



Cairn
UNIVERSITY



HOMESCHOOL TO COLLEGE

**Your Guide to Choosing
a College Major**



Intro



HOMESCHOOL TO COLLEGE

Your Guide to Choosing a College Major

Choosing a college major is one of the most exciting things for high school students to pursue. With that excitement, though, often comes a lot of responsibility. It's a huge decision, and high school students want to make the best choice for their futures.

For homeschoolers, the entire college process can feel different than it does for those who attend public or private schools. Because homeschoolers usually learn alone or in small homeschool groups, searching for colleges, applying, and declaring a major can all feel particularly overwhelming. Homeschoolers have different resources than those who attend public and private schools, and without a large number of teachers and fellow peers to talk to, it's common to feel more isolated in the process.

However, the pre-college journey does not have to be more stressful for homeschoolers than it does for anyone else. It's a misconception that it's harder for homeschoolers to transition into college than it is for others. **In fact, most homeschoolers thrive in college.** But still, as a homeschooled student, you're probably asking yourself:

How do I apply for college without having been to many college fairs? How do I know what major I want to pursue if I've never sat in a classroom before?

If you're a homeschooler looking for tips on how to make decisions about college, you've come to the right place. We've compiled this guide on making college decisions specifically with homeschoolers in mind, so keep reading for some advice about making big choices for your future.





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01



**How Do Homeschoolers
Get Into College?**



01

How Do Homeschoolers Get Into College?

Every high school student on a college search has questions about the process of applying for and getting into a college. Sometimes, as a homeschooler, it can be tricky to get answers to these questions. Homeschoolers don't always have the advantage of a dedicated high school counselor to help with the college application journey or school-organized opportunities to attend college fairs.

However, homeschooled students have close relationships with their parents and other close mentors. These relationships provide valuable insight and wisdom that help the application process and make it feel less overwhelming. Focus on the connections you do have with parents, family, family friends, anyone at your church, and any peers in your homeschool group.

You're not alone in your steps toward college, and you always have a community of people who want to help you confidently move to the next step in your future.

Homeschoolers get into college like anyone else does—filling out applications, researching scholarships and finances, and finishing high school strong. We'll get more into these processes later, but for now, just rest assured: **being homeschooled will not affect your chances of or path towards getting accepted into college.**

Going to college is an exciting experience, and if you're homeschooled, you're in good company. Every college has a mix of homeschooled and public or private school students. In the next chapter, read more about how many homeschooled students attend college.

02



What Percentage of Homeschooled Students Go to College?

02

What Percentage of Homeschooled Students Go to College?

At times, homeschoolers can feel like they have an isolated educational experience. This can especially be true when thinking about heading to a place filled with people in the same stage of life as you. However, when it comes to thinking about college, no homeschooler is alone. As a matter of fact:



Around **4.3 million students are homeschooled** in the United States.



In Spring 2019, **2.5 million homeschoolers were enrolled in colleges.**



Homeschooled students have also **done better on standardized admissions tests** than other students elsewhere and can fare just as well in college as their public and private school peers.

One of the coolest stats? At Cairn University, **15.5% of our students come from a homeschooled background.**

Cairn values community among its student body, and homeschoolers are vital to that community, participating in all our clubs, organizations, and student events.



03



Applying to College as a Homeschooler

It might feel like, as a homeschooler, the application process for college will be drastically different than it is for those who attended public or private schools.

While there are some things homeschoolers might have to go about differently when submitting documents, have no fear—the credentials and documents for homeschoolers are the same as those for anyone who attended public or private school.

How Do You Apply to College as a Homeschooler?

Since the popularity of homeschooling has grown and more homeschoolers attend college, many colleges now have specific instructions for homeschoolers. Instructions may vary by school, but generally, there are three main things you have to submit for an application:

- > **Proof of high school completion.**
This usually means copies of an unofficial transcript before you graduate high school and an official copy after.
- > **Any standardized test scores required by the school,** such as an SAT or an ACT.
- > **Any essays required by the school,** such as a personal statement.

