



**TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**  
High School College Planning Guidebook  
2025-2026

[timothychristian.com/academics/high-school/college-counseling](https://timothychristian.com/academics/high-school/college-counseling)



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 **Go Beyond.**

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# The College Planning Time Table

The key to successful college planning is getting started early and being well organized. The time table below gives a suggested systematic approach to help guide you through activities that lead to college selection.

Each year the high school counseling department hosts various workshops, college fairs, and college visits, in addition to working with students during the school day. However, all of these opportunities will be helpful only if the student and parents take advantage of them and do research and planning on their own at home.

Even more important in making a college decision than using all of the resources provided at Timothy and in this guidebook is for the student and family to seek the guidance of the Lord. The counseling department encourages all students and families to pray for direction and clarity throughout this process and to lean on the words of Jeremiah 29: 11-13:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

## **FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES**

- Carefully plan your curriculum to meet basic college requirements.
- Develop strong study skills and ask for assistance as needed.
- Get involved in at least one activity that you enjoy.
- Seek out opportunities to develop non-academic skills, such as leadership, responsibility, distinct talents, and service.
- Freshmen will take the PSAT 8/9 in the fall.
- Sophomores will take the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall.

## **Junior Year To-Do List**

### **September - December**

- Self - discovery
  - Make a list of your likes, dislikes, etc. (what are your skills, favorite subjects, what are you possibly interested in studying in college?)
  - Access your [Scoir](#) account to begin college exploration
    1. Log on to Scoir: <https://www.scoir.com/> (Check your Timothy email to activate your account if you've never accessed Scoir before)
      - a. Username = Timothy email address
      - b. Password = You create

- College discovery
  - Start a college list using Scoir's '[Discover](#)' tool to build your '[My Colleges](#)' list
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October
- Consider your financial aid need
  - Talk as a family; it is never too early to start talking openly about the cost of a college education.
  - Explore online calculators
    - Check out online tools and calculators to get an idea of what college might cost you. Students that are linked with parents in Scoir can work together to use Scoir's '[Cost Calculator](#)'.
    - Another helpful website to get a an idea of what attending various colleges will cost for your family: <https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price>
- Register with the NCAA
  - If you are a student athlete planning to play in college, make sure you register with the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)

### January - May

- Register to take the ACT or SAT
  - Whether it is your first time or you want to test again, look into available spring dates for the [SAT](#) and/or [ACT](#), and register online.
- Build your list
  - Continue researching colleges based on type, major, cost, and more.
- Break out your calendar (again)
  - Look into opportunities to further explore colleges on your list - through an in-person visit or online visit, college fair or a few hours of research online.
- Understand sources of financial aid
  - Continue to conduct research and understand the different types of [sources of financial aid for college](#).
- Request letters of recommendation
  - Typically, students request a letter of recommendation from a core subject teacher. Ask a teacher before summer break to allow ample time for them to write your letter.

### June - August

- Prepare for the FAFSA
  - The [FAFSA](#) will open October 1 of your senior year. You'll want to apply as soon as possible once it is available. Over the summer, you can create a username and password and collect financial documents needed to complete the FAFSA.
- Visit college near and far
  - As your time allows, use the spring and summer visit campuses.
- Begin work on your college essay(s).
  - [Common App essay prompts](#)
- Create a [Common Application](#) account

## **Senior Year To-Do List**

### **August - December**

- Finalize your college list
  - Narrow down your list to 6-8 balanced colleges
- Consider and plan for re-testing (if necessary)
  - There is still time to retest if you want/need to increase your ACT/SAT score
- Complete the [FAFSA](#)
  - It becomes available on October 1st!
- Complete the [CSS Profile](#)
  - Check to see if you're applying to a school that accepts this application for aid
- Finalize your essays
  - Have someone proofread your work!
- Stay on top of recommendations
  - Complete the student and parent brag sheet on scoir to ensure your recommenders can write you a stellar letter of recommendation
- Prepare for early applications
  - [Are you applying early?](#) Mark your calendars with due dates and have your materials ready!

### **January - March**

- Confirm your applications
  - Make sure you've received confirmation of your applications - it's never a bad idea to double check!
- Verify your financial aid
  - Take time to review your [Student Aid Report \(SAR\)](#).
- Research scholarship opportunities
  - Are there scholarships you might be eligible for through:
    - Your colleges
    - Parent's employer
    - Church
    - Community (Timothy maintains a list of community based scholarships and distributes it to seniors through the winter)
- Meet with your counselor
  - Update Mr. Huizinga and Mrs. Aguilar (and Scoir) on college acceptances and meet with us to discuss any questions you may have
- Write thank-you notes
  - Thank your teachers and mentors who wrote you a letter of recommendation. Show your appreciation!
- Continue making memories!
  - Enjoy your senior year to its fullest!

## April - May

- Keep your grades up
  - How you finish your senior year matters; Colleges are still paying attention
- Review financial aid offer letters
  - Since there is no standard financial aid award letter, it is critical that you [review your letters](#) to ensure you are accepting the best package for you and your financial situation.
- Make final decisions
  - With your final options in hand, it is time to make a choice. Listen to this helpful [podcast](#) from Scoir for tips on making this choice. Once you've made a choice, you need to reply with an acceptance or rejection.
- Consider your waitlist options
  - Have you been waitlisted? Carefully [consider what your next steps](#) will be so that you can proceed with confidence
- Make your final deposit
  - Send the school you'll be attending the deposit due
- Register for orientation and make housing deposit
- Request your final transcript be sent to college of choice
  - Timothy will send your final transcript in mid-June, after graduation and once all grades are finalized.
- Celebrate!
  - You did it! We are so proud of you and are excited for this new and exciting chapter in your life!

