiple subjects Nationally recognized exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school academic programs (curricula, assessments, pedagogy) Internationally recognized exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exams offered in multiple subjects Nationally recognized exams used to assess college-level knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postsecondary course taught at the PS institution, high school, or online HS student is enrolled in the PS institution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academically challenging course of study offered at the high school level Internationally recognized exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school course aligned to standards at local/partner PS institution Optional exam for credit at local institution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school course aligned to statewide PS standards Required challenge exam for PS credit at Tennessee institutions
Structure	Course and Exam	Course and Exam	Exam	Course	Course and Exam	Course and Exam	Course and Exam
Provider	The College Board	Cambridge International Examinations	The College Board	Individual TN PS institutions	International Baccalaureate Organization	Individual TN PS institutions	Tennessee Department of Education
Student Fees & Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam Fees State assistance for low income students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam Fees State assistance for low income students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam Fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course tuition, fees, books Dual Enrollment Grant (Lottery Scholarships) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam Fees State assistance for low income students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam Fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost to student
High School Credit & Graduation Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP courses meet specific graduation requirements and/or elective credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambridge courses meet specific graduation requirements and/or elective credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEP is not a course. It does not meet high school graduation requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District sets policy on awarding high school credit and graduation requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB courses meet specific graduation requirements and/or elective credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDC course fulfills the same requirements as aligned high school course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDC course fulfills the same requirements as aligned high school course
High School Recognition State Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria for Graduation with State Distinction Qualifies for state GPA weighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria for Graduation with State Distinction Qualifies for state GPA weighting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria for Graduation with State Distinction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria for Graduation with State Distinction Qualifies for state GPA weighting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualifies for state GPA weighting
Postsecondary Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP Exam score 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambridge AS or A Level subject grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEP Exam Score 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DE Course Completion Passing Grade as assigned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB SL or HL Exam Scores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge exam score at or above cut score 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge exam score at or above cut score
Postsecondary Credit Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined by individual institutions Awarded upon matriculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined by individual institutions Awarded upon matriculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined by individual institutions Awarded upon matriculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit awarded on PS transcript upon course completion Credit can be transferred to other PS institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined by individual institutions Awarded upon matriculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must enroll with a partner institution to receive credit Awarded upon matriculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit accepted at all TN public PS institutions Students notify registrar upon matriculation to receive credit

DO YOU NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE?

Federal Student Aid at a Glance 2015–16

WHAT is federal student aid?

Federal student aid comes from the federal government—specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. It's money that helps a student pay for higher education expenses (i.e., college, career school, or graduate school expenses).

Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. Aid also can help pay for a computer and for dependent care.

There are three main categories of federal student aid: grants, work-study, and loans. Check with your school's financial aid office to find out which programs the school participates in. Details about the federal student aid programs are on page 2 of this document.

WHO gets federal student aid?

Our most basic eligibility requirements are that you must

- demonstrate financial need (for most programs—to learn more, visit StudentAid.gov/how-calculated);
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- have a valid Social Security number;
- register (if you haven't already) with Selective Service, if you're a male between the ages of 18 and 25;
- show you're qualified to obtain a college or career school education by
 - having a high school diploma or an equivalent such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate or
 - completing a high school education in a home-school setting approved under state law; and
- maintain satisfactory academic progress in college or career school.

Find more details about eligibility criteria at StudentAid.gov/eligibility.

HOW do you apply for federal student aid?

1. Complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) at www.fafsa.gov.

If you need a paper FAFSA, you can get one from

- our website at www.fafsa.gov, where you can download a PDF, or
- our ED Pubs distribution center at www.edpubs.gov or toll-free at 1-877-433-7827.

For the 2015–16 award year, the FAFSA is available from Jan. 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016. But you need to apply as soon as you can! Schools and states often use FAFSA information to award nonfederal aid. Their deadlines are usually early in the year. You can find state deadlines at www.fafsa.gov or on the paper FAFSA. Check with the schools you're interested in for their deadlines.