If you're worried about figuring out what the colleges you want to apply for require, worry no longer. Most colleges have clear-cut instructions about what they require for application somewhere on their website, and if you can't find that, you can always reach out to a college's admissions office. They'll be happy to hear from you!

P.S. Cairn University is SAT-optional!





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College Scholarships for Homeschoolers



04

College Scholarships for Homeschoolers

Finances can be one of the most stressful parts of college for any student. However, there are plenty of ways to finance your degree so that you can put all your focus into your studies.

Are There Scholarships for Homeschoolers?

Countless scholarships are available for college students, and scholarship providers have begun targeting homeschooled students with opportunities to save on college. [Homeschooling organizations even provide some scholarships](#). Others are based on faith or Christian service, and some are open to all college students.

Scholarship research can feel like an overwhelming part of the college process, but rest assured, there are scholarship opportunities out there for you. Besides external scholarships, most colleges offer students their own set of scholarships. This could be for academic, major-specific, or need-based purposes. Be sure to check out the unique scholarships your school offers!



ESTIMATE YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

05



Choosing a College Major: Tips for Homeschooled Students

05

Choosing a College Major: Tips for Homeschooled Students

Some Things to Know Before Choosing a Major

It can be hard to know what you should major in. Even if you have areas of interest, it can take time to narrow your interests down to what you want to study or to decide what major would be most beneficial to you. Here are three things to keep in mind to take the pressure off as you think about declaring your major:



Remember that you can change your major, so it's not the end of the world if you don't like your first choice! After taking a few classes, you can reevaluate if your major is right for you.



Taking time to decide is okay—you don't have to start your first semester with a declared major. Many college students begin with [undeclared majors](#), so you can take general education classes while still deciding your focused subject area.



You can get a job in something you didn't major in! You never know what kind of opportunities your future holds, so your major does not determine whether you can find a job post-graduation.

Use the freedom to study what you want wisely. It's essential to pick a major that combines your strengths, passions, and the areas where you can grow. If you don't know what these things are for you yet, that's okay. You will learn more about yourself as you continue your educational journey.

→ [Are you stuck on choosing a major? Check out our blog about it!](#)



06

**How Do You Choose
a College Major?**

06

How Do You Choose a College Major?

There is no set way to choose a college major, but several things are helpful when determining what you want to study.

- **Think through what you enjoy doing.** Look at your hobbies and interests and think about what areas of study include many of the elements you enjoy. This can strengthen your natural skills and make your college experience more enjoyable!
- **Look at your extracurricular activities.** See if anything you've had hands-on experience with can be a major or minor! This can help build a resume and help you feel more prepared for your major.
- **Ask those around you what they notice you're passionate about and gifted in.** Getting outside of your head about your major can be helpful. There might be something obvious to others who know you that you're not thinking of yourself!
- **Think through your goals for the future.** Look at course catalogs and videos online about the majors you're considering. What do you want to accomplish in life? What majors can help you get there?
- **Try to find real students in the majors you're looking at** and see what a day in their life is like! One of the best ways to learn about something is to hear about it from someone who's living it!
- **Get advice from college students you know.** See what different programs are like at various universities. Pay attention to unique internships, professional relationships, and anything else that sticks out to you about what students in that major experience. Practical information like this can help inform your decisions.
- **Imagine yourself in the major.** Think through what your academic and social needs are. Make sure the major you choose aligns with those needs and that you feel like you'd grow academically and personally with the classes you'll take.
- Wondering what you should major in? **Connect with our admissions counselors to talk through your options!**



07

How to Boost Your Application and Find Your Passions

How to Boost Your Application and Find Your Passions

It's a misconception that homeschoolers miss out on all the experiences and opportunities other high schools offer. In fact, homeschoolers have just as many opportunities as other high school students, and all these opportunities can count towards their college careers!

Whether you're looking for ways to make your application stand out or ways to get connected at college, you, as a homeschooler, can make your time in high school count for your college experience.



