



# Homeschooling THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL **FINISH! STRONG!**

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# HOW TO PLAN AN *Awesome* SENIOR YEAR

BY DAVIS CARMAN

In June of 2013, my wife and I went on a date with our oldest daughter, Savannah Anne. **This wasn't just any old date—this was a senior year planning date!**

**W**e had no earth-shattering revelations or life-altering changes to discuss. But this time together was set aside to allow us to shower our daughter with some undivided parent-child attention while giving the three of us a better sense of her plans and goals for the coming year. And it was a good reminder of certain tasks for which we would need to prepare, including college applications, senior pictures, and a graduation ceremony.

Savannah Anne chose one of our favorite restaurants, Carrabba's, for our date. We checked our calendars and picked a day that would work well for all three of us. When the big day arrived, we got dressed up more than usual and headed out the door.

We arrived early, were seated, and ordered our food and drinks. Then we settled into the conversation with a few general, big-picture questions:

- **What would make your senior year extra memorable?**
- **What are some personal goals you want to accomplish this year?**
- **Who would you like to make sure we invite to your private graduation dinner?**
- **What kind of a graduation gift would have special meaning for you?**
- **What are you thinking God might be calling you to do after graduation?**

This got the conversation going in the right direction, and we quickly charted out her coursework for the year.

Of course, the temptation is always to do too much during the senior year. As homeschooling parents, we can feel an overwhelming need to teach our kids everything possible before they leave the nest. As a result, we may try to cram a lifetime of learning into a single school year. But having already graduated two sons by this time, I can assure you that if you have instilled a love of learning and a desire to follow God's calling, then your children will most likely continue to read, study, explore, and learn long after graduating from your family's home school.

Trying to follow our own advice, that evening we actually cut a few things out of Savannah Anne's class schedule. We had added up the time required for each course, elective, extra-curricular activity, and work at the local Chick-fil-A, and we found there simply weren't enough hours in a week for her to do it all. High-priority items had to come first, which meant that some very good options didn't make the cut. In other words, we had to "settle" for only the best.

At the time, we had seventeen years of homeschooling and two graduates under our belt. Since then, Savannah Anne graduated followed by two more daughters. That makes a total of five graduates so far with two teen sons left at home.

Along the way, I have learned three things that I'd like to share with you here:

1. **First, less is more.** It's hard to enjoy a senior year if you try to do too much. I'm not saying go easy on your senior, but you and your student will both become exhausted if you try to pack in too much, which will almost guarantee a less-than-fulfilling senior year.
2. **Second, make sure you take your son or daughter on a senior year planning date during the summer before you start that final year.** It will set the stage and give you a running start at a well-planned and memorable final year.
3. **Finally, make sure you celebrate your student's graduation in style.** This is a major accomplishment for your entire family. It's a really big deal. You and your student need to smile, laugh, reminisce, take more pictures, and enjoy the moment.

If you are planning to graduate one of your kids this next school year, then let me be the first to say, "Congratulations! You are almost there!" Now get a date on the calendar to plan for making this a great school year. When May rolls around, you'll be glad you did.

**DAVIS CARMAN** is the president of Apologia Educational Ministries, the #1 publisher of *Creation-based science* and *Bible curriculum*. He believes that if there was ever a time to homeschool, it is now! He is also the author of five illustrated children's books designed to help kids learn a biblical worldview. *Good Morning, God* is based on Deuteronomy 6, *A Light for My Path* is an ABC book based on Psalm 119, *In the Beginning*, is based on the Creation account in Genesis, and *Psalms to Know Early*, and *Truths to Know Early*.





# THE QUESTIONS THEY *Don't Ask* on the SAT

BY DAVIS CARMAN

**Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. (Psalm 139:23 NIV)**

**H**aving homeschooled our children for twenty-one years, sometimes I forget how different the educational experience is for our kids from that of children attending public and private schools. For example, our school calendar is in sync with our family schedule, not mandated by some bureaucrat who doesn't know our routines. We can also respond swiftly and switch curriculums to match the learning style of each individual student in our family. One of the most notable differences is how we assess our kids' progress, comprehension, and understanding of each subject.

Because Rachael and I are firm believers in the Charlotte Mason teaching philosophy, our children never really took a "test" during their elementary years. We read books together, engaged in lively discussions, and processed the information using notebooking journals. We never "taught to the test," thereby allowing our kids to dive deep into a subject and pursue actual learning, especially in those areas they found interesting. While most young children fill in circles with a #2 pencil year after year, mine have never had to play the testing game. I grew up going to public school. I was a straight-A student and earned a perfect ACT score in math (not quite as good for the other half of the test). I enjoyed the praise and accolades of teachers and administrators, which had the unfortunate side effect of puffing up my pride in my test-taking abilities. So you might think I would be a fan of standardized examinations.

After a successful college career, however, I discovered that paying jobs require a completely different kind of result. And now that I am a full-fledged homeschool advocate, I don't see much value in test-taking skills. Yes, there is something to be said about being able to overcome obstacles, push through diffi-

cult circumstances without giving up, manage anxiety, and navigate the world of required testing. But I don't believe anyone would agree that this is the purpose of any test. I mean, when was the last time any real-life responsibility required you to fill in a circle properly? Okay, you might need this skill to vote, but you can probably figure it out on your own rather quickly.

Standardized tests may have a place in statistics. By this I mean, researchers can take a large pool of diverse and randomly selected students and determine how they are doing relative to each other on a given day in certain subjects. But one student's SAT score doesn't necessarily tell you anything about that individual's aptitude in those two subjects. What if they were sick or tired or skipped breakfast that particular day? What if they went blank, froze, or experienced severe test anxiety? What if life threw them an unexpected curveball the day before?

In North Carolina, the state requires home-school students to take a standardized test each year. When I give this test to my kids, I remind them that we are only fulfilling a state requirement. I encourage them to do their best, but I make it clear that their score is no indication of their knowledge and is not a reflection of their ability, skills, or worth. I will often remind them that these tests won't ask any questions about many subjects they have studied. For instance, there will be no Bible questions, so the test will not afford them the opportunity to shine in this area.

A standardized SAT or ACT test is literally only one gauge of a person's abilities in reading and math. This brings me to my main point. Have you ever considered all the abilities and mastery



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in a circle PROPERLY?**

that a standardized test doesn't measure? In other words, what are the questions they never ask? Here are just a few of the subjects not covered.

### **Music**

There is so much to appreciate when a person is skilled in music. I love it when a person can step up to a piano and immediately fill the room with smiles. Playing an instrument is therapeutic, relaxing, and entertaining. And the best way to measure one's ability is to have that person play an instrument, not fill in a circle.

### **Singing and Dancing**

No actor auditioning for a role in a movie or play has ever had to submit standardized test scores with their headshot. Something tells me auditions are more focused on a person's actual singing and dancing abilities. And show business is big business that dramatically influences the culture.

### **Art and Design**

No artist needs to be starving these days. We live in a world that pays handsomely for quality illustrations, photographs, videos, and design work. This growing community of skilled artisans probably didn't fare too well on the SAT because of its emphasis on math and reading.

### **The Classics**

When was the last time there were questions about Plato, Homer, or Shakespeare on the SAT test? Even if their names come up, I'm sure the questions don't delve deeply into the subject matter. You can be sure the test makers are more likely to include material from what they consider classics by Darwin, Dewey, and Sanger. A new Classic Learning



Test (CLT) is now available, but again, it is intended to measure ability in a few select areas like reasoning, logic, and the implications of ideas.

### **The Bible**

Speaking of classics, there are no serious questions on a standardized test that measures a student's Bible literacy. Christian parents need to make studying the Word of God a top priority for their children. Of course, as parents, we don't just want our kids to know about God. We desire for our kids to know and love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. Judging how your student measures up here requires the careful discernment of you, their parent.

### **Speech and Debate**

If you want to see young minds in high gear, with kids thinking on their feet, then you should get involved in speech and debate. Homeschooling families participate in many such groups across the country. It's almost impossible to spend a year in speech and debate and not emerge sharper mentally and more informed on important issues. Yet there is no better way to test a participant's aptitude than an actual presentation in a real live competition.

### **Philosophy and Logic**

There are attempts at testing logic in standardized tests, using analogies and the like, but real life isn't a multiple-choice test. Real life and collaborating within a team requires staying in a conversation, working through complexities, going deep into the details, analyzing and reanalyzing assumptions and conclusions, and engaging in serious critical thinking.

### **Time Management**

One good predictor of students' success in college (and life) is their ability to manage time. If your son or daughter can plan their work and work their plan, then they will stand a good chance of learning the material, completing big projects, meeting deadlines, and doing well in school without Mom, Dad, or a teacher there to keep them accountable. Again, an SAT score gives no indication of a student's ability in this important life skill.

### **Emotional Intelligence**

Finally, there is a wealth of research showing that a person's EQ—emotional quotient, or emotional intelligence—is a better indicator of potential for success than their IQ. A person's EQ boils down to being self-aware and self-controlled, as well as being aware of others. People with high EQ scores handle themselves well and are able to lead others by promoting a healthy environment that breeds success for everyone involved.



### **The Proof Is in the Pudding**

As of late 2017, five of my seven children have graduated from our home school. My two oldest sons are college graduates, my three daughters are currently students in college, and my youngest two sons are still being educated at home. Naturally, the five oldest had to take the SAT just like every other college prospect. All my kids received scholarships and excelled in college, but you might question their potential if the only measure you're tracking is their SAT scores. Among my seven children, I have a philosopher, two artists, an event planner, an author, a missionary, and a LEGO master. They excel in their fields of interest, and a standardized test score provides little to no indication of their specific area of mastery or expertise. They manage their time well, enjoy healthy relations with teachers and family members, are leaders among their peers, humbly serve in their community, and walk with the Lord. My kids are proof that a less-than-impressive test score doesn't indicate much about a student's real ability or potential.

A duck will never do well on a tree climbing exam no matter how many times they retake it or how hard they focus. Same goes for the squirrel taking the swimming test. The fish will always do better.

