



How to Choose a College

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 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 college 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 and Guidance Office

College Information Websites:

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

Scholarships Available

TTC COUNSELING CORNER

1. 2012 Horatio Alger Scholarship The Horatio Alger Association seeks to assist students who have demonstrated integrity, perseverance in overcoming adversity, strength of character, financial need, a good academic record, commitment to pursue a college education, and a desire to contribute to society. Must be a senior who plans to enter a USA college in the fall of 2012, intends to pursue a bachelor's degree, demonstrates critical financial need (preferably \$50,000 or lower adjusted gross income per family), demonstrates involvement in co-curricular and community activities, has a GPA of 2.0 or higher, and is a US citizen. Submit an online application at www.horatioalger.org/scholarships. Oct 30

2. Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Scholars are selected based on demonstrated leadership in academics, school, community and civic activities, as well as personal character and the motivation to serve and succeed. Minimum 3.0 GPA. 50 scholarships for \$20,000 and 200 for \$10,000. Apply online: www.coca-colascholars.org Oct 31

3. Seven Seventeen Credit Union Scholarship Program Four scholarships of \$1500 awarded to graduating high school seniors who are members of Seven Seventeen or are a legal dependent of a Seven Seventeen member. Four scholarships are available to students attending one of three colleges: University of Akron, Youngstown State University and Kent State University. Four scholarships are available to members of either Seven Seventeen *cha-ching* or *edge club*. Must have a 3.0 GPA or higher. Applications available in guidance. Apr 1

4. John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest Write an original and creative essay that demonstrates an understanding of political courage as described by JFK in *Profiles in Courage*. First place winner receives \$10,000, second place receives \$1000, and five finalists receive \$500. Must be a high school student grade 9-12. For complete guidelines, visit Profile in Courage Award at www.jfklibrary.org Jan 7

5. Ohio War Orphans Scholarships and Ohio Safety Officers College Memorial Fund 80% tuition paid at public colleges or comparable amounts at private colleges to Ohio residents who are children of deceased or disabled veterans with wartime service (death or disability need not be a result of/or related to military service). Full instructional and general fee paid for public colleges and a portion of these costs covered at a private college for students of peace officers, fire fighters and certain other safety officers killed in the line of duty anywhere in the USA. It also provides assistance to the children and spouses of a member of the armed services of the US, who has been killed in the line of duty during Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom or in a combat zone designated by the President of the US. The child is only eligible for this program if he/she is not eligible for the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship. For more information: <http://regents.ohio.gov/>

6. Ohio Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Provides awards for tuition, fees and books to students with a physical or mental impairment which constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment. Contact 330-373-1937.

7. AmeriCorps Program that provides educational awards in return for community service. Contact: Corporation for National Service, 1201 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20525. 1-800-942-2677 www.americorps.gov/

8. College Answer Scholarship Sweepstakes A free scholarship search with a monthly drawing for \$1000. www.collegeanswer.com

9. SunTrust Off to College Scholarship Sweepstakes Win \$1000 scholarship plus \$100 gift card by applying online at www.offtocollege.info Sweepstakes start Oct 28 a winner will be selected every two weeks until May 11, 2012. Only one entry per person for each drawing.

10. AXA Achievement Scholarship 52 winners, one from each state and Puerto Rico will be selected for \$25,000, \$10,000 or \$2,000 scholarships. Must have qualities: ambition and drive; determination to set and reach goals; respect for self, family and community; and ability to succeed in college. Apply online at <http://www.axa-scholarship.com/> Dec 1

11. Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Competition Students

complete by writing and recording a broadcast script on annual patriotic theme: *Is There Pride in Serving in Our Military?* Open to students in grades 9-12. Applications and rules available in guidance. Nov 1

12. 2011 Take Action High School Video Contest Produce a 60 second video encouraging your peers to be safe when making purchases online. by yourself or a team of two. Scholarship money for the top three video in the amount of \$2,500, \$1,500 & \$1,000. Details available online at: www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/TakeActionContest Dec 15

March 2 Success

Enhance Your Math, English & Science Skills
Learn Valuable Test Taking Strategies

March 2 Success is an on-line test preparation course that will provide help with taking standardized tests, and improve math, language arts and science skills.

