



DANIEL'S college + scholarship TIPS

My college experience at Toccoa Falls College (Georgia) was one of the most memorable, formational, and growing experiences of my life. For four years I was able to learn from great people, serve, test out my abilities, grow in my relationship with the Lord, and build strong relationships with lifelong friends. While gaining all of these great experiences I also received a great college education and a degree!

I highly suggest going to a Christian college because this is an important time in your life in which you can be shaped by strong Christian friends, professors, and serving experiences, receive training in the Bible, as well as earn a marketable degree. (In college, I was mentored by professors, grew in the Lord because of my Christian friends, was stretched through different serving opportunities, gained a new understanding of the Bible, and also received a degree in communications with a focus in psychology and youth ministry.)

If you are not sure what career path you would like to pursue, College of Du Page is an excellent option. You can spend a year or two taking all of your general classes (for a lot less money). You can also get involved in the 18.20something group at Bloomingdale Church..

If you go to a public university or private college, I highly suggest immediately getting involved in an on-campus Christian group such as Campus Crusade, Fellowship of Christian Athletes or Intervarsity as well as a local church.

The journey to the college experience begins now.



College Discovery

What is God calling you to do with your life? If you could choose any career path at this point, what would it be?

- Begin to ask God to guide you in what vocation you should pursue.
- If you are looking into public universities/private colleges, consider:
 - What Christian on-campus groups are available?
 - Is there a church that you would feel comfortable attending?
 - Are you spiritually prepared to live in an environment with many temptations?
 - What kind of scholarship does the college offer?

◦If you are looking into Christian colleges, consider:

- What kind of “Christian” college are they? (You do not have to be a Christian at some Christian colleges...this changes the experience big time.)

- *In my opinion, there are three types of Christian colleges: a Christian college where there is Christian influence, but not everyone is necessarily a Christian (Hope); a Christian college where there is strong Christian influence with a liberal arts focus (Wheaton, Taylor, Bethel, IWU); a Christian Bible college with strong Christian influence and extra Bible class requirements (Crown, Toccoa Falls, Moody)

- How many Bible classes are a part of your general education?

- What is chapel like? Do people go?

- What is the spiritual climate like on campus? Are students there to grow in their faith or party? Are students involved in regular ministry?

- What kind of scholarship does the college offer? ◦Start reading about what colleges fit you.

For Christian colleges, consider:

- Going to www.christiancollegeguide.net

- Googling: “Christian Colleges”

- Attending a college fair (there is at least one in the area every semester)

- Reading Daniel’s “Christian College Descriptions”

◦Visit colleges in person

- Do not go on a campus preview weekend. (We joked at my college that this was the only time that the food was good and the flowers were blooming.)

- Ask current students on campus why they like it. Ask them if they are growing in their relationship with the Lord. Ask them what they are involved in. Ask them about chapel, intramural sports and varsity sports teams, available ministries, professors, etc.

◦Apply for colleges early!

- I suggest applying in the fall of your senior year.

- You are more likely to get accepted when you apply early.

- Once accepted, you can then apply for financial aid. (The earlier you apply, the more likely you are to receive it.)

◦Take high school AP classes or summer COD classes.

- If you feel comfortable with a particular subject and your high school offers it as an Advanced Placement class, you can get college credit.

- COD offers summer classes for discount. You can take one of these classes after you graduate.

- Taking AP classes in high school and COD classes is a cheaper way to take general education classes (math, history, English, science). For my brother Joel and I, it opened up the opportunity to take other classes that we were interested in at college.

◦Finish strong.

- Once you have been accepted to a school, the tendency is to neglect your current high school life and fantasize your future college life. Don’t do this. Finish well in your high school and youth group experience.

Finish strong: Leave a legacy in someone else’s life before you graduate!

**Fear: College is expensive.
Fear not: Free money is available!**

Scholarships

■ There are three requirements to winning scholarships (Scholarship committees want to see that you are well-rounded):

- Good grades (A-B average is helpful) & ACT scores
- After school involvement (sports, activities)
- Community service (*Community service is the most important!*)

A simple plan to follow (freshman-senior year):

- Strive for good grades.
 - The best grades will not earn you a scholarship, but bad grades will definitely hurt your chances.
- Take the ACT practice course and/or practice tests.
- Do after school activities
 - Play a sport. (If you are just an average athlete, consider doing a sport like cross country or track. It will keep you in shape and looks great for scholarships)
 - Be involved in a school club or activity. (Band, student council, mathletes, ect).
 - I was loosely involved with student council and youth and government in high school. It did not take much time, I got to hang out with my friends, and I then wrote that I did it on scholarship applications!
- Do community service.
 - You have a great advantage being involved at Bloomingdale Church and the youth group because we are constantly doing service projects and most of you are involved in a regular serving activity (children's church, Day Camp, Awana, media team, SMT, music team, etc).
 - Scholarship committees want to give money to students who are serving in the community.
- Document everything you do.
 - Beginning your freshman year, document your extracurricular activities for later reference. (I would include everything from weekly activities to one-time service projects.)
- Professionally organize your activities in "understandable" terminology.
 - During your Junior-Senior summer/Senior fall, take time to neatly organize your involvements on a computer. (I suggest making a chart that includes hours involved and a short description of the activity.)
 - Describe church service projects using non-church language. (Example: Gulf Coast Missions trip is now described as "Gulf Coast Hurricane Relief Trip: Served in Louisiana on June 25-July 3, 2006 by assisting in rebuilding efforts, cleaning up damaged homes and yards, and listening to people's stories.")
- Search for scholarships (Senior year is by far the best year to get scholarships)

Even if you think you are going to a community college first, you still should apply for scholarship senior year!