I believe your kids are much more than an SAT score. Make sure they don't feel labeled (good or bad) by their scores on such tests. The people who write these exams and score them don't know your kids. They don't know if your child speaks multiple languages, is a gifted athlete in several sports, or is obedient, respectful, and responsible. They don't know if your son or daughter is charismatic, thoughtful, humble, or humorous. But you do. You know and love your kids more than anyone in this world. You know when they do their best. You know the subjects they find interesting. You know their potential, and you know just how wonderful, amazing, smart, and unique they really are.

In the words of Diane Ravitch, "Sometimes the most brilliant and intelligent minds do not shine in standardized tests because they do not have standardized minds."

So what do you think is the best way to measure a student's ability? And specifically, what is your assessment of standardized tests?

Walking by faith and enjoying the homeschooling adventure of a lifetime!

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THEY *don't know*

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*gifted athlete* **IN**

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**OR IS OBEDIENT,**

**RESPECTFUL, AND**

**RESPONSIBLE.**

**THEY DON'T**

**KNOW IF YOUR**

**SON OR DAUGHTER**

*is charismatic,*

**THOUGHTFUL,**

**HUMBLE, OR**

*humorous. BUT*

**YOU DO.**





# Choosing

## A COLLEGE: *What Homeschoolers Should Expect*

BY SHERRI SELIGSON

The process of choosing a college can be daunting for anyone. However, as homeschool parents who fill the multiple roles of instructor, principal, and guidance counselor, we feel added responsibility and pressure when it comes to advising our students. **Indeed, if you have a teen who is planning to attend college, you need to be informed about what to expect from the process of applying to and choosing a college and how to prepare for it.**

### Choosing a College

First, it is important to be sure your student has met the high school graduation requirements for your state. Check with your state homeschool organization or visit the [Home School Legal Defense Association \(HSLDA\)](https://www.hsllda.org/) website for details.

When it comes to choosing a college, there are a few key considerations to discuss with your student. For example, large colleges offer a greater diversity of academic majors and often have greater resources to support research, international studies, and athletics; smaller colleges boast smaller class sizes and usually offer more individualized support. In-state colleges and universities are usually much less expensive than out-of-state options. Public colleges receive state and federal funding and are more likely to accept in-state students, especially those with college credits earned from a local community college;

private colleges are usually more expensive and exclusive, but they may offer a more comfortable student-to-teacher ratio. If your student already knows what his or her major will be, this may also make choosing a college easier, as some programs will be more highly regarded than others within your student's chosen field.

Once you and your student have narrowed the options, it is time to identify schools that meet your desired criteria. Most colleges host open house weekends and prospective student programs that allow students to get a closer look at the school. Ideally, these visits should be taken during the student's sophomore or junior year.

### **Working On the Application**

Once you and your student have narrowed the list to a few potential colleges, visit the schools' websites and take a look at their application forms. As early as ninth grade, it's a good idea to find out what colleges are looking for. If your teen isn't sure which school he wants to attend or what she will choose as a major, it's still a helpful exercise to look at a few applications to get a general idea of what to expect.

The best time to begin working on college applications is during the summer before a student's senior year. This may sound early, but many colleges offer early acceptance, and their standards of acceptance are often not as rigid earlier in the year. Also keep in mind that most college applications are quite long, and most require students to write long paragraphs chronicling their high school experiences. Some ask for two or three essays, as well. Wouldn't it be nice to have these completed before the rigors of senior year classes begin?

A good goal for students to complete their applications is October of their senior year. Of course, this means students must have completed an SAT or ACT exam during their sophomore and junior years. They can retake these exams during their senior year and submit their updated scores to colleges.

Letters of recommendation are almost always requested with the college application, so it's a good idea to begin thinking now of individuals outside the family who have worked closely with your student during the high school years. A co-op teacher, tutor, employer, or youth group leader can offer great insight into the character and work ethic of your teen. If your student has taken dual-enrollment classes for both high school and college credit, a letter from a college professor is a great idea. However, you need to plan ahead.

Letters of recommendation can be written anytime during the high school years, so if you find that your teen has developed a great rapport with a teacher or employer, suggest that the student approach this person with a request early on. If the letter can be written on some kind of letterhead, that would be even better. Request that the writer of the letter place it in a sealed envelope and sign the seal. Ask for several copies, if this seems reasonable. You will need these letters for each application your student submits and possibly for scholarship applications, too.

### **Preparing a Transcript and Other Records**

You need to be keeping a high school transcript for your student—one that is easy to read and understand. This transcript may have an emblem to designate your homeschool, but it's not necessary. For homeschool students, course



**AS EARLY AS *ninth*  
grade, IT'S A GOOD  
IDEA TO FIND OUT *what*  
*colleges are*  
LOOKING FOR.**



descriptions are not usually required, although some private colleges or elite universities will ask for them.

There are several transcript-building resources available to help you put together a professional-looking transcript for your student. Basically, a transcript must have four major components for each class: a course code, course title, number of credit hours earned, and a grade. Course codes and titles are often found on your state's public education website. Search the site using one of these keywords: course code, frameworks, or course descriptions.

Keep a syllabus from any dual-enrollment course your student has taken, as you may be asked for that information. As part of the application process, dual-enrollment students will likely be required to pay a fee to have official transcripts sent from their community college to the university to which they are applying. They will also have to request any standardized test scores or CLEP information.

Many parents ask about whether or not they need to issue a diploma. It's unlikely your student will be asked to present an actual diploma with a college application. But if for some reason you need one, you have the right to make one yourself. HSLDA has worked hard to ensure this legal right for homeschool families. If you are asked to provide a diploma and wish to do so, you can purchase a nice one online, sign it yourself, and even get it notarized if you want.

### **What About Scholarships?**

More scholarships are available the earlier you apply and beginning the application process during the summer will give your student a head start on meeting scholarship deadlines. Some

scholarships are linked directly to the admissions application. However, most colleges require separate applications for scholarships. Much of the information required on these forms will be

similar to what's asked for on the admissions application, but there will often be requests befitting the theme of the scholarship as well. For example, students applying for a scholarship in art or music may be asked to submit samples of their work.

### **Filling out Those "Difficult" Spaces**

Besides the usual name, address, transcript, standardized test scores, volunteer hours, and extra-curricular activities, there are two spaces on most college applications that often take homeschooled students by surprise. And so students either have to scramble at the last minute (not recommended), trying to remember their past accomplishments and probably forgetting a few.

Some students end up leaving these blank, which is never a good idea on an application (except for the space asking if you've ever committed a felony).

The first of these difficult spaces is "Honors and Awards." Of course, the dynamics of homeschooling don't usually lend themselves to honors such as "Top Ten GPA in Graduating Class." But don't worry. If you plan ahead, you can intentionally expose your teen to opportunities in which he or she can excel and earn notable awards and honors. Even if your teen is going to be a senior next year, your student can still begin now thinking back over the high school years and preparing a list of accomplishments.

Homeschoolers stand out in a crowd. They are innovators who think outside the box, and they are trained problem solvers. So homeschool



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students should have no difficulty showing that they possess rock-solid character and an ability to achieve. That's what this application blank is looking for: something the student has done that is exemplary, that sets him or her apart from the crowd. That said, colleges are not looking for awards earned during the elementary or middle school years—they want to hear only about high school honors. So if your teens participate in a sport or science fair or art show, for example, keep track of any awards they earn. If they're working at a part-time job and earn some type of recognition, write that down.

The second difficult space is often called "Positions of Leadership," in which students are asked to list opportunities they've had to lead a group of people or direct projects and activities. It's likely your student is already doing something he or she can write in this space. Does he play a sport? Did she go on a mission trip? In any of these activities, were they coordinating projects, leading a team, or training others?

This blank space also gives you an opportunity to think outside the box when you plan high school coursework for your teens. With the flexibility in a homeschooler's schedule, you can let students explore something they love or discover a new interest. Brainstorm with them. Do they like sports, video games, crafts, film, art, music? Encourage them to do something creative in these areas. If they like crafts, suggest putting on a summer craft camp for younger children. How about organizing a fundraiser for a worthy cause that's important to them? If they enjoy movies, suggest starting a film club. As "president" of the club (give the club an official name), your teen can coordinate monthly meetings where students gather to watch a movie and then together discuss the themes and artistic merits of the film. These kinds of endeavors require leadership and coordination, and these are the traits that colleges are looking for. Additionally, if you plan ahead, many of these activities can either be coordinated with coursework for school or can even qualify as a course themselves.

Remember, this blank space is a place for your student to shine!

### To College and Beyond!


As homeschoolers, we aren't just training our students to get a good score on their SAT exams. We are helping them become mature young men and women of God, ready to take their place as leaders and servants within their community.

By planning ahead and exposing them to plenty of opportunities for achievement, we are mentoring our kids so they will be equipped for whatever God has in store for them as adults.

*Before **SHERRI SELIGSON** was "promoted" to the position of homeschooling mother of four, she worked as a marine biologist at Walt Disney World's Living Seas pavilion and published shark behavior research. She is the author of Apologia's Exploring Creation with General Science and Exploring Creation with Marine Biology. Sherri is also the featured instructor on Apologia's high school science instructional videos. She has written companion curricula for feature films such as Dolphin Tale and War Horse. Sherri and her husband, David, live in Orlando, Florida. Sherri blogs at [SherriSeligson.com](http://SherriSeligson.com).*







# BOOKS & AUTHORS YOUR STUDENT Should Read

BEFORE GOING  
TO COLLEGE

BY WHIT JONES

Many homeschool parents wonder, **Which books and authors should my high school student be reading to prepare for college?** However, these same parents should also be asking another question that is at least as important: **Which books and authors should my high school student be reading to prepare for life?**

As far back as Aristotle's *Poetics*, scholars and teachers have emphasized the importance of reading imaginative literature because of its ability to illustrate universal truths about human nature. And because all truth is God's truth, the truths students learn from reading outstanding literature can help them to grow as believers. Many biblical truths become clearer and more deeply felt when experienced through the stories, characters, and themes of great literary works.