2. Review your *Student Aid Report*. After you apply, you'll receive a *Student Aid Report*, or SAR. Your SAR contains the information reported on your FAFSA and usually includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is an index number used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Review your SAR information and make any corrections or changes, if necessary. The school(s) you list on your FAFSA will get your SAR data electronically.

3. Contact the school(s) you might attend. Make sure the financial aid office at each school you're interested in has all the information needed to determine your eligibility. If you're eligible, each school's financial aid office will send you an aid offer showing the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer you. You can compare aid offers from the schools to which you applied and see which school is the most affordable once financial aid is taken into account.

Federal Student Aid

An OFFICE of the
U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact or visit the following:

- StudentAid.gov
- a college financial aid office
- studentaid@ed.gov
- 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) toll-free
- 1-800-730-8913 (toll-free TTY for the hearing impaired)

Federal Student Aid Programs 2015–16

Program	Type of Aid	Program Details	Annual Amount
Federal Pell Grant	Grant: does not have to be repaid	For undergraduates with exceptional financial need who have not earned bachelor's or professional degrees; in some cases, however, a student enrolled in a postbaccalaureate teacher certification program might receive a Federal Pell Grant. A student can receive a Federal Pell Grant for no more than 12 semesters or the equivalent (roughly six years).	Up to \$5,730 For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/pell-grant
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	Grant: does not have to be repaid	For undergraduates with exceptional financial need; Federal Pell Grant recipients take priority; funds depend on availability at school.	Up to \$4,000 For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/fseog
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant	Grant: does not have to be repaid unless student fails to carry out service obligation, in which case student must repay TEACH Grant as Direct Unsubsidized Loan with interest accrued (accumulated) from date grant was disbursed (paid out to student)	For undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, and graduate students who plan to become teachers; recipient must sign Agreement to Serve saying he or she will teach full-time in a high-need field for four complete academic years (within eight years of completing the academic program) at an elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency serving children from low-income families.	Up to \$4,000 For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/teach
Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant	Grant: does not have to be repaid	For students who are not Pell-eligible due only to having less financial need than is required to receive Pell funds; whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11; and who, at the time of the parent's or guardian's death, were less than 24 years old or were enrolled at least part-time at an institution of higher education. A student can receive an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant for no more than 12 semesters or the equivalent (roughly six years).	Up to \$5,311.71 For grants first disbursed on or after Oct. 1, 2014, and before Oct. 1, 2015 For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/Iraq-Afghanistan
Federal Work-Study	Money earned while attending school; does not have to be repaid	For undergraduate and graduate students; jobs can be on campus or off campus; students are paid at least federal minimum wage; funds depend on availability at school.	No annual minimum or maximum amounts For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/workstudy
Federal Perkins Loan	Loan: must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate and graduate students with exceptional financial need; must be repaid to school that made the loan; 5% interest rate.	Undergraduate students: up to \$5,500; graduate and professional students: up to \$8,000 For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/perkins
Direct Subsidized Loan	Loan: must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate students who have financial need; U.S. Department of Education pays interest while borrower is in school and during grace and deferment periods; student must be at least half-time; 4.66% interest rate for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014, and before July 1, 2015; visit StudentAid.gov/interest for latest information on interest rates. First-time borrowers may not receive this type of loan for more than 150% of the length of their program of study; U.S. Department of Education may stop paying interest if student who received loans for maximum period continues enrollment.	Up to \$5,500 depending on grade level For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	Loan: must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate and graduate students; borrower is responsible for all interest; student must be at least half-time; financial need is not required; 4.66% (undergraduate) and 6.21% (graduate or professional) interest rates for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014, and before July 1, 2015; visit StudentAid.gov/interest for latest information on interest rates.	Up to \$20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for same period), depending on grade level and dependency status For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub
Direct PLUS Loan	Loan: must be repaid with interest	For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students; borrower is responsible for all interest; student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required; 7.21% interest rate for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014, and before July 1, 2015.	Maximum amount is cost of attendance minus any other financial aid student receives For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/plus

Note: The information in this document was compiled in summer 2014. For updates or additional information, visit StudentAid.gov.

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LOOKING FOR MORE SOURCES OF FREE MONEY?

