

**NEW 2012 EDITION
OVER 1,200 VERIFIED LINKS**

 College-Path.comSM

2012 EDITION

COLLEGE BOUND

**Proven Ways to
Plan & Prepare
for Getting into
the College
of Your Dreams**

Over 1,200 links to verified college-related resources including financial aid and scholarships

Special admissions information for the artist, the athlete, the military-minded and the home-schooled

100+ minority scholarship websites

Resources for students with disabilities, alternative lifestyles and so much more!

“Using this book is like having your high school college counselor with you all day, every day!”

Christine Hand Gonzales, Ed.D.

PROFESSIONAL COLLEGE COUNSELOR

PRAISE FOR COLLEGE BOUND: Proven Ways to Plan and Prepare For Getting Into the College of Your Dreams

PRAISE FROM STUDENTS

*"College Bound has everything! The first place I went was how to figure out what to major in. The links to O*NET and the career and major profiles really helped. Then I used the link to College Navigator to match majors with colleges. Testing, essay ideas, asking for letters of recommendation, and finding money are all important topics to me. There's so much in this book. No matter what I needed, I found it in College Bound! There's nothing else like it - and I know it helped me get into USC."*

Jessica – University of South Carolina Freshman

"I learned a lot! College Bound really helped me understand how to figure out exactly what I needed to do college-wise. Now that I'm a senior, I'm steps ahead of some of my friends! In College Bound everything I need is just a click away! It's amazing!"

Michelle, High School Senior - Connecticut

"College Bound is awesome! I began my search for a college my junior year when I was interested in playing sports at the Division II or III level and Dr. Chris's book helped a lot. The step-by-step instructions made the process for a student-athlete easy to understand. It also answered all my other questions about visits, the interviews, and the application process. Thanks, Dr. Chris!"

Brian, High School Senior - Connecticut

PRAISE FROM PARENTS

"College Bound by Dr. Christine Hand Gonzales is the bible of the college application process. It is filled with essential checklists and links that cover all the necessary bases. If you have a question about applying to college, the answer can be found here. This organized and practical guide not only imparts the techniques needed to survive the process, it offers a collective wisdom that will make students and their families feel more in control of the experience, allowing them to make a better informed decision regarding that all important college choice."

Gigi Meyers, Development Director and Mother of a Recent Graduate

"It is so refreshing to find a guide that takes you from the very beginning, from middle school to the acceptance to college and beyond. College Bound is well organized, simple to digest, and thorough - covering all areas from special interests to general eventualities, e.g., Naval Academy to Ivy League schools to state institution information. Also the links for financial aid and scholarship information are absolutely essential to families in this financial climate. We are very fortunate to have someone of Dr. Gonzales's caliber walking us through this complicated journey!"

Maureen G. Martin, LCSW, LMFT, Therapist, Mother's Club President; Mother to a Senior

"College Bound has been an amazing resource for our family! With one child in college and another who will graduate in two years, this book is a wealth of information! We are using it to help our daughter prepare for getting into the right school, and we're using it to find additional financing for our son. I would have loved to have this book when he was in high school."

Rose Maire, Mother to a High School Junior and College Sophomore

PRAISE FROM EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

As a high school college counselor and a private consultant, College Bound and the My College Bound Plan workbook have become essential tools in working with my students. The step by step process details every piece of important information needed to for your student to be successful in the college search and with the challenge of applications. I use the workbook with my students and have College Bound on my iPad as an instant resource. I have recommended both of these books to my students and their parents.

Christine Carriuolo, M.S., College Counselor

“This is the ultimate guide to the college search process! It is very well researched and informative with an expansive list of current web resources. This guide has everything you ever wanted to know about the college application process with an emphasis on special admission topics such as students with disabilities, benefits of women’s colleges and diverse populations, to name a few. After 16 years in the field as an Assistant Director of Admission and High School College Counselor, I can actually say that I learned something new from reading the up-to-date, real-time information College Bound provides.”

LePrêt Dickinson Williams, Director of Diversity and Educational Consultant

“College Bound goes beyond other guidebooks in providing an abundance of information about how to afford college, in addition to how to approach the selection process by putting the student first. This top-notch, timesaving resource helps readers move through the maze of websites and search engines in a well-organized fashion. I would highly recommend any college-bound student and parent read this guide.”

Dr. Harold Gonzales, Professor, Author of If You Are Taking an Online Class, Read This First!

“The Author hits the nail on the head! Dr. Chris provides invaluable advice for students and parents in College Bound. She starts with a timeline and leads you through the entire college search and application process all the way through finding money for college. And for parents, she addresses discussions every parent should have with their child revolving around this transition to college life. I’ll be sure to share this thorough and comprehensive guide with my students and their families.”

