

# 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!)

**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 DISCIPLINED.** Standardized tests aren't fun. We get it. They play a minor role in our process at Berry. So our advice? Take advantage of free online resources to prepare for the SAT or the ACT so that when you walk into your test, you know you have put in the work to get your best score! No need to spend \$\$\$ on test prep – a little bit of practice each week will go a long way. BONUS: that kind of consistent studying will help you improve your habits for our classrooms.

**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 faculty. After all, our faculty are here to teach you, first and foremost. Reach out to our faculty, and ask them questions about their research interests or their experiences as mentors to Berry students!

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