Try StudentAid.gov/scholarships for tips on where to look and for a link to a free online scholarship search.

Federal Student Aid

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Why Go to College?

Why go to college? It's a question that's easily overlooked in the rush to start the college application process and find the perfect school. There are many great reasons to attend college, and we've outlined a few for you below.

Earning Potential

Sure, there are successful people out there who make a great living without a college degree. But on average, college graduates earn nearly twice as much annually as those who don't continue their education beyond high school, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Factor those earnings over a lifetime, and someone with a bachelor's degree will, on average, make \$1 million more than someone who didn't go to college.

CollegeforTN.org is a great place to go to learn about different career options! Visit the [Career Planning](#) page to learn more about yourself and explore careers. Some helpful tools are the [Interest Profiler](#), [Career Plan Builder](#), [Career Finder](#), and [Resume Builder](#). There are also questions and answers about career planning under the [Voices](#) section. Check it out!

Career Path

Many students go to college to prepare for their future career. And the great thing about college is you can sample and explore potential careers before you dive into one. Think you want to major in business? Take a few introductory classes in accounting and marketing, and you'll figure out pretty quickly if the business school is right for you. Likewise, that psychology elective you took on a whim might spark an entirely new area of interest, taking you down a career path you never imagined.

Self-Reliance

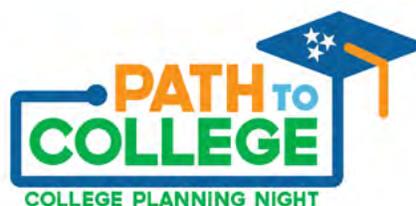
Think of college as a stepping stone to the real world. Setting your own schedule, choosing your own classes, and finding time to study outside of school are all things that help prepare you for adulthood while getting your education on a college campus.

Connections

As a college graduate, you'll be part of an alumni network that can help you make connections both professionally and socially. Yes, the name on your diploma just might score you a job interview with a fellow alum.

Personal Growth

College is about more than spending time in the classroom working toward your diploma. Along the way, you'll be meeting new people, having new experiences and developing new interests that give you a broader perspective on the world around you. No matter what your major is, you'll leave college as a well-rounded individual who is better prepared to handle whatever life has in store for you.



Types of Common Undergraduate Degrees

Certificate: A certificate demonstrates that a student has earned knowledge in a very specific area of study often focused on a vocational or professional subject. Typically does not involve taking general education courses and usually can be completed in days, weeks, or months, rather than years. The Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs) and Tennessee's community colleges both offer a number of certificate programs. In Tennessee's public colleges, certificates are awarded to students who successfully demonstrate competencies for a proficiency level in occupational programs less than one year in length.

Diploma: A diploma is awarded to students who complete an academic program, typically a program that is longer than a certificate program. At the TCATs, a diploma is awarded to a student who successfully completes an occupational program which is at least one year in length.

Associate Degree: An associate degree is typically a two-year degree program requiring students to earn approximately 60 hours of college credit; often awarded through community and technical or junior colleges. Many public and private four-year universities in Tennessee also offer associate degrees. (See page 34 for a list of Tennessee institutions with two year programs eligible for Tennessee Promise.) At Tennessee's community colleges, different types of associate degrees are offered, such as an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.), which is considered a degree for going directly into a career, an Associate of Arts (A.A.) or an Associate of Science (A.S.), which can be used to either go into a career or can be applied toward a bachelor's degree at a Tennessee public university.

Bachelor's Degree: Traditionally a four-year degree program requiring students to earn approximately 120 hours of college credit; also known as a baccalaureate or undergraduate degree. Many of Tennessee's public universities and many private colleges in Tennessee offer bachelor's degrees. For students who earn an associate degree, they can often apply those credits toward a bachelor's degree to earn that bachelor's degree in as little as two years after earning their associate degree.



