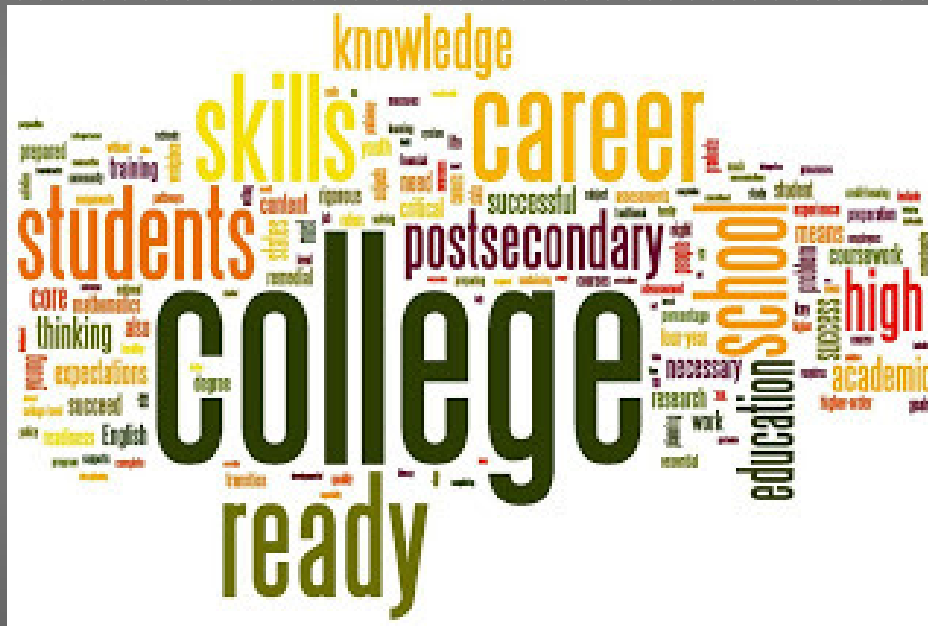


PLANNING FOR COLLEGE



Kim Gentile

The University of Akron

Office of Admissions

AN INVESTMENT IN COLLEGE IS AN INVESTMENT IN YOURSELF

+ Discussion Topics

- Consider College Characteristics
- Academic Preparation and ACT and SAT tests
- Collect Information/College Information Sources
- Schedule Campus Visits
- Apply for Admission
- Develop a Plan to Finance Your Education
- Review and Finalize Your Plans



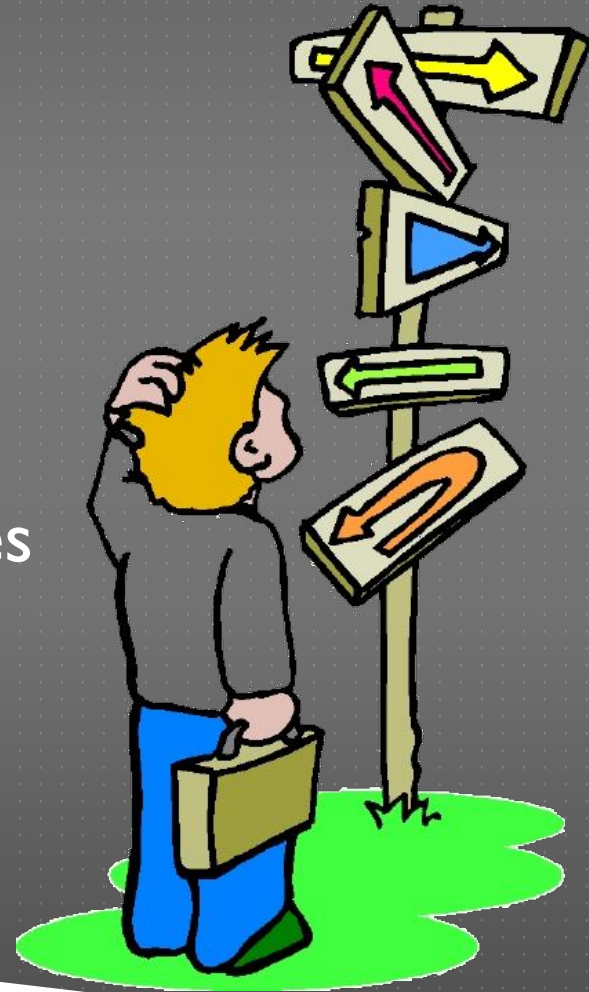
CONSIDER COLLEGE CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Majors and educational programs
- ▶ Cost and financial assistance
- ▶ Location and size of school
- ▶ 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

+ Advantages

- Wide range of academic programs
- Broad range of student life experiences and opportunities
- Diverse types of institutions from which to choose
 - 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 class sizes
- Low faculty/student ratio
- Opportunities for student leadership
- Strong financial aid and scholarship opportunities
- Wide range of locations, affiliations, and costs



ACT AND SAT TESTING

ACT – www.ACT.org

- Multiple choice tests in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning
 - Optional writing test; strongly recommended
 - Cost: \$58.50 w/writing test; \$42.50 w/o
 - ▶ Require test scores sent from testing agency: Cincinnati, Miami and OSU
 - ▶ Which public schools superscore the ACT: Miami
- + Test dates:
- ▶ Feb. 11 Sept. 9
 - ▶ April 8 Oct. 28
 - ▶ June 10



ACT AND SAT TESTING

SAT – collegeboard.org

- ▶ Tests in Reading, Writing & Language, and Math
 - Optional essay
 - Cost: \$57 w/essay; \$45 w/o
- ▶ Require test scores sent from testing agency: Cincinnati, Miami and OSU
- ▶ Which public schools superscore the SAT: Miami and OU

+ Test dates:

- | | | |
|------------|---------|--------|
| ▶ March 11 | June 3 | Oct. 7 |
| ▶ May 6 | Aug. 26 | Nov. 4 |

COLLEGE INFORMATION SOURCES

- ▶ Institution and college planning websites
 - ▶ ACT.org and Collegeboard.org
- ▶ College representatives and college fairs
 - ▶ The University of Akron has college fair in the spring – March 31, 2017
 - ▶ Kent State hosts a college fair in the fall (October)
- ▶ Counselors and teachers
- ▶ Parents/family members, students and alumni

CAMPUS 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
 - Individual visits
 - Overnight visits



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 – online applications
 - ▶ Common Application/Supplemental applications
 - ▶ UA, BGSU, UC, Miami, OSU, OU, Toledo
 - High school transcript – request from school counselor
 - Admission test results (ACT or SAT)
 - ▶ Recommendations
 - ▶ Essay

TIPS FOR WRITING AN ESSAY

- + Get started by brainstorming.
- + Let your first draft flow.
- + Develop three essay parts – intro, body, conclusion.
- + Be specific.
- + Find a creative angle.
- + Be honest.
- + Get feedback.
- + Proofread and make corrections.

TIPS FOR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- + A great recommendation can add depth and excitement to your application.
- + Who should write a letter of recommendation...teacher, school counselor, coach, employer, etc.
- + Ask early.
- + Provide them with information about yourself
- + Appreciate their effort...write them a thank you note.

DEVELOP A PLAN TO FINANCE YOUR EDUCATION

- + Financial Aid nights at your high school
- + Financial Aid programs at colleges/universities
- + Sources of financial aid:
 - Federal and State Government
 - FAFSA – Prior-prior
 - 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

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
 - On-campus Housing
 - Financial Aid

QUESTIONS?

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