



# 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



# Questions?

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