March 2 Success is **free**.
There is no obligation.

March 2 Success will help you prepare for:

- SAT/ACT college entrance tests
- State assessment or exit tests
- Trade School entrance tests
- Military entrance test
- High School/College placement tests
- Applying for a job

www.March2Success.com

Sign on. See a demo. Register for the course.

Dictionary is the only place that success comes before work. Hard work is the price we must pay for success. I think you can accomplish anything if you're willing to pay the price.

Vince Lombardi

Football is like life - it requires perseverance, self-denial, hard work, sacrifice, dedication, and respect for authority.

Vince Lombardi

Register with Selective Service

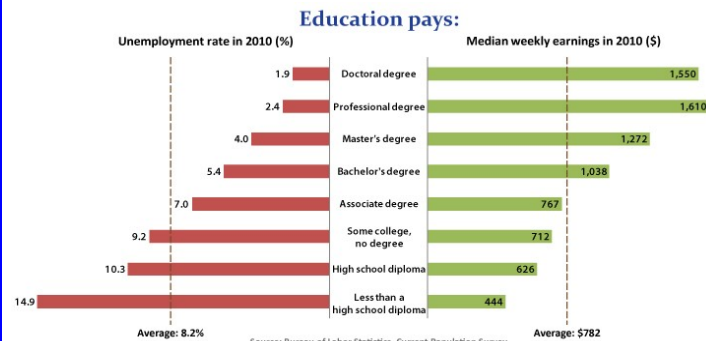
Registration is required for young men to stay eligible for:

- Federal Student Loans and Grants
- State Student Aid (in many States), and even admission to some State schools
- Job Training Benefits
- Many Federal Jobs such as jobs with the U.S. Postal and Executive Branch of the Government

Register online at <http://sss.gov>

Succeed in High School, Succeed in Life

The box below from the Bureau of Labor Statistics clearly shows that students who earn a high school diploma will earn more weekly than high school dropouts. In addition, obtaining some college education or associate degree will significantly increase your weekly earning potential. College graduates will more than double weekly earnings over high school dropouts.



How to Succeed

The graph shows that obtaining a high school diploma and educational training beyond high school will increase your future earnings. Let's examine some pointers to help you to succeed:

