

Getting Ready for College: A Judson Girl's Perspective

I remember my first Scholarship Day at Judson as clearly as if it happened yesterday.

I wasn't completely sold on Judson prior to my visit, but my parents encouraged me to come, take the Scholarship test, and audition. Little did I know the events to follow would completely change life as I knew it. I saw community, I envisioned opportunity, and I imagined growth. I knew Judson was the place God wanted me to be. I knew I had found my college and that Judson was the place I wanted to be for the next four years of my life.

So what happens when you've had your own "this is where I belong" moment? How can you prepare for your first year of new beginnings, new goals, new experiences...and well, just new in general? I've talked with several students on Judson's campus to answer a few of these questions for you. Whether you're counting down the days until August, a little bit nervous, or both, you can rest assured that there's a Judson girl here who felt the same way. Here are the top 10 recommendations that these Judson girls have for you as a future Judson woman.

~Brittany Hall

Schedule a Private Visit.

Get a feel for what the campus is like on a typical day. Attend some classes and have lunch with the students. You'll also have an opportunity for some one-on-one attention with professors that will give you a better idea of what to expect once you arrive at Judson in the fall.

Evaluate Your Financial Aid Options.

Aside from scholarships and financial aid offered through Judson's Financial Aid Office, there are many scholarships available through a variety of places to help you reduce out-of-pocket expenses. Check with your guidance counselor or our financial aid office for ideas!

Explore your career path.

Are you considering a specific major or career path? Research and get a better idea of opportunities that are available in that field. Talk to someone you know who is in that profession. Evaluate the coursework required. People often choose a career without looking to see what is involved in and after college, only to discover that it's not what they were expecting. You may further confirm your choice or find something that fits your goals better, but it helps to save time and money to do your homework ahead of time.

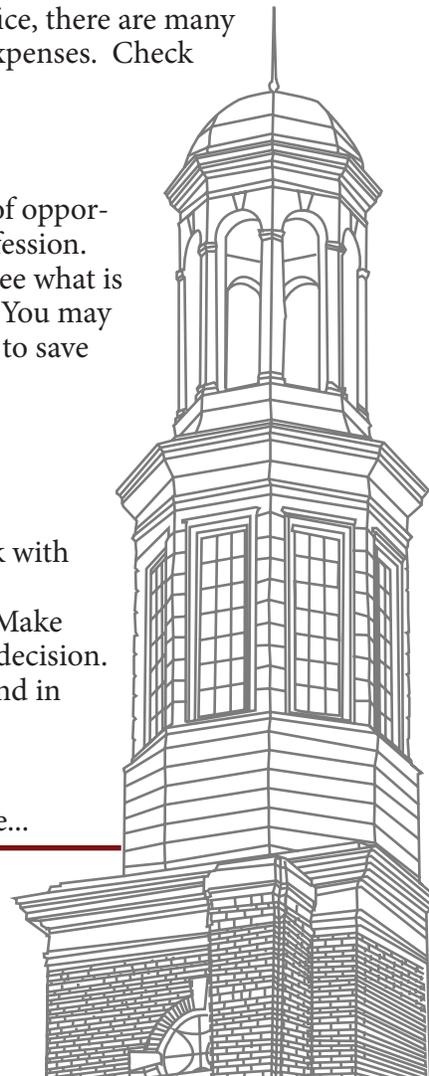
Watch the mail!

Pay attention to the correspondence you receive from Judson and your Admissions Representative! Review the material you receive and make sure you're on track. Talk with your representative and evaluate where you are in the Admissions process. Is your application on hold? Find out why. Have you decided Judson is the place for you? Make sure your recruiter knows and that you are taking the steps needed to confirm your decision. Your scholarships and room preference is based on availability, so the sooner you send in your information, the more options you will have.

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Brittany Hall is a Judson Admissions Representative and a Judson Girl, Class of 2013.

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Look for girls in your area who might also be attending Judson.

The summer before my freshman year at Judson, I met a girl at a store near my home. We recognized each other from a Judson event but had no clue we lived so close together until that day—or that we would later graduate together. It's so cool to find other girls in your area who are planning to attend the Judson too and is a great opportunity to develop new friendships before you ever arrive on move-in day!

Set Goals.

At the beginning of freshman year, my roommate and I decided to set goals for ourselves that at the time were based solely off the cool sound of graduating with Latin behind our names. We determined the kind of grades we would need and then came up with a plan to accomplish it. After four years, we both walked across the stage having achieved our goal. I think often times new students give up too quickly and the only plan is to “wing it.” Set goals ahead of time and find someone who will hold you accountable to those goals. Plan your work and then work your plan!

Enjoy Shopping!

A new dorm room often inspires shopping trips for décor, cleaning supplies, and other helpful items. It's fun to coordinate with your future roommate and helpful to make sure you don't end up with two of everything. Let it be a fun experience rather than stressful one. Pinterest and other DIY sites offer inexpensive ideas for storage and decorating. Have fun!

Prepare for a Shift in Responsibility.

As a future college student, remember that it's not your parents who will go to class for you, write your papers, or earn your grades. Take initiative and responsibility now so you won't have culture shock when you arrive. Be sure you know how to wash your clothes and maybe even learn how to cook a few of your favorite meals for the times you just want something different. Work together with your parents throughout the application and acceptance process and be aware of goals, requirements, and responsibilities that will surface once you arrive at Judson.

Prepare for Growth and Opportunity.

Enjoy the summer at home and set in your mind whenever you go off to college to fully embrace the new experience! The people at Judson are so focused on helping you become who you want to be and enhancing who you are as a person. It's a good time to grow spiritually, emotionally, and academically, because even though you're in college, there are fewer distractions and you will have awesome support from your Judson sisters. Everyone here wants you to grow spiritually and be the best you can be in Christ.

Relax!

“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

Special thanks to each Judson girl who contributed to this article through her own personal experience!