

routinely accepted through June 1st. Most often there will be an application fee in the \$50-\$75 range. You will have to submit your ACT or SAT scores along with an official high school transcript. An official transcript is one sent directly from the high school to the college. When the college looks at your transcript they will be looking for what is referred to as "core academic subjects" such as four years of English, three to four years of math, and three years of science. Requirements may vary, but every institution at this level will have an expectation that you took a common core of academic subjects while in high school and did well in those subjects, typically earning a B average. If you did not take a full slate of academic subjects in high school or did not do well enough to be admitted directly to the university of your choice, you can attend your local community college for a semester or two and do well. This will prove your ability and readiness to do college level work; then you can reapply to the university, providing them with your college transcript.

At top universities and elite private schools the requirements for admission go up. This means, in addition to being a very good student, class rank, a writing sample, volunteer service, extracurricular activities, and sports may be considered in the admissions decision. Additionally, the application process starts much earlier, with application deadlines being around November 1st for a following year Fall Semester admission.

Some students send in multiple college applications to assure themselves of being admitted to a college that has the all they are looking for. Others apply to just one institution. Generally speaking, if you are looking at highly selective institutions, applying to several institutions will often be necessary.

Admissions Checklist	✓
ACT or SAT Test Results Sent to the College(s) of your Choice	
Complete and Submit Admissions Application with all required attachments (i.e., essays etc.) and Pay Fee if Required	
Submit High School Transcripts	
Provide proof of Immunization	
Provide proof of Residency	

Remember, colleges are interested in helping you become a student at their institution. They need successful students to exist, and therefore, will be glad to work with you and help you in many ways; seek help, ask questions and you will find the right institution to meet your educational and career objectives.

For more information or assistance call Great Basin College, Admissions and Records at 775 753-2102

The titles of all eight brochures are listed below:

1. *The Benefits of a College Education*
2. *Picking the Right College and Getting Admitted*
3. *Types of Post-secondary Programs and Degrees* (length and purpose of each credential)
4. *The Cost of College and Paying For It* (tuition, fees, books, living expenses and all forms of financial aid)
5. *College Course Basics* (semesters, course construction, outlines, syllabi and definitions)
6. *College Enrollment* (registration for classes, drops and adds and withdrawals)
7. *How to Study and The Difference Between High School and College*
8. *Graduation and Beyond* (transcripts, resumes, job hunting, interviewing, and alumni associations)

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**GBC  
College  
Knowledge**

**2**

**Picking the  
Right College  
and  
Getting Admitted**

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Great Basin College, 2013

[www.gbcnv.edu](http://www.gbcnv.edu)

This brochure describes some of the considerations that go into selecting a college to attend. The brochure is the second in a series of eight that will provide readers information about many important aspects of college.

When thinking about picking a college several questions will need to be answered. These questions are listed below and are treated individually through the balance of the column while considering the differences between public Community Colleges, State Colleges and Universities and Private Colleges.

1. Does the college have the major, program and or courses I want?
2. What is the cost of attendance and can I afford it?
3. Is the college a good fit for my needs relative to size, atmosphere and location?
4. Can I get admitted to the college and program of my choice?

### PROGRAMS OF INTEREST:

When thinking about whether a college has the major, program and or courses you want, it helps to back up a bit and think about what you are going to college for. What are you interested in and how does that fit into a potential career? Talking with teachers, counselors, family and friends can help you clarify these important issues. Once you have an idea about why you are going to college and what you are interested in, you can begin a preliminary search for institutions that provide the majors, programs and courses you want. Today with the internet, the search process is much easier than it once was. Your search can start with a college name that you are interested in, which will bring you to their home page. From there you typically click on "academics" and the college's majors, programs and ultimately courses will be listed. Another way to approach a search would be to enter for example "colleges offering accounting degrees." A fairly comprehensive list of colleges will appear. You can repeat this search over and over again for different majors, programs and courses. Your search can also be narrowed by geographic area.

### COST OF ATTENDANCE:

Once you have assembled a list of colleges you are interested in, the next question that will come to mind relates to cost. As you consider the cost of attendance you will find startling differences ranging from \$4,500 to \$45,000/year for tuition and fees alone. Books, transportation and living expenses (often another \$10,000 to \$15,000) will add to the yearly cost of a college education.

