# Table of Contents

First Steps In The Transfer Process 3  
Mississippi Four Year Schools/About Accreditation 4  
Pick A School: Public/Private or In-State/Out-of-State 5  
Learn About Colleges Using College Source and College Board 6  
A Checklist For Students Who Are Planning To Transfer 7  
Pick a Major 8  
Research Majors and Careers 9  
Make the Most Out Of Your Campus Visit 10  
Write a Winning College Admissions Essay 11  
Examples of Essay Questions 12  
An Example of a Great College Essay 13  
Navigate the World of Financial Aid 14  
Some Tips for Filling Out The FAFSA 15  
Tips for Completing Online Applications 16  
A Checklist to Help Narrow Down School Choices 17  
Transfer Guide Workbook 20

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**Student Success Center**

- Quiet Place to Study
- Study Tips
- Supplemental Instruction
- Student E-Portfolios

**Poplarville:**

2nd Floor Crosby Hall  
(601)403-1414  
M-F 8:00-4:00  
ssc@prcc.edu  
www.prcc.edu/t3

- Career Exploration
- Transfer Assistance
- Degree Evaluation
- Computer Lab

**Hattiesburg:**

Building 1  
(601)554-5554  
M-Th 8:00-5:00; F 8:00-12:00  
ssc@prcc.edu  
www.prcc.edu/t3
So you want to transfer? Here are your first steps.

**Pick a school.**
This transfer guide will cover the important issues of choosing an in-state or out-of-state school; public or private school; and why you should choose a school that is accredited.

**Research the school.**
To help narrow down your choices for schools, there are some important things to consider. Does the school accept transfer students? Does the school offer your degree program of choice?

**Talk to an admissions counselor.**
It is important to create a relationship with an admissions counselor early in the transfer process. This counselor can set up meetings with program directors, department chairs, and keep you informed of any changes to the transfer requirements.

**Schedule a campus visit.**
There is more to a school than a degree program. A campus visit will give you insight on campus life, student housing, and the overall community.

**Graduate from PRCC.**
An Associates Degree is important. If something happens and you cannot transfer right away, you will still have a degree. An Associates Degree shows that you have accomplished something. When going into the job market, it will set you apart from those with just a high school degree.
Mississippi Four Year Schools

Public

Alcorn State University
Delta State University
Jackson State University
Mississippi State University
Mississippi University for Women
Mississippi Valley State University
The University of Mississippi–Ole Miss
The University of Mississippi Medical Center
The University of Southern Mississippi

Private

Belhaven College
Blue Mountain College
Millsaps College
Mississippi College
Rust College
Tougaloo College
Tulane University–Mississippi Coast Campus
William Carey University

About Accredited Schools

Accreditation is a process where schools are evaluated and validated. A college is assessed on their mission statement, objectives and goals, requirements for admission, services to students, quality of education, and reputation of faculty.

What makes accreditation important? Schools that are accredited are more likely to offer degrees that are nationally recognized by employers and recruiters. Obtaining a degree from an accredited university shows that you have received a quality education.

And finally, it is important to note that you can only receive financial aid if you attend a school that is accredited.
PICK A SCHOOL

The In-State/Out-Of-State Debate

The Mississippi Community College Board has a legal agreement with the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning called an Articulation Agreement. What this agreement says is that if you complete classes and graduate from PRCC, those classes have to transfer to a Mississippi four year school. The Articulation Agreement also breaks down which specific classes are transferable by degree program and transfer institution. This is a useful tool to guide you on which academic electives to take while earning your Associates Degree.

The Public/Private Debate

According to College Board, the average cost to attend a four year school for one year in 2011-2012, including tuition and fees, is:

- Two Year Public: $2,963
- Four Year Public (In-State): $8,244
- Four Year Public (Out-of-State): $12,526
- Four Year Private: $28,500

A Private School and Out-of-State school is decidedly more costly. In order to attend these schools, you will have to plan your finances accordingly.
Check out these websites to learn more about colleges.

**CollegeSource.org**
- Search colleges all over the nation.
- Find out their accreditation status, location, and annual cost of tuition and fees.
- Look at their course catalog.
- Browse the school’s website.
- See which degrees are offered.
- Check out their admission requirements.

