

Homeschool To College

Helping your children prepare for and succeed in college



We hope you enjoy this preview of some of the information you can expect to receive in the coming days as the Liberty University Homeschool To College Series is published. The following are questions submitted from Teach Them Diligently families and answered in August by Phylcia Masonheimer during our Facebook Chat. Phylcia has spoken on homeschool to college topics at Teach Them Diligently for the last couple of years.

Kristen asked: We are so excited to learn more about this transition from homeschool to college! I would like to learn how homeschoolers prepare their admissions packets. Are they different than other applicants?

Every college has a different set of admissions requirements, and you'd want to check with each college you are looking at to find out what those requirements are. That said, homeschoolers are not at a disadvantage when applying to colleges. The past two decades have proven they are stellar college students! Thus their admissions packets will be similar, if not identical in requirement to what public and private school students submit. At Liberty, our homeschool students submit an application, essay, ACT or SAT score, and high school transcript. The transcript includes a homeschool addendum stating the homeschool complied with all state laws for a secondary education. The only difference between this packet and a public school packet would be the addendum on the transcript!

Ben asked: We are new to home-schooling and have noticed in the various home school environments we've experienced, the pace of life/educating is very different from the faster pace of college. What are some things we can do to help prepare my daughter for the change of pace she will experience?

Every family sets their own homeschool environment and pace. You get to decide what pace is most conducive to your student's academic success. If she needs more time or more attention in a particular subject, don't be afraid to take that time and in some cases, find a tutor, to help her reach her goals. That said, homeschool students are known to be some of the best students in the college environment. They repeatedly perform at the top of their classes and are generally well-liked by professors. One way to acquaint a student with the college environment is to dual enroll at a community college, where the student will be familiarized with the classroom environment and demand of college-level work. They can also dual enroll online, such as with Liberty's Edge program, where the courses are taught from a Christian perspective and are in 8 week terms.

Hannah asked--What scholarships does Liberty offer for SAT/ACT scores? Similarly, Robin asked: What are the best sources for scholarships? I know there are a LOT out there. Any recommendations?

To answer Robin: There are two types of scholarships: institutional scholarships and outside aid. Institutional scholarships come from the university itself, whereas outside scholarships are issued from businesses and organizations that wish to sponsor exemplary students. Institutional scholarships can be found on university websites, under financial aid or through specific academic departments. Outside scholarships can be found on scholarship search sites such as Fastweb.com or even by pitching specific companies, writing letters, and competing in essay competitions. Liberty offers free Scholarship Search live casts that teach students how to apply for outside scholarships. These are very popular live casts and can be found and registered for at this link: [Admissions Livecasts](#)

To answer Hannah's question, we have several scholarships based on a combination of a student's GPA and their standardized test score - whether SAT or ACT (and we do recommend taking both tests, we will always take the higher score!). All of our scholarships are listed on our [Financial Aid web page](#).

Becky asked--Does Liberty accept CLEP credits? How many can an incoming freshman earn before enrollment?

Liberty is very CLEP-friendly! We accept all 34 CLEP tests – although no student would NEED all 34 CLEP tests, but can select which ones fit with their intended program of study. The average score necessary for credit is a 50 or higher (out of 80). To have the CLEP tests reviewed and posted to a student's file, you would request a CLEP transcript from CollegeBoard to be sent to our Office of Admissions. A student would want to selectively choose CLEP tests that are actually going to fit into his or her major of study, and remember that CLEP applies to general education credits - not to the credits they need for their major requirements (generally 300-400 level classes).

Lisa asked-- My son is interested in Criminology, we are starting his sophomore year in a few weeks. What are the courses that he should be focusing on this year?

Lisa, regardless of what major a student is planning to go into, we advise them to follow their state Department of Education guidelines for a high school education (four credits of English, three credits of math, etc.). We have listed our own expectations on our homeschool webpage, found at this link: [Homeschool to College Information Page](#). Parents can decide what courses they wish to take as elective credit, and these may be a good opportunity to explore the student's strengths and interests. If there is a local community college offering a class on criminal justice, your student may benefit from dual enrolling in that class. Job shadowing the field a student wishes to go into can also help him confirm this as his career choice.

Wendy asks: What is required of a homeschool graduate to be accepted into a 4 yr college.

Homeschool students are required to have the equivalent of a secondary education according to their state's guidelines (we speak to this on our homeschool webpage, found at this link: [Homeschool Admissions Policy](#). Every college, however, will have specific standards they look for regarding college preparatory classes. Liberty expects a student to meet the state requirements and provide a transcript detailing the courses taken, grades achieved, and either an SAT or ACT score (or both). Some colleges will ask for course descriptions and the names of curricula; Liberty does not require this. Check with the Offices of Admissions at your top three colleges to find out their requirements.

Lauren asked: How do I handle transcripts, and when do I start recording them?

Great question Lauren, and the one I most commonly receive on the road. Many families record their students' work from the beginning - tracking their entire K-12 homeschool career. But colleges are almost always looking exclusively at the high school academic work, so it is most important to record what is accomplished in grades 9-12. There are many state homeschool organizations that issue transcript templates and even some curriculum companies sell them - such as Teach Them Diligently Planner, an online transcript generator. Liberty offers a sample transcript for our homeschool families to use as a template. We look the work in grades 9-12, with letter and number grading (A = 4.0), and three other items: graduation date, signature of parent, and the homeschool addendum. The addendum is described at this link: [Homeschool Transcripts](#)

Get even more information about homeschool to college and links to even more helpful articles on our [Homeschool To College Page](#) and watch your newsletter for information about forthcoming ebooks, Webinars, chats, and more.