

College Basics

SIMPLE DESCRIPTIONS OF WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
TO START THE COLLEGE DECISION PROCESS

Types of “College”

- ▶ **Vocational/Technical School** (Short Term, Trade Programs)
 - ▶ Think: Adult Center for Education, CDL Certification program
- ▶ **Community College – Two Year**
 - ▶ Think: Zane State College, Central Ohio Technical College (COTC)
- ▶ **College or University – Four Year**
 - ▶ Think: The Ohio State University, Muskingum University
 - ▶ Could be Public or Private
- ▶ **Graduate School**

Types of Degrees

- ▶ Certification/Certificate
- ▶ Associate's Degree
- ▶ Bachelor's Degree
- ▶ Graduate Degrees
 - ▶ Masters
 - ▶ Doctorate
 - ▶ Medical

Applications

- ▶ The form on which you are requesting entrance to the College
- ▶ Common Application
- ▶ May include:
 - ▶ Your personal information
 - ▶ Demographics
 - ▶ Parent/family information
 - ▶ Essays
- ▶ May require inclusion of High School transcript or test scores
- ▶ DEADLINES, DEADLINES, DEADLINES!

Entrance Exams

- ▶ Used to test student readiness in certain areas, usually math or English, for proper placement in classes.
- ▶ ACT
 - ▶ Can be taken many times
- ▶ SAT
- ▶ Accuplacer

Ways to Pay for College

▶ **FAFSA**

- ▶ Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- ▶ Calculates EFC (Expected Family Contribution) based on parent/student tax information

▶ **Grants**

- ▶ Free money you don't pay back, such as PELL (federal) or OCOG (state)

▶ **Loans**

- ▶ Borrowed money you must pay back after college. Could be student or parent loans.
 - ▶ May be from the federal government or alternative/private
- ▶ **DEADLINES!** Check to find out your school's deadline date!

Ways to Pay for College, cont...

▶ **SCHOLARSHIPS!!!**

- ▶ Designated monies available to College students
- ▶ Could be for ANYTHING
- ▶ Students (YES YOU!) must seek out and apply for this money
- ▶ Free money you don't pay back
- ▶ DEADLINES! Check to see when they are!

Classes and Credits

- ▶ All schools in Ohio are on SEMESTERS
 - ▶ Fall begins in August, Spring begins in January, Summers vary by school
- ▶ Each class is a specific number of CREDIT HOURS
 - ▶ The number of credits per semester could determine you status full time, part time
- ▶ Some institutions charge one fee per year/semester, some charge per class

Other things you'll probably need...

- ▶ Room and Board
- ▶ Books
- ▶ Transportation

- ▶ ALL of these expenses are in addition to the cost of tuition!

After your first day

- ▶ You can change your mind!
- ▶ You can TRANSFER credits earned at one institution to another
- ▶ You will need to file the FAFSA each year
- ▶ Personnel, advisors, instructors are here to help, but YOU must communicate!

How to Prepare NOW

- ▶ College Credit Plus
 - ▶ At home high school OR on college campus
- ▶ AP/CP/Honors/Advanced Classes
- ▶ Know what classes you need for career goals
- ▶ Explore!
- ▶ Ask questions

The benefits of education...

- ▶ Students with an education earn more money – a bachelor's degree earns you a MILLION dollars more than a high school diploma over your career.
- ▶ By the year 2028 there will be 19 million more jobs for educated workers, than people qualified to fill them.
- ▶ As compared to people with less education, a higher level of education has been linked to: lower blood pressure, lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol, and lower risk of certain types of cancer!

Questions?

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