- Sign up for free FastWeb scholarship search.
- Talk to school guidance counselor about available scholarships.
- Scholarships ideas: retail chains (Target, Best Buy), schools (your elementary, middle, and high school), local (chamber of commerce, women's club, city), workplace (your parent's work, your work), and ethnicity (Italian American).
- When filling out scholarship applications, be professional!
 - Print neatly (type if possible). Type out all application questions
 - Turn it in ahead of time.

FastWeb.com

- Reuse information
 - Many applications ask for the same information. Since you have already organized your activity involvement (on the computer) and answered some of the same questions, you can save time on the next scholarship application.
- Ask for recommendations early.
 - Give them plenty of time to fill out the application (at least 3-4 weeks!)
 - Attach a cover letter that includes any instructions as well as some helpful information about what activities you have been involved in. (Your math teacher probably does not know that you coached little league soccer!)
 - As the deadline approaches, follow-up and politely remind the recommender that you need the recommendation by the deadline.
 - Write a thank you note when they give you the recommendation.
- Get the scholarship check personalized.
 - If you win a scholarship and the committee gives you the option of the check being written to you, do this! When colleges see that you have won outside scholarships, they sometimes will pull back some of the aid that they said they would give you.

Remember, if you spend ten hours preparing a scholarship application and win \$500 dollars, you are making \$50 an hour without tax. Can you say, "Free money!"

Recommendation Request and
Scholarship Application Sample

Recommendations

You will need to get recommendations for most college and scholarship applications. Make sure to request the recommendation *at least three weeks in advance*. It is also very helpful to write down some of the activities you are involved in so the recommender knows what to write about you. Give the recommender a stamped, addressed envelope.

Recommendations Request Letter Sample

Dear Mr. Pavone,

I would appreciate it if you could write a recommendation for me for the "Chicagoland Italian American Charitable Organization Scholarship." Enclosed are two supplemental materials that will help you write an accurate recommendation. You do not need to turn in those along with the recommendation. I have also given you an addressed envelope. Can you please mail it by April 1, 2000?

Thanks for all your time and love.

Sincerely,

Daniel Riemenschneider

Scholarship Thank You Letter Sample

Dear Westfield Junior High,

Thank you so much for awarding me your scholarship. I appreciate all your efforts in raising money to support college-bound students like myself. I am thankful for the enjoyable years at Westfield. It was great transition school for me from elementary school into Lake Park. I appreciate the support of the staff who has encouraged me in my academic journey. I plan on going to Toccoa Falls College outside Atlanta, Georgia. I want to major in communications arts. I will be graduating on June 8, 2000. I am looking forward to meeting you at the Scholarship Awards Night at Lake Park High School. Thank you once again for your support.

Sincerely,

Daniel Riemenschneider

Activity Chart Sample

Activity	No. of years participated	Special Awards	Offices held
Cross Country	2	Varsity letter, All-Academic Conference	
Youth Group Music Band	3		Music leader
Varsity Club	1		
Day Camp Teacher	4		
National Honor Society	2	(Selected into this prestigious group)	NHS inducted member

Extracurricular Activities Sample Summaries

*Marching Band

-I was involved in this activity during my Freshman and Sophomore years. This activity required a major investment of time and dedication. The rewards were Grand National Champions and State Champions in 1996 and State Champions in 1997.

*Track and Field

-I have been involved with this sport for all four years of my high school career. I am a distance runner. I have earned a varsity letter and the All-Academic Conference award.

*National Honor Society

-N.H.S. is a prestigious group in which members are selected for academic achievement and community involvement. I was inducted last spring. This year, we have raised money for charity.

*Student Leadership Team

-In this group, selected leaders get together once a month to plan activities and service projects for the church youth group. We also try to make our peers feel accepted.

*Bloomingdale Church Day Camp

-For one week in June, kids throughout the community pour into Bloomingdale Church for a week of music, games, skits, crafts, and other activities. I have served for the past five years as a band member, a drama person, and a teacher's assistant.

Charitable Activities Sample Summaries

*Mexico Trip

I, along with twelve teens, traveled to Mexico for a week during my Sophomore summer of high school. We divided the time there between building a small house, visiting people living in a nursing home, teaching children in an afternoon camp. We also provided toys for less fortunate families.

*Homeless Ministry

Once a month, from October to April, my family helped provide and serve a meal to those less fortunate. We also assisted them with much needed clothes, blankets and personal items. We did this every year while in high school.