Types of Higher Education Institutions

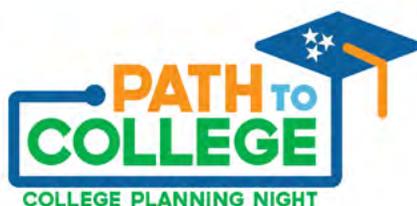
Public career and technical schools: Career and technical schools offer training to help you develop skills that are in-demand in the workforce. In Tennessee, these are the **Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs)**, which are funded, in part, by money from the State of Tennessee. Students often can complete these programs within four months to two years. Graduates of these programs can receive either a certificate that documents their knowledge or skills in a particular area or they can receive a diploma from the institution. The TCATs offer both full-time day enrollment or evening enrollment and the TCATs offer 60 occupational programs statewide.

Public two-year colleges: Tennessee's public two-year colleges are known as **Tennessee's community colleges**. These colleges offer associate degree programs, which usually take two years to complete. Many also offer certificate programs. Like the TCATs, the community colleges are funded partly by the State of Tennessee, so tuition and fees are often very competitive. There are 13 community colleges across the state that with over 480 academic programs. You can also participate in the Tennessee Transfer Pathways programs, which will allow you to transfer the credits from your associate degree to a public four-year college and have those credits count toward a bachelor's degree.

Public four-year colleges: Like public two-year colleges, public four-year colleges are funded, in part, by the State of Tennessee. These colleges offer bachelor's degree programs, which usually take four years to complete, although some offer two-year associate degree programs, too. Many also offer graduate programs, such as master's degree programs and doctoral degree programs. Because they receive government funds, tuition and fees usually are lower at public colleges and universities.

Non-profit private colleges and universities: Non-profit colleges and universities are funded, in part, by private donations. These colleges and universities are managed primarily by boards of governors made up of community members. There are many types of non-profit colleges and universities offering a wide variety of degrees and programs, including two-year and four-year degrees. Although tuition and fees are sometimes higher at non-profit colleges and universities, many are able to offer large scholarships through funds provided by their donors.

For-profit colleges and universities: For-profit colleges and universities are businesses. They are managed primarily by shareholders and owners. For-profit colleges may offer programs in convenient time frames or formats, but their tuition and fees are sometimes higher. As with any institution, students will want to check and ensure that the credits they've earned at the institution will be recognized by other colleges if they choose to transfer to another institution.



Choosing a College



Once you get in to college, how do you choose the one that's right for you? Be sure to consider these top 10 factors as you decide what school will give you your ideal college experience:

1. Degree Programs

If you know what you want to major in, definitely look at colleges that are strong in that program. But if you have no idea what you want to study, it's just as important to choose a school with a wide range of degree programs to explore and eventually choose from.

2. Learning Environment

Think about what type of learning environment suits you best. Then, consider factors like a college's average class size, student-to-teacher ratios, whether classes are taught mainly by professors or graduate assistants, and whether you learn better through discussions or through hands-on activity. All of these are factors which will impact your academic experience at college.

3. Campus Life

What do you want your college experience to be like outside of the classroom? Think about what's important to you in terms of extracurricular activities, social life, school spirit and traditions, and housing.

4. Distance from Home

Decide how far from home you want your college experience to take you. Do you want to have the support of friends and family nearby, or experience life in an entirely new part of the country?

5. Location

Do you see yourself attending college in a small town where the campus is the center of activity, or a major metropolitan area where you'll enjoy the benefits of city living? Also decide if you want to be in a certain geographic area or climate.

6. Type of College

Private, public, religiously affiliated, single-sex or co-ed there are many types of colleges and all offer benefits and drawbacks. Weigh the pros and cons and decide what type is right for you.

7. Size

A tiny liberal arts school and a huge state university will give you two very different college experiences. Visit colleges of different sizes to see where you feel most comfortable.

8. Student Body

Do you want a college where you'll be surrounded by students similar to yourself, or one where you'll meet people from a variety of backgrounds? Check out student demographics for colleges you're considering, such as male-to-female ratio, average student age, and geographic, ethnic and religious diversity.

9. Cost

Don't limit your college search because of costs, financial aid and scholarships can do a lot to offset cost differences between two colleges. But do think realistically about how you plan to pay for college, and find schools that work within your financial circumstances.

10. First Impressions

No matter what, you should visit the top two or three colleges you are considering. Talk to students, take a walk through campus, sit in on a class or grab a cup of coffee in one of the buildings. The best way to get a real feel for a college and decide if you belong there is to go there. And if you're like many students, you'll visit one college that just feels "right." Go with your instincts and believe in first impressions.



