



## Handbook for Juniors 2019-2020

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COLLEGE  
Preparation



High School Code—360-305

Grading Scale—4.0 Unweighted/CumLaude System



**Plan Ahead**

# COLLEGE PLANNING HANDBOOK

Are you thinking about continuing your education at college? If so, you might be wondering where to start. Consider these topics when you explore your options.

## WHY SHOULD I ATTEND COLLEGE?

- To train for a career - To grow and challenge yourself
- To participate in athletics or extracurricular activities
- To connect with others with similar professional goals
- To fulfill a lifelong goal
- To earn a higher income

## WHAT TYPE OF POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL SHOULD I ATTEND?

- COLLEGE -- offers courses leading to a four-year Bachelor's degree
- UNIVERSITY -- usually has several colleges on one campus (College of Fine Arts, Medicine, Business, etc.)
- PUBLIC -- supported in part by state taxes; tuition is usually lower - PRIVATE -- receives no state tax funding
- COMMUNITY -- offers courses leading to an Associate's degree (two years), or you can transfer to a four-year college
- TECHNICAL -- offers job-related programs lasting from several months to two years

## COLLEGES LOOK AT?

- Difficulty of high school courses taken
- Test scores (ACT/SAT) - Grades and grade point average
- Letters of Recommendation
- Extracurricular activities
- Essays
- Interviews
- College courses taken while in high school
- Academic reputation of high school

## **WHAT CLASSES SHOULD I HAVE TAKEN IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

The state-supported universities of Ohio have developed a 'Minimum Core' of classes for admission purposes. These include:

- ENGLISH 4 credits
- MATH 4 credits (Algebra 2 or higher level)
- SCIENCE 3 credits
- SOCIAL STUDIES 3 credits
- FOREIGN LANGUAGE 2 credits
- FINE ARTS 1 credit (Fine Arts accepted at most universities: Instrumental Music, Choir, Art, Music Theory and Appreciation, and Theater Arts.)

Please remember that these are MINIMUM requirements. Some schools/programs could require additional coursework. Take the most rigorous coursework that fits your academic potential.

## **WHAT FACTORS SHOULD I CONSIDER IN SELECTING A COLLEGE?**

- Type of college (2 year, 4 year, technical, public, private, Christian, etc.)
- Size
- Location
- Housing
- Reputation
- Cost/Financial Aid
- Athletics/Extracurriculars
- Support services
- Campus Visit

## **HOW DO I KNOW WHICH COLLEGE TO SELECT?**

Check multiple sources for information about colleges

- Naviance- assessments to help identify possible majors based on your interests and skills; college search functions that highlight colleges that meet specific criteria
- College websites and social media pages
- Talk with college representatives/Call and talk to admissions and financial aid with questions?
- Schedule a college visit and tour the campus – (Bonnie Myers)
- Attend college fairs
- Talk with counselors, teachers, parents, alumni
- Sign up for college visits at BHS on Naviance

## WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK A COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE?

- What are the strongest majors at your college?
- What types of internships/co-op experiences are available?
- How can I arrange a college visit? - What are the application deadlines for admission and financial aid?
- What percentage of a typical freshman class will actually graduate from your college?
- What percentage of the freshman class earned a 2.0 GPA last year?
- How are roommates selected?
- How safe is your college?
- What additional academic services do you offer to students (tutoring, counseling, etc.)? - GPA minimum? ACT or SAT minimum?
- Cost and financial aid?
- Student activities

## HINTS FOR A COLLEGE VISIT

You may take two days 'excused absence' from school to visit colleges. This may be the most important aspect of your college search. If possible, visit on a weekday while college classes are in session. Bonnie Myers Program to get college access ..... see Mr Austin

- Call the Admission Office (in advance) to schedule a visit - Pick up a College Visit form from the Attendance Office (at least 2 days before the visit)
- Meet with an admission officer
- Discuss admission requirements
- Obtain information about your intended major
- Obtain a school calendar and a catalog
- Attend a class
- Tour the campus
- Talk with students
- Visit a dorm room
- Eat at campus dining facilities
- Inquire about campus activities (clubs, organizations, sports, etc.)
- Meet with a financial aid officer to discuss costs and possible financial aid
- Sign up in Naviance for Rep Visits on the home Naviance page

## HOW DO I APPLY TO A COLLEGE?

A good rule of thumb is to apply to colleges by Thanksgiving of your senior year. However, keep in mind some colleges have even earlier financial aid/merit scholarship deadlines.

