

Thurman Group Global | College Edge | Youth Ministries

The Youth Ministries Guide to College Readiness

Bridging faith formation and college survival for the students you have been pouring into.

There Is Greatness Inside

Youth Ministries Guide

You see your students every week. You pray with them, celebrate them, and invest in their spiritual formation. You also see the ones who go off to college and do not come back - not just to church, but to themselves. Emotional intelligence is the bridge between their faith formation and their college survival.

25%

Freshman Dropout Rate

Wk 1-6

Highest Risk Window at College

15

Coachable EQ Competencies

4

DISC Styles in Every Youth Group

Why EQ and Faith Are Not in Conflict



Self-Awareness is the Beginning of Wisdom

You must know yourself to grow yourself (Maxwell). EQ assessment gives students concrete data on their inner world - the starting place for both spiritual and academic growth.



Identity Under Pressure is a Discipleship Issue

A student whose faith-formed identity gets challenged in Week One of college needs more than prayer. They need the emotional tools to hold their identity when everything familiar is removed.



Empathy is the Language of Service

The Interpersonal EQ composite measures empathy, social responsibility, and relational quality - core outcomes of Christian formation. A student who scores high leads well and connects across difference.

Ministry Integration Points

01**Host a College Readiness Night for Juniors and Seniors**

Partner with TGG to host a community event framing EQ and DISC in the context of purpose and calling. Position the assessment as a discovery of how God wired you.

02**Build a Pre-Departure Blessing That Includes a Development Plan**

Transform your send-off from a farewell celebration to a commissioning equipped with personalized EQ data and a 90-day action plan.

03**Create a Freshman First-90-Days Check-In Network**

Assign a mentor from the congregation to each outgoing student with a structured 30-60-90 day check-in protocol. EQ gives both mentor and mentee a common language.

04**Use DISC to Improve Your Youth Group Dynamics**

D-styles lead by competing, I-styles by inspiring, S-styles by serving, C-styles by preparing. This reshapes how you structure teams, retreats, and service projects.

05**Address Stress Management as a Spiritual Discipline**

Reframe stress tolerance and optimism as spiritual formation outcomes. A student who cannot manage anxiety cannot serve, lead, or love well.

DISC Profile Ministry Archetypes

D - Leader by Nature

Directional Leadership

D-style students naturally take charge of causes. They need a mission larger than their ambition. Without it, their drive turns inward and becomes self-serving.

I - Evangelist by Nature

Relational Influence

I-style students are the heart of any community. Their college risk is social pressure and identity drift. Ground them in purpose before they leave.

S - Servant by Nature

Faithful Consistency

S-style students are the backbone of every ministry. They are also the most homesick, the quietest when struggling, and the last to ask for help.

C - Scribe by Nature

Principled Depth

C-style students bring intellectual rigor to faith. Give them the research. It honors how they are wired and builds their confidence in the framework.

The EQ-i 2.0 Composites

SELF-REGARD

The identity anchor. Strong self-regard means their faith and values hold when the college environment tests them.

SELF-ACTUALIZATION

Pursuing meaningful goals aligned with calling - the intersection of faith and personal mission.

EMPATHY

The engine of ministry and the skill that makes service genuine.

STRESS TOLERANCE

A student who cannot manage anxiety cannot serve, lead, or love well.

INTERPERSONAL

Building trust and connection. College belonging starts with relational EQ.

Personal growth increases hope. It teaches us that tomorrow can be better than today.

JOHN C. MAXWELL

Share with your student:

thurmangroupglobal.com/guide/students

Send your students their own guide - written directly to them.

Equip Your Students to Go the Distance

TGG offers faith community partnership programs. Host a College Edge orientation evening at your church or organization.

Partner With TGG

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