College Fair Tip Sheet



Before the Fair

- Think about what you're looking for in a college.
 - Do you want to attend an extra-large, large, medium or small size school?
 - What majors are you interested in?
 - Do you want to go to an urban, suburban or rural school?
 - Do you want to attend a 2-year, 4-year, single sex or religiously affiliated school?
 - Do you want to participate in athletics, clubs, fraternities or sororities or special program such study abroad or cooperative education?
- Research the colleges that are attending the fair to see which ones best fit your preferences.
- Make a list of questions to ask college representatives. Try to think of questions that are insightful and are not easily answered in the college's brochure or website.
- Bring a resume and/or card with your name, address, high school, year of graduation, email address, intended major and activities in which you want to be involved to give to the representative.

At the Fair

- Pick up a fair directory and bag for all of college materials you collect
- Visit schools which match or are the closest match to your preferences
- Ask the same questions you developed to each college representative you visit (it will help you to compare them).
- Make sure to fill out an inquiry card to let the college know you were in attendance (or give them a pre-printed card you brought with you). This will enable you to get on their mailing list.
- Make notes about the information you found most interesting or helpful.
- Be adventurous. Do just talk to the "well known" schools.
- Attend an information session that is offered to gather information about the college search process, financial aid or whatever topics are available.

After the Fair

- Review information (catalogs and view books) to gather more information and help narrow down your choices.
- Send a thank you note or email to the college representatives you talked to as a way to reinforce your interest in the school.

12th Grade College Planning Timeline

ALL YEAR

- Keep your grades up- avoid “senioritis”! Many colleges require you to send an updated transcript during your spring semester. And you need to keep your grades up to graduate!
- Keep saving for college, but be prepared to spend some money for application fees (between \$15 and \$60 per college).

SUMMER BEFORE 12TH GRADE

- Try to go on college visits- remember to send thank you notes to anyone you meet with on campus.
- If you haven't already, make a list activities you've participated in, volunteer experiences, honors and awards since 9th grade.
- Practice writing college application essays.

AUGUST

- Make a list of colleges to which you want to apply and visit the websites of those colleges to make sure you know what's required to apply and be admitted, such as minimum ACT or SAT scores, GPA, or required high school classes.
- Register for and take the ACT or the SAT if you haven't taken either of them yet or want to retake the test.

SEPTEMBER

- Check on application due dates early in the fall semester. Many colleges have early action or early decision deadlines between Oct. 1 and Dec. 1.
- Give recommendation forms to teachers and counselors Use stamped, college-addressed envelopes and be sure you've accurately filled out every section.

OCTOBER

- Participate in College App Week in the fall and begin to submit your applications.
- Apply for the Tennessee Promise last-dollar scholarship by November 1, especially if you plan to attend a community college or a Tennessee College of Applied Technology.

NOVEMBER

- Submit as many of your applications as you can.
- Research scholarships and begin to apply for them.
- Calculate the cost of the different schools you're interested in and talk to their financial aid offices to determine how much each school will cost.

DECEMBER

- Make sure your official test scores, such as the ACT and SAT, have been sent to the colleges to which you are applying.

JANUARY

- Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before February 15th. If you or your parents haven't filed taxes yet, use estimates based on last year's tax returns You can update your FAFSA once you file your taxes.
- Ask your high school to send transcripts to the colleges to which you are applying.
- If you applied for Tennessee Promise, attend the first of two required meetings with your partnering organization. (These meetings will be held in January or February.)

FEBRUARY

- Complete all of your scholarship applications.
- Contact the colleges to which you applied and make sure they have everything they need from you, both for your application and for financial aid.

MARCH-APRIL

- Update your FAFSA information once you've filed your taxes.
- You should start to receive most of your decision letters in March and April. Compare the colleges to which you were accepted and their financial aid and scholarship offers.
- If you applied for Tennessee Promise, attend the first of two required meetings with your partnering organization. (These meetings will be held in January or February.)