Dr. Teresa Wilburn, Longtime Counselor, School Administrator, College Professor, and Gates Millennium Scholars Consultant

“What a wonderful resource for prospective college students of all ages, as well as for parents! If I were planning to go back to school, I would certainly use this tremendous resource. The fact that it is an eBook makes it that much easier to use! For middle school and high school students who are so technologically savvy, this makes sense. There is such an abundance of resources that I truly believe that you could not have written a better title. With College Bound, how can one not get into the college of his/ her choice! Bravo!”

Karen Dessables, Executive Director, Reach for Excellence Program

ABOUT THE AUTHOR – “DR. CHRIS”



*Dr. Christine Hand Gonzales, author of **College Bound: Proven Ways to Plan and Prepare for Getting into the College of Your Dreams** and “**My College Bound Plan**”, is a consultant, instructor, high school college counselor, and registered therapist with more than 20 years of experience. Her work with high school juniors and seniors has focused on career exploration and college counseling. Dr. Gonzales earned a Doctorate in Counseling Psychology from Argosy University, a Masters in Counseling Education from the University of Bridgeport, and a B.A. in Art Education and Economics from St. Lawrence University. Dr. Gonzales is also an adjunct professor for UCLA’s online College Counseling Certificate Program. To contact Dr. Gonzales or to learn more about College Bound, “My College Bound Plan”, or College-Path.com, see the **College Path** website at <http://www.college-path.com>.*

*The 2012 Edition of “**My College Bound Plan**” – the companion workbook to the **2012 Edition of College Bound** with forms and checklists – is now available at College-Path.com, <http://www.college-path.com/college-path-store>*

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Many thanks go to my siblings, in particular my sister, Val Sarosky, who believed in my endeavor. Her love, support, and encouragement helped me to continue writing. And to my husband, Dr. Hal Gonzales; thank you for taking the time to offer suggestions and - when my to-do list piled up higher and higher and there was no end in sight - talked me through the stressful times.

To my editor, Jim Stelljes, who possesses an abundance of talent and patience – thank you. I trusted him to read my drafts, identify my grammatical errors, and advise me of sections that needed rewriting for clarity. Jim understood my message and helped me to say what I wanted to say.

Year after year I am blessed to work side by side with a talented group of professionals who have a vast bank of knowledge regarding the college search and application process— thank you for sharing your perspectives. I would like to acknowledge the contributors to this book: U.S. Department of Education, Common Application, ACT, Sally Chopping of Acting for Business, and NACAC.

Lastly, a special acknowledgement goes to Amy Lorenti, whose marketing expertise and forward thinking were the inspiration for this project. Without you this book would never have been published.

Christine M. Hand Gonzales, Ed.D.

Author, College Bound: Proven Ways to Plan and Prepare for Getting Into the College of Your Dreams



Dear Parents and Students,

*I wrote **College Bound** as a guide to help parents and students prepare for what comes after graduation. **College Bound** is written so it will be like having a professional college counselor beside you every step of the way.*

*The **2012 Edition of College Bound** guides you through the college planning timeline, the search and application process, and campus visits with additional tips and resources. It will show ways to approach counselors, teachers, or moderators to request an effective letter of recommendation, give tips on self marketing through the college essay, provide suggestions for a knock-out resume of extracurricular activities, and offer advice for taking standardized tests.*

- ✓ *If you are a budding artist, a competitive athlete, interested in a military career, or transitioning from being homeschooled to college, this book is for you.*
- ✓ *If you have special needs or a disability, this book is for you.*
- ✓ *If you are thinking about learning a trade or attending community college, this book is for you.*
- ✓ *Interested in understanding the “nuts and bolts” of financial aid and where to find scholarships? This book is for you.*
- ✓ *Looking for an extensive list of publications and internet resources that is beyond compare? **College Bound** is for you – giving you all these resources and more.*

I hope you will find this must-read guide helpful and informative, and I wish you all the best as you plan a path to an exciting future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris

*Christine Hand Gonzales, Ed.D, Author
“Knowledge is Power”*

How to Get the Most Out of this Book

1. Be sure you have an Internet connection with a browser window open. There are over 1,200 live links (shown in full URL format) that you will want to open and bookmark for future reference. If you have the Interactive Digital edition of College Bound, you will be able to click on the embedded links and go directly to that particular website.
2. Start with the **Table of Contents**. It offers an organized format to learn more about various topics. Chapters are presented in an orderly fashion covering subjects all the way from how to approach the college search and application process to finding financial aid to heading off to college. If you have the Interactive Digital edition of College Bound, you will be able to click on a topic in the contents and go directly to that page.
3. Register at the College Path website <http://www.college-path.com> to receive College Bound newsletters, updates and special offers for readers.

