

“Kick Off” to College

Memorial High School
Senior Presentation
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Who am I and what do I do?

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 - ▶ Athletics
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 - ▶ Bachelor of Science in Education
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 - ▶ School: Wright State University (2013)

What should you be doing during your high school career?

- ▶ Taking college prep courses
- ▶ Taking the ACT/SAT
- ▶ Getting good grades
- ▶ Getting involved
- ▶ Researching college options (with your parents)
 - ▶ What type of degree do you want to pursue?
- ▶ Learning about the cost of college

What should you be doing your senior year?

- ▶ Revisiting the colleges you are seriously considering
- ▶ Retaking/Taking the ACT
- ▶ Beginning to apply to universities
 - ▶ Be aware of deadlines
- ▶ Financial Aid
- ▶ Meeting with your high school Guidance Counselor

The most important thing you can do is...

Visit Colleges

Learn about colleges online

- ▶ Take a virtual tour
- ▶ Learn about everyday life
 - ▶ Campus Facebook
 - ▶ Campus Twitter
- ▶ Browse the course catalog
- ▶ Visit an academic department
 - ▶ Check posted syllabi
 - ▶ Read about professors' interest and expectations
 - ▶ Research interests

Learn about colleges online

- ▶ Investigate support services
 - ▶ Tutoring
 - ▶ Career planning
- ▶ Look into housing options
- ▶ Check out the library site
 - ▶ How big is the collection
 - ▶ Database availability
- ▶ Explore dining options
 - ▶ Do they require a meal plan?
- ▶ Read the campus newspaper
- ▶ Contact alumni and current students

On-campus visit

- ▶ Pictures are great but it is best to see a campus in person!
- ▶ Get a firsthand view:
 - ▶ People
 - ▶ Buildings
 - ▶ Environment
- ▶ Get answers to your questions
- ▶ Sit in on a class
- ▶ Visit the residence halls
 - ▶ Stay over-night if you can!

On-campus visit

- ▶ Try the food
- ▶ Read the bulletin boards
- ▶ Schedule a meeting with a professor
- ▶ Talk to lots of students
- ▶ Meet potential friends
- ▶ Check out different organizations

Questions to ask on a college visit, or things to see:

- ▶ What is the average class size? Are most classes taught by professors or by teaching assistants? Can I see a large lecture room?
- ▶ What is the campus meal plan like? How is the food?
- ▶ What's the social scene like? What kinds of activities are planned by the college's Residential Affairs?
- ▶ What are the dorm rooms like? Size? When should I apply for student housing?
- ▶ How many students are commuters/residents?
- ▶ What are the important deadlines I should know?

One of the most important questions you need to ask yourself is...

Can I see myself
calling this
place home?

Four years on a campus is roughly...

- ▶ 40 classes
- ▶ 48 months
- ▶ 1,460 days
- ▶ 35,040 hours
- ▶ 2,102,400 minutes

Can I see myself calling this place home?

- ▶ You may not get that magic feeling
- ▶ You may not necessarily know right away if that is the school you will want to go to
- ▶ You may not be thinking “I wish my parents would just leave me here now”

However...

- ▶ You should feel comfortable at that institution

When should I apply?

▶ **Now**

▶ Throughout your senior year

How many colleges should I apply to?

- ▶ It all depends on you!
- ▶ Most recommendations say to aim to apply to 6 to 8 schools
- ▶ 3 reach schools
 - ▶ Highly selective admissions
 - ▶ Your grades and scores are below the average
 - ▶ You would still like to attend
- ▶ 3 match schools
 - ▶ Your grades and test scores match the average of the school
 - ▶ Does not always mean you will be admitted as there are several factors involved in the process
- ▶ 2 safety schools
 - ▶ Your grades and test score are higher than the average
 - ▶ Highly selective schools should never be safety schools even if your scores are above average

How many colleges should I apply to?