- All college applications can be found online at each school's website. Some schools will have you use The Common Application instead. Many colleges allow you to choose between their application and the Common Application--- **\* Remember to indicate in Naviance which application you used for each college/university.**
- Make sure you fill out a transcript request form and turn into your school counselor (located in the School Counseling Office)
- Use the checklist on the Transcript Request Form and be certain that ALL necessary materials and steps are completed.
- **REMEMBER TO ALLOW TIME FOR DEADLINES!**

## **HINTS ON ESSAYS OR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

If your college requires an essay, they will usually list the topics from which to choose. Try to be creative and emphasize your best talents/qualities, but do NOT lie or exaggerate. Give a rough draft to your English teacher and ask him/her to review it for you.

If you need to have letters of recommendation, give some thought to who can do the best job for you. Select someone who knows you fairly well and can give specific examples of your work (or character).

Above all, give the person you ask plenty of ADVANCE NOTICE!! They can benefit you most if they are not rushed.

## **HOW DO I SELECT A MAJOR?**

Examine your areas of interest, talents, values, goals, and ambitions. Review your assessment results in Naviance that point you to possible majors based on your interests and abilities. Job shadow and speak with people who work in careers that seem interesting to you. Refer to the college planning links listed on the Guidance webpage and in Family Connections.

If you cannot determine a major before applying to a college, you are not alone. Approximately 50% of all college freshmen are undecided on a major. Most colleges give you until the end of your second year to declare a major.

Be aware, however, that if you delay choosing a major (or change majors), you may need to take additional coursework. This may mean extra time (to graduate) and extra money.

## **SHOULD I REGISTER WITH THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER?**

If you plan to participate in college athletics during your freshman year, you should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. You must register (and be approved) if you wish to receive an athletic scholarship for your first year of college.

The best time to register is at the beginning of your 11 th grade year, or any time during the 12 th grade. Register online at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net). See your counselor if you have any questions about the Clearinghouse.

## **HOW MUCH DOES COLLEGE COST?**

Yearly tuition at state supported PUBLIC colleges in Ohio runs approximately \$7,000-15,000. At a PRIVATE school, tuition can run between \$8,000-\$48,000 per year. Room and board costs can add another \$8,000-15,000 each year. Other expenses include: books, supplies, travel, clothes, toiletries, entertainment, etc.

## **CAN I EXPECT TO RECEIVE ANY FINANCIAL AID?**

The purpose of financial aid is to provide the resources to those students who, without that help, would be unable to attend the college of their choice. Always remember that the FAMILY is primarily responsible for financing a college education. Financial aid is designed to supplement (NOT REPLACE) the family contribution.

Plan to file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) after October 1 of your senior year. We encourage all seniors who plan to attend college to fill out the FAFSA. Attend Financial Aid night October of senior year.

Create an FSA (Federal Student Aid) ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov> You and at least one parent must create an FSA ID. This can be done prior to October 1st, and is often suggested to have it completed before starting your FAFSA. While you are not required to have an FSA ID to complete and submit a FAFSA on the Web application, it is the fastest way to sign your application and have it processed. It is also the only way to access or correct your information online, or to pre-fill a FAFSA on the Web application with information from your previous year's FAFSA.

Visit [www.oasfaa.org](http://www.oasfaa.org) and [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) for financial aid information.

Base your college choice on your educational, vocational, and personal objectives. Although a huge factor, cost should not be the SOLE determining factor.

Be aggressive! Money does not come automatically. You must search for it and apply.

Avoid scholarship search scams! A good rule to follow is: If you have to pay money to get money, it might be a scam. There are numerous scholarship search databases available for FREE on the Web.

## **WHAT TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID ARE AVAILABLE?**

- FAMILY Think of organizations, clubs, churches, etc. that you belong to.