**CollegeFish.org**
A Transfer tool designed specifically for community college students.
- Research different types of colleges, their majors, and degree programs.
- Connect to advisors at different transfer institutions.
- Research scholarships and their deadline dates.
- By filling out student profiles on their website, you will be connected to transfer institutions and scholarships that are best suited for your educational and career goals.

**CollegeBoard.com**
- Search colleges all over the nation.
- Get contact information for the admissions office.
- Find out about their student body, size of campus, and where the campus is located.
- Check out admission requirements, dates, and application information.
- Find out about tuition costs and financial aid offered.
- Find out about housing, student life, and their sports teams.
A Checklist For Students Who Are Planning to Transfer

The Academic Stuff

Did you:

- Make sure you have taken all of the courses you need to graduate?
- Apply for graduation?
  
  http://pr10.prcc.edu/~mlbyrd/extendededucation/graduation/
- Make sure you have taken courses that will transfer?
  
  Do not hesitate to contact a transfer advisor at the institution to discuss your current transcript and how it will transfer.
- Get an official transcript from admissions?
- Look at the degree program and admission requirements for the University?
  
  Do you have the GPA and ACT scores needed for admission?
- Fill out an application for admissions to the University?
- Look at the University website for scholarship information and applications?
- Meet with an advisor or counselor of the department for your prospective major?

The College Life Stuff

Did you:

- Take a tour of the University?
- Learn where to go for support? (tutoring, advising, financial aid, health services, etc.)
- Find out about transferring financial aid to the University?
- Find out about housing options (if applicable)?
- Learn about the different campus organizations you might want to join?

The Personal Stuff

Did you:

- Develop ways to manage personal finances, loans, and financial aid disbursements?
- Develop ways to balance work, study, family, and fun?
- Find out about different options for work study or part-time jobs in the area?
**PICK A MAJOR**

**Tips for selecting a major that is right for you.**

1. **It is ok to start out undecided.**
   
   Some four year schools will allow you to transfer as an undecided major while others will require you to declare a major. While you are undecided, take courses that will apply to a general Associates in Arts degree.

2. **Think about your interests.**
   
   It is never too early to start thinking about long term career goals. While choosing a major, think about what interests you. What kind of work would you find satisfying?

3. **Evaluate your interests.**
   
   A lot of time our interests do not translate well into jobs that are attainable. Once you define your interests, list their “pros” and “cons.” Think about whether or not you can graduate with a four year degree in that field and obtain a job. Will you be able to complete the coursework to get a degree in that field? For example, you may have an interest in computers, but can you pass calculus if it is a required course?

4. **Schedule information interviews.**
   
   Before you decide on a major, talk to people in that field of study. For example, if you think you might want to be a social worker, talk to people who have majored in social work. What did they think of the program? Talk to current social workers. What do they like and dislike about their job?
# RESEARCH MAJORS AND CAREERS

Useful websites to help you make an informed decision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A good place to start your research on all things related to majors and careers.</th>
<th><a href="http://www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/majors_careers/index.html">http://www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/majors_careers/index.html</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take a personality quiz to determine which majors are best suited for your personality.</td>
<td><a href="http://homeworktips.about.com/library/maj/bl_majors_quiz.htm">http://homeworktips.about.com/library/maj/bl_majors_quiz.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See what college alumni have to say about the major they chose and the career they are in.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.studentsreview.com/choosing_career.php3">http://www.studentsreview.com/choosing_career.php3</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research the kinds of jobs you can get by major.</td>
<td><a href="http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/majors/">http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/majors/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research different careers. Learn what a typical work day of a person in that job is like.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.princetonreview.com/careers.aspx">http://www.princetonreview.com/careers.aspx</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Make the most out of your campus visit.

- Participate in a group information session at the admissions office.
- Schedule an interview with an admissions officer.
- Pick up housing and financial aid forms.
- Sit in on a class from your prospective major.
- Call the department chair of the program you are interested in and schedule a tour of the department.
- Plan an overnight stay with a current student.
- Visit the career center and see what services they offer to students.

- Visit the cafeteria, fitness center, library, bookstore, and other buildings on campus built around student life.
- Take a tour of the community.
- Find out about student organizations on campus.
- Talk to students about student life on campus. What is there to do besides go to classes?
- If planning to stay on campus, visit the residence halls and talk to Resident Advisors about life in the dorms.
- Attend an event on campus such as a football game, public lecture, or theatre production.
Write a winning college admission essay.

