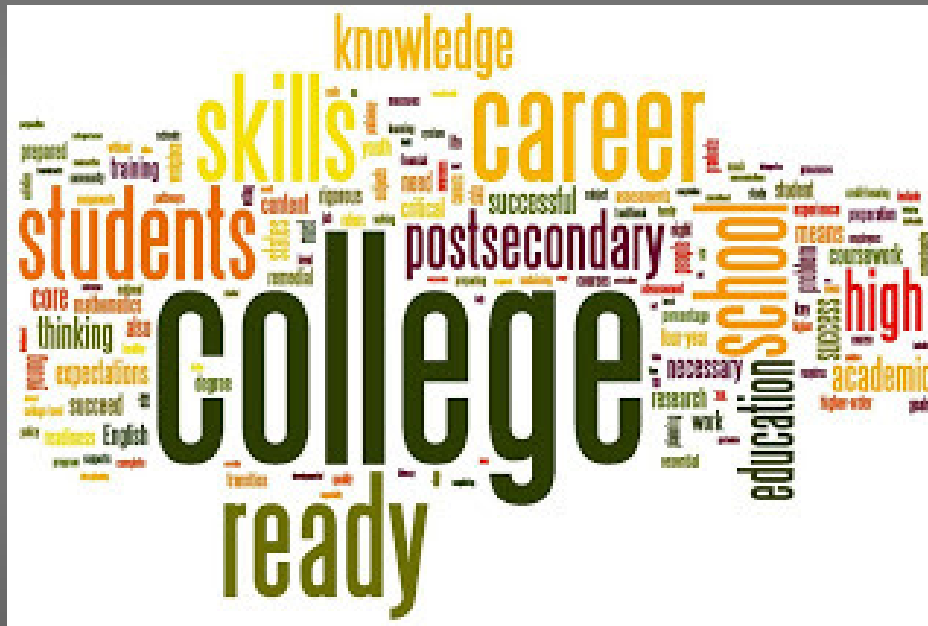


# PLANNING FOR COLLEGE



Kim Gentile

*The University of Akron*

*Office of Admissions*

# AN INVESTMENT IN COLLEGE IS AN INVESTMENT IN YOURSELF

- + Discussion Topics – Goal is to select the ‘best fit’ school
  - 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 – Tuition Guarantee programs
- 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](http://www.ACT.org)

- ACT Rapid Review
- ▶ Require test scores sent from testing agency: Cincinnati, Miami, OSU and Toledo
- ▶ Which public schools superscore the ACT: Miami
- + Test dates:
  - + Feb. 9
  - + April 13
  - + June 8
  - July 13
  - Sept. 14
  - Oct. 26
  - Dec. 14

# ACT AND SAT TESTING

SAT – [collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org)

- ▶ 15 minute daily practice/prep option
- ▶ Require test scores sent from testing agency: Cincinnati, Miami OSU and Toledo
- ▶ Which public schools superscore the SAT: Miami and OU

+ Test dates:

- |           |         |        |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| ▶ March 9 | Aug. 24 | Dec. 7 |
| ▶ May 4   | Oct. 5  |        |
| ▶ June 1  | Nov. 2  |        |

# COLLEGE INFORMATION SOURCES

- ▶ Institution and college planning websites
  - ▶ ACT.org and Collegeboard.org
- ▶ College representatives and college fairs
  - ▶ Colleges representatives visit St.Vincent-St. Mary during the fall
  - ▶ College fair at St.Vincent-St. Mary in the fall
- ▶ Counselors and teachers
- ▶ Parents/family members, students and alumni
- ▶ Demonstrated interest in the institution

# 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
  - Shadow days



# APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

- + Students will apply to schools in the senior year
- + Narrow your choices – On average students apply to 3-5 schools
- + Review college admission test requirements – ACT or SAT
- + Know admission and scholarship deadlines
- + Demonstrated interest
- + Submit application materials
  - ▶ Application for admission – online applications
    - ▶ CommonApp/Supplemental applications
  - High school transcript – request from school counselor
  - Admission test results (ACT or SAT)
    - ▶ Recommendations
    - ▶ Essay

# COMMON APP

- + Commonapp.org
- + There are more than 800 colleges/universities that are on Common App
  - + Most of the Ohio public schools are on Common App
- + Create your account
  - + You can complete this step at any time
- + Add schools to your list – My Colleges and College Search
- + School requirements
- + Gather general application information – You can collect this information before you complete the application
- + Apply – Students can begin this process on Aug. 1

# 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](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  - College and University Scholarships
    - Academic, leadership, athletic, fine arts scholarships
    - Each school distributes scholarships in a unique way
- ▶ Financial Aid Award letters

# 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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