

Deciding on which college to attend is one of the most important and difficult decisions that face college bound high school seniors. The following questions will help you to narrow down your choices.

- ◆ **Does the college offer the degree or major of your choice?** Is the school's program a strong one? What are the requirements for graduation?
- ◆ **Do you want to attend a public or private college?** Ohio public colleges will offer the lowest tuition, while out-of-state public colleges will charge higher tuition for non-residents. Private colleges will charge the same tuition for in-state and out-of-state residents, but tuition tends to be higher than most public colleges.
- ◆ **What type of college are you interested in?** College or university leading to four-year degree; Community and technical college, two-year degree that often parallel the freshman and sophomore offerings at a four-year college; and Vocational-Technical Schools, offers career-oriented postsecondary programs.
- ◆ **Special Criteria?** Do you want to attend a college with a religious affiliation? An all girls or all boys college? Historically Black College?
- ◆ **How selective of a college do you want to attend?** Admission policy standards: *open* (all high school graduate are accepted, Average ACT 16-21); *liberal* (some freshman accepted who are in lower half of their class, Average ACT 17-22); *traditional* (the majority of freshman are in the top 50% of their high school class, Average ACT 18-24); *selective* (the majority of freshman are in the top 25% of their class, Average ACT 21-26); *highly selective* (the majority of freshman accepted are in the top 10% of their class, Average ACT 25-30). Do not rule out a college because you do not believe that you will be admitted. Take a chance!
- ◆ **Is the college accredited?** Is your major accredited? Are the credits you earn transferable to another college?
- ◆ **Housing?** Availability? Types, sizes, meal plans? Coed? Same gender? Affordable?
- ◆ **What are the admission requirements?** Is the admission based on GPA, test scores, class ranking, course-work level, extracurricular or community service? Does the college require the ACT or SAT test? Are there special admission requirements for your major?
- ◆ **What size of community is important to you?** Are you comfortable in a rural setting or in a large city? A small town or near a large city? Will a rural campus provide enough on-campus activities? Will a large city campus provide too many off-campus distractions or more opportunities for employment or internships?
- ◆ **What geographic areas interest you?** Do you prefer to live near home, in-state, or out-of-state? If you plan on attending a college far from home, remember many colleges do not allow students to stay on campus during breaks; can you afford to travel home? Public schools where you are a state resident cost less than public schools out-of-state. Do you want to be where it is warm, or where there is snow?
- ◆ **What size school would you be comfortable with?** Are you comfortable with a very small campus with less than 1,000 students, or does a college campus with 20,000 students appeal to you? With a small col-

lege you will know everyone, while at a large campus you can be anonymous. Small colleges will have small classes, more discussions, more flexible programs, but limited class selections. Large colleges will often have large classes, but will offer a more diverse class selection. Large colleges offer more extracurricular activities, larger libraries and labs, and graduate programs.

- ◆ **How much are you willing to pay?** Do not rule out a college due to cost. Many colleges offer lucrative financial aid packages. Compare financial packages before making a decision on which college to attend.
- ◆ **Job Placement?** What is the job placement rate for graduates? What percentage go on to graduate school?
- ◆ **What kind of campus activities are you interested in?** Clubs? Organizations? Greek life?
- ◆ **What sports are offered?** Are scholarships offered to play sports? If so, who can play?
- ◆ **Where do you plan on living?** On campus? Off-campus? At home? Cost wise, which is the best option for you?
- ◆ **Academic offerings?** Is a study abroad program offered? Are there co-op or internship programs for your field of study? Can you take accelerated or honors courses? Research opportunities?
- ◆ **Special Programs?** Do you want to march in a band? Be a mascot? Sing in a choir?
- ◆ **Classes?** Who teaches the classes, experienced professors or graduate students? What is the student-faculty ratio? Average class size? Faculty members in your major?
- ◆ **Are support services offered?** Tutors? Counselors? Disability services? Career services? A health clinic?
- ◆ **Student population?** How diverse is the student body? What is the female-male ratio?
- ◆ **Transportation options?** Buses available? Can you have cars on campus?
- ◆ **School safety?** Emergency call boxes or campus escorts? ID checks? Check with the college for their safety record. How safe is the dorm?
- ◆ **Academic and recreational?** Library? What technology services are offered? What type of recreational facilities are available? Career placement services?

Once you answer the questions listed above, you are ready to make one of the most important decisions about your future. Search for colleges that match your interests. Try to limit your selections to no more than five colleges. Visit the college in person if possible, or take a virtual tour online. During the visit, meet faculty and students. Arrange a campus tour and a meeting with admissions. Ask about admission requirements. Check out the dorms, dining options and the library and go to a class. Inquire about placement record for graduates in your field. Make an appointment with a financial aid counselor and check out scholarships. **Remember to always apply for admission and financial aid before the deadlines.**

Where to Find College Information:

- College websites
- Internet searches
- College viewbooks
- College Admission Counselors/Career Fairs
- Parents, students and alumni
- School counselors and teachers
- Professionals in the field
- TCTC Media Center

College Information Websites:

www.collegeview.com
www.ed.gov/thinkcollege
www.collegeboard.org
www.supercollege.com
www.campustours.com
www.ecampustours.com

OCIS website (see Ms. Baco in the media center for password and username)