In addition, there are many advantages to being well read. Great plays, poems, novels, and nonfiction books and essays teach students about unfamiliar places and cultures and help them to empathize with other people made in God's image. Being strong readers will also help students become better writers, enabling them to communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively in college, ministry, relationships, and the workplace. Students who have learned to understand and appreciate good literature are also well positioned to score higher than their contemporaries on SAT and ACT tests and to hit the ground running when it comes to college-level schoolwork.

Here then are some of the most important works your high school student should read before

graduation. This is not an exhaustive list by any means, but in my experience teaching college English composition and literature for more than three decades, I have found these works to be among the most helpful in preparing young students for the rigors of both college and life.

Important early American works include William Bradford's *Of Plymouth Plantation*, the poems of Anne Bradstreet and Edward Taylor, and selected sermons by Jonathan Edwards. These works reveal the deep faith and courage of the Pilgrims and Puritans and both the righteous judgment and tender grace of God. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson are among the Founding Fathers whose autobiographical and political writings reveal their excellent intellects and the worldview assumptions about life and government that helped to form a young republic. The poetry of Phyllis Wheatley from this same period shows how faith, giftedness, and perseverance can enable a person to create high art from even the lowliest of circumstances.

The humor of Washington Irving, the legend of the frontier hero created by James Fenimore Cooper, the dark beauty and psychological insights of Edgar Allen Poe, and sensitivity to the spiritual meaning of nature in the works of transcendentalists Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau were all important to the development of nineteenth-century American literature. Even when young Christian readers take the time to consider where and why they disagree with the transcendentalists, they are sharpening their understanding of their own faith. Every student should also read works by Nathaniel Haw-

thorne and Herman Melville who, in different ways, critiqued some of the Romantic errors of Poe, Emerson, Thoreau. Also, no student should fail to experience Emily Dickinson's poems of faith and doubt and the expansive philosophical statements made in the poetry of Walt Whitman.

As for American novels, Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* provides a richly detailed picture of life on the river in nineteenth-century America and constitutes one of the most effective attacks on racial prejudice ever written. Seventy-five years later, Harper Lee powerfully dramatized two children's encounter with racism in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which manages to combine humor and entertainment with serious moral statement in a way that few works of fiction have.

The fiction of Stephen Crane asserts a naturalistic worldview yet captures with remarkable accuracy important aspects of human nature, including fear, courage, and the need for camaraderie. John Steinbeck's short stories and novels capture important moments in the development of the American spirit, and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* dramatizes the perversion of this spirit by materialism. In Ernest Hemingway's novels and short stories, his code of manhood contains both fascinating truth and error.

Every student should also be familiar with William Faulkner, perhaps the greatest American writer of the twentieth century, and his fellow southerners Flannery O'Connor and Eudora Welty. O'Connor's wild stories demonstrate a profound Christian faith, and Welty uses elaborate mythological allusions to highlight human nobility and depravity.

As for twentieth-century poetry, every student should read the incisive dramatization of in-



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security caused by religious agnosticism in T. S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," the lyrical exploration of man's relationship with nature in the poetry of Robert Frost, and the whimsical verse of E. E. Cummings. And no student should miss the works of some of the finest African-American writers, including the poetry of Langston Hughes, the fiction of Zora Neale Hurston and Richard Wright, and the play *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry. Each of these authors highlights the unique trials and tragedies experienced by African Americans, as well as the longings, fears, and failings we all share.

One might expect British literature to be more sedate than American literature, but most studies of Old English literary works begin with Beowulf's tearing the arm off the monster Grendel in a story that dramatizes the honor code of the Anglo-Saxons and its relation to Christian faith. Geoffrey Chaucer's medieval observations of the highs and lows of human character as reflected in the religious pilgrims of his *Canterbury Tales* are subtle, funny, sometimes bawdy, and usually painfully accurate.

William Shakespeare is probably the greatest writer in the English language, and every high schooler should read (and view, preferably) a number of his plays, including works from among his major comedies, tragedies, and histories along with several of his most famous sonnets. It's not just Shakespeare's brilliance with words that makes him an incredible writer; it is his profound and often Christian insight into human beings and the values they live by.

Sonnets by Sir Phillip Sidney and Edmund Spenser and Spenser's allegorical epic *The Faerie Queene* round out a study of the sixteenth century nicely, and poems by John Donne and George Herbert are an important introduction to seventeenth-century literature. John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, a

brilliant Christian epic that tells the story of the fall of mankind and points to his ultimate redemption, is definitely required reading, as is John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.

From eighteenth-century British literature, Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, one of the first novels and a story about Christian conversion, and Samuel Johnson's prose and poetry are important stops. All students should read a couple of poems by each of the early nineteenth-century Romantic poets, including Robert Burns, William Blake, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and John Keats. Lord Tennyson and

Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning are among the Victorian poets no one should miss, and Gerard Manley Hopkins is a challenging but wonderful Christian poet of the era.

Nineteenth-century novels worth exploring include Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, and *Sense and Sensibility*. Austen's insight into the moral morality of how people treat each other in everyday relationships is remarkable. Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* is a Christian classic as well as a great





novel, and her sister's more pagan and Romantic novel *Wuthering Heights* is also worth reading. Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*, George Eliot's *Silas Marner*, Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* and *Great Expectations*, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* round out the great nine-

teenth-century novels that a student should know. Some of the comical and unconventional poetry and prose of Lewis Carroll also make for fun reading.

From the twentieth century, students should read the poetry of A. E. Housman, W. B. Yeats, and Dylan Thomas. E. M. Forster's novel *A Passage to India*, selected short stories from James Joyce's *Dubliners*, and William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies* are all works of fiction that a student should be familiar with. These works often present a darker view of life than earlier British literature, but such darkness is understandable given the movement of the twentieth-century worldview away from Christian faith toward naturalism.

From world literature, I recommend that students be acquainted with Greek and Roman mythology (Edith Hamilton is a very helpful guide) and the three great classical epics—Homer's *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* and Virgil's *The Aeneid*. Greco-Roman myth sometimes contains remarkable psychological insight within its colorful tales, and it remains very influential on British and American literature. *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, and *The Aeneid* are all about warriors living out the Greek and Roman honor codes, value systems that diverge in important ways from Christian morality but also contain elements in common with the Bible's teachings.

Any student who has read and is familiar with the works and authors listed here not only has an important head start on college, but is prepared for a lifetime of enjoyable reading and of living fruitfully as a Christian man or woman.

**DR. WHIT JONES** is a professor of English at Bryan College, where he was named 2017 Scholar of the Year. He earned his Ph.D. in English literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Whit and his wife, Amy, homeschooled their daughter and three sons. Dr. Jones teaches high school literature courses at the [Apologia Online Academy](http://www.apologia.com).





# Printable

## RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

This list is excerpted from the article  
***The Well-Read High Schooler: Books and Authors  
Your Student Should Read Before Going to College***

BY DR. WHIT JONES

William Bradford's *Of Plymouth Plantation*  
The poems of Anne Bradstreet and Edward Taylor  
Selected sermons by Jonathan Edwards  
Autobiographical and political writings of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson  
The poetry of Phyllis Wheatley  
The humor of Washington Irving  
James Fenimore Cooper  
Edgar Allen Poe  
Ralph Waldo Emerson  
Henry David Thoreau  
Nathaniel Hawthorne  
Herman Melville  
The poetry of Emily Dickinson  
The poetry of Walt Whitman  
Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*  
The fiction of Stephen Crane  
F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*  
Ernest Hemingway's novels and short stories  
William Faulkner  
Flannery O'Connor  
Eudora Welty  
T. S. Eliot's *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*  
Poetry of Robert Frost  
The whimsical verse of E. E. Cummings.  
The poetry of Langston Hughes  
The fiction of Zora Neale Hurston  
Richard Wright  
The play *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry  
*Beowulf*  
*Canterbury Tales*  
William Shakespeare is probably the greatest writer in the English language, and every high schooler should read (and view, preferably) a number of his plays, including works from among his major comedies, tragedies, and histories along with several of his most famous sonnets.

Sonnets by Sir Phillip Sidney and Edmund Spenser  
and Spenser's allegorical epic *The Faerie Queene*  
Poems by John Donne and George Herbert are an important introduction to 17th-century literature  
John Milton's *Paradise Lost*  
John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*  
Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*  
Samuel Johnson's prose  
All students should read a couple of poems by each of the early nineteenth-century Romantic poets, including Robert Burns, William Blake, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and John Keats. Lord Tennyson and Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning are among the Victorian poets no one should miss, and Gerard Manley Hopkins is a challenging but wonderful Christian poet of the era.  
Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, and *Sense and Sensibility*  
Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*  
*Wuthering Heights*  
Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*  
George Eliot's *Silas Marner*  
Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* and *Great Expectations*  
Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*  
Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*  
Poetry and prose of Lewis Carroll  
The poetry of A. E. Housman, W. B. Yeats, and Dylan Thomas  
E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India*  
Selected short stories from James Joyce's *Dubliners*  
William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies*  
Greek and Roman mythology (Edith Hamilton is a very helpful guide)  
The three great classical epics—Homer's *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* and Virgil's *The Aeneid*

**DR. JONES** is a professor of English at Bryan College, where he was named 2017 Scholar of the Year. He earned his Ph.D. in English literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Whit and his wife, Amy, homeschooled their daughter and three sons. Dr. Jones teaches high school literature. courses at the [Apologia Online Academy](https://www.apologia.com).

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# WHEN WILL I EVER USE *Algebra?*

BY MRS. PENNINGTON

**“When will I ever use Algebra?”** I’ve heard that question so many times, from not only students but parents also. Each time I hear it, I am reminded that this is a serious question that needs to be answered. Instead of just giving some overcast, cloudy answer like, “every day,” I am going to answer this question with real, tangible answers. **Answers that will leave you understanding why algebra is so important, and when your child will use it.**

**B**efore I get started with the everyday uses of algebra, I want to first talk about how important it is to study hard concepts that stretch our minds. The first impression we get when we hear the word, ‘algebra,’ is usually something like, “yuck.” Ninety-nine percent of the reactions I get when I tell people I teach algebra is, “wow! I hate math.” When I dig a little further and ask why they hate math, it’s usually something about it being hard, and they didn’t understand it. We tend to shy away from things that are hard and stick to things that are easier. But, studying hard things is actually very good for our minds. Dr. Daniel G. Amen explains how this process works.