- ◆ **Do not miss school** *Miss more than 18 unexcused days at TCTC and risk losing credit for the year. Failing your junior or senior year is not a great way to start your career. Also, missing school means you missed valuable instruction. Try doing a complicated math assignment without instruction—mind boggling isn't it? Miss more than 36 days in two years and you lose the ability to earn a state certificate in your program area, thus losing great future opportunities.*
Pointer: Stay in school. Set your alarm, get up on-time, and do not miss your bus. Feeling a little down or tired? Do not think about staying home. Go to school. A day of school missed can affect your future classroom performance and possibly your future. Many classes build on the skills you learn today, so missing school can mean struggling later on in the year. Remember, you must follow the TCTC calendar, not your home school calendar.
- ◆ **Do assignments - Come prepared for class - Study for tests** *Completing assignments, class projects, or doing homework is one way sure fire way to succeed. If you fail too many tests or miss too many assignments, you may fail the class. A failed class may need to be made up during the summer before graduation. Is this how you want to spend your summer?*
Pointer: Use your TCTC planner to organize your class assignments and mark test dates. Make sure you review your planner daily. Keep your assignments and papers in separate folders for each class. If you do not understand an assignment, ask your teacher for help or further clarification. Bring everything you need for class and for tests. Participate in class. Take good notes by listening and writing down key information. Study for tests ahead time - do not cram at the last minute. Spending time now to complete assignments, and doing well in class and on tests will allow you more time to enjoy your summer!
- ◆ **Be respectful to teachers or staff** *If you get an in-school suspension you can usually make up work, while an out-of-school suspension will mean zeros on assignments. Either suspension type will cause you to lose class instruction time. We have already discovered that missing school and class time may mean failure.*
Pointer: Be respectful. Remember, we all want to be respected, but respect is earned. Teachers will have a hard time respecting you if you fail to respect them. Learn respect!
- ◆ **Make good decisions versus poor decisions** *Making poor choices often leads to negative consequences. Making one wrong decision can sometimes adversely affect the rest of your life.*
Pointer: Learn to make good decisions by following 5 simple steps: 1) Define the problem; 2) Gather the facts; 3) Compare the pros and cons; 4) Brainstorm possible solutions; 5) Select your best option. Always remember, before you act, think first. Act responsibly.
- ◆ **Transcript** *If your high school transcript is littered with low grades or F's, many future employers may be reluctant to hire you or colleges or trade schools may not accept your application for admission.*
- ◆ **Pointer:** Keep your grades up and make sure your GPA stays high. If your transcript is a train wreck, now is the time to get on board to higher grades.
- ◆ **Get tutoring** *Struggling in your academic subjects or program? School can be very difficult if you're over your head.*
Pointer: Use the Extra Help lab before school (7:30), during lunch, during the day with a teacher referral or after school to get help with Math, Science, Government or English. Help is there; take advantage of the opportunities offered.
- ◆ **Learn to handle stress and anger** *Is stress keeping you from doing your best? Is anger controlling your life, rather than you controlling your anger? Stress and anger can affect all aspects of your life, not just your school work.*
Pointer: TCTC guidance office has flyers available with helpful ways to control stress and anger. One of the best way to help with both is to simply take long, deep breaths while imagining a nice relaxing and peaceful place. Now relax your neck, your arms, your stomach and then your legs. It is hard to be stressed or angry after utilizing this technique.
- ◆ **Pay attention in class** *Sleeping, daydreaming, or talking in class is one way to fail an upcoming test or assignment. Failing a test or being unable to complete homework assignments will often lead to failing a class. There goes the summer vacation again!*
Pointer: Get plenty of sleep and eat a healthy breakfast and lunch. Pay attention to your teacher's lecture by actively listening and not talking. If given time in class to complete assignments, use your time wisely by working on assignments and not talking to fellow classmates.
- ◆ **Get to school on-time** *3rd tardy = 2 detentions; 6th tardy = 1 day ALC; 9th tardy = 3 days ALC; 12th tardy = 1 day out-of-school suspension & loss of driving privileges; 15th tardy = 2 days out-of-school suspension. Again, missing school and class instruction may equal failure.*
Pointer: Get to school on time! Get up early. If you need help, ask a parent, relative or friend to call you every morning. Buy a good alarm clock.
- ◆ **Work sensible hours** *It is almost impossible to work a lot of hours and do well in high school. If you work too many hours, it will cut down on the time you have to do assignments, study for tests, or do homework. Many students fail high school because they simply work too much.*
Pointer: If you need to work, just remember to not work too many hours. If your school work starts to suffer, then cut the hours you work and cut your expenses. Earning a high school diploma pays off in the future.
- ◆ **Get involved in school activities** *It is hard to be invested in school if you are watching from the side lines. You will enjoy school more and will do better academically if you are involved in your school.*
Pointer: Join one of the TCTC's school clubs: FFA, FCCLA, DECA, BPA, Skills-USA, FEA, SME, CDC, and SADD. Join a club or organization at your home school, and hold an office. Play sports. Volunteer to assist your program teacher if requested for outside school activities.
- ◆ **Set goals** *Going through life and high school without a plan or goals can be like trying to cook a gourmet meal without a recipe.*
Pointer: Goal setting is one way to organize your school work and yourself and allows you to move a positive direction. Goals should have a deadline and timetable and be measurable and realistic. Know what steps you need to accomplish this task.
- ◆ **Do not get involved in school drama** *Fighting or close involvement in school drama may result in in-school or out-of-school suspension or simply a loss of time away from your studies. Again, you may fail a class or lose credit for the year.*
Pointer: Is all this drama worth the consequences? The answer is always no! Learn to walk away from fights or school drama. Be a winner!
- ◆ **Keep hopeful** *Finally, believing that you cannot pass a class may cause you to give up.*
Pointer: Never give up! There is always hope. There is always help to be given. There is always a way to make your dreams happen. Having problems? See your TCTC guidance counselor. Ask your teacher for help or what you can do to pass. Never just believe it cannot happen. Miracles happen, but you have to be willing to work hard.