1. **Be Organized.**
   Each application you fill out is likely to require a different essay. Keep them organized in your computer. Save them as USM-essay 1 or MSU-essay 1 to avoid confusion. And always, always, always back up your files!

2. **Prepare.**
   Look at page 16 for examples of college admission essay questions. Practice writing responses to these questions early so you are used to the experience. While you are at it, don't be afraid to ask a faculty member, counselor, or advisor for feedback!

3. **Follow these simple writing tips:**
   - Make an outline of your points before you begin writing.
   - Focus on having a strong opening sentence that grabs the reader's attention. This sentence should cause the reader to be interested enough to want to read further.
   - Elaborate the body of your essay with facts and/or examples from your personal life.
   - Make sure to have a concluding paragraph. This paragraph should bring together the opening paragraph and body paragraph and restate your point of the essay.
   - Your first draft IS NOT your final draft! Read and make edits. Ask an advisor or faculty member to read and make edits as well.
   - Don't be afraid to ask for feedback! A trusted friend or family member may help you remember important personal experiences to add.
   - Finally, make it personal! The point of the essay is so that admission committees can learn more about you and how you will contribute to the student body at their campus.
Examples of Essay Questions

“You are about to embark on a lengthy road trip in a two-passenger car with no radio. What person—real or fictional—would you choose to accompany you and why?”

“Describe the future.”

“Describe and evaluate one experience that significantly influenced your academic interest. The experience might be a high school course, a job, a relationship, or an extracurricular activity. Be sure to explain how this experience led to the goals you have now set for yourself and why you think the academic program for which you are applying will help you reach those goals.”

“There is a significant difference between a stupid mistake and a clever one. Give an example of a ‘clever’ mistake you have made and explain how it benefitted you or others.”
I am pumping my arms, trying to keep my legs moving. I feel lightheaded and frail needing to catch my breath, but I am only half the way up. I will not stop. I will keep going and going until I reach the top. These are some of the feelings I get as I am running up my hill. The community of El Sereno, which I live in, is full of hills. The biggest one with the antennae on top is "my hill." I use it to work out, to reflect upon things and just to be alone. As I am running up my hill, I remember how hard my mom has worked all her life for my sister and me. I remember playing basketball as a fifth grader amongst teenagers and grown men, learning to believe in myself and to stay on the right path. When I reach the top I look around and appreciate the beauty, tradition and all the hard workers of my community. I realize that I am part of it. I must contribute to the tradition and give back.

Sometimes I feel that I am not in tip-top shape, but I know I must be to play all my sports. At these times I say to myself, "Let's hit the hill." I have to work the hardest. That is just how I am. This comes from my mom. I always think of her when I am running my hill. She is the hardest worker I know. I remember the times we got off the bus at 10 o'clock at night coming from downtown LA after a full day of shopping for the things my mom sold throughout the week to support us. We would still have to walk about a mile as my mom carried my little sister and a bag in one arm and held me by the other hand while I carried another bag. Besides earning a living, my mom went to school to learn English. She has gone to school for as long as my sister and I to try to earn her high school diploma. Even though it has been a tough road, she has never given up. I take that feeling with me going up my hill and in life.

Another reflection I have when I am on my hill is of when I was a fifth grader playing basketball every day at my elementary school until it was too dark to see anything. All the older guys would come and play too. They tossed me around, but it made me tough. I will not be afraid of anything after playing with them. It was a great challenge, and I love challenges. They taught me to believe in myself and never let anything put me down. They were not the greatest of role models as they did drugs and basically did not have a future, but they always talked to me as if I was their little boy. I could have ended up like them as other childhood friends have, but I just took the advice and stayed on the right path. One guy told me, "Keep on practicing and one day you can make it to the NBA." I probably will not be a professional basketball player, but just the belief that they had and actually still have in me has given me the boost to always excel. Being on my hill helps me reflect upon what has shaped me in my community.

On top of my hill I can see all of El Sereno on one side and the rest of Los Angeles on the other. I love to look at my community, especially my high school. My high school represents the place in which I live. It represents the whole community, as it holds our future. It also holds our past, as many of our teachers are Wilson alumni. It is a great tradition at our school that allows our teachers to teach with more passion since they are back to where they started. They really want to help our youth and that is what makes the place where I live special. It has shaped me to look at life as a mission to help people succeed. It has given me a positive outlook that has motivated me to give back to my community as much as I can as I get older.

