

Awesome 10 TIPS for CHOOSING your COLLEGE

Congratulations! Choosing to go to college is a big step and one of the most important things you can do to find a good job in today's competitive job market. Here are ten steps to help you find the college that's right for you, your budget and your future.

Good luck!

1. Get Organized ASAP

Choosing a college means you have to keep up with lots of different documents. Staying organized will help you stay on target, meet deadlines and fill out all the forms that you need to get accepted.

- *Buy a file folder* with multiple compartments that will let you divide each college's information.
- *Never send your only copy of any document* - you may need it again. Send originals, but keep a copy just in case.
- *Add a calendar* to your folder. Highlight important deadlines on the calendar so you won't miss important due dates.



2. Get Online

If you know the kind of job you want, *check the college's website* to see if they offer training for that career. Do some research and see if the college is well known or respected for that type of training.

If you're not sure what you want to study, take the time to *contact and meet with an admissions counselor*. They can help you identify your strengths and suggest career fields that suit your personality and talents.

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BUT
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MORE!

3. Follow the Money

Always assume you're eligible for financial aid! Don't rule yourself out because of grades or your family's income. College tuition varies, so find out all you can about tuition, financial aid and fees.

- Complete the **Free Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA)**. Fill it out online at www.fafsa.ed.gov – forms are also available at most public libraries, high schools and colleges. *Yeah, it's a long form* ... but you need to do it.

Send it in early. Some financial aid is awarded on a first come basis, so the earlier you send it in, the better chance you'll have of getting all of the money you're eligible for.

- Almost all colleges have special scholarships only available to their students. Ask each college for a list of scholarships that they offer.
 - Read the requirements for each one to determine if you are eligible. Lots of these scholarships go unclaimed because no one applied for them. **Apply!** It could mean free money that will help you pay for college!
 - There are also several websites that can help you track down scholarships and match them to your specific needs.
- If you plan to live in a dorm on campus or move to an apartment, you'll need to find out how much more that will cost.
- Be sure to include additional expenses like food, gas, books, technology fees and other charges that you will have to pay. *Yeah, it all adds up fast!*



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accredited!

4. Check Each College's Accreditation

Aren't they all accredited? Nope. When a college is accredited, it means that it has the resources, programs and services necessary to allow you to earn a certificate, diploma or degree and that some or all of those credits should transfer with you if you decide to attend another college.

Make sure the college you plan to attend is accredited. You'll have a much better position in the competitive job market after graduating since many employers only hire graduates with degrees from accredited colleges.

- In the southeastern U.S. most colleges and universities are accredited by the Southern Association of College's and Schools (SACS).
- You never know what can happen in the future!
- Find out if your particular degree is accredited by organizations in the profession. That will help you after graduation when you're job hunting.



Many SCC programs
are professionally
accredited!

BUT
WAIT, THERE'S
MORE!



5. Visit the Campus



Big or small, laid-back or buttoned down. What do you like? If you like being around a lot of people then a larger college may be for you. If a crowd is too much, or you don't want to walk far to class, a smaller college may be better for you. **Schedule a tour of the campus** and walk around. Talk to students. Hang out and explore. You'll be spending a lot of time there,...

...Make sure it's someplace you like!

6. Write Down Your Questions

Visiting a college campus is very exciting. But with all of the excitement you may forget to ask some very important questions. Keep them together in your "college bound" folder!



SCC has a great faculty/student ratio!

- Before you visit write down the questions that you want to ask. It may help to separate them into questions for the recruiter, students and faculty.
- As you tour the campus, write down any more questions that you think of.
- Get a phone number and e-mail address of someone in the admissions center to contact about more questions you may think of after your visit.

SCC has daytime, evening and online classes!

7. Ask About Schedule Options

Today's college students have very full lives and college campuses are changing to offer options that work with busy schedules.

Many colleges offer flexible class schedules such as classes in the daytime, in the evening and online. Some colleges have multiple campuses with different classes at each location.

Ask the admissions center if the college offers classes that work around your commitments.

Make sure the classes you have to take are offered at times when you can take them and at the location convenient for you.

SCC has The Learning Center (TLC), which has free tutoring!

8. Ask About Tutoring and Other Helpful Services

College is a lot different than high school, and sometimes new students struggle with new classes and new experiences.

Ask the college admissions center to explain the different types of campus resources available to help you succeed just in case you need a little extra help (we can all use it sometimes).

9. Check Out Extra-Curricular Activities

College is more than just attending classes and doing homework. It's also a place where you will make friends, experience new things and have fun. Whether it's sports, theater, community service or club activities, make sure the college you choose to attend offers opportunities for you to get involved beyond the classroom.

SCC has a variety of organizations, clubs and student activities!

and finally...



SPARTANBURG
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

10. Ask About Help After Graduation

Earning your college degree is a great accomplishment. **But then what?** What's available to help you after graduation? When you visit the campus or talk with an admissions counselor ask what services are available to help you begin your career after you graduate.

Ask for some statistical data on the recent placement rates of students that have graduated from the program that you're interested in entering. **Find out if their graduates get jobs!**

Many of SCC's programs have 100% job placement!



Did you know by 2012, over 85 percent of jobs will require some training beyond high school?



That means going to college is your best chance of landing a good job with good pay and a good, solid future.

Spartanburg Community College will prepare you for a GREAT job or to transfer to a four-year university like Clemson or USC. Tuition is much more affordable at SCC than at most other colleges, plus with a 16:4 faculty/student ratio, you'll get to know your teachers and they'll get to know you too.

SCC is devoted to your success. With flexible class schedules, three locations and a knowledgeable faculty, you'll get the high-quality training you need to begin your career at times and places convenient for you.

College at SCC is a GREAT choice. Give us a call and make an appointment to see an admissions counselor at (864) 592-4600. Visit our website and schedule a campus tour at www.sccsc.edu/Recruit/Tour.htm

We look forward to seeing you on campus!

Get started today!

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