



The Value of a Christian Higher Education

Your college-bound child will face many decisions as they approach the college search and application process. Top on that list is determining what type of college they want to attend. It is important to find a college that is a fit for them. If your child is considering a Christian college, you may be concerned about how you will pay for a private education and if a Christian college is the best fit for your child. This article outlines the benefits of a Christian college and explains the immeasurable value that a Christian higher education can be for your child.

Reinforcing values. A Christian college reinforces the Christian values you have worked so hard to instill in your child. The college years are an important developmental stage where students will be faced with important decisions that will impact the rest of their lives. During this time in life, they are evaluating what they have been taught and forming their own beliefs and opinions about the world. College challenges them to think critically about what they believe. A Christian college provides a conducive environment for students to examine their beliefs without those beliefs being ridiculed or discounted.

Quality professors. Christian colleges employ faculty and staff who are more likely to support your child's success in college. Look for a college that hires only Christian faculty and staff, and you will find an environment where the faculty and staff will nurture your child and help them flourish. You are more likely to find faculty in a Christian college who feel called to teach and are not preoccupied with their own research endeavors. At Christian institutions, your child is less likely to encounter "weed-out classes," and he/she will benefit from faculty members who are encouraged to pray with and for them without fear of being reprimanded.

Affordable. While private schools often carry a higher tuition price tag, they may be more affordable than you realize. Public institutions generally tag on numerous, costly fees in addition to tuition costs; however, Dallas Baptist University charges one low cost student service fee. Often, more aid is available for students attending private institutions. The federal financial aid formula takes into account the cost of education; the higher the cost, the more aid you can receive. It is possible that a student attending a private Christian college could even pay less out-of-pocket than a student attending a state institution.

Faith informed education. Christ-centered colleges offer something a public institution cannot—an education that incorporates faith into academics. Christian institutions that practice faith integration in the classroom hold the belief that all truth comes from God. This worldview sees God as the source of truth for all disciplines, be it mathematics, science, history, or any other subject. Thus the student receives a deeper, more thorough education if the professor is not limited by mandates prohibiting discussion of faith.

Building positive relationships. Since Christian colleges tend to be smaller, there are more opportunities to build close relationships with faculty as well as other students. Add to that the fact that most faculty and students at a Christian institution share common beliefs, and the opportunity for strong positive relationships is even greater. Many students will meet their future spouse in college as well. You can rest a little easier knowing that your child is surrounded by Christian friends who may help overcome the many temptations that college students face today.

Leadership opportunities. Due to their smaller size and close-knit environments, Christian colleges provide students with more leadership opportunities as well as networking contacts when it comes time to find a job after they graduate.

Service opportunities. While many colleges provide opportunities for service, a Christian institution provides the ideal setting for students to learn how to serve others. For example, DBU requires all incoming freshmen and all Christian Leadership scholars to participate in six hours of community service per month. DBU contributed over 150,000 hours of community volunteer service and ministry this past year. Christian colleges also provide numerous opportunities for mission trips where students serve overseas, thus giving students a global experience. Christian colleges also lead the country in the implementation of service-learning, where service is incorporated into the curriculum and enhances learning.

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)