LINKS, EMAIL ADDRESSES, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Within these pages live links, email addresses, and telephone numbers to hundreds of resources have been provided to help you find the information you need simply by clicking, typing or picking up the phone and have been checked as of December 1, 2011. However, we cannot guarantee the links will always work as the World Wide Web changes constantly, nor can we guarantee all email addresses or telephone numbers are up to date. If you find a link, email address or telephone number that does not take you to the intended page, person or organization, simply type the organization name into your search engine and you should find what you're looking for. We apologize ahead of time for any inconvenience.

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Chapter 1: The Timeline – “Where Do I Start?”

Are you thinking about attending college, or training in a particular field? It is never too early to start the process even if college is still a few years away. Begin now to position yourself to get into the college of your dreams by using this planning timeline and the hundreds of resources in this guide.

Grades 6-8 - Middle School Years

Talk with a school counselor about:

- Taking courses required for entrance into high school and developing strong study habits
- Review college preparatory courses you plan on taking in high school including English, math, history, science, and modern and classical languages
- Participating in summer enrichment programs or community-based extracurricular activities that may be available in your county or school
- “Starting to read” magazines, newspapers articles, and books of interest
- Doing well on standardized tests by developing test-taking strategies
- Develop organization and time-management skills
- Get extra tutoring to improve skills as needed
- Research options after high school related to careers, training and college
- Explore new things and discover what subjects and activities really excite you
- Attend career days, talk to college students, teachers, and counselors

Grade 9 - Freshman Year

Talk to your guidance counselor (or teachers, if you don't have access to a guidance counselor) about the following:

- Attending a four-year college or university
- Establishing your college preparatory classes; and a schedule which should consist of at least four college preparatory classes per year, including:
 - 4 years of English
 - 4 years of Math (through Algebra II or Trigonometry)
 - 2 years of Foreign Language, minimum

- 3 to 4 years of Natural Science (two lab sciences such as Chemistry and Biology; Physical Science or Physics)
- 3 years of History/Social Studies (World and United States History, Economics/Government)
- 1 elective of Art
- 1 year of electives from the list above
- Physical Education/Health

Each student should check with their State Department of Education to verify college preparatory course requirements.

- Create a file of the following documents and notes:
 - Copies of report cards
 - List of awards and honors
 - List of school and community activities in which you are involved, including both paid and volunteer work, and descriptions of tasks or activities.
- Start thinking about the colleges you want to attend. Search for additional campus facts using the Department of Education School Search Tool — College Navigator <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- Study! The higher your grades, the more options you will have.
- Keep NCAA eligibility requirements in mind. Certain grades in core classes are necessary to be eligible to play sports in college. Review information on NCAA website — www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- Record statistics.
- Attend summer camps. Summers provide a block of time to focus on your sport(s) and make connections.

Grade 10 - Sophomore Year

Talk to your guidance counselor (or teachers, if you don't have access to a guidance counselor) about the following:

- Reviewing the high school curriculum needed to satisfy the requirements of the colleges you are interested in attending
- Finding out about Advanced Placement courses:
 - What courses are available
 - Whether or not you are eligible for the classes you want to take
 - How to enroll in them for your junior year

- Update your file, or start one if you haven't already. "See Grade 9" for a list of what it should contain.)
- Continue extracurricular activities; admissions officers look at students' extracurricular activities when considering them for admission.
- Continue participation in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts, science, etc.
- Take the PSAT in October. The scores will not count for National Merit Scholar Program consideration in your sophomore year, but it is valuable practice for when you take the PSAT again in your junior year (when the scores will count), as well as for the SAT Reasoning Exam which you should also be taking in your junior year. PSAT results are received in December.
<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>
<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about.html>
- Many sophomores take the PLAN, the preliminary test to the ACT that is also used in the college admissions process.
<http://www.actstudent.org/plan/>
<http://www.act.org/>
- In April, register for the SAT for any subjects you will be completing before June. <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about.html>
- Take the SAT
- Subject Test(s) in June. If students are interested in a military career they should begin to research the options. <http://www.todaysmilitary.com/futures>
- The student athlete may begin to review information on the NCAA Eligibility Center requirements. <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>
- Begin to research career and college options by using the internet, attending college fairs, and visiting college campuses.