# Selecting a College

## 1. Know Yourself

Before you can begin exploring colleges and creating a list of potential schools to which to apply, you must first ask yourself some important questions. We encourage all families to discuss these questions together as well as to discuss the student's educational and career goals and vision they have for life after Timothy Christian High School.

- Why do I want to go to college?
- What are my motives?
- What are my interests?
- What are my abilities, both academic and non-academic?
- What are my values?

To help students, we strongly encourage them to take the PrinciplesYou and career interest assessments within Scoir. PrinciplesYou helps students learn about their tendencies, talents, and core dimensions of their personality to help find the right career and college.

## 2. Is it a good fit?

Once you have thought about and discussed your reasons for going to college and thought through your personal strengths, weaknesses, interests, abilities, and values as a student and person, you can begin to consider the type of college or university that may be the best fit for you. Once you decipher the type of college you would like to attend, you can begin to research specific schools.

Timothy Christian has partnered with [The Scoir College Network](#) to enable our students to find their best-fit college(s). From their college search engine, college compare tool, blogs, webinars and more, Scoir provides students with everything they need to conduct a thorough and well thought out college search, and is the 'homebase' for all things college planning at Timothy Christian High School.

There are five main areas to consider when determining best fit:

### Academic

- Do I meet the admissions requirements of the school?
- Does the school provide the major I would like to study?
- What is the average class size?
- Are professors easily accessible?

### Financial

- Does the total cost of attendance fit our family budget?
- Do I qualify for merit scholarships?

- Does the school offer grants or other need-based aid besides loans?
- How much will I have to borrow to attend?

### Spiritual

- Will I be supported and affirmed in my Christian faith?
- Will I be taught from a Christian worldview?
- Are there chapels or Christian organizations in which I can be involved?

### Social

- Is the campus a friendly and welcoming environment?
- Are the residence halls sufficient?
- How is the student life on campus?
- Are there intramurals and other planned events in which to participate?

### Career

- Does the college provide or require internships?
- Does the college help students acquire internships/field experience?
- Does the college have an active career services office?
- What employers recruit students for their companies from the school?

## College Visits

One of the most helpful resources in your college selection process is the college visit. The visit gives you the opportunity to see the facilities and to visit with students and faculty. Every college puts its "best foot forward" in printed publications and on their web page. Remember, the college you choose will be your new "home" for a number of years. The best time to visit a college is when classes are in session so that you get a true feel of the campus. Summer visits can also be helpful, but they will not provide you with as many opportunities to see all that the campus has to offer.

When planning college visits, always work with the school's admissions office. This will ensure you have the most effective visit experience and give you the best opportunity to speak with professors, admissions and financial aid staff as well as see residence halls, academic buildings, and other important areas of an institution's campus.

Whether you plan to visit one school or dozens, it is imperative that you document your visits; take photos of the campus, write notes to yourself about what you liked and didn't like, and write down key facts you learned about the college during your visit. As you begin to visit more schools, your visits will begin to blend together unless you take the time to write notes and separate each visit from each other. It is also helpful to start a folder or binder for all college planning and visits so you can go back and remember your visits and what you learned.

# College Admissions Test Dates and Deadlines 2025-2026

Both the ACT and SAT are accepted at every college and university in the United States. **NOTE:** You must register for all tests **online yourself**. **Registering early assures you the best selection of test sites.** **NOTE:** It is the **student's responsibility** to request the ACT/SAT scores be sent to the college/university directly by the testing company. Timothy will host the March 14, 2026 SAT.

**Timothy's school code is 141415**

## SAT

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Deadline:</u>
August 23, 2025	August 8, 2025	August 12, 2025
September 13, 2025	August 29, 2025	September 2, 2025
October 4, 2025	September 19, 2025	September 23, 2025
November 8, 2025	October 24, 2025	October 28, 2025
December 6, 2025	November 21, 2025	November 25, 2025
March 14, 2026	February 27, 2026	March 3, 2026
May 2, 2026	April 17, 2026	April 21, 2026
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026	May 26, 2026

## ACT

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Deadline:</u>
July 12, 2025	June 6, 2025	June 20, 2025
September 6, 2025	August 1, 2025	August 19, 2025
October 18, 2025	September 12, 2025	September 30, 2025
December 13, 2025	November 7, 2025	November 24, 2025
February 14, 2026	January 7, 2026	January 21, 2026
April 11, 2026	March 6, 2026	March 24, 2026
June 13, 2026	May 8, 2026	May 27, 2026
July 11, 2026	June 5, 2026	June 24, 2026

## **Resources**

### **Websites**

- <https://www.scoir.com/>: The Scoir College Network
- <http://www.actstudent.org/>: Register for the ACT, college searches
- <https://collegeboard.org/>: Register for SAT, extensive college search and financial aid information
- [www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com): Great free college match website. You can also learn your chances of being admitted and apply for scholarships
- <http://www.nacacnet.org>: National Association for College Admission Counseling
- [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov): Government website with FAFSA and much more very helpful information
- <https://fairtest.org/test-optional-list/>: List of all institutions who do NOT require an ACT or SAT score as part of the admissions process
- [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org): Vast wealth of information of scholarships, scholarship scams, and financial aid programs
- <https://www.salliemae.com>: Great site for planning and financing college
- [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov): Direct site to the application for the FAFSA
- [College Compare Worksheet](#)

### **Blog Articles**

- [Narrowing Down Your College List Before Applying](#)
- [Likely/Level/Reach: Create the Best College List for You](#)
- [4 Questions to Help You Find Your College Fit](#)
- [Why You Should Take College Rankings With a Dose of Cynicism](#)

### **Virtual College Tours**

- [The College Tour](#)
- [Campus Reel](#)
- [YouVisit](#)
- [Campus Tours](#)