My hill gives me my motivation, lets me reflect on my past and lets me see the future. It is a long journey in life as it is a long run up the hill. My hill starts off pretty easy, although I cannot see how far it is or where exactly I am headed because of the tall grass. Eventually though, I see the top and what path I have to take to get there, but I realize I still have a long way to go. I face obstacles and doubts, but I do not let them stop me. I am determined. When I get to the top, always knowing that I will, I feel unstoppable. I know the hard work will pay off.
Grants, such as Pell Grants, are based on financial need. You do not have to repay grants.

Scholarships are monetary awards you apply for. Scholarships are typically offered to individuals who qualify based on grades, merits, talents, or past experiences. Websites such as collegefish.com will direct you on which scholarships you can apply for.

Student Loans are just that. They are loans that you will have to pay back, some with interest, after you graduate.

Where to start.

- Check out FAFSA4caster at www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov to see an early estimate of your eligibility for federal student aid, your Expected Family Contribution, and eligibility for Pell Grants.

- Once you check out FAFSA4caster, go online and fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You will not be able to receive any Financial Student Aid without filling out a FAFSA and you will need to fill one out every year you want to qualify.
1. You will not be able to receive Financial Aid unless you fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Go online to www.fafsa.ed.gov to fill one out. Remember, this application is free. Do not fill out the FAFSA on a site that asks for your credit card at the end.

2. You will have to fill out a FAFSA for each year you plan on receiving financial aid. If you are wanting to receive financial aid for the fall (2013-2014) school year, start looking in November of 2012 for the forms to be available online. You can submit your FAFSA as early as January 1. However, each school will have priority deadlines for their financial aid department, and you want to make sure you have the FAFSA filled out before that deadline (It could be as early as February or March).

3. Once you fill out the FAFSA, the schools you designate will receive a report detailing your family’s expected contribution towards your student account statement. Based on this information, your financial aid eligibility will be determined.

4. What do you need to get started?
   - Your Drivers License and Social Security Card
   - A copy of your previous year’s tax return (or your parent’s tax return if you qualify as a dependent)
   - Current bank statement

5. Finally, you will create an account on the FAFSA website. You can always go in and edit your FAFSA if any information changes. When you create your account you will receive a four digit PIN. Write this PIN number down in a safe place. You will need it to reapply each year!
TIPS FOR COMPLETING ONLINE APPLICATIONS

Be organized.

Every college is likely to have different requirements for online usernames and passwords. Once you create your login information, write it down and keep it in a secure place.

Be secure.

Applications will require you to enter in personal information like social security numbers and birthdays. When filling out online applications, make sure you are on a secure browser (the website will start with https://) and that the browser supports the latest security updates.

Answer all questions.

Take your time filling out each application. For questions that do not apply to you, type N/A for not applicable. Do not leave anything blank. Double check all entries and make sure you have uploaded the right essays. You want to send your final draft, not your first draft!

Proofread.

Print out applications before you submit them. Look over the application for any typos or other errors. Save the printed copy of the application for your records.
Use this checklist to help you narrow down your transfer school choices.

Name of four year college: ___________________________________________

Questions about Admissions:
   Does the school accept transfer students? Yes  No
   How many of your current course credits will transfer? __________

Admission Requirements:
   When can you start classes? ________________
   What is the minimum GPA required to transfer? __________
   How many courses from PRCC will transfer? __________
   Do you meet all of the admission requirements? Yes  No

Application Questions:
   Do you need a portfolio? Yes  No
   What is the minimum ACT score required? __________
   Number of letters of recommendation needed: __________
   Need Associates degree to transfer? __________
   Application fee: __________ Application Deadline: __________
   Do you need a separate application for program/department? Yes  No

College Questions:
   Cost of tuition and fees: ________________
   Favorite thing about the college:

Course Questions:
   How many courses will you have to take? ________________
   Anticipated graduation date for bachelor’s degree: ________________
Use this checklist to help you narrow down your transfer school choices.

