

Planning for College



A Guide Provided by



Great Lakes
Christian College

Intellectual, Spiritual & Personal Growth

www.glcc.edu

WHY IS COLLEGE IMPORTANT?

College is not for everyone but for those that have a desire to continue their education it is the next step after high school. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, college graduates earn at least a million dollars more over the course of a lifetime than those who do not attend college.

But college should be about more than making money. At Great Lakes Christian College we are committed to helping you achieve more than just career training. Great Lakes exists to help train servant leaders for the church and world. We instruct students in matters of faith and Biblical study. Woven into every class are life skills that will be beneficial in your career but more importantly in life.

A college is also a place where people create habits and beliefs to carry them through life. Friendships are forged that will last a lifetime. New experiences will shape a person's convictions and will chart a course moving forward. It is important to choose an institution that reflects the values and beliefs held by the student in order to create the person God intends they become.

HOW SHOULD YOU PLAN FOR COLLEGE?

Besides Federal money, there are also State grants and programs that should be pursued. Many communities have scholarships and many go unawarded because no one applies for them. Check with your guidance office in the Fall of your senior year about the availability of scholarships and follow the instructions and meet the deadlines.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO TO INSURE COLLEGE SUCCESS?

The following courses are advantageous to college-bound students.

- **English: 4 years**
- **Science: 4 years**
- **Foreign Language: 2 years**
- **Mathematics: 4 years**
- **History and Social Studies: 4 years**
- **Sports, Theatre, or Academic Teams**

Besides the High School areas of study, students should also have the following:

- **Basic Bible Knowledge**
 - **Church Participation**
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Eighth Grade Recommendations

- Develop good study habits now! Don't wait until high school to take your studies seriously. Start now.
- Make sure that you tell your Guidance Counselor that you want to follow a college prep course of study when registering for high school classes.
- Consider taking a foreign language course.
- Train yourself to read by reading a variety of literature and poetry.
- If you haven't already, start looking for ways to volunteer at your church. Work in the nursery, teach preschoolers, be an usher.

Ninth and Tenth Grade Recommendations

- Get good grades. It is difficult to move a GPA after four semesters of school. Start your high school career strong. Most colleges will look at your grades starting Freshman year.
 - Continue to build good study habits. Designate time every evening to do homework or to review material.
 - Visit college campuses, maybe with a youth group or for a sporting event. Keep a log of the campuses you like and why.
 - Participate in student ministry activities like small groups, retreats, and conferences.
 - Become familiar with the admissions team at your favorite colleges.
 - Search the web to find the colleges that best prepare you for life as a Christ-follower.
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Eleventh Grade Recommendations

- Maintain good grades. Many colleges evaluate applicants based on their high school GPA. If you have elective courses, consider extra foreign language, literature and history classes.
- Take a standardized test, either the SAT or the ACT. If you are not satisfied with the results, retake the test again.
- Narrow your college search down to the top five colleges, remembering that faith development and Biblical study are important.
- Visit the colleges you are considering. If possible, visit when students are present. Eat in the cafeteria, sit in on a class or two and check out the dorms.
- Consider beginning your college studies early through Dual Enrollment. You may have the option of sitting in classes or doing the work online. Be sure that the credits will transfer to the colleges you are considering.
- Become a leader of your church group. Volunteer to serve according to your abilities. Attend conferences and retreats and get specialized training if possible.
- Begin to research scholarships available. Look into community-based gifts that you qualify for or that you can qualify for with some initiative.

Twelfth Grade Recommendations

- Finish strong! Even though you may be accepted based on your GPA and grades from ninth through eleventh grade, sometimes colleges will wait to see how your semester grades match up with your earlier years.
 - Continue to challenge yourself with a foreign language, literature and history classes.
 - If you missed the SAT or ACT as a Junior, take it now. If your score is lower than you expected, take it again. Colleges will accept your highest score.
 - Make sure your FAFSA is filled out as soon as possible. There are monies that are available for early filers. Make sure that you select the top colleges for your FAFSA to be sent.
 - Check into the incentives for the application process. Sometimes colleges have giveaways or scholarships for early applications. Make sure that you don't miss deadlines.
 - Revisit your top colleges again. Have a list of questions that you want to ask. Set up an appointment with the Financial Aid Office to go over your FAFSA. Meet with your college advisor and register for classes ASAP.
 - Continue to serve in your church according to your abilities. Mentor younger students to replace you after you leave for college.
 - Check your email often. Be sure to apply for Institutional scholarships and Orientation before any deadlines may pass.
 - Finish Strong!
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PAYING FOR YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION

College is an investment for the future. The price of higher education has been rising and as a result, it becomes more difficult to plan for the costs that are incurred. Even if a parent has a college fund for a child, it is rarely enough to cover all the expenses. That is why it is important to know what is available and how to make the most of financial aid.

The first step to receiving Federal Financial Aid is to complete the FAFSA. It is used to determine the amount of aid a student can expect to receive from the government. There are three types of Federal Financial Aid:

- **Grants** - Based on financial need; usually, this money does not need to be repaid
- **Work-study** - This money is provided by the student working on or near campus
- **Loans** - These must be repaid with interest

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CHOOSING A COLLEGE TO ATTEND

When it comes to selecting a college, there are several important questions you need to answer:

- **What are your goals?**
 - Do you want an education or career training?
 - Is there a major you desire to study?
 - What degree do you want to earn?
 - How much are you willing to pay for your education?
- **What type of institution best suits you?**
 - Should it be private or public?
 - How important is the size of the college?
 - What would you like from the faculty?
 - What kind of campus events do you want to have?
 - What does the culture of the college look like?

If you have questions, feel free to email us at **admissions@glcc.edu**
or call us at: 800-937-4522.

WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT Great Lakes Christian College

Great Lakes offers a classical education. Classical education doesn't always train a student for a career. It instructs a student for life. It teaches lessons for the big picture. Sure, our education can prepare a person for a career but it does more than that. It ensures that you are the best citizen of both this world and God's Kingdom.

Great Lakes offers many majors. Most of them are meant to train students for careers as paid Church workers. Many of the majors can also be used to gain employment outside of church vocations. Students that desire careers not offered by Great Lakes will often attend the college for a year or two and transfer their general electives to the school that offers that major.

Great Lakes offers two degrees. A student can earn an Associate of Arts degree by earning 63 credits. A student can choose from several concentrations in pursuit of an Associate degree. A student can also earn a Bachelor of Science degree by earning 123 credits. There are a variety of majors and minors to choose from. Every student earns a Bible Theology major with a Bachelor degree.

The cost of attending Great Lakes varies but it is around \$26,000 before discounts, grants, aid, and scholarships. The college offers academic and financial need scholarships to qualifying students.

Great Lakes is a private Christian college. The college is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission. The HLC is the standard accrediting association for a large part of the U.S. By having this in place, it shows that the credits earned at Great Lakes are respected by other institutions of higher education.

In any given year, the attendance is between 150 and 200 students. We pride ourselves as a small college with a big community. The college has housing for single male and female students as well as for married students with or without children. There is a full-service cafeteria with meal plans available.

The faculty of Great Lakes is made up of full and part-time professors. Over 80% of the faculty have Ph.D.'s in their areas of study. Their job descriptions encourage mentoring, teaching and research, in that order, and students generally refer to the professors and administration by their first names.

Great Lakes offers a number of varsity sports including Men's and Women's Basketball and Soccer. The program is a part of the NCCAA Division II and participates in National tournaments. Combined with our Student Life activities, Chapel, and Small Groups, Great Lakes is a great place to have a great college experience.



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