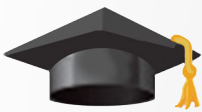


COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

This checklist is designed to help you successfully apply to any college. Effective college preparation begins when you start high school, not as you end it. Some of the steps that you'll need to take will be repeated each year throughout your high school experience. Others are recommended for a particular grade.

However, there are four general concepts on which you'll need to focus for each year you are in high school. They include:

Academic



Focus on coursework and SAT/ACT preparation. Read, read and read some more!

Personal



Get involved with school and community activities.

Career



Take the time to discover more about your values, interests and abilities to determine your goals.

Financial



NOW is the perfect time to begin saving for college!

Name _____

High School _____ Graduation Year _____

9TH GRADE

Meet with your school guidance counselor to discuss participation in pre-college programs like Dual Enrollment, Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO), Tech Prep, Upward Bound, etc.

Take college prep courses. Many colleges have specific academic standards for admission.



Consider Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) courses. Are **Advanced Placement** or honors courses an option at your school?

Find a family member, community leader or teacher to serve as your mentor.

Explore your interests by completing a career assessment like **FOCUS 2** to determine possible career fields.



Participate in extracurricular activities. Join a club, play a sport or try-out for the school musical!

Engage in social media and visit websites of the colleges in which you are interested. *Manage your online profile carefully!*

Start a college binder to outline your goals and keep college and career research.



10TH GRADE

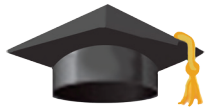
Check your academic progress with your guidance counselor. Are you taking the right classes to be college-ready?

Develop a financial plan for college by talking with your parents/guardian.



Learn how to calculate and take ownership of your GPA.

Participate in **ACT/SAT** prep classes and take the **ACT Plan/PSAT**.



Discuss your goals, desires, dreams and aspirations with your mentor.

Consider job shadowing or volunteering in your possible career field. Interview people with jobs that interest you.



Research colleges using **BigFuture** and/or **OhioMeansSuccess** to find schools that offer majors that could lead to your possible career field.

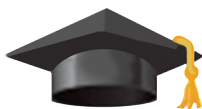
Continue adding to your college and career binder. Are any options beginning to sound interesting?



Attend a local college fair. Visit the Ohio Association for College Admissions Counseling (**OACAC**) website for upcoming events.

11TH GRADE

- Maintain contact with your guidance counselor. Could using a tutor improve your grades?
- Use **FAFSA4caster** to explore financial options with your family.
- Make contact with your mentor once per month.
- Get a part-time job. Earning money and gaining experience are definite advantages!
- Conduct meaningful career research by using an online tool such as **Career Coach** or **O*NET OnLine**.
- Determine the cost of attendance for each college in your college and career binder by visiting websites such as **College Navigator**.
- Ask about student support services at each college (tutoring, transportation, advising, career services, etc.).
- Take the **ACT/SAT**.
- Narrow your college choices based on your career interests, financial situation and/or personal preference. Talk to your counselor, mentor and family about your options.



12TH GRADE-FALL

Meet with your guidance counselor to assess credit completion as you prepare to graduate. Do you need to take any additional math or English courses?

Review the expected cost of each college.

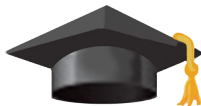


Check on available scholarships and their requirements. Scholarships may be available from national programs, community organizations and your specific college of choice. Try using an online scholarship tool such as **Fastweb**; **Scholarship Connect** for local scholarships; or Sinclair students can search **Sinclair Scholarships**.

Visit colleges and arrange for overnight stays, if applicable.

Start applying to colleges. Be aware of deadlines and application requirements such as fees, essays and/or high school transcripts. Ask your counselor and mentor for letters of recommendation.

Retake the **ACT/SAT**.



12TH GRADE-SPRING

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**). The **FAFSA** is available as early as January 1st of your senior year!



Continue to apply and check the status of available scholarships. Compare the remaining cost of each college after financial aid.

Retake the **ACT/SAT**. Take AP exams if taking **Advanced Placement** courses.



Make your college selection! Communicate with your school to determine your next steps for orientation and registration.

NOTES

RESOURCES

Advanced Placement

apstudent.collegeboard.org

FOCUS 2

www.sinclair.edu/undecided

ACT/ACT Plan

www.actstudent.org

SAT/PSAT

www.collegeboard.org

BigFuture

bigfuture.collegeboard.org

OhioMeansSuccess

www.ohiomeanssuccess.org

OACAC

www.oacac.org

FAFSA4caster

www.studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate

Career Coach

www.sinclair.edu/explore/careercoach

O*NET OnLine

www.onetonline.org

College Navigator

www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

Fastweb

www.fastweb.com

ScholarshipCONNECT

www.daytonfoundation.org/scholars

Sinclair Scholarships

www.sinclair.edu/scholarships

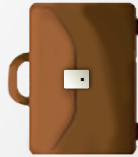
FAFSA

www.fafsa.ed.gov

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's success starts here!

your name here



COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

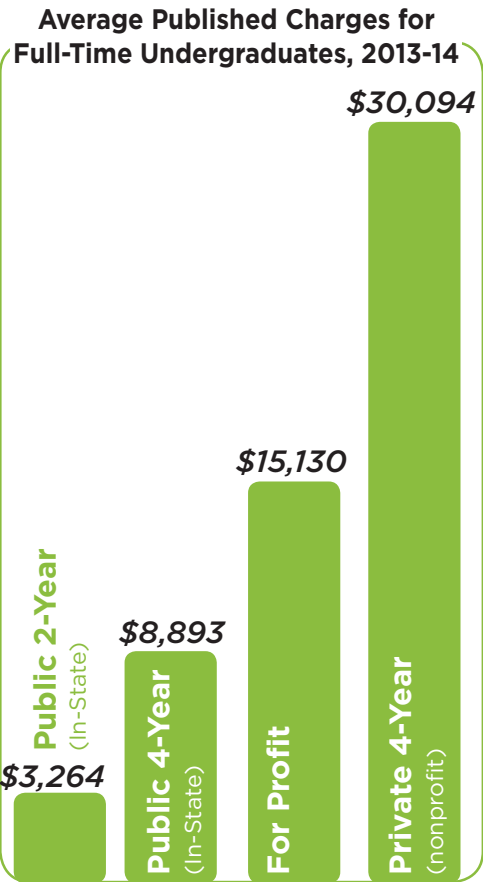
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College Comparison by the Numbers

Attending college is an investment in your future! When conducting your college research it is important to look at the total tuition and fee cost for each college. Ask questions like: Will scholarships and/or grants cover my tuition and fees? Do I need student loans?

The total cost of college is also more than just tuition and fees. Remember, if you'll need to live on campus and the college offers student housing, you'll need to budget for additional costs like room and board.

Check out the chart below for a sampling of college tuition and fee charges:



SOURCE: The College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges



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