

# BE READY FOR EVERYTHING

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*Reflections and simple advice for your college search*

**BE PROFESSIONAL.** Open a new email account solely for the college search and scholarship processes. Something simple such as yourname@gmail.com is great! **PRO TIP:** Even if you have an email address provided by your school, we recommend that you create a new account, since many school email accounts block messages from third parties — like colleges! — and may also be deactivated when you graduate.

**BE COURAGEOUS.** Set aside time each week to read through the materials being sent to you. Don't just read about schools you already know! Read about schools that are new to you.

**BE INFORMED.** Pay attention to how colleges speak about student experiences and outcomes. Sound like a place you would consider calling home for four years? Then reach out and learn more.

**GET ORGANIZED.** Make a calendar that captures all important college deadlines — application deadlines (**PRO TIP:** Berry's Early Action Deadline is November 1), scholarship deadlines, financial aid deadlines, etc. Don't get caught off guard.

**BE BOLD.** If you have Honors/Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/Dual-Enrollment courses offered at your high school, take some! Curricular rigor matters, and we would rather see you take a challenging class and get a lower grade than take all standard level classes and earn a 4.0.

**BE AWARE.** We do not require SAT or ACT scores for admission to Berry or to be considered for our scholarship programs. But it's important that you check on state programs, like Georgia's HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarships, to see if they have additional testing requirements.

**BE YOURSELF.** Write your essays early, and don't be afraid of editing. Bring your essay to a trusted teacher and ask the question, "Does this sound like me?" If so, you've done your job! If not, keep going. The best essays are often about day-to-day experiences because we want to know YOU.

**GET IN TOUCH.** Who you are in the classroom matters to our professors. After all, they are here to teach you, first and foremost. Reach out to them, and ask them questions about their research interests or their experiences as mentors to Berry students!

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