Grade 11 - Junior Year

Fall Semester

- Maintaining your grades during your junior year is especially important. You should be doing at least two hours of homework each night and participating in study groups. Using a computer can be a great tool for organizing your activities and achieving the grades you want.
- Talk to your guidance counselor (or teachers, if you don't have access to a guidance counselor) about the following:
 - Availability of and enrollment in Advanced Placement classes
 - Schedules for the PSAT, SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Test, ACT with Writing, and AP exams

- Discuss reasons to take these exams and ways they could benefit you.
- Determine which exams to take. (You can always change your mind.)
- Sign up and prepare for the exams you've decided to take.
- Ask for a preview of your academic record and profile, determine what gaps or weaknesses there are, and get suggestions on ways to strengthen your candidacy for the schools in which you are interested.
- Determine what it takes to gain admission to the college(s) of your choice, in addition to grade point average (GPA) and test score requirements.
- Continue to explore career options using the Internet, interviewing professionals, shadowing people with a job that interest you, and think about an internship next year to learn details about jobs.

August

- Obtain schedules and forms for the SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Test, ACT with Writing, and AP exams.

September

- Register for the PSAT exam offered in October. Remember that when you take the PSAT in your junior year, the scores will count towards the National Achievement Program and the National Merit Scholarship Program (and it is good practice for the SAT Reasoning Test).

October

- Take the PSAT. Narrow your list of colleges to include a few colleges with requirements at your current GPA, a few with requirements above your current GPA, and at least one with requirements below your GPA. Your list should contain approximately 8 - 12 schools you are seriously considering. (Start thinking about the colleges you want to attend. Search for additional campus facts using the Department of Education School Search Tool — [College Navigator](#). Start researching your financial aid options as well starting with the [FAFSA4caster](#).
<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
<http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/students.html>
- Begin scheduling interviews with college admissions counselors. If possible, schedule tours of the campus grounds on the same days. You and your parent(s) may want to visit the colleges and universities during spring break and summer vacation so that you do not have to miss school. Some high schools consider a campus visit an excused absence; however, so if need be, you may be able to schedule interviews and visits during the school year without incurring any penalties.

November

- Review your PSAT results with your counselor in order to identify your strengths and to determine the areas that you may need to improve in.

December

- You will receive your scores from the October PSAT. Depending on the results, you may want to consider signing up for an SAT preparatory course. Many high schools offer short-term preparatory classes or seminars on the various exams, which tell the students what to expect and ways to potentially boost their scores.

Spring Semester

January

- Take campus tours online or in person to further narrow your list of colleges to match your personality, GPA, and test scores.

February

- Register for the March SAT and/or the April ACT with Writing Tests. Find out from each college the deadlines for applying for admission and which tests to take. Make sure your test dates give the college ample time to receive test scores. It is a good idea to take the SAT and/or ACT with Writing in the spring to allow you time to review your results and retake the exams in the fall of your senior year, if necessary.

March

- Take the March SAT Reasoning Test.
- If you are interested in taking any AP exam(s), you should sign up for the exam(s) at this time. If your school does not offer the AP exams, check with your guidance counselor to determine schools in the area that do administer the exam(s), as well as the dates and times that the exam(s) you are taking will be offered. Scoring well on the AP exam can sometimes earn you college credit.

April

- Take the April ACT with Writing test.
- Talk to teachers about writing letters of recommendation for you. Think about what you would like included in these letters (how you would like to be presented) and politely ask your teachers if they can accommodate you.
- Create a resume of activities for those writing letters of recommendations on your behalf.

May

- Take SAT Reasoning Tests, SAT Subject Test, and AP exams.

June

- Add any new report cards, test scores, honors, or awards to your file. Visit colleges. Call ahead for appointments with financial aid, admissions, and academic advisors at the college(s) which most interest you. While there, talk to professors, sit in on classes, spend a night in the dorms, and speak to students. Doing these things will allow you to gather the most information about the college and the atmosphere in which you would be living, should you choose to attend. Some colleges have preview programs that allow you to do all of these; find out which of the schools that you will be visiting offer these programs and take advantage of them.
- Take SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Test, and ACT with Writing Tests.
- If you go on interviews or visits, don't forget to send thank-you notes.

Summer in between Junior and Senior Years

- Practice writing online applications by filling out rough drafts of each application without submitting them. Focus on the essay portions of these applications, deciding how you would like to present yourself. Don't forget to mention your activities outside of school.
- Review your applications, especially the essays. Ask family, friends, and teachers to review your essays for grammar, punctuation, readability, and content.
- Decide if you are going to apply under a particular college's early decision or early action programs. This requires you to submit your applications early, typically between October and December of your senior year, but offers the benefit of receiving the college's decision concerning your admission early, usually before January 1. If you choose to apply early, you should do so to the college/university that is your first choice to attend. Many early decision programs are legally binding, requiring you to attend the college you are applying to, should they accept you.
 - Read your college mail and send reply cards to your schools of interest.
 - If you are interested in the military, begin the application process.

Grade 12 - Senior Year - Fall Semester

September

- Check your transcripts to make sure you have all the credits you need to get into your college(s) of choice. Find out from the colleges to which you are applying whether or not they need official copies of your transcripts (sent directly from your high school) at the time of application.

- Register for October/November SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Test, and ACT (with writing) tests.
- Take another look at your list of colleges, and make sure that they still satisfy your requirements. Add and/or remove colleges as necessary.
- Make sure you meet the requirements (including any transcript requirements) for all the colleges to which you want to apply. Double-check the deadlines, and apply.
- Give any recommendation forms to the appropriate teachers or counselors with stamped, college-addressed, envelopes making certain that your portion of the forms are filled out completely and accurately. Be sure to give them a resume of your activities. Some of these may be done electronically, so be sure you have the correct email address.
- Most early decision and early action applications are due between October 1 and November 1. Keep this in mind if you intend to take advantage of these options and remember to request that your high school send your official transcripts to the college to which you are applying.

October

- Make a final list of schools that interest you and keep a file of deadlines and required admission items for each school.
- Begin to request transcripts be sent to schools to which you are applying Early Decision(a binding agreement between the college and you stating if you are admitted, you will attend their institution of high learning –notification for Early Decision is mid-December), Early Action(a non-binding agreement between you and the college to enter after your senior year if you are accepted– notification is in mid-December), or Rolling Admission(colleges will make decisions 3-6 weeks after receiving all application documentation).
- Complete applications for Early Admission or Rolling.
- Take SAT Reasoning Test and/or ACT tests with Writing. Have the official scores sent by the testing agency to the colleges/universities that have made your final list of schools. Register for December or January SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject Test, if necessary.
- Continue thinking about and beginning writing (if you have not already started) any essays to be included with your applications.

November

- Submit your college admission application for Regular Admission.
- If you are applying for scholarships, research deadlines, write essays for applications and request transcripts as needed.

- Some private colleges may request the CSS Profile or other financial forms be completed. Check your applications for further information.
<https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/prf/index.jsp>

December

- Early Decision replies usually arrive between December 1st and December 31st.
- If you haven't already done so, make sure your official test scores are being sent to the colleges to which you are applying.
- Schedule any remaining required interviews.

Senior Year - Spring Semester

January

- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on or after January 1st. Contact the Financial Aid Office to see if you need to complete additional financial aid forms and check into other financial aid options. In order to be considered for financial aid, you will need to submit these forms even if you have not yet been notified of your acceptance to the college(s) to which you applied.
<http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/students.html>
- Go to the FAFSA now to complete the form. Or complete a paper FAFSA.
<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- Request that your high school send your official transcripts to the colleges to which you are applying.
- Make sure your parents have completed their income tax forms in anticipation of the financial aid applications. If they haven't completed their taxes, providing estimated figures is acceptable.
- Contact the admissions office of the college(s) to which you have applied to make sure that your information has been received and that they have everything they need from you.

February

- If you completed the FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within 2-3 weeks if you applied via paper. If you applied on-line, you can receive results via e-mail by the next business day after electronic submission. If corrections are needed, correct and return it to the FAFSA processor promptly.
<http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/students.html>
- Complete your scholarship applications.

- Contact the financial aid office of the college(s) to which you have applied to make sure that your information has been received and that they have everything they need from you.

March/April

- If you haven't received an acceptance letter from the college (s) to which you applied, contact the admissions office.
- Compare your acceptance letters, financial aid and scholarship offers.
- When you choose a college that has accepted you, you may be required to pay a nonrefundable deposit for freshman tuition (this should ensure your place in the entering freshman class).

May

- Take Advanced Placement (AP) exams for any AP subjects you studied in high school. <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html>
- You should make a decision by May 1st as to which college you will be attending. Notify the school by mailing your commitment deposit check. Many schools require your notification letter be postmarked by this date.
- If you are placed on a waiting list for a particular college and decide to wait for an opening, contact the college and let them know you are still very interested.

June

- Have your school send your final transcripts to the college you will be attending.
- Thank your counselors and teachers for their assistance along the way.
- Contact your college to determine when fees for tuition, room and board are due and how much they will be.

Summer after Senior Year

- Participate in any summer orientation programs for incoming freshmen.
- Now that you know you will be attending college in the fall, it is a good idea to evaluate whether to get student health insurance. How will you handle unforeseen emergencies? Will your family's insurance coverage be sufficient?

Source: U.S. Department of Education