The cost of attendance often depends on the type of institution you are considering and where it is. The least expensive is typically the community college serving your area. It costs less than other institutions for several reasons: 1) courses taught are at the freshmen and sophomore levels, meaning larger sizes and less costly instruction, 2) in many states there is local financial support on top of state support and tuition and 3) students typically live at home which lowers living expenses considerably. If

you choose to attend a college out of your district or state the tuition will typically be much higher because you are not a tax paying resident there. Your permanent address will determine your residency and tuition rate. Next highest in cost are the state colleges and universities. These institutions typically offer bachelor's and graduate degrees (e.g., Masters, and Doctoral degrees). Institutions of this type receive state support. However, because of the higher cost of delivery and little or no local financial support, they charge more in tuition and fees, often charging several times that of community college tuition. Because state colleges and universities are in a single location that covers the entire state, students may need to move to the location of the college and incur extra living expenses. The most expensive of all are the private colleges. They cost the most because the entire cost of a student's education is paid for with tuition and fees, often costing five to ten times the cost of a public college education.

By using the internet and looking at several colleges of interest to you, the cost of attendance (tuition and fees) can be determined. Since 2011, colleges have been required by law to post a "net price calculator" on their web sites. This will give the potential student a very accurate approximation of the total cost of attendance. The cost will typically be given in tuition-per-credit-hour terms. You will be considered a full time student if you take somewhere between 12 and 18 credit hours per semester. If you wanted to receive an associate in 4 semesters (2 years) or a bachelor's degree in 8 semesters (4 years) you will need to take a minimum of 15 hours/semester.

### FINDING A GOOD FIT:

Once you have narrowed your college search based on your specific academic interests and overall cost, you will need to consider fit relative to size, atmosphere and location. Beginning with size, consider what kind of situation makes you feel the most comfortable. Do you enjoy a smaller more intimate setting where you may know many of your classmates or do you prefer a larger campus that provides a degree of anonymity with lots of opportunity and excitement? You might consider a preference for either small town or large city living as an indication about the appropriate college size for you.

Size and atmosphere are closely linked. Bigger schools provide what some refer to as "the total college experience" including big time sports, dorm living, fraternities and sororities, research, graduate degrees, and multiple cultural and entertainment opportunities. Smaller schools offer some of these amenities, but because of cost, they must focus on the core mission of academics and student learning outcomes.

Think about the location of the colleges on your short list. Will the locations of the institution permit you to visit friends and family as you choose, or will the distance from home be

prohibitive? Are you interested in something that takes you out of your old environment? Visit the colleges you are considering and feel the fit; call ahead and the college will be happy to meet with you and arrange for a tour. Many educators consider the idea of fit to be the most important in terms of student success in completing a degree program and happiness while doing so.

### GETTING ADMITTED:

The next step in college attendance is getting admitted to the institution of your choice. Just as there were different costs for the different types of colleges, there are differences in how you apply and get admitted. Community colleges are designed to provide access to higher education. As such, they have an open admissions policy, meaning most students will be accepted to the college if they apply. However, if you want any kind of federal financial aid, you will need to be a high school graduate or have a GED (i.e., General Equivalency Diploma). Some community colleges charge a modest application fee while others do not. Sometimes the application fee is waived if it presents a financial hardship to the applicant. Also, some programs, like nursing, have a second application process with several admissions criteria. This means being admitted to a college does not always guarantee your admission to a specific program.

Additionally, most schools of higher education require ACT American College Testing or SAT Scholastic Aptitude Test results. High school students often take the ACT test during their junior or senior year and designate what schools they want the test results to be sent. At the community college level, these test results will be used to place you in the appropriate level of English and Math or indicate the need for additional placement testing. At state colleges, universities and private schools you will typically need to score at a certain level to be admitted to the college (see the table below). Information about ACT and SAT testing are available at high schools and colleges, as well as, on the testing company's web site.

College Type	ACT and/or SAT Test Score (Typically required for admission to all schools types)
Community College	Take the test and submit scores, an ACT of less than 18 or SAT of less than 800 will typically mean you will have to take some developmental courses in math, or English to prepare you for college level work.
State College or University	ACT 22 Composite or higher, SAT 1040 Critical Reading and Math
Private College or University	ACT 31-34, SAT 1350-1490

Most colleges also require proof of immunization for preventable diseases (i.e., Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Measles, Mumps and Rubella). If you have moved around a lot in your life or received the immunizations as a child, providing the necessary proof can be a bit of a chore; regardless proof of immunization will be required.

When applying for admission to a state college or university, you will need to again start by filling out an application for admission. Typically there is an early spring priority application deadline although applications are