“Each time you learn something new and practice it, your brain will either change the structure of its neurons (cells) or increase the number of synapses between your neurons, allowing them to send and receive information faster.”

We can apply this concept to algebra, and say that when we learn algebra, we are literally changing, stretching, and growing our brain.

Another reason that I encourage the study of algebra is because of its consistency. Many of the subjects in school change frequently as more things are discovered, but I love math because of its reliability. Two plus two will always equal four. The consistency we find in math will also teach us more and more about God. God is consistent and never changing. As we learn more about math, it gives us a small glimpse into the consistency of our Lord. French mathematician, Andre Weil, once said, “God exists since mathematics is consistent, and the Devil exists since we cannot prove it.” This is an interesting thought and provokes us to dive deeper into the challenge of learning mathematics and applying it to God’s existence.

Now that I’ve covered the importance of learning algebra to stretch our minds, and teach us more about God, let’s cover where we use algebra in our everyday life. It may surprise you that everyone, everywhere uses algebra every day, even if they don’t know it.

#### Here are 5 examples:

1. **Cooking:** Have you ever had to double or half a recipe? To do those proportions, you are using algebra. Also, converting from cups to tablespoons, teaspoons to tablespoons, etc. is using algebra
2. **Shopping:** So many times, when we go shopping, we look for the discounts. When you go shopping and see a 50% off sale, you automatically do the algebra to figure out how much you are saving.
3. **Home Improvement:** Every time you paint a room you must figure out how much paint you need. You measure the walls and figure out the area of the room. This is algebra. This same logic can be used on floorings, ceilings, backsplashes, landscaping etc.
4. **Finances:** Any time we deal with money, algebra is involved. Loans, investments, budgeting, etc. all use algebra to convert principles, interest, and earnings.

5. **Filling up the gas tank:** I have \$30 to fill up the tank and gas is \$2.50 a gallon. How much gas can I get? You divide it out and find you can get about 12 gallons of gas (not counting tax). This is an algebra problem.

So, you can see, that we use algebra often, even when we don’t even realize we are using it. Believe it or not, you’ve been learning algebra ever since you were a baby and taking algebra in high school just builds upon the knowledge that you already have.

One of my favorite quotes is from Nikolai Lobachevsky, who said, “There is no branch of mathematics, however abstract, which may not some day be applied to phenomena of the real world.” Studying algebra has real, tangible benefits, and can shape the future of your child. It doesn’t matter what your child wants to be when he grows up, because studying algebra will stretch his mind, teach him more about God, and allow him to do many things in his everyday life.

Maybe you want your child to study algebra, but you just don’t feel like you will be able to teach it. I teach live, online, interactive, graded classes for pre-algebra, algebra 1 and 2, geometry, and pre-calculus through [Apologia Online Academy \(www.ApologiaOnlineAcademy.com\)](http://www.ApologiaOnlineAcademy.com). To find out more, see our [Math Department](#).

*MRS. PENNINGTON received her Bachelor of Arts in Natural Sciences/Mathematics from Thomas Edison State University. She has over two years of experience in tutoring high school physics, and advanced mathematics. She was homeschooled, and used Apologia science throughout high school, along with Saxon math. She has been married to her husband for 5 years, and they have a little girl named Layla. She has been saved by the grace of Jesus Christ and grows more and more in love with Him every day. In her free time, Katie enjoys photography, teaching Sunday school at her church, Bible study, and enjoying nature.*





# HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS—WRITE A

# Resume

BY MARILYN MCCUSKER SHANNON

**Do you know how to write a resume?** Suppose a family friend alerts you to a part-time job opportunity that sounds perfect for you. Or you learn of an outstanding scholarship in your area of interest—except the deadline is in two days and the application is four pages long. Do you know how to write a resume for these opportunities? **You are much more likely to achieve your goal in such situations if you have an up-to-date, professional-looking resume at the ready.**

**W**hat is a resume? It's an organized summary of your education, your employment, your community service, your honors and achievements, and so forth. It's a standard document used by most people seeking employment, but it's also an extremely useful tool for a high school student to have.

There are three excellent reasons to write a resume during your high school years. The first is obvious—to have it when you are looking for a job. Of course, most jobs suitable for high school students get don't require resumes. But what if you're hoping for something more than the usual restaurant positions? It's imperative that you know how to write a resume.

**"[A RESUME] SHOWS AT ONCE WHAT  
YOU HAVE DONE AND WHAT YOU CAN  
DO. IT SHOWS YOU'RE SERIOUS..."**

A current resume is an impressive item to present to a prospective employer, especially a small-business owner. It shows at once what you have done and what you can do. It shows you're serious, and it provides good "talking points" for the employer to draw on in an interview. Wouldn't you rather have the interviewer begin with a question about your volunteering as an usher at the Philharmonic instead of the open-ended "What can you tell me about yourself?"

Second, a resume serves as a reliable record of your activities, achievements, and employment. Whether you're writing an essay for college admission or filling out forms for a scholarship, your task will be much easier if you have a resume in front of you. You won't have to reconstruct past years, perhaps overlooking important accomplishments or listing incorrect dates. How long have you ministered at the nursing home? What year did you place in the regional science fair? What is the complete name of the writing contest you won? The answers will be at your fingertips because, ideally, you updated your resume as soon as you began your volunteer work or won the award.

Third, a complete and current resume can be a great help to those who write letters of recommendation for you. As time goes on, you will be asked for "recs" as you apply for jobs, scholarships, awards, and other opportunities. The most persuasive recommendation letters include compelling examples and details of your past achievements. As a college instructor who is regularly asked to write such letters, I can tell you that it's much easier to create a sparkling recommendation when I have a copy of the young person's résumé on hand to help me out.

### **Getting It Together—**

#### **How to Write a Resume**

So how should you put together your resume? It's easiest to look at someone else's to get the idea, but here are some suggestions for how to write a resume:

- 1. Keep the style simple and let your accomplishments speak for themselves.** Use ordinary fonts and print sizes and avoid backgrounds and borders. Since resumes are frequently e-mailed, you want to be sure of how it will look on the employer's computer.
- 2. Choose categories that reflect what's pertinent to your situation.** Start with Education, and then add Employment, Community Service, and Awards and Honors. You might also choose to include Sports and Social Activities. If you have published a paper or done public speaking, insert a category entitled Publications or Public Presentations. If you are talented in music or dance, you might include a category for Performances. Combine categories if you have only one or two items for them.
- 3. List your categories from most significant to least significant.** Within categories, list the items from most recent to oldest.
- 4. Don't get hung up on the length.** The right length is long enough to include what you wish to communicate. One or two pages are typical for a high school student.



5. **Proofread everything diligently, remembering that “Spellcheck will let ewe down.”** Pay special attention to parallel construction of phrases and consistent use of capital letters and punctuation marks.

The content of your resume will change with time and experience. You will be adding new information, of course, but you will also be deleting older entries. Recent accomplishments are usually more relevant than past ones, and what you did in grade school is not of much interest now that you're in high school. In the same way, as you progress in college or a career, many of your high school activities and experiences will be eclipsed by new achievements, and you will naturally want to drop the older ones from your future resume. (Keep copies of the older versions to jog your memory, though.)

Keep one master copy of your current resume in which you include everything, whether or not you're sure of its relevance. From this master copy you can produce “thinned out” versions that are specific to the opportunity you're applying for. For example, a complete listing of your 4-H dog training awards would be appropriate if you're applying for a position as a veterinarian's assistant, but if you're applying for a position at the library, you might choose to delete these.

I like entries that begin with a title, a date, and a brief description. Here's a hypothetical example:

#### EMPLOYMENT

##### **General Contracting Assistant, Fort Wayne, Indiana, Summer 2012**

Framed additions to existing homes, replaced roofing, installed siding, laid carpeting, painted interior rooms and exterior trim

##### **Shopkeeper, Abba House Christian Store, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 2013 to present**

Served customers, ordered inventory, designed brochures

A final word about your resume: Yes, it can give you an edge over your competition for a scholarship or a job. And yes, I strongly recommend that you write yours now. Nevertheless, try your best to put those wonderful achievements on paper and not into your heart. As Christians, we are to be in the world, not of the world. God loves us dearly, and it's worth reminding ourselves every day that He loves us for who we are, not for what we've done.

*MARILYN MCCUSKER SHANNON holds a master's degree in human physiology, with a minor in biochemistry, from Indiana University's Medical Sciences Program. She is a tenured, part-time instructor of biology at Indiana University–Purdue University at Fort Wayne, where she has taught human anatomy and physiology for more than thirty years. Marilyn is the co-author of Apologia's Advanced Biology: The Human Body, 2nd edition. She and her husband, Ron, are the parents of nine children, all of whom were homeschooled from the start. So far, six have graduated high school at home. The Shannons live on a small farm in Indiana, where they live out their love of biology with a large garden and an assortment of milk goats, sheep, geese, chickens, cats, and dogs. It's a great source of joy to them that their grandchildren are also being homeschooled.*



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## A photograph of a woman and a young girl smiling and looking at each other. The image is overlaid with a green grid pattern. The woman is on the left, wearing a white floral shirt, and the girl is on the right, wearing a blue shirt. The image is framed by a white border with colorful geometric shapes at the corners.

A vibrant collage of educational icons on a light blue grid background. The icons include a yellow protractor, a pair of red-handled scissors, a red atom model, a laptop displaying a bar chart, a 3D pie chart, an open book, a blue planet with a yellow ring, a yellow microscope, a paint palette with colored dots, and a yellow star containing the formula  $(1+z^3)^2$ . Other visible elements include a ruler, a soccer ball, and the text 'BY DEBRA BELL' in the top right corner.