- ▶ Realize that there are other factors when you are applying
 - ▶ Cost of application
 - ▶ Did you actually visit/research the school you are applying to
 - ▶ Time it takes to complete the application
 - ▶ Adding a personalized touch

Applying to Colleges

- ▶ Every college application process is different.
 - ▶ Some can admit you on the spot (as long as you bring necessary paperwork) others may take months before a decision is made
- ▶ There may be deadlines to meet and there certainly will be specific paperwork the colleges will need

Applying to Colleges

- ▶ Make sure you learn early about the application process for schools you are interested in to make certain you don't miss anything
- ▶ Most schools offer an online application
 - ▶ This is the easiest and most efficient way to apply to college
- ▶ Most schools still use postal mail for official notifications
 - ▶ Make sure you open up everything you receive
- ▶ Once you are admitted your college will probably expect you to begin checking your university email account regularly

What do colleges look for in applicants?

- ▶ Grades
 - ▶ General Curriculum
 - ▶ College Prep Courses
- ▶ Test Scores
 - ▶ ACT
 - ▶ SAT
- ▶ Strength of Curriculum
- ▶ Essay or Writing Sample
- ▶ Class Rank
- ▶ Recommendations
- ▶ Extracurricular Involvement
- ▶ Interest in the School
- ▶ Is the student academically capable of succeeding in the college environment?
- ▶ Diversity Factors

NCAA - Initial Eligibility

- ▶ Applies to any student-athlete who wants to compete in Division I or Division II athletics
- ▶ College Bound student-athletes who want to practice, compete and receive athletically related financial aid during their first year must:
 - ▶ Graduate from high school
 - ▶ Complete a minimum of 16 core courses
 - ▶ Earn a qualifying test score on either the ACT or SAT
 - ▶ Request final amateurism from the NCAA eligibility center

Recommended Admission Criteria

- ▶ Open Admissions
 - ▶ Non-selective
 - ▶ Only criterion for entrance is high school diploma or GED
 - ▶ Used at many public junior colleges and community colleges
- ▶ Selective Admissions
 - ▶ Must have high school diploma/GED
 - ▶ Meet other requirements
 - ▶ GPA
 - ▶ Test Scores
 - ▶ Class Rank
- ▶ High Selective/Competitive Admissions
 - ▶ Higher than average GPA/Test Scores
 - ▶ Arts programs sometimes require auditions, etc.

Application Deadlines and Common Types

- ▶ Regular Decision
- ▶ Early Decision
- ▶ Early Action
- ▶ Rolling

Application Deadlines and Types

- ▶ Regular Decision
 - ▶ Most common type of application
 - ▶ Type that people know most about
 - ▶ Applying **Regular Decision** involves sending out your applications typically around the beginning of January, and you can apply to as many schools as you choose.
 - ▶ Admissions decisions are sent out around the middle to the end of March, and deposits are usually due on May 1st.
 - ▶ There are three admissions scenarios with a Regular Decision application:
 - ▶ Accepted
 - ▶ Rejected
 - ▶ Waitlisted

What does waitlisted mean?

- ▶ Colleges have waitlists because they are never sure how many students will actually accept their offer to enroll in their college
- ▶ A waitlist allows them to accept more students when the enrollment numbers are lower than they expected
- ▶ However, the colleges are under no obligation to accept anyone from the list and they do not have to tell you why you were or were not accepted

What should I do if I am waitlisted?

- ▶ Realize that had there been less applications, you would have been accepted!
- ▶ Look at your options and make a decision about where you will go if you do not get in
- ▶ Know the policies of the college including financial aid and housing choices for students accepted off of the waitlist
- ▶ Determine how long the waitlist is
 - ▶ This may give you an idea of how likely it will be that you get in
- ▶ Follow-up with the admissions counselor

Application Deadlines and Types

▶ Early Decision

- ▶ You can only use this method for one college
- ▶ It should be your absolute, number 1, dream college
- ▶ Applications are contractually binding, and stipulate that if you are accepted, you will (read: must) attend that college or university
- ▶ Application deadlines usually the 1st or the 15th of November
- ▶ Usually receive an admissions decision in December
- ▶ There are three admissions scenarios with an Early Decision application:
 - ▶ Accepted
 - ▶ Rejected
 - ▶ Deferred

What does deferred mean?

