



THE GREEN PAGES

News from Christ School's College Guidance Office

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Interview Tips from the College Guidance Office

by Jeff Depelteau

Associate Director of College Guidance

After spending eight years working in independent school admissions, I have developed some tips for students embarking on college interviews. If they can apply these tips, they will be well on their way to a highly successful college interview.

- Dress for your interview in a way that helps you feel confident and comfortable. If you are not completely comfortable in what you are wearing, you won't feel confident. Business casual with a belt, tucked in button-down shirt, and comfortable dress shoes should be fine. Stay away from wearing jeans, tee-shirts, and sneakers or sandals. Some scholarships will require interviews; for these, you may want to dress more formally (coat and tie).
- Think of your interview as a blind date. The topics you will cover are going to be about you and the college and will provide an opportunity for you to get to know each other better. Remember that you are an expert on yourself, and you will need to do some research to impress your interviewer with your knowledge of the college. The best interviews are not a series of questions, but rather a conversation.
- There are some questions you are always going to want to prepare for and that you can utilize as a springboard to talk at greater length about yourself and your interests. You should always be prepared to tell your interviewer about yourself and to tell him or her why you want to attend the school.
- When you tell your interviewer about yourself, pepper your answer with intriguing information so your interviewer will want to ask you follow-up questions. Provide a response that focuses on your educational journey, your favorite subjects, and what you think you want to study in college. Remember, this is an interview for a school, so you want to talk about your educational experiences first. Once you have talked about your academic interests, you can focus on your other interests: leadership positions, clubs and activities, jobs, and athletics.
- Talking about why you want to attend the school can be a bit more difficult; however, with some research, you can set yourself apart from your peers. Before your interview, spend some time on the school's website: find the names of courses that might interest you and professors whose classes you might want to take. Another great resource is the college's alumni link on the website. Schools are always eager to tell alumni what is going on at school. You should also look for student news publications; these are great resources because they will often tell you what is going on within the community from the perspective of current students. If you prepare well for the initial interview questions, your answers should help guide the remainder of your conversation.
- Make sure you have some questions prepared for your interviewer. Asking thoughtful questions provides you with the opportunity to learn more about the school while actively engaging your interviewer. In many cases you may be interviewing with a current student or a graduate of the school. It's always great to ask students and alumni what their favorite aspects are/were about the school. This information gives the interviewer an opportunity to talk about himself—something people love to do! You can also use this time with your interviewer to ask questions about programs and events that you are interested in learning more about.
- Finally, it is really important that you, the student, own the interview process. Schools and interviewers often take note of who checks in at the information desk when arriving—mom/dad or the student. It speaks volumes when the student checks in and says, "Hello, my name is John Smith, and I am here for my tour and interview."

Alumni Profile: Jake Johnson, Class of 2017



One-on-One with Mr. Blackard:

*Jake, A Freshman at Dartmouth College,
Reflects on CS and Shares Some College Tips*



What might you have done differently in the college search and application process?

Start early and have options. When I applied to college there were five schools that I had visited and would have been happy to attend. It's an immediate stress reliever to have options, because if your first choice fails, it's always nice to have a great second one lined up.

What are your freshman year "survival secrets/tips" as it pertains to academics? dorm life? extra-curricular/social life?

Help other people get adjusted to life away from home. Coming from Christ School, we are accustomed to being away from home, but it's not easy for everybody. Pay attention to others, and you'll likely make some great friends in the process.

Most importantly, get involved in several extra-curriculars. Even if you don't know it yet, most people work better when there is more on their plate, especially when they're busy doing fun things. I joined a couple of EC's during the first semester (some that I never would have expected) and it helped me get through the academic rigor that college throws at you from the start.

What surprised you about your collegiate experience?

No matter how much you hear "college is way harder than high school," it doesn't really hit you until you get your first syllabus in your first class and realize "wow... this really is the big leagues."

How is college different from Christ School? How is it similar to Christ School?

College is amazing. It's like Christ School, but with more freedom. You're in charge of your time. I remember when I first got to college it felt really weird when midnight rolled around and people were talking about going to the

student center and playing pool or watching a football game and I was thinking "Wait, in-rooms was an hour ago!"

Make sure you don't abuse your new privileges, but make sure to enjoy them, too. Go out for a walk around campus with your friends past 11:00 p.m. Go throw a light-up Frisbee on the quad at midnight. Just be smart about your

time and know which days you can stay up and which mornings you have class super early.

In what ways did specific Christ School programs help you (i.e. Job Program, Senior Talk, Extra Help, Mandatory After School Activity)?

As I mentioned earlier, the busier I am, the better I find myself doing in all of my classes. The fact that Christ School has all of these programs set up to take up some of your time—some are fun, others are like morning jobs—are not—helps you realize how to manage your time without you even knowing it.

Also, White Glove is just about the greatest thing that happens on Christ School's campus. I have yet to see a White Glove-worthy room in college, and I miss having that as a given. Every Sunday I find myself cleaning up the room to prepare

for the week, and even if I only put a dent in the mess that all four of my suitemates and I caused, it helps start the week on a high note.

Is there a question(s) you wish I had asked, but did not and which you might like to answer?

The greatest advice I have for rising college students is this: If you're going to be dumb, be smart about being dumb. It works for just about every situation I can think of, and I wish somebody had told me that sooner.