**I am all for Christians entering and engaging the culture. That's the end goal. But I'm convinced adolescence is not the time to make this our priority. It's like trying to launch a rocket with a rubber band.**

So why homeschool for the long term? Here are the reasons that convinced us to teach high school at home:

## Spiritual Growth

Our home is the key place our children will see the power and mercy of the Gospel on display and experience how that can affect our lives. If your faith and values matter to you and these inform your daily attitudes, choices and actions, then your home is the best context for the spiritual development of your children. Sometimes this is a matter of faith for parents – all kids, prior to adulthood, will evaluate and either adopt or discard the values and beliefs their parents hold. Some kids will go through this internally without much indication of the process; others will experience a lot of questioning and struggle. But, no matter how your teen responds to the process, you can be confident this development is taking place and he is moving towards a place of personally held beliefs and convictions.

Homeschooling allows the daily context for that fragile time to be in your home and with your family. Research has repeatedly found that parents are the biggest influence in their children's moral development – if they do not abdicate that role. Peers will become the chief socializing influence, if parents are not around. It's not quality time that trumps quantity of time; kids need both from us.

Homeschooling allows a natural context to exist for spiritual growth, the only one that can truly integrate a child's emotional, intellectual and moral development. And that's important if we want our kids to learn how to live with integrity. Compartmentalizing our faith – being forced to leave it out of the equation, especially during adolescence– is risky business. Our children will learn to disconnect their academic achievement and their knowledge base from the moorings of God as creator and center of all we know and do. It also fosters moral development for utilitarian purposes: I will play by the rules because I want the reward that is offered for doing so. Emotionally, the Psalmist understood God was his source for peace and hope when his soul was wracked with disquiet and worry. He knew to look up, not within, for enduring solutions. Our kids do not figure out on their own how to bring their faith to bear upon all of life: this internal integrity needs to be made visible as we walk transparently with our God before them and talk with them about how this process works.

The culture-at-large is fragmented and idiosyncratic. Modern education is as well: forty minutes for science, the bell rings, hurry off to forty minutes of English. All the components of the school day are divorced from each other. What is the unifying whole? How does all this fit together and for what purpose? At home, you can seamlessly move back and forth between your child's emotional upheavals, academic tasks, and spiritual questions.

### Academic Opportunities

Homeschooling has come of age. In the past 25 years it has matured and multiplied, and it's now an established trend worldwide. The Internet will connect you to your local and state homeschooling community, and it will open up a wealth of online classes and other programs suitable for middle school through college.

Your access to this vibrant community and the opportunities it can provide is just a mouse-click away. Does your child need reinforcement and remediation in an area? You can plan for that without decelerating his progress in other subjects. Is she capable of working at a college level and accumulating college credit early? You can make that happen with online Advanced Placement [AP] classes or through your local community college system. Does your child have specialized interests? An exotic language he wishes to study or a hobby he devotes extensive time to? You can accommodate this diversity without the burden of also fulfilling someone else's diploma requirements.

Granted, the wide array of courses and expert teachers in a large, affluent, suburban school district or an urban magnet school can be convenient and consolidated. I admit up front, I spent the high school years driving my kids to a lot of opportunities I didn't want them to miss. You're the one who will become master of logistics and scheduling in your quest to design the best program for your teenager at home, but I'm here to say it can be done. And if you're able to spring for the technology, many of the best opportunities are now or soon to be online at democratic prices.

The homeschool community in particular is the source of much innovation and self-sufficiency. When I first began this adventure back in 1988, adapting curricula designed for mass education was the

COMPARTMENTALIZING

*our faith* – BEING

FORCED TO LEAVE IT OUT OF

THE EQUATION, *especially*  
*during adolescence*–

IS RISKY BUSINESS.



best bet; today, the best products for home use are specifically designed for homeschooled students.

And if you are concerned that colleges and employers will view a homeschooled applicant negatively, that's a myth. The trail's already been blazed in almost every area by homeschool graduates who made their way and left a great impression. I've been helping home educated students get into the colleges of their choice the past 15 years, and it is truly a non-issue. In many, many ways homeschool applicants have an advantage, if they've made the most of the opportunities homeschooling affords. Many admissions officers have noted that compared to graduates of conventional schools, homeschooled kids come to college better equipped with independent learning and living skills. They are more likely to assume leadership roles on campus and their graduation rate is higher, too.

### Flexibility

The biggest advantage I found when I started homeschooling is why I continued – I love the flexibility it allowed us. It's the only educational choice that doesn't hold us captive to someone else's scope and sequence and schedule. Because homeschooling can be modified on a dime to fit into the larger picture of family life, we were able to protect our priorities. If we wanted to focus on our spiritual life, we could do so; if we needed to increase the time devoted to math, we did; if we wanted a vacation, we took it. Likewise, if we wanted to change curriculum or pursue a new avenue of investigation, we did it, and if an unanticipated opportunity appeared, we were free to go for it. Our kids traveled abroad, took advance courses, held jobs and internships, volunteered, and slept in when needed during their teen years because homeschooling allowed us that flexibility.

Perhaps the approaching school year ahead looks daunting as you recall last year's challenges. I always found it helpful to take a spiritual retreat in August to renew my convictions about homeschooling and re-affirm God's call to it. He never failed to meet me there and extend the faith and grace I needed to look to the future with joy. God is faithful and He will once again supply all your needs in Christ Jesus as you continue to look to Him. That's my prayer for you and this generation of homeschoolers as September draws nigh.

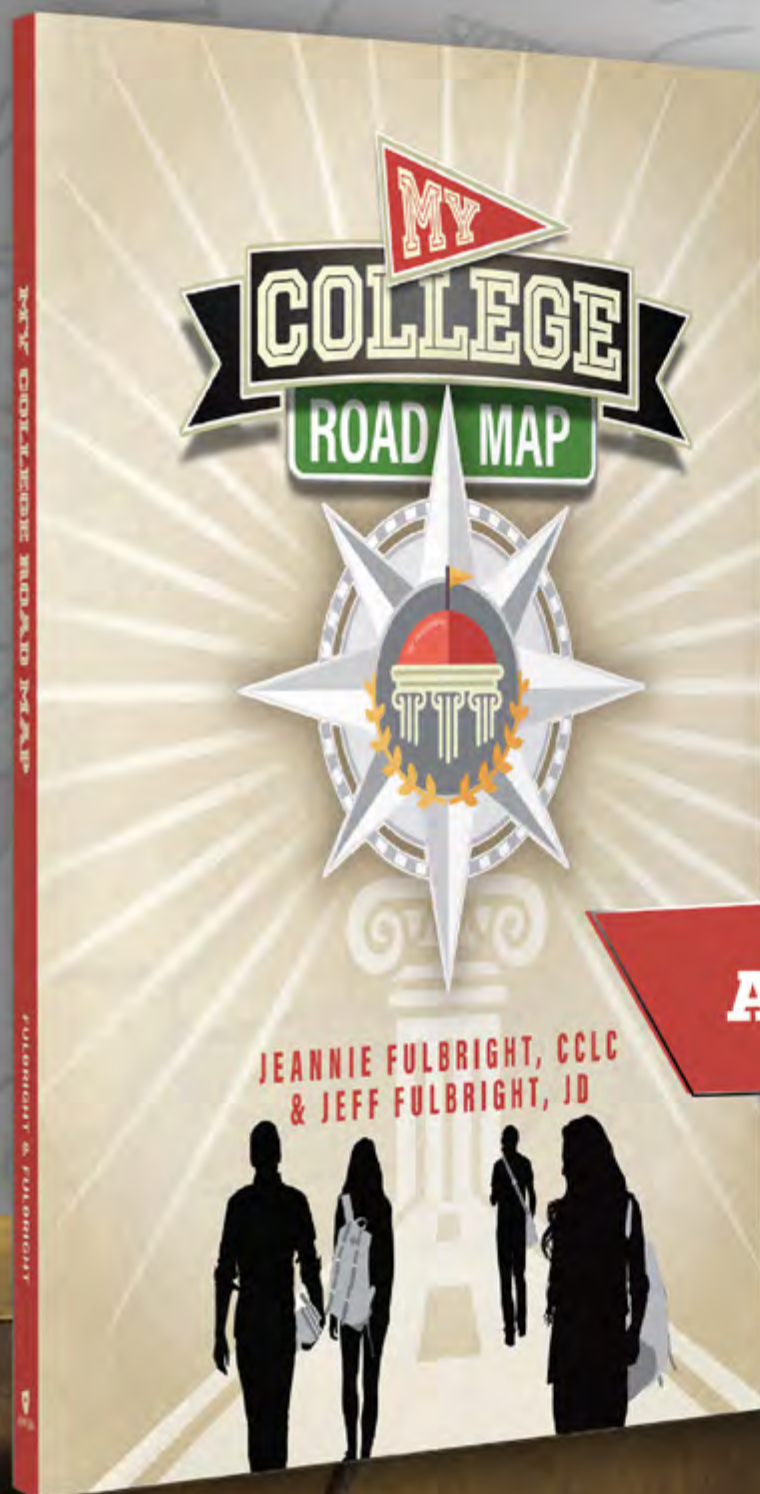
**DEBRA BELL, PH.D.**, is the best-selling author of the award-winning *Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling*, *Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling Teens*, and the *Ultimate Planners for moms, teens, and students (Apologia)*. Writers-in-Residence: A Writing-Focused Language Arts Program and Readers-in-Residence.



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# DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO Choose

## A CAREER PATH NOW?

POSTED BY SHERRI SELIGSON  
ON JAN 1, 2017 IN HOMESCHOOLING TEENS



**We keep hearing how our children need to choose a career path NOW, before college, so they can take the necessary prep courses to stay ahead of the game. As we move through our homeschooling years, we sometimes are anxious about making the wrong choice and may be leaving gaps in our children's education.**

**Y**et much of this pressure is self-imposed. Do we really need to figure out a child's career path by the time he or she gets braces? Obviously, we want to prepare our children to succeed, but how do we do that without becoming obsessed ourselves and stressing out our children?

First, take a deep breath.

As a homeschool parent, rest assured you have the BEST possible vantage point from which to observe your children, identify their strengths and abilities, and discover their passions. After all, you've been observing your children since they were infants. When birthdays roll around, you know exactly what kinds of toys they will like. If she enjoys imaginative play time, use that knowledge. Does he like construction toys such as Legos or erector sets? Or does a day of outdoor adventure get her excited? Does he like problem-solving games? Does she like crafts? All of these are clues to a child's God-given strengths and passions, and those can translate into a potential career path.