Homeschool Electives

Like traditional high school students, homeschooled students can participate in electives and extracurricular activities. Taking part in these electives and classes outside of the core course load you need to graduate can help make your college application shine and hone your areas of interest.

Extracurriculars in high school can also help you get involved right away at whatever college you attend. Whether through sports or clubs, extracurriculars are a great way to meet new people, make new friends, and make the most of your college experience.



Homeschool Dual Enrollment

Another great way to discover what you want to major in and to get a head start on college classes is to get dual-enrolled. Taking college classes while you're still finishing high school can help you get some general education college courses out of the way, making more room in your college schedule for the classes that interest you.

If you end up choosing to attend the school you dual enrolled in for your four years of college, you can start out your time there with a knowledge of the campus and a relationship with some of the professors. This can help your first year feel less overwhelming as you'll already know what life is like at that college!

→ **Tip: If you choose dual enrollment at Cairn, we offer you an **80% tuition discount****



08

**What Are Some College Majors
for Homeschoolers?**

08

What Are Some College Majors for Homeschoolers?

While homeschoolers can choose any college major they want, some majors or areas of study fall closer to the homeschooler experience and the values of many homeschoolers. Below are six of just some of the most popular majors or areas of study for homeschoolers at Cairn:



EDUCATION: [Education majors](#) learn how to teach and empathize with others, a concept well-known by homeschoolers who have learned chiefly independently. This major is also helpful for those who want to teach their own kids at home someday.



MUSIC: Many homeschoolers take up an instrument, and with a [music major](#), you can hone your worshipful heart and skills by studying one or more instruments.



DIVINITY: There are multiple kinds of [divinity majors](#) to choose from at Cairn. These majors let you learn more about Christ and His Word, carrying on the biblical study you did as a homeschool student.



ENGLISH: Because of how much independent study any given homeschooler takes on, reading is often a favorite pastime for homeschoolers. With an [English degree](#), you can study quality literature through a Biblical lens.



BIOLOGY: For the more outdoors-oriented homeschoolers, the natural world might have been a large part of your education. A [biology degree](#) leads you to study the beauty of creation in-depth and provides biblical answers for the complexity of life around us.



HISTORY: [History majors](#) get to study how humanity has gotten to where we are today. The Bible is full of history, so a history degree lets students answer enduring questions with a scriptural lens.



[Check out our blog on how God can use your major](#)

A photograph of four students sitting outdoors, likely on a lawn, and studying together. They are looking at a laptop screen. The students are diverse in age and ethnicity. The background is softly blurred, showing more greenery and possibly other people in the distance. The lighting is bright and natural, suggesting daytime.

09

**A University That Feels
Like Home: Cairn University**



A University That Feels Like Home: Cairn University

If you're looking for a college experience that keeps Christ at the center of everything you do and learn, [Cairn University](#) could be the next step for your future.

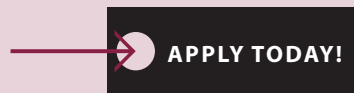
At Cairn University, we believe in providing men and women with a quality education built on a biblical foundation. Our curriculums are designed to integrate bible and theology classes into everyone's degree track, and our dedicated professors weave a biblical perspective through every class they teach. We keep God's word at the heart of our education so that our students graduate as knowledgeable, competent individuals ready to serve Christ wherever they go.

Outside of the classroom, Cairn fosters spiritual growth in our students through our tight-knit student community and our countless service opportunities. Cairn's student body leads worship nights and Bible studies and attends church groups together, all to support one another on their spiritual walks.

Students at Cairn also earn ministry credit as a part of their degree, meaning throughout their time here, they get to go out and serve others around them as Christ served during His time on earth.

No matter where you are in your college decision journey, Cairn is here to help you. You can [explore our programs](#) or [request more information](#) anytime to learn more about us. We'd also love to connect with you in person, so if you want to talk face-to-face, please [schedule a visit](#).

If you know Cairn is the next step in your life, we invite you to begin applying today. We look forward to hearing from you!





Cairn
UNIVERSITY

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