*Jr. High Camp Counselor

I spent a week as a counselor to Jr. Highers. It was a challenging week working with them, but it proved to be enjoyable.

*Thirty Hour Famine

-As a fundraiser, I pledged to not eat for thirty hours to raise money for people without food to eat. I have done this three times.

Christian College Descriptions

{This list is not exhaustive.

If you have any colleges/notes to add for future publication, please email
danielr@bloomingdalechurch.org)

Illinois

College Name	Website	Type of College	Alumni/ Current	Highlights/ Notes
Greenville	Greenville.edu	Christian Liberal Arts		50 majors, strong Christian focus, 4 hour drive
Judson	Judson-il.edu	Christian Liberal Arts/Christian Influenced		In Elgin, great facilities & sports
Moody Bible Institute	Moody.edu	Bible College	Kora Taube	Free tuition! Great ministry & Bible training, in Chicago, city-experience
North Park	Northpark.edu	Christian Liberal Arts/Christian Influenced		In Chicago, city-experience
Trinity Christian	Trnty.edu	Christian Liberal Arts	Maddy Manden/ Lauren Gattuso/ Brent Steinke/ Alberto LaRosa	1 hour drive, Christian ministry opportunities
Trinity Intl University	Tiu.edu	Christian Liberal Arts	Nicole Calvin	Excellent sports leadership program, quality academics, 1 hour drive
Wheaton	Wheaton.edu	Christian Liberal Arts	Joel Riem Dan + Katie Bailey Daniel Riem Joe Zanayed Mark Taube Kora Taube Dan Marcello Jen Hampshire Anna Sonnichsen [grad school]	Academic: every teacher has doctorate and is published, great chapel and ministry program, #1 food in country, great intramural program, NCAA: D-3

College Name	Website	Type of College	Alumni/ Current	Highlights/ Notes
Indiana				
Anderson	Anderson.edu	Christian Liberal Arts		
Bethel	Bethel-in.edu	Christian Liberal Arts		
Goshen	Goshen.edu	Christian Liberal Arts		Mennonite
Grace	Grace.edu	Christian Liberal Arts		Grace Brethren denomination
Huntington	Huntington.edu	Christian Liberal Arts		
Indiana Wesleyan University	Indwes.edu	Christian Liberal Arts	Allison Murray Amy Riem	Incredible facilities, fast growth, great residences, good chapel program, good food, nursing program
Taylor	Tayloru.edu	Christian Liberal Arts	Billy Murray Matt Murray Julia Waterman	Great liberal arts college, nice facilities, good academics, many majors
Michigan				
Calvin	Calvin.edu	Christian Influenced		Great facilities, pretty area, very reformed theology
Cornerstone	Cornerstone.edu	Christian Liberal Arts	Anthony Hodges	Pretty area-Grand Rapids, good ministry opps
Hope	Hope.edu	Christian Influenced		
Spring Arbor	Arbor.edu	Christian Liberal Arts	Emily Mohnkern	
Ohio				
Bluffton	Bluffton.edu	Christian Liberal Arts		
Cedarville	Cedarville.edu	Christian Liberal Arts	Nick Grisco	Great facilities, Bible classes, ministry opps, academic
Malone	Malone.edu	Christian Liberal Arts	Matt/Christine Bill Calvin	

College Name	Website	Type of College	Alumni/ Current	Highlights/ Notes
Minnesota				
Bethel	Bethel.edu	Christian Liberal Arts	Erika Hellstrom Ann Waterman Scott Waterman Maggie Pindak Donovan + Andrea Dugan	Great facilities, fast growing, academics
Crown	Crown.edu	Bible College/ Christian Liberal Arts	Nate Kugel Burt Holloway Helen Puls	Great Bible classes and ministry opps, CMA
Northwestern	Nwc.edu	Christian Liberal Arts	Elizabeth Ziecina	Great facilities & academics, pretty campus, friendly
Arkansas				
John Brown	Jbu.edu	Christian Liberal Arts	Mark Taube	Digital Media
Georgia				
Toccoa Falls	Tfc.edu	Bible College/ Christian Liberal arts	Daniel Riem Charissa Failing Andrea Holman Andrea Zanayed Mark Waterman Jen Hampshire	Beautiful campus, great outdoors, excellent Bible classes and ministry opportunities, CMA
New York				
Nyack	Nyackcollege.edu	Christian Liberal Arts/ Bible College	David/Marina Riem	Close to NYC, pretty campus, ministry opportunities and Bible classes, CMA
Colorado				
Colorado Christian	ccu.edu	Christian Influenced	John Lucas	Colorado!
California				
Simpson	Simpson.edu	Christian Liberal Arts/ Bible College		CMA
Biola	Biola.edu	Bible College		
Kentucky				
Asbury	asbury.edu	Christian Liberal Arts	Emily Hellstrom	Small campus, very impressive majors
Florida				
Clearwater	Clearwater.edu	Christian Liberal Arts		
Palm Beach Atlantic	Pbac.edu	Christian Liberal Arts		On Palm Beach!