- ▶ Getting deferred means your application will be reviewed again in the Regular Decision application pool
- ▶ You will then be:
 - ▶ Accepted
 - ▶ Rejected
 - ▶ Waitlisted

Application Deadlines and Types

- ▶ Early Action
- ▶ Gives you the benefit of receiving an early admission decision, just as with
- ▶ Decision is non-binding unlike Early Decision option
- ▶ You can usually apply this way to more than one school
- ▶ Deadlines are generally the same as Early Decision deadlines, with the exception of sending in a deposit: that deadline is usually the same as the Regular Decision deadline.
- ▶ Subset of this called **Single Choice Early Action**
 - ▶ You apply using the Early Action process, but can only apply to one school Early Action, and you cannot apply to a school Early Decision.

Application Deadlines and Types

▶ Rolling Admissions

- ▶ Not a form of application
- ▶ Means that schools do not release their admissions decisions on a single day
- ▶ Admissions decisions are sent out when they are made
- ▶ Is on an applicant-by-applicant basis
- ▶ This process is only used with Regular Decision applications

Higher Education Definitions

- ▶ **Undergraduate Student** - A college student working on a bachelor's or associate's degree or certificate.
- ▶ **Associate Degree** - Degrees granted by colleges after students complete two-year, full-time programs of required courses or its part-time equivalent.
- ▶ **Bachelor Degree** - Degrees granted by universities or colleges after students have satisfactorily completed four-year, full-time programs of required courses or their part-time equivalent.
- ▶ **Public University** - College or other school supported by the state; the state pays part of the school's operating costs.
- ▶ **Private University** - A college or other school that is supported with private money, but not supported financially by the state. Some independent colleges have a religious affiliation or are single-gender schools.

Options in Ohio

- ▶ 14 state institutions that offer bachelor degrees (4 year)
- ▶ 29 Regional Campuses that offer associate degrees (2 year) and bachelor degrees
- ▶ 23 community colleges that offer associates degrees
- ▶ 120 Adult Workforce Education and Training Centers
- ▶ 111 Private Not-For-Profit colleges and universities



What does a college application entail?

- ▶ **Application Form** - Today you can often apply online directly to an individual school, entering your information just once.
- ▶ **Application Fee** -The average college application fee is around \$25. (Some colleges charge up to \$60, while others don't have an application fee at all.) Many colleges offer fee waivers for applicants from low-income families.
- ▶ **High School Transcript** - The High School Transcript is filled out by an official of your high school. If it comes with your admission materials, you should give it to the guidance office to complete as early as possible.
- ▶ **Admission Test Scores** - At many colleges, entrance exam scores are a standard way of measuring a student's ability to do college-level work. Once admitted to college, a student may be asked to take placement tests such as a writing or math assessment. These tests will help the college better place the student in the appropriate initial courses.

What does a college application entail?

- ▶ **Letters of Recommendation** - Create a consistent portrait of who you are. When asking someone to write such a letter, be sure to do so well before the college's deadline.
- ▶ **Essay** - Take the opportunity to express your individuality in a way that sets you apart from other applicants.
- ▶ **Interview** - It's a good idea to set up an interview, even if it's not required, because it gives you a chance to make a personal connection with someone who will have a voice in deciding whether or not you'll be offered admission.

Types of universities & tuition fees

- ▶ Public four-year colleges charge, on average, \$8,655 per year in tuition and fees for in-state students. The average surcharge for full-time out-of-state students at these institutions is \$21,706.
- ▶ Private nonprofit four-year colleges charge, on average, \$29,056 per year in tuition and fees.
- ▶ Public two-year colleges charge, on average, \$3,131 per year in tuition and fees.