A love for construction toys can show that a student has spatial and problem-solving skills or that they like to see a project through from conception to completion. Careers that fit these skills include en-

gineering, design, accounting, and other math-driven fields.

What kinds of computer games do your children like? Ask them *why* they like the games. Do they enjoy working with a group of people to solve a common problem? Do they like solving riddles? Maybe they enjoy the colors and themes of the game. “Interviewing” your children about the things they enjoy will help you (and they) learn more about their God-given strengths and abilities. You can then begin to speak into their lives and give them a vision.

I will never forget the time when my parents realized that I always completed my science homework first before any of my other subjects. I had never really noticed, but they did. And they suggested I could be a scientist one day because I really enjoyed that subject. This stayed with me, and as it turned out, I *did* study science in college. Today I can see how God designed me with that special bent.

He has given each of my children a natural giftedness, too. It’s not written across their foreheads (though sometimes I wish it were!), but it is something my husband and I enjoy discovering in them as we go about our everyday activities, doing schoolwork and living life together.

As a homeschooler, you have the special ability to let your kids explore their passions. A flexible school schedule allows for unique ventures such as job shadowing or internships. They can take charge of some of their school assignments and even become a teacher for their younger siblings. Giving them plenty of opportunities to explore will familiarize them with many more career possibilities than a traditional education in a brick-and-mortar school can provide.



## DO WE REALLY NEED TO FIGURE OUT A CHILD’S CAREER PATH BY THE TIME HE OR SHE GETS BRACES?

Remember, you are helping them to grow, to discover, and to flourish—not by force-feeding them the latest curriculum because everyone else is using it, but by allowing God to direct you as you discover (along with your children) His specific direction for their lives. To paraphrase Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for *your children*, declares the Lord, plans to prosper *your children* and not to harm *your children*, plans to give *your children* hope and a future.”

God knows what He has in mind for our kids. Our job is to help them discover what those perfect plans are. And that makes the journey worthwhile and *fun*!

*Before* **SHERRI SELIGSON** was “promoted” to the position of homeschooling mother of four, she worked as a marine biologist at Walt Disney World’s Living Seas pavilion and published shark behavior research. She is the author of Apologia’s

**Exploring Creation with General Science and Exploring Creation with Marine Biology.** Sherri is also the featured instructor on Apologia’s **high school science instructional videos**. She has written companion curricula for feature films such as *Dolphin Tale* and *War Horse*. Sherri and her husband, David, live in Orlando, Florida. Sherri blogs at [SherriSeligson.com](http://SherriSeligson.com).





# WHERE HOMESCHOOLERS *Struggle* IN COLLEGE

BY KYLE McMANAMY

**W**hen it comes to educating your children, homeschooling is an incredible option, and it has the numbers to prove it. College students who graduated from a homeschool have **a higher graduation rate and GPA than their peers**, enter college with better standardized test scores, and **make better, more well-adjusted citizens**.

**Hooray for homeschooling! But seriously, with all these successes, there is still room for growth in how homeschool parents prepare their students for college.**

As a college pastor I see a lot of homeschool graduates at university, and I've noticed a few areas in which homeschooling has left them ill-equipped. These don't apply to all homeschooling students but are merely trends I have seen over the years.

## **Homeschool to College - Getting to Class on Time**

One of the joys of homeschooling is the flexibility it offers. Sure, homeschool schedules need to be followed, but if a great learning opportunity arises, why not reschedule class around it? It would be unreasonable to do otherwise. Other-schooling—which is what I call public, private, and charter schools collectively (feel free to use it)—cannot seize such opportunities for individualized learning, but homeschool can capitalize and flex around them. It's one of the great benefits.

What does this teach your kids, though? It teaches them valuable lessons about what's important (learning is a full-time pursuit), it teaches them how to be flexible (an invaluable skill), and it teaches

them that class start times aren't authoritative and binding. They learn that class will start when everyone gets there and everyone's ready.

College classes don't work that way. They *can't* work that way. College classes must abide by a uniform schedule, and the 30 students (or 300) must be ready to start as scheduled or be left behind. Students accustomed to the flexibility of homeschooling face a challenge (especially their freshman year) if they haven't made a habit of showing up on time, regardless of what happened on the way to class or the night before.

### Planning On their Own

This is arguably a difficulty for all students, but if students haven't been accustomed to thinking through how to complete a larger paper or research project, they soon find themselves overwhelmed at college when these are assigned. If they're accustomed to having their parents or co-op instructors plan all of their work for them, they're in for a rude awakening when no one is there to lay it out for them.

(NOTE: By "plan all of their work for them" I'm referring to the practice of breaking up a large assignment into smaller parts to give them reasonable goals and deadlines to reach so that the larger assignment isn't overwhelming. Don't get me wrong, parents need to pass this skill onto their children and the first step is to show them how to do it. But if students never have to do it for themselves, they are at a disadvantage heading into college.)

Apologia has a great resource for planning that helps students learn how to schedule out a semester while syncing it with our [mom's homeschool planner](#). *The Ultimate Homeschool Planner* even includes guides on how to teach planning to your children.

### Learning in a Classroom Structure

Homeschooling students can experience significant difficulty with a classroom environment if their previous learning models have never demanded it. One of my friends grew up homeschooled on the mission field. His education happened outdoors or at the dinner table or in the

car driving across open fields. He was extremely intelligent. Yet when he got to college, he struggled in class despite high testing scores because he couldn't focus while sitting still. He had never learned to sit through a lecture or take thorough notes while stationary in a chair. As a result, college posed a challenge his other-schooling classmates didn't face.

Homeschooling provides so many opportunities—for example, apprenticeships and curriculum customized to individual learning styles—that other-schooled students can't access. It's important, though, for parents to ensure that students are prepared to thrive (not just survive) in the lecture format they'll see in college. Perhaps taking some community college classes while still at home is a good option for you. But even if your student isn't ready for that, make sure they can learn while sitting at a desk and taking quality notes while listening to a lecture. They'll thank you for it later.

There's no question that homeschooling is an outstanding choice for many families. The numbers demonstrate the excellence of this choice in preparing students to learn for life, thrive at work, and lead in their communities. But if college is in your children's future plans, be sure to prepare them for the structure of college life and the demands of this educational approach.

**KYLE McMANAMY** *has worked with high school and college-aged students for over 10 years in formal and informal settings. He recently served at Chapel Hill Bible Church as the College Minister for 6 years and Director of their Center for Faith + Work (a position he still holds). Kyle formerly was Brand Manager for Apologia and currently designs higher education programs for OneHope, an international organization committed to reaching the world's children and youth with God's Word. He has a BA from Clemson University and an MDiv and MA in Philosophy from Southern Evangelical Seminary. He loves mountains, C.S. Lewis, observational comedy, starting new things, and so much more. He and his wife live in Chapel Hill, NC.*





# THE COLLEGE Application

## PROCESS

BY SHERRI SELIGSON

The college search and application process can be daunting for anyone. However, as homeschool parents who fill the multiple roles of instructor, principal, and guidance counselor, we feel added responsibility and pressure when it comes to advising our students. **Indeed, if you have a teen who is planning to attend college, you need to be informed about what to expect from the process and how to prepare for it.**

### Choosing a College

First, it is important to be sure your student has met the high school graduation requirements for your state. Check with your state homeschool organization or visit the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) website for details.

When it comes to choosing a college, there are a few key considerations to discuss with your student. For example, large colleges offer a greater diversity of academic majors and often have greater resources to support research, international studies, and athletics; smaller colleges boast smaller class sizes and usually offer more individualized support. In-state colleges and universities are usually much less expensive than out-of-state options. Public colleges receive state and federal funding and are more likely to accept in-state students, especially those with college credits earned from a local community college; private colleges are usually more expensive and exclusive, but they may offer a more comfortable student-to-teacher ratio. If

your student already knows what his or her major will be, this may also make the decision easier, as some programs will be more highly regarded than others within your student's chosen field.

Once you and your student have narrowed the options, it is then time to identify schools that meet your desired criteria. Most colleges host open house weekends and prospective student programs that allow students to get a closer look at the school. Ideally, these visits should be taken during the student's sophomore or junior year.

### Working on the Application

Once you and your student have narrowed the list to a few potential colleges, visit the schools' websites and take a look at their application forms. As early as ninth grade, it's a good idea to find out what colleges are looking for. If your teen isn't sure which school he wants to attend or what she will choose as a major, it's still a helpful exercise to look at a few applications to get a general idea of what to expect.

The best time to begin working on college applications is during the summer before a student's senior year. This may sound early, but many colleges offer early acceptance, and their standards of acceptance are often not as rigid earlier in the year. Also keep in mind that most college applications are quite long, and most require students to write long paragraphs chronicling their high school experiences. Some ask for two or three essays, as well. Wouldn't it be nice to have these completed before the rigors of senior year classes begin?

A good goal for students to complete their applications is October of their senior year. Of course, this means students must have completed an SAT or ACT exam during their sophomore and

junior years. They can re-take these exams during their senior year and submit their updated scores to colleges.

Letters of recommendation are almost always requested with the college application, so it's a good idea to begin thinking now of individuals outside the family who have worked closely with your student during the high school years.

A co-op teacher, tutor, employer, or youth group leader can offer great insight into the character and work ethic of your teen. If your student has taken dual-enrollment classes for both high school and college credit, a letter from a college professor is a great idea. However, you need to plan ahead. Letters of recommendation can be written anytime during the high school years, so if you find that your teen has developed a great rapport with a teacher or employer, suggest that the student approach this person with a request

early on. If the letter can be written on some kind of letterhead, that would be even better. Request that the writer of the letter place it in a sealed envelope and sign the seal. Ask for several copies, if this seems reasonable. You will need these letters for each application your student submits and possibly for scholarship applications, too.