- GRANTS Funds given by the government or a college to assist families. Most grants are 'need based' and do not have to be repaid.

- SCHOLARSHIPS "Gift money" based on a student's merits (academic, athletic, music, etc.). - WORK STUDY Many colleges offer on-campus jobs. Students work their hours around classes.

- LOANS This should be your last consideration. Take a loan only when you cannot find funds from other sources.

## **HOW DO I APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?**

A vast majority of scholarship applications come directly from the college or organization making the offer. Do your research (books, Internet, word of mouth, etc.) and then apply well before the deadline.

A limited number of scholarships are sent to the high schools. These scholarships make up a very small percentage of the total number available to high school students. When we receive these applications, they are posted in Naviance and on the Barberton High School website main page. In Naviance Click on Colleges, drop down to Scholarships & Money, and then click on Scholarship List. Scholarships are also posted in the students google classroom senior year as a reminder. PLEASE CHECK THESE SCHOLARSHIP NOTICES ON A REGULAR BASIS and watch deadlines !!

Local scholarships ( Barberton ) are awarded based on one SINGLE application. Every Senior will be given access to the BHS Local Application late January there is a two week window for students to get this application complete and submitted. There is a link to this box on the Barberton High School website homepage and will open beginning of February.

There are numerous scholarship searches on the Internet. The U.S. Department of Education recommends [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) for information. Two other free search engines we suggest students use are Fastweb and Ohio Means Jobs.

Completing the FAFSA accesses the federal government financial aid program. This form is available online at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> The FAFSA opens October 1 of your senior year. Please watch each college's individual financial aid deadlines.

**ALL SENIORS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING COLLEGE SHOULD COMPLETE THE FAFSA!!** Even if your family's financial situation will not allow you to qualify for a federal Pell Grant, some aid at specific colleges is based on data from this form. If you do not complete the form, you might lose a possible source of money. Part of the Local Barberton Scholarship application asks for students to submit their EFC page from the FAFSA.

## **ACT AND SAT DATES (2019/2020)**

\*\*Make sure your photo is uploaded into ACT by the deadline or your registration will be dropped

\*\*If you qualify for free or reduced lunch and are in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade see your school counselor for a waiver

### **ACT TEST DATE**

Sept 14<sup>th</sup>

Oct 26

Dec 14<sup>th</sup>

Feb 8<sup>th</sup>

**Feb 25<sup>th</sup>**

April 4<sup>th</sup>

June 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Registration DEADLINE ACT**

Aug 30<sup>th</sup>

Sept 20<sup>th</sup>

Nov 8<sup>th</sup>

Jan 10<sup>th</sup>

**State ACT for Juniors only BHS will register all juniors**

Feb 28<sup>th</sup>

May 8<sup>th</sup>

### **SAT Test Dates**

Aug 24<sup>th</sup>

Oct 5<sup>th</sup>

Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>

Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

March 14<sup>th</sup>

May 2<sup>nd</sup>

June 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Registration Deadline SAT**

July 26<sup>th</sup>

Sept 6

Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>

Nov 8<sup>th</sup>

Feb 14<sup>th</sup>

April 3<sup>rd</sup>

May 8<sup>th</sup>

Very few Ohio colleges and universities require a writing test score from the ACT or SAT. Check the college website to see if writing is mandatory

## **TEST PREP RESOURCES**

### **ACT :**

Practice books are located in the school counseling office

Ohio Means Jobs has timed practice tests online

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

### **SAT:**

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

Ohio Means Jobs has timed practice tests online

Take the PSAT @ BHS sign up in September in the school counseling office



## COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

### FRESHMAN -- GRADE 9

- Discuss college/career plans with your school counselor
- Take a 'college prep' schedule of classes
- Do your personal best!!
- Participate in extracurricular activities
- Begin saving money for college
- Identify careers that fit your interests using Ohio Means Jobs.
- Examine college information from catalogs, brochures, web sites
- Develop good study habits
- Visit colleges in the summer or during breaks
- Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest

### SOPHOMORE -- GRADE 10

#### FALL

- Complete the PSAT (for practice) sign up in September in guidance office
- Continue exploring college information.
- Request information from specific colleges
- Keep your grades up!!
- Attend College Credit Plus meeting with parents if interested. Take ACT early to meet CCP deadlines.

#### WINTER

- Take leadership roles in activities/sports/etc.

#### SPRING

- Explore careers that match your interests using Naviance Strengths Explorer career assessment. Begin adding careers that interest you to your Favorites List.
- Think about the TYPE of college you would like to attend.
- If interested, begin to explore military academies
- Visit colleges through the summer
- Review (with school counselor) schedule for NCAA 'core courses' if you will play Div 1 or 2 sports in college.

## **JUNIOR -- GRADE 11**

### **FALL**

- Make sure you are in line to meet all graduation requirements, or college requirements
- Keep your grades up!!
- Register for the PSAT (in September guidance office)
- Sign up for the ASVAB (in guidance office)
- Speak with college representatives who visit the school. Sign up through Naviance.
- Attend any college/career fairs, get involved with the Bonnie Myers college access program
- Begin the application process for military academies
- Develop a list of preferences that you want from a college
- Future Division I and II college athletes complete NCAA Eligibility Center application
- Future NAIA college athletes complete NAIA Eligibility Center application
- Attend local financial aid meetings
- Attend College Credit Plus meeting with parents if interested. Take ACT early to meet CCP deadlines.

### **WINTER**

- Continue to collect/sort college information
- take Career Interest Profiler & Cluster Finder in Naviance
- Register for the ACT and SAT
- Juniors will all take the State ACT in Feb
- Begin to narrow your college choices. Add these colleges to your "Colleges I'm Thinking About" list in Naviance.
- Give thought to courses for your Senior year schedule

### **SPRING**

- Work with your English teacher to develop a college essay
- Take a college entrance exam (ACT/SAT) before summer starts.
- Take college visits
- Request applications if considering 'Early Admission'
- Continue to work hard in classes
- Narrow list of college choices to 5. Use the College Comparison Tool in Naviance. (Include: 1 'sure bet', 3 'good prospects', and 1 'dream school')

### **SUMMER**

- Visit the colleges on your short list.
- Talk with people who now attend (or have attended) those colleges
- Try to develop a 'plan of attack' for the Senior year (timetable)
- Begin a list of positive and negative aspects of each school on your list

## SENIOR -- GRADE 12

### FALL

- Keep your grades up; colleges WILL ask for a final transcript (showing Senior grades)
- Check with your counselor to make sure all graduation requirements have been met
- Males – Register with Selective Service before your 18th birthday
- If you plan to attend a private college, find out if they require the Common Application and/or teacher letter of recommendation.
- Attend a local college fair - Finalize your top college choices
- Obtain information about those colleges and financial aid
- Check our scholarship list in Naviance on a regular basis.
- Speak with college representatives who visit BHS Sign up through Naviance on the main page.
- Get letters of recommendations EARLY -- provide information about yourself/your plans-( use BRAG Sheet Profile available in the Guidance Office )
- Submit your application/transcript requests to your counselor well before any deadline
- Send ACT/SAT score reports directly to colleges that require it. - Make/save copies of all applications, etc.
- Try to send all college applications before Thanksgiving (some colleges have a Nov 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to be considered for any Merit Scholarships ex. Ohio State/Case Western watch your deadlines)
- Make college visits
- Athletes – Complete NCAA Eligibility Center application (should be completed junior year) continue working with your school counselor to make sure you have 16 core classes
- Fill out the FAFSA ( after October 1)
- Attend local financial aid meetings
- Make a College Now appointment for individual help with FAFSA/Scholarships
- Sign up to re take a ACT (act.org)
- Sign up to take ASVAB (guidance)

### WINTER

- Complete the local scholarship application.

### SPRING

- Keep your grades up! The college you plan to attend requests a final transcript.
- Compare financial aid offers from colleges
- Decide on a college
- Notify all colleges of your decision by May 1
- Send in any deposit or forms requested by college that you select - Request that a final high school transcript be sent to your college