Cost of College

- ▶ College is an investment. Could you get the job without a degree?
- ▶ It is wise to research the cost of college early on
 - ▶ If you can't afford an expensive car, you probably aren't going to buy one, so why would you attend a college that is out of your price range?!
- ▶ www.collegeboard.com has some great cost calculators
- ▶ A community college or regional campus tuition is approximately \$5,000 - 7,000/year

Cost of College

Private

Defiance	Bluffton College	Wittenberg
\$38,000	\$37,864	\$47,766

Public

Wright State University	Ohio State University	BGSU
\$18,688	\$20,810	18,850

Regional Campus

WSU - Lake Campus	OSU - Lima	BGSU - Firelands
\$5,740	\$7,140	\$4,706

*These costs are based on Amanda's research and are estimates only!!

Cost Savings by Attending Lake Campus

Lake Campus

- ▶ Tuition & Fees: \$5,740
- ▶ Room and Board: \$5,400
- ▶ Books and Supplies: \$1,350

- ▶ Total: \$5,740 - \$12,490

Main Campus

- ▶ Tuition & Fees: \$8,542
- ▶ Room & Board: \$8,796
- ▶ Books and Supplies: \$1,350

- ▶ Total: \$18,688

Save Up To \$12,948/year

Questions to consider when deciding on the cost of your college

- ▶ Does my family have the ability to fund a large tuition bill?
- ▶ Talk with your parents about how much they can contribute to your college funds (make a budget sheet)
- ▶ How am I going to pay back my college debt? Will my salary support my loans payments?
- ▶ What type of lifestyle do I want to live?
- ▶ Do I want to work during college?
- ▶ Credit Cards (though not recommended)

How do you pay for college?

- ▶ Do you plan on using Financial Aid?
 - ▶ If yes, then you will want to file the FAFSA
 - ▶ AKA - the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
 - ▶ Application is available every January 1st
 - ▶ Something that you will need to do every year, for the upcoming school year
 - ▶ Beginning college in Fall of 2014? You will want to file at the beginning of next year (preferably before March 1st)
 - ▶ Apply early so you can meet all of your requirements
 - ▶ Potential for Verification

How do you pay for college?

- ▶ You must file the FAFSA annually to apply for:
 - ▶ Federal Grants
 - ▶ Federal Student Loans
 - ▶ Federal Parent Loans
 - ▶ Federal Work-Study
- ▶ Priority deadlines
 - ▶ Vary at each institution
 - ▶ Wright State University has a priority deadline of March 1st
 - ▶ Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
 - ▶ Federal Work-Study

How do you pay for college?

- ▶ Never pay an agency to help you file
 - ▶ Many resources available to you including your guidance counselors and local universities
- ▶ Make sure you list your school code
 - ▶ You can list up to 10 schools (so add all of the ones you are really thinking about!!!)
- ▶ Read the instructions and answer YES to all types of aid
- ▶ IRS Data Retrieval Tool
- ▶ Sign Electronically with a Federal Student Aid Pin
- ▶ Keep Copies for your records

How do I file the FAFSA?

www.fafsa.gov

How do you pay for college?

Grants

- ▶ Money received from the federal or state government that you don't have to pay back
- ▶ Federal Work Study Grant
 - ▶ Provides part-time employment to help students pay for college
 - ▶ Is need-based

How do you pay for college?

Scholarships

- ▶ Money you receive from various organizations that you are not required to pay back
- ▶ Can sometime range from \$100 - full tuition
- ▶ Merit - based (academic, artistic, athletic, or other abilities)
- ▶ Need - based (many require FAFSA)
- ▶ Student - specific (qualify based on gender, race, religion, family, medical history, etc.)
- ▶ Career - specific
- ▶ College - specific (Wright Promise Scholarships)

How do you pay for college?

Loans

- ▶ Borrowed money that must be repaid on a monthly basis
- ▶ Like a car or home loan
- ▶ Payments usually start 6-9 months after you graduate or stop enrolling in college...
- ▶ Subsidized
 - ▶ Do not accrue interest while in school
- ▶ Unsubsidized
 - ▶ Accrue interest while in school

How do you pay for college?

