



College Prep – The Cornerstone Difference

Cornerstone definitely equipped me for college in ways other high schools simply could not. The most valuable thing was probably how it anchored my beliefs based on the Bible and factual evidence. I am able to use analytical skills

and logically sound arguments to defend my unwavering confidence in Christianity. Classes taught me to defend my beliefs in the presence of non Christians or even other Christians who have not been educated in the same way. Even at a Christian college my beliefs are being continually challenged on issues such as abortion, homosexuality, evolution, the reliability of the Bible, as absolute truth. This is a skill that will become even more valuable throughout my lifetime.

Secondly, having a college schedule while still in high school has done wonders for my time management skills. It taught me independent study and balancing a M/W/F, T/Th schedule. I understand how to manage my time even when teachers aren't "babying" me. Since I have learned the art of not procrastinating I am much more involved in service opportunities, clubs and other campus life than many of my less prepared friends.

I am also incredibly thankful for the writing techniques that Cornerstone teaches. In my freshman writing class, my professor started class by saying that we would have to completely unlearn everything high school teaches about writing because such methods were too restraining for the caliber of writing that my college expected of its students. However this was not a problem for me and I made the only "A" in my class on our first paper.

I also appreciate how Cornerstone's small class size cultivated great communication and speaking skills. I got lots of practice doing what I was most terrified of: public speaking. In my speech class I have been undaunted by assignments that terrify others, simply because of speech opportunities at CPA. In Anatomy I had to teach a chapter for a sizable length of time and I will have to do a similar thing for one of my college finals.

The intimacy of the classes and the dedication of the teachers prepared me as an individual and challenged me very deeply so that I am actually more independent and organized for my classes. The fact that they are passionate to see their students succeed is incredibly effective.

I highly recommend getting involved in ICC, especially if public speaking is your worst nightmare. You will probably have to do it in college, but it will be with people you are less familiar with and the pace will be extremely fast. ICC gave me a nurturing, fun environment to cultivate confidence. The teachers gave great personal, positive, critical feedback. Also the conferences taught me that I needed it in ways I never imagined and they gave me a Christian perspective on important issues.

I also highly recommend graduating with distinction to get the most out of a college prep experience. It is not necessarily overwhelming and it will look good to colleges.

Keep up with a portfolio and start it ASAP. Include all service hours, work, extracurricular. Include dates, references, places and people involved. It is a pain having to dig through your calendars and memory later when you are trying to get references for scholarships.

It's never too early to do scholarship searches or college visits. For ten years I had my heart set on one college and then changed my mind for a better choice my senior year. Take advantage of college fairs. Also be aware of scholarship opportunities. You will also be surprised at what kinds of businesses give out scholarships. Stay very aware of deadlines. Always try to stay ahead!

~Savannah Negas, 2011 Graduate