or
1-866-737-6925 (toll free)

Mrs. Cindy Goff, Secretary
Phone Extension 1005

Counselors:

Ms. Maria Len
Phone Extension 1007

Home Schools:

Badger
Brookfield
Girard
Hubbard
Liberty
Mineral Ridge
Niles

Ms. Tina Hentosh
Phone Extension 1006

Home Schools:

Champion
LaBrae
Lordstown
Maplewood
McDonald
Newton Falls
Southington

Ms. Denise Sparacino
Phone Extension 1010

Home Schools:

Bloomfield
Bristol
Lakeview
Mathews
Warren

www.tctchome.com

College and Financial Timeline for Seniors

- ☑ Review your career plans and decide which type of school is right for you. Arrange visits to schools you are considering attending. If you cannot visit in person, do a virtual visit online.
- ☑ Gather college admission applications, and start applying. **Check deadlines for applying for admissions.** Do not forget to send high school transcripts with admissions applications. You will need to order these from your **home school** guidance office. Keep records of everything you submit - keep copies in a file.
- ☑ Research scholarship opportunities, write for applications or apply online. Make sure you include all requested materials when submitting the application. Check scholarship opportunities available at colleges you plan on attending. Check the Guidance Newsletters from TCTC and your homeschool for scholarship opportunities. **Check deadlines and procedures for applying.**
- ☑ Request teacher, counselor, or employer recommendations if needed for admissions or scholarship applications at least three weeks before due. Supply relevant information regarding achievements, GPA, community service, hobbies and extracurricular activities.
- ☑ Take or retake the ACT or SAT.
- ☑ Begin contacting the financial aid offices. **Check deadlines for applying for financial aid.** Does your college require the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE in addition to the FAFSA? If so, follow your school's instructions for completing.
- ☑ Continue to work hard all year. Do not succumb to senioritis. Grades can affect scholarship eligibility and admissions. Your final senior transcript will reflect your progress your senior year. Do not miss school!

College and Financial Timeline for Juniors

- ☑ Search the internet for scholarships now. Most outside, private scholarships are offered for high school juniors. **Make sure you meet the deadlines.**
- ☑ Begin researching colleges that you are considering attending. Start arranging college visits. If you cannot visit in person, do a virtual visit online.
- ☑ Take the ACT and/or the PSAT. Taking the test in your junior year will help you to decide if you need to take additional classes summer/senior year in low test areas. Taking the test now will allow colleges to contact you, and you will have more opportunities to retest.
- ☑ Share college plans with parents, counselors, teachers, advisors, and friends.
- ☑ Start or continue community service involvement. Many college admissions and/or scholarship applications take notice when students succeed academically while being active in clubs, participating in sports and volunteering in the community.
- ☑ Begin developing portfolios, audition tapes, and a resume. Keep records or articles of successes.
- ☑ Strive for high grades. Do not miss school!

TCTC Important Days

November 4, 2011
End of 1st Nine Weeks

November 22, 2011
Parent/Teacher Conferences
2:30 - 9:00

November 23 - 28, 2011
Thanksgiving Recess

December 22-January 2
Winter Break

What Colleges Look for in Applicants

- Rigorous Curriculum
- Grades, G.P.A. & Class Rank
- Standardized Test Scores
- Application Essay
- Letters of Recommendation
- Extracurricular Activities
- Community Service
- Interview
- Student Interest & Potential Fit
- Athletic Ability
- Verbal expression & presentation
- Leadership ability and positions

Reasons Why Students Go to College

- Increase earning power
- Pursue scholarly pursuits
- Satisfy parents or family members
- To meet compatible people
- Involvement in extracurricular activities
- Studying new and different subjects
- Career preparation
- Achieving a personal goal