MAY

- Make a decision on where to attend college and notify that college!
- Have your high school send your final transcripts to your college after spring semester grades are finalized.
- Contact your college to check on deadlines for tuition, fees, and paperwork, such as health records.



CollegeforTN.org for Students



RESOURCES & TOOLS

CollegeforTN.org is like a GPS guide for planning your journey from middle school, high school, college, or beyond. No matter where you are in the college and career process, we've got college to career. We've got tools and guides you can use if you're in something for you.

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP FINDER

Search for scholarships that match your skills and background.

Calculate how much college will cost you.

Learn about grants, scholarships, and savings programs available only to Tennesseans.

CAREER PLANNING TOOLS

Take the interest quiz to learn about careers that fit you.

Use the resume builder, cover letter generator, and interview tips to prepare for job applications.

Explore in-depth profiles of specific careers.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFILES

Use our College Matching Assistant to find Tennessee colleges that match your interests and needs.

Explore programs and majors, and find out which Tennessee schools offer those programs.

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE PLANNING

Prepare to take the ACT and the SAT with our test prep tools.

Plan out your journey to college with our Tennessee-specific high school planning timeline.

Get advice on how to stay ahead in high school.

YOUR PERSONAL PORTFOLIO

Save and organize your college search process.

Keep track of your college applications and financial aid plans.

Connect directly with your school counselor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COLLEGEFOR TN.ORG, PLEASE CONTACT:

Kate Watts, Outreach Specialist
Tennessee Higher Education Commission
615-741-1318 · kate.watts@tn.gov

CollegeforTN.org for Parents



RESOURCES & TOOLS

CollegeforTN.org is a free online college and career planning tool for Tennesseans, brought to you by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

On CollegeforTN.org, you can calculate the cost of college, find college application timelines, and search for a college or university that fits your student and family.

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP FINDER

Search for scholarships that match your student's skills and background.

Calculate how much college will cost your family.

Learn about scholarships, grants, and savings programs available only to Tennesseans.

COLLEGE PLANNING & TIMELINE TOOLS

Use our free ACT and SAT preparation tools with your student.

Plan out your student's high school courses to ensure he or she is taking the right classes to get to college.

Keep track of deadlines for college applications and financial aid.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFILES

With the College Matching Assistant, search for Tennessee colleges that match your student's interests and needs.

Explore programs and majors, and find out which schools offer those programs.

Look up tuition and cost for Tennessee schools.

PLANNING FOR YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY

Use the planning tools for students of any age, from elementary school through college.

Get homework tips and other ways to help your student succeed in school.

Find resources to help you go back to school.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COLLEGEFOR TN.ORG, PLEASE CONTACT:

Kate Watts, Outreach Specialist

Tennessee Higher Education Commission

615-741-1318 · kate.watts@tn.gov

As your student plans for college, are you interested in going back to school to earn a degree or credential?

For resources on going back to college, including scholarship information, campus contacts, and stories of adult students in Tennessee, visit:

WWW.TNRECONNECT.GOV



The Tennessee Reconnect grant provides an opportunity for adults to learn a skill and earn a credential at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) tuition free.

Four easy steps to get the Tennessee Reconnect Grant

- 1. Sign Up** Sign up for the Tennessee Reconnect Grant **by May 15.**
- 2. Apply** Apply to your local Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) **by May 15.**
- 3. File** File the FAFSA and visit your local TCAT **by June 15.**
- 4. Enroll** Enroll in a program and launch **your future.**

For more information, visit
WWW.TNRECONNECT.GOV

College Match Comparison Chart



	College A	College B	College C
School Name			
Location Is it where I want to be?			
How competitive? Is it a safety or reach option?			
Majors offered Does it have the majors I want to study?			
Extracurricular Are there activities that interest me?			
Average class size Am I comfortable with this size?			
Tuition Do I qualify for any scholarship programs there?			
Academic Support Programs Will I get the support I want/need there?			
Social Life Will I find the social life there a good fit for me?			

Activities Resume



Grade _____	Dates from/to	Hours per week/ month	Total hours	Responsibility/accomplishments
School and athletic activities				
Volunteer service				
Paid work (after school or summer job)				
Summer/enrichment programs				