### Preparing a Transcript and Other Records

You need to be keeping a high school transcript for your student—one that is easy to read and understand. This transcript may have an emblem



**A CO-OP TEACHER,  
TUTOR, EMPLOYER, OR  
YOUTH GROUP LEADER  
CAN OFFER *great insight*  
INTO THE CHARACTER  
AND *work ethic* OF  
YOUR TEEN.**



to designate your home school, but it's not necessary. For homeschool students, course descriptions are not usually required, although some private colleges or elite universities will ask for them.

There are several transcript-building resources available to help you put together a professional-looking transcript for your student. Basically, a transcript must have four major components for each class: a course code, course title, number of credit hours earned, and a grade. Course codes and titles are often found on your state's public education website. Search the site using one of these key words: course code, frameworks, or course descriptions.

Keep a syllabus from any dual-enrollment course your student has taken, as you may be asked for that information. As part of the application process, dual-enrollment students will likely be required to pay a fee to have official transcripts sent from their community college to the university to which they are applying. They will also have to request any standardized test scores or CLEP information.

Many parents ask about whether or not they need to issue a diploma. It's unlikely your student will be asked to present an actual diploma with a college application. But if for some reason you need one, you have the right to make one yourself. HSLDA has worked hard to ensure this legal right for homeschool families. If you are asked to provide a diploma and wish to do so, you can purchase a nice one online, sign it yourself, and even get it notarized if you want.

### What About Scholarships?

More scholarships are available the earlier you apply, and beginning the application process during the summer will give your student a head start on meeting scholarship deadlines. Some scholarships are linked directly to the admissions application. However, most colleges require separate applications for scholarships. Much of the information required on these forms will be similar to what's asked for on the admissions application, but there will often be requests befitting the theme of the scholarship as well. For example, students applying for a scholarship in art or music may be asked to submit samples of their work.



### Filling Those “Difficult” Spaces

Besides the usual name, address, transcript, standardized test scores, volunteer hours, and extra-curricular activities, there are two spaces on most college applications that often take homeschooled students by surprise. And so students either have to scramble at the last minute (not recommended), trying to remember their past accomplishments and probably forgetting a few. Some students end up leaving these blank, which is never a good idea on an application (except for the space asking if you've ever committed a felony).

The first of these difficult spaces is “Honors and Awards.”

Of course, the dynamics of homeschooling don't usually lend themselves to honors such as “Top Ten GPA in Graduating Class.” But don't worry. If you plan ahead, you can intentionally expose your teen to opportunities in which he or she can excel and earn notable awards and honors. Even if your teen is going to be a senior next year, your student can still begin now thinking back over the high school years and preparing a list of accomplishments.

Homeschoolers stand out in a crowd. They are innovators who think outside the box, and they are trained problem solvers. So homeschool students should have no difficulty showing that they possess rock-solid character and an ability to achieve. That's what this application blank is

looking for: something the student has done that is exemplary, that sets him or her apart from the crowd. That said, colleges are not looking for awards earned during the elementary or middle school years—they want to hear only about high school honors. So if your teens participate in a sport or science fair or art show, for example, keep track of any awards they earn. If they're working at a part-time job and earn some type of recognition, write that down.



The second difficult space is often called “Positions of Leadership,” in which students are asked to list opportunities they’ve had to lead a group of people or direct projects and activities. It’s likely your student is already doing something he or she can write in this space. Does he play a sport? Did she go on a mission trip? In any of these activities, were they coordinating projects, leading a team, or training others?

This blank space also gives you an opportunity to think outside the box when you plan high school coursework for your teens. With the flexibility in a homeschooler’s schedule, you can let students explore something they love or discover a new interest. Brainstorm with them. Do they like sports, video games, crafts, film, art, music? Encourage them to do something creative in these areas. If they like crafts, suggest putting on a summer craft camp for younger children. How about organizing a fundraiser for a worthy cause that’s important to them? If they enjoy movies, suggest starting a film club. As “president” of the club (give the club an official name), your teen can coordinate monthly meetings where students gather to watch a movie and then together discuss the themes and artistic merits of the film. These kinds of endeavors require leadership and coordination, and these are the traits that colleges are looking for. Additionally, if you plan ahead, many of these activities can either be coordinated with coursework for school or can even qualify as a course themselves.

Remember, this blank space is a place for your student to shine!

### To College and Beyond

As homeschoolers, we aren’t just training our students to get a good score on their SAT exams. We are helping them become mature young men and women of God, ready to take their place as leaders and servants within their community. By planning ahead and exposing them to plenty of opportunities for achievement, we are mentoring our kids so they will be equipped for whatever God has in store for them as adults.

**SHERRI SELIGSON** is the author of *Apologia’s Exploring Creation with General Science, Exploring Creation with Marine Biology, and Internship for High School Credit* and has written companion curricula for feature films such as *Dolphin Tale* and *War Horse*. She also published shark behavior research as a marine biologist at Walt Disney World’s Living Seas pavilion.





# Paying FOR COLLEGE WITHOUT GOING INTO DEBT

BY JEANNIE FULBRIGHT

**Commit your work to the Lord,  
and your plans will be established.  
Proverbs 16:3, ESV**

**M**ost college websites have a page dedicated to scholarships offered by the institution. These financial awards range from a few thousand dollars to a “full ride,” in which tuition, fees, and room and board are fully covered. Typically, these are given to students with a strong academic record and high test scores.

### **Need-Based Scholarships**

Most schools offer significant aid to students who demonstrate financial need.

Elite schools, such as Harvard, Vanderbilt, and Yale, give automatic discounts based on family income. If your child can earn a spot at an elite school and your family income falls below a certain range, you will pay only a fraction of the usual cost to attend that college. The trick, of course, is getting into an elite school, which requires hard work in challenging college-prep courses, strong test scores, and demonstrated passion and leadership. Most students who receive an offer of admission will qualify for some need-based aid.

Financial aid is not limited to elite schools, however. Most universities, especially private institutions, offer need-based scholarships to qualified students. Check the financial aid website of each institution your child is considering.

## Merit-Based Grants and Scholarships

Scholarships and grants based on grade-point average (GPA), test scores, and student achievements abound at most institutions. Some are awarded automatically, while others require an application or essay. Again, visit the website of each college to see how much money your student could earn and what the requirements are.



## Competition Scholarship Programs

These little-known scholarships involve high-achieving students competing directly against one another for a spot in the program. The process can be extremely rigorous, requiring several levels of competition. A lengthy application is usually required, including essays, on-campus activities, and in-person interviews. If your student has strong test scores and has demonstrated leadership, he or she should consider competing for these scholarships.

## Automatic Scholarships

Many schools offer automatic scholarships based on GPA and SAT/ACT scores. Students need not apply for the scholarship; it is awarded upon acceptance. For example, out-of-state students accepted to the University of Arizona are given an automatic scholarship based on the following chart:

	ACT 30+ SAT 1390+	ACT 26–29 SAT 1240–1380	ACT 22–25 SAT 1100–1230
GPA 3.75–4.0	\$16,000–18,000	\$12,000–15,000	\$8,000–12,000
GPA 3.25–3.75	\$14,000–18,000	\$10,000–14,000	\$8,000–10,000
GPA 3.00–3.25	\$12,000–14,000	\$8,000–14,000	\$6,000–8,000

Many colleges offer these kinds of automatic scholarships. Spending time and effort to improve SAT or ACT scores can yield an enormous return on the investment. Because of this, you should consider designing a high school course around these tests, using materials that will help your child increase his or her score.

## Institutional Discounts

In addition to scholarships and grants, many colleges (especially private schools) offer discounted tuition for students who want to attend but cannot afford to do so.

Upon acceptance to the college, the bursar's office sends the student a financial package detailing the cost of attendance. The offer is based on the family's income as reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the College Board's College Scholarship Service (CSS) profile. Both of these should be completed during the fall of your child's senior year.

If the school's offer is not affordable, parents can send a written appeal to the financial aid officer, outlining why additional financial aid is needed. They should explain how much the child desires to attend the college as well as why he or she will be an asset on campus. Colleges are more likely to discount tuition for students who demonstrate real interest in their school. They take note of which college you listed first on the FAFSA, how many times you contacted and visited their school, attendance at specific recruiting events, and whether or not you follow, comment, or "like" their admissions department posts on social media.



One private college actually listed the automatic discounts they offer to accepted students. Here is the chart they provided:

Discount	Reason
\$3,000 per year	Because the student/parent asked
\$2,000 per year	Because the student lives out of state
\$62 per year	For every A on the transcript
\$400 per year	For every rigorous course on transcript
\$1,800 per year	For an excellent letter of recommendation
\$115 per year	For every 10 points on the SAT
\$425 per year	For every point on the ACT
\$2,500	For filling out the FAFSA

In order for a college to understand your financial circumstances, it's important they receive a copy of your CSS profile. This profile gives the school a more complete picture of your financial situation. Visit [cssprofile.collegeboard.org](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org) for more information.

### Tuition-Free Institutions

Yes, these schools actually exist. Tuition-free colleges often have criteria for admission, such as demonstrated financial need, commitment to work on campus, short-term military service or work commitment upon graduation, or a commitment to a certain field or career path. Below is a list of tuition-free institutions that offer respected degrees:

- Alice Lloyd College
- Barclay College
- Berea College
- Blackburn College
- Central Christian College of the Bible
- College of the Ozarks
- Cooper Union
- Curtis Institute of Music
- Deep Springs College
- Ecclesia College
- Haskall Indian Nations University
- Sterling College
- Warren Wilson College
- Webb Institute
- William E. Macaulay Honors College
- Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades
- United States Air Force Academy
- United States Coast Guard Academy
- United States Merchant Marine Academy
- United States Military Academy
- United States Naval Academy



### State Scholarships

Most U.S. states offer some form of grants and/or scholarships, including need-based grants for low-income students, merit-based scholarships for high-achieving students, and scholarships for students

pursuing certain majors or degrees. For more information about the grants and scholarships your state offers and how to get them, visit [www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/states.htm](http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/states.htm).

### **Tuition-Free States**

Some states actually offer free tuition for residents attending a state school or community college. Usually, certain criteria must be met and the student must apply to receive the award. States currently offering free tuition include Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

### **State Alliance Programs**

In-state tuition at a state school is often quite reasonable compared to out-of-state tuition. For example, in-state tuition at the University of Georgia is about \$12,000 per year. However, students coming from another state will pay \$30,000 to attend the same school.