Name of four year college: ________________________________

Questions about Admissions:
- Does the school accept transfer students?  Yes  No
- How many of your current course credits will transfer? __________

Admission Requirements:
- When can you start classes? ________________
- What is the minimum GPA required to transfer? __________
- How many courses from PRCC will transfer? __________
- Do you meet all of the admission requirements?  Yes  No

Application Questions:
- Do you need a portfolio?  Yes  No
- What is the minimum ACT score required? __________
- Number of letters of recommendation needed: __________
- Need Associates degree to transfer? __________
- Application fee: __________ Application Deadline: __________
- Do you need a separate application for program/department?  Yes  No

College Questions:
- Cost of tuition and fees: ________________
- Favorite thing about the college:

Course Questions:
- How many courses will you have to take? ________________
- Anticipated graduation date for bachelor’s degree: ________________
Use this checklist to help you narrow down your transfer school choices.

Name of four year college: ____________________________

Questions about Admissions:

Does the school accept transfer students?  Yes  No

How many of your current course credits will transfer? __________

Admission Requirements:

When can you start classes? _________________

What is the minimum GPA required to transfer? __________

How many courses from PRCC will transfer? __________

Do you meet all of the admission requirements?  Yes  No

Application Questions:

Do you need a portfolio?  Yes  No

What is the minimum ACT score required? __________

Number of letters of recommendation needed: __________

Need Associates degree to transfer? __________

Application fee: __________ Application Deadline: __________

Do you need a separate application for program/department?  Yes  No

College Questions:

Cost of tuition and fees: __________

Favorite thing about the college:

Course Questions:

How many courses will you have to take? __________

Anticipated graduation date for bachelor’s degree: __________
## Transfer Guide Workbook

Don’t miss important deadlines. Use this tool to stay organized.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications:</th>
<th>College 1:</th>
<th>College 2:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the college accredited?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downloaded or requested</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date application received:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day to submit?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline to submit?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed draft essays/ statements for application?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays proofed by at least two other people?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed final essays/ statements?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date submitted application with completed essays and paid application fee:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date received by college:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Things specific to your major or department:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Downloaded or requested application form from your major or department?</td>
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<tr>
<td>First day to submit?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline to submit?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed draft essays/statements for application?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays proofed by at least two other people?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed final essays/statements?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date submitted application with essays to department:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date received by department:</td>
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</table>

## Transcripts:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requested to have transcripts sent from high schools:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requested to have transcripts sent from community colleges:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date all transcripts received:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Scores:</td>
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<td>---</td>
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<td>Test scores required:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date test scores sent:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date test scores received:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letters of Recommendation:</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline date for receipt?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Person writing recommendation #1?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date received by college:</td>
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<td>Person writing recommendation #2?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date received by college:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Person writing recommendation #3?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date received by college:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sent thank you letter to all persons giving recommendations?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Aid:</td>
<td></td>
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<td>---------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAFSA deadline for priority financial aid:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline date for regular financial aid:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date applied for FAFSA:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date received FAFSA student aid report showing the Expected Family Contribution:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State financial aid available?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date submitted state financial aid form:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial aid information received by college?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline date for priority consideration for housing:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date applied for housing:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date application received by college:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline date for required deposit:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are accepted! Now what?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date received admission letter:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline date to send acceptance of admittance:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date received transfer credit report showing articulated and transferable courses:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date college received your acceptance:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline date to send deposit:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final transcript sent?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date college received final transcript:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received financial aid award letter?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount and type of financial aid being offered:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost of tuition after financial aid deductions:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date financial aid accepted:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing acceptance sent?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing deposit due date:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing deposit sent?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of tuition deposit:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition deposit sent:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition deposit received:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation date?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sign up for classes?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchase text books?</td>
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</table>

**Want to stand out from the stack of applicants?**

**Create a PRCC Student E-Portfolio!**

A PRCC Student e-Portfolio is a place where you can showcase yourself online. You will create a webpage that highlights your professional biography, resume, educational goal statement, coursework, and pictures. A PRCC Student e-Portfolio allows you to set yourself apart on job applications, college applications, and scholarship applications. Your e-Portfolio is easy to get started, and easy to complete! Call (601) 403-1414 in Poplarville or (601)554-5554 in Hattiesburg to see how you can get your PRCC student e-Portfolio.
Notes
Resources Used in This Guide

Page 4: Mississippi.gov
http://www.50states.com/college-resources/accreditation.htm


Page 6: CollegeSource.org

Page 7: http://dephome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/seek/stdnt_services/benchmarks.html

Page 8-9: Community College Transfer Guide


Page 11-13: www.collegeanswer.com


Page 16: Community College Transfer Guide

Page 17: Community College Transfer Guide

Page 20-25: Community College Transfer Guide