

COLLEGE MINISTRY

1. The name BCM (Baptist Collegiate Ministry) is connected to the Baptist State Convention and SBC but not always funded by them. There are usually three sources of funding – the State Convention, the local Association and the college where BCM doing ministry. The college usually provides some funding to every student organization on campus.
2. The BCM doesn't want a local church to take over, but they do want to partner with local churches as they work with students on campus. They usually invite local pastors and student pastors to come speak at their weekly meetings.
3. The BCM looks for ministry opportunities for their students. BCM students often help with Disciple Now weekends, camps, retreats, mission trips, disaster relief, music, preaching, and giving testimonies at local churches.
4. The basic purpose of BCM is connecting to students on campus, involving them in Bible study, and missions, and encouraging them to connect to a local church.
5. The two basic choices you have to make for college ministry at your church are 1) do we want college students in our worship service or are we going to have a separate service for them? 2) do we want college students in a Sunday School class or are we going to have them in small groups that meet during the week in homes? I have seen churches do excellent ministry using all of these options. But it has to be quality, whatever you choose.
6. You have a tremendous opportunity to invest in the lives of students for four years and change the direction of their lives and ministry. I caught the passion for evangelism and discipleship while I was a college student and it stuck with me for the next fifty years. Now is the time to ask them to memorize 10 or 20 key Bible verses, memorize the gospel, learn to have a daily quiet time, and teach a Sunday School class or D-group. Now is the time to take them all over the country and the world on mission trips.
7. It isn't just the content of what you teach as much as the quality of the relationships you build with students. They will be studying your life, your marriage, your words and your actions to see if your commitment to Christ is genuine. You have to spend social time with them, not just a SS lesson on Sunday morning.
8. College students usually enjoy sports if there is any way to start some teams or activities – basketball, softball, ultimate frisbee, tennis, pickleball, bowling, snow skiing, volleyball, hiking, and more.
9. If you have HS students going away to college – encourage them to connect with (and introduce them to) BCM, CRU, Navigators, FCA and other campus organizations.
10. It is not uncommon for some college students to graduate and start their first job making more money than you do when they are only 22 years old. Pull some leaders together and give them some training in life skills like handling finances, personal fitness, leadership skills in business, home maintenance and successful marriage.
11. There are thousands of International Students on campus at nearby colleges. Invite them to your home. Disciple them. They will become missionaries all over the world.