

Planning for College

- The University of Akron

Consider College Characteristics

- Majors and educational programs
- Location and size of school
- Cost and financial assistance
- Type of school and degrees offered
- Admission policy
- College affiliation and accreditation
- Campus activities
- Support services

Options after High School

- Community colleges
- Public colleges and universities
- Private colleges and universities

Community Colleges

■ Advantages

- Technical degrees
- Transfer degrees and coursework
- Partnership programs
- Costs, proximity to home
- Almost half of all U.S. college students attend community colleges

Public Colleges/Universities

- 13 in Ohio
- Advantages
 - Wide range of academic programs
 - Broad range of student life experiences and opportunities
 - Diverse types of institutions to choose from
 - Metropolitan, urban, rural, selective, moderately selective, open, large, medium, small

Public Colleges/Universities

- Advantages cont.
 - Affordable tuition options
 - Financial assistance (merit and need based)
 - Ability to transfer credit from community colleges
 - Opportunities for graduate and professional studies
 - Regional campus options
 - Major sports programs

Private Colleges/Universities

■ Advantages

- Small size of classes
- Low faculty/student ratio
- Opportunities for student leadership
- Strong financial aid and scholarship opportunities.
- Wide range of locations, affiliations, and costs.

Is Getting into College Hard?

■ Open Admissions

- Almost all students are accepted.
- Examples: Cuyahoga Community College, Stark State College of Technology

■ Selective Admissions

- Certain GPAs, ACT/SAT scores are required. Also, an essay and/or interview are often required.
- Examples: Bowling Green State University, College of Wooster

■ Competitive Admissions

- Space is very limited. High school course selection, test scores, and extracurricular involvement are evaluated very carefully.
- Examples: The Ohio State University, Oberlin College, Harvard University

■ Competitive majors

- Examples: Nursing, Architecture, Education, Business

Academic Preparation for College

- Admissions Offices also evaluate student transcripts by considering the following factors:
 - Enrollment in Advanced Placement and/or the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program
 - Choosing high school courses which prepare students for their college major. Example: more science and math for prospective engineering or pre-med students.
 - 12th grade course selection and grades are very important in college admission decisions
 - Your high school
 - The percentage of graduates who go on to four-year colleges and universities
 - Which advanced courses are offered at the high school

ACT & SAT Testing

ACT, American College Test

- Multiple choice tests in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning.
- Optional writing test; strongly recommended.
- Check out www.act.org

ACT & SAT Testing

SAT, Scholastic Aptitude Test I

- Tests in Critical Reading, Writing, and Math
- Most questions are multiple choice. Some math questions do not provide choices, but require the student to supply the answer.
- Check out www.collegeboard.com

ACT & SAT Testing

SAT II, Scholastic Aptitude Test II

- Tests cover specific subjects such as biology, world history, and foreign language
- Tests are often required by competitive colleges in addition to the SAT I or ACT

Improve ACT/SAT Scores

- Take a rigorous high school curriculum.
- Use test preparation resources at Collegeboard.com or ACT.org
- FreeRice.com—web site with free SAT vocabulary drills. For each correct answer, 20 grains of rice are donated to end world hunger
- SAT/ACT optional colleges and universities. Examples: Baldwin-Wallace College, Denison University, Smith College, and Wake Forest University
- Remember—test scores are only ONE factor used for college admission and scholarship decisions

College Information Sources

- Internet/Web sites
 - Askaboutcollege.com
 - College/university Web sites
- College representatives and college fairs
- Counselors and teachers
- Parents, students and alumni

College & University Visits

- Contact the Admissions Office to schedule a campus visit.
- Make arrangements to attend an information session, take a campus tour, schedule an interview, visit classes and meet with faculty.
- If possible, visit when school is in session.
- Types of visit opportunities:
 - Large open house visit programs
 - Bus tours to campuses
 - Individual visits
 - Overnight visits

College & University Visits

- Ask to have a meal in the campus dining hall and ask about how the meal plan works for residential students.
- Take a careful look at the surrounding town or city. Ask to see safety statistics.
- Pick up a copy of the campus newspaper and the alumni magazine.

College & University Visits

- When visiting with admissions/faculty/attending a class, make sure to investigate the following:
 - What are the admission requirements for my major of choice?
 - Who teaches the classes—full time faculty or graduate students?
 - What is the job placement for my major and what help is given in looking for internships/full-time employment after graduation?
 - What are the classes like—lecture or discussion/seminar style?

Applying for Admission

- Narrow your choices
- Review college admission test requirements
- Know application fees and deadlines
- Know scholarship requirements
- Submit application materials
 - Application for admission
 - If applying online, be sure to notify counselor so that transcripts, recommendations, and test scores are sent to colleges and universities.
 - High school transcript
 - Admission test results
 - Recommendations

Recommendations

- Clear and comprehensive recommendations can make a difference in admissions decisions.
- Recommendations can come from teachers, counselors, coaches, advisers, employers, etc.
- Provide 3-4 weeks notice for a recommendation to be written.
- Provide a “brag sheet” to the person writing the recommendation.
- Recommendations are reviewed looking for the following information:
 - Comparisons to other students in the class.
 - Information about the school grading system and/or competition for grades.
 - Illustrative examples or anecdotes.
 - Personal information (example personal problems or health issues which had an impact on performance.)
 - Other personal traits or study habit information.

Extracurricular Activities

- Commitment, level of accomplishment, initiative, and leadership are most important.
- Admissions offices will ask the following questions when reviewing student resumes/activity lists in an application:
 - How much time does the student devote to this activity?
 - Is there evidence of leadership—is the student an officer or leader in the organization/sport?
 - Balance is best—do not limit involvement to one type of activity.
 - Volunteerism is very important.

Paying for College

- Sources of financial aid:
 - Federal and State Government
 - FAFSA
 - Grants, Student Loans, Work-Study
 - www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - College and University Scholarships
 - Academic, leadership, athletic, fine arts scholarships
 - Each school distributes scholarships in a unique way
 - Please research deadlines and requirements to apply for scholarships

Review and Finalize Your Plans

- Show initiative and be assertive
- Open communication between parents and students
- Follow up with colleges to which you have applied:
 - Orientation and Registration
 - Student Housing
 - Financial Aid

Questions?

Office of Admissions

- The University of Akron
- 1-800-655-4884 or 330-972-7100
- admissions@uakron.edu