Fortunately, several states have formed alliances with other states to offer a deep discount on tuition for students coming from allied states. Some restrictions may apply. Look at the list below to learn if your state is part of such an alliance. Then search online to find out which colleges participate and how to apply.

Midwest Student Exchange: Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Western Undergraduate Exchange: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States.

Regional Student Program: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. For students whose state does not offer the degree they are seeking.

Southern Regional Education Board's Academic Common Market: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. (Florida, North Carolina, and Texas participate at the graduate level only.) For students whose state does not offer the degree they are seeking.





## Filing the FAFSA

Although the federal government does not offer a great deal of money, applying for federal aid is a must for every student. Colleges require students to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, before they consider offering any discounts. Visit [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov) to complete the form.

The FAFSA opens in October and should be filled out as early as possible because the federal government gives aid on a first-come, first-served basis. Depending on need, FAFSA offers three options for student aid:



1. **Grants:** The student is granted free money that does not have to be paid back.
2. **Work study:** The student works or volunteers somewhere, and in return, the government pays a portion of his or her tuition. He or she can earn money for the work, and it does not affect the amount the government gives.
3. **Loans:** The student is offered a low-interest loan that must be paid back. Some loans can be declined, but others must be accepted. Some accrue interest, while others do not. Most people will qualify for a loan, even if they apply late.

## Final Thoughts

There are also thousands of private scholarships available, yet many go unclaimed each year. These typically require a lengthy application, essays, letters of recommendation, and even interviews. There are websites dedicated to helping match students to private scholarships. Search “private scholarship match” to find the most helpful sites.

As you consider any school, don't be discouraged by that astronomical sticker price posted online. Resources for college funds abound! As the saying goes: Where God guides, He provides. Commit your child's future to the Lord, and He will guide you, providing all the resources you need to accomplish His will.

*JEANNIE FULBRIGHT is a mother of four and the best-selling author of **Apologia's Young Explorer Series**. Jeannie and her husband, Jeff, are dedicated to teaching and encouraging families, speaking on topics such as developing a powerful prayer life, building a strong marriage, nurturing a happy and healthy family, and handling the nuts and bolts of homeschooling. You can access many of Jeannie's encouraging articles and subscribe to her blog at [www.jeanniefulbright.com](http://www.jeanniefulbright.com).*



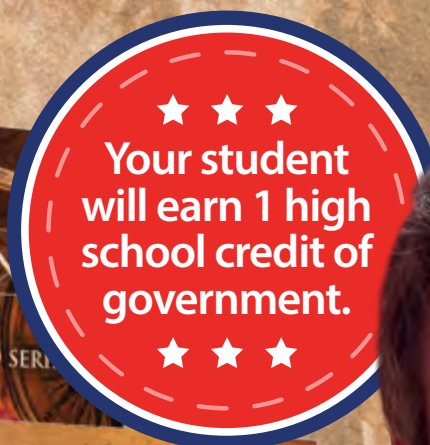
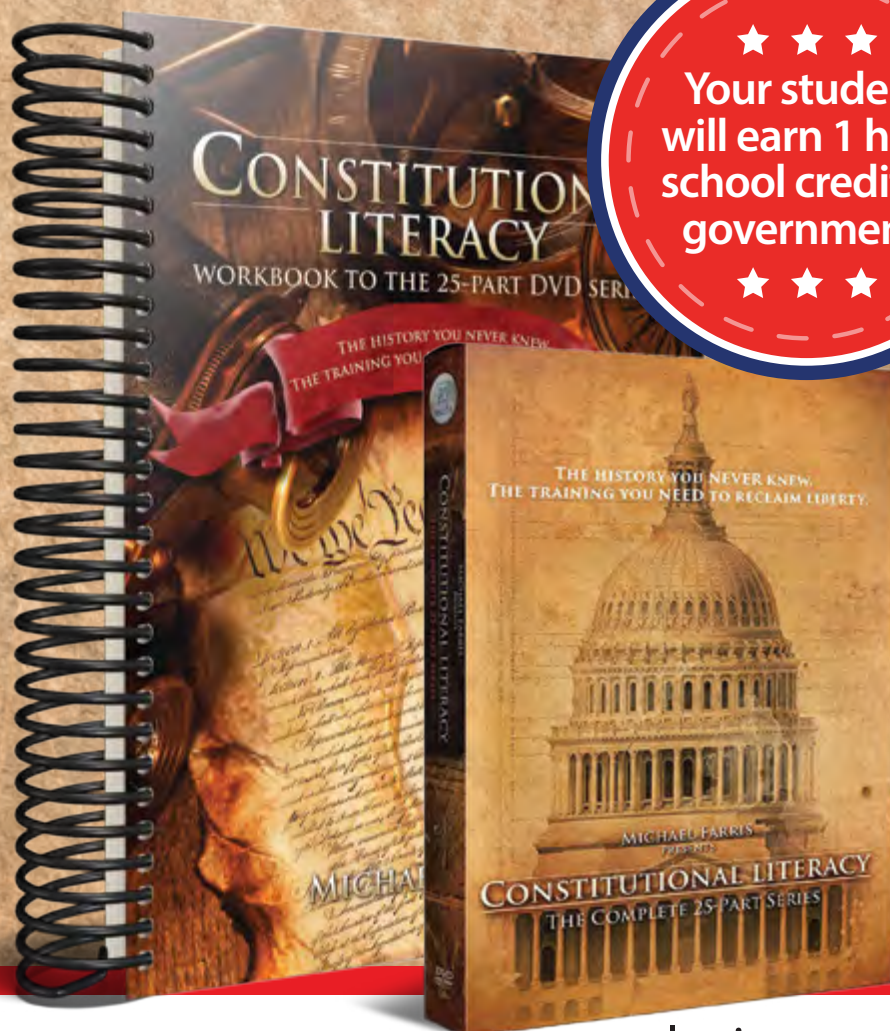


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# 5 Steps

## TO SUCCESS IN AN APOLOGIA SCIENCE COURSE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

The study of science is fascinating, and Apologia textbooks and student notebooks were specifically designed to help both parents and students simplify the subject matter and ensure successful independent study.

### 1. Scheduling – It's All Done for You

The suggested schedule found in every student notebook allows students to complete an entire textbook, experiments and all, in approximately two weeks of work per module. Families should review the schedule and modify it to fit their needs as necessary. Students check off each day when the assigned work is completed as a way of recording their progress. At a glance, parents can easily see their student's advancement.

### 2. On Your Own – Independent Studying

Apologia textbooks and notebooks are written to students in a conversational tone so that young people can easily navigate through the curriculum on their own. As they engage in a conversation with science, they become confident to not only speak about science subjects but also understand the science happening in their world.

The **Apologia science curriculum** helps students methodically learn, self-check, and master difficult concepts before moving on. Students read their textbooks, take notes on the subject matter, and answer all the On Your Own questions as they occur in their course. These questions are intended to help

students test their knowledge before they progress through each module. There is no skimming over the reading materials only to find gaps in comprehension during a test.

Students read each On Your Own question and create a written answer in their student notebooks. It's a way of making students put into their own words the knowledge they are expected to master. Students self-check the answers, which can be found at the end of each appropriate module. If the answers are correct, students move forward with their studies. If the answers are incorrect, students analyze the detailed correct answer, review the textbook materials, and make sure that comprehension of the subject matter is achieved before moving forward. On Your Own answers are not graded.

### **3. Hands-On/Minds-On - Experiments**

Students of all ages are full of “why” and “wow.” They're fun to watch when something has caught their attention. You can almost see their world expand as they build on the knowledge about the world in which they live. We call it the “AHA Moment!”

Apologia science is designed to have the hands-on experimental component that is easily performed in a homeschool setting. While textbooks are necessary to help students acquire scientific facts, it is essential for students to actively participate in the scientific process of discovery to gain a personal awareness of their world.

Apologia textbooks have two types of experiments:

- Controlled experiments teach students about formulating a hypothesis and data collection.
- Descriptive experiments, such as microscopy work, field studies, and dissections teach students about qualitative observations.

All experiments teach students how to collect and analyze data, both scientific and mathematical, to formulate a hypothesis based on inductive and deductive problem-solving skills, and to understand the limitations of data and conclusions.

Every student notebook has dedicated pages for lab reports. These templates help students write complete lab reports using the scientific method. When students come to each experiment in their reading, they gather all of the supplies listed and set them out on their work table. Students read over the procedure and instructions completely, thinking through how they will complete each step. They then carefully complete each step. The experiment section of student notebooks helps students keep accurate, legible records of their experiments. Experiments are graded.

### **4. Studying for Exams - A Guided Process**

After spending some time reviewing their notes, On Your Own questions and answers, and assigned experiments, students are prepared to complete the Study Guide in order to prepare for their exams.

Students should first attempt to answer every question without the aid of any notes and then analyze how far they got. If they were able to complete the Study Guide successfully, they should move on to their exam. If there are areas that students cannot complete, they should first use their notes to complete unfinished sections. If their notes are not sufficient to answer the remaining Study Guide questions, they learn that they need to take more detailed notes in the future. Ultimately, students can refer back to the textbook to find the answers. This process of knowledge first, notes second, and restudy third helps students to learn good notetaking and study habits. When the Study Guide is complete, the student should self-check their answers against the Solutions Manual. Students should fix any incorrect responses before moving on to the exam. Study Guide answers are not graded.



## 5. Exams – Applying Learned Knowledge

Students will take an exam after each module. These exams should be considered closed-book exams which means that students should be given the exam and tested on their knowledge without the aid of their textbooks or notebooks. Apologia recommends that student exams be graded by a parent. The answers to the exams can be found in the Solutions Manual.

We also recommend that parents give the graded exam back to the student and permit the student to use notes and textbook to correct any incorrect answer. Half credit can be given for these responses once they are corrected properly. We recommend this technique so that students learn from their mistakes. There is no purpose to moving on if understanding is lacking. Exams are graded.

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