Jake stand in front of Baker-Berry Library at Dartmouth.

If students have more questions, they can contact Jake at:
jacob.r.johnson.21@dartmouth.edu



Mr. Becker's Florida Sunshine tour

Mr. Becker, Assistant Director of College Guidance, was fortunate to be invited to participate in the Florida Sunshine Tour this past February. The tour, sponsored and organized by member schools of PCUF (Private Colleges and Universities of Florida), visited 14 schools over the course of 8 days, allowing 26 college counseling professionals from across the country and around the world learn about some of the many spectacular academic opportunities offered by higher education institutions in Florida. Here are his top 12.

Eckerd College

City: St. Petersburg

Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,850

Noteworthy: EC's picturesque, shore-side campus is home to one of the best marine biology programs in the country as well as an extensive waterfront (including a boathouse, activities center, docks, and tons of rentable equipment).



Florida Southern College

City: Lakeland

Undergraduate Enrollment: 2,400

Noteworthy: On the shores of Lake Hollingsworth is FSC, home to the largest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright-designed buildings and structures in the world, including multiple chapels and seminar spaces.



Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

City: Daytona Beach

Undergraduate Enrollment: 5,450

Noteworthy: ERAU boasts a number of technologically-advanced learning tools for student use, from the second-largest telescope east of the Mississippi River to a full fleet of training planes housed right next to Daytona Beach International Airport.



Jacksonville University

City: Jacksonville

Undergraduate Enrollment: 2,900

Noteworthy: Situated right across the St. Johns River from downtown Jacksonville, JU has recently been making significant investments of time and money renovating its physical plant. It's also one of a small handful of schools that offers a major in glass-blowing (another is Centre College, Mr. Becker's alma mater!).



Flagler College

City: St. Augustine

Undergraduate Enrollment: 2,600

Noteworthy: Situated in historic St. Augustine, the centerpiece of FC's campus is the former Hotel Ponce de León, a luxury hotel that has since been converted to house classrooms, dorms, and the dining hall.



Lynn University

City: Boca Raton

Undergraduate Enrollment: 2,100

Noteworthy: Brand new buildings are springing up on campus; a fully-implemented iPad teaching program, and a significant international contingent in the student body are a few of the many exciting aspects of LU.

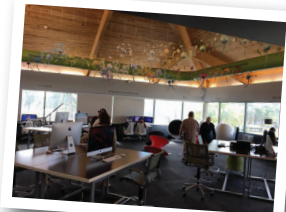


Florida Institute of Technology

City: Melbourne

Undergraduate Enrollment: 3,650

Noteworthy: Hands-on engagement is a hallmark of FIT. Their Digital Scholarship Lab is open for all students to use and experiment in, and their Panther Works facility provides space for the creation and construction of student projects.



Nova Southeastern University

City: Fort Lauderdale

Undergraduate Enrollment: 4,300

Noteworthy: Students at NSU are able to take advantage of many innovative programs, from readily-accessible online courses to Fins Football, a unique student activities partnership between the university and the NFL's Miami Dolphins.





Rollins College

City: Winter Park

Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,950

Noteworthy: RC offers an excellent 3/2 program that allows students to obtain their BA and MBA in 5 years instead of the standard 6 years. The RC MBA is the top-ranked business program in Florida and one of the best in the world.



Stetson University

City: DeLand

Undergraduate Enrollment: 3,100

Noteworthy: SU is renowned for its music program, which consistently churns out artists of the highest caliber, and for its Investments Program in which students manage a real, multi-million-dollar portfolio.



Saint Leo University

City: Saint Leo

Undergraduate Enrollment: 2,250

Noteworthy: One of the largest Roman Catholic universities in the country, SLU offers a wide range of liberal arts and pre-professional programs taught by professors who have had "real-world" experience outside the realm of academia.



University of Tampa

City: Tampa

Undergraduate Enrollment: 7,400

Noteworthy: UT is a rapidly-growing institution, one that is currently constructing multiple state-of-the-art facilities to accommodate new academic majors and student services in the heart of Tampa's vibrant downtown.

College Guidance Contact Information



Kirk Blackard

Director

828-684-6232 ext. 110

kblackard@christschool.org



Jeff Depelteau

Associate Director

828-684-6232 ext. 112

jdepelteau@christschool.org



Thomas Becker

Assistant Director

828-684-6232 ext. 167

tbecker@christschool.org



Jennifer Bird

Registrar

828-684-6232 ext. 102

jbird@christschool.org

SENIOR ADVICE TO JUNIORS ON THE COLLEGE PROCESS



Flynn Cruse

- Begin applications as soon as possible.
- I relied heavily on the college guidance office for general aid. Ms. Pulsifer and Mrs. Morrison also helped a ton with editing my essays.
- Start working on the Common Application essays as soon as possible; the questions for next year have already been released! Start touring and researching any colleges that interest you.



Coleman Davis

- Draft as many essays as you can during the summer. It really knocks out a lot of work later on.
- Write your college essays honestly and talk about what you love doing and why you love doing it.
- Follow the guidance office's advice and time lines. They know what they are doing.
- Look for what YOU want in a college. Find a place where you will be happy.
- Visit colleges when the weather is worst (i.e. visit northern colleges during the winter). It really helps you understand if you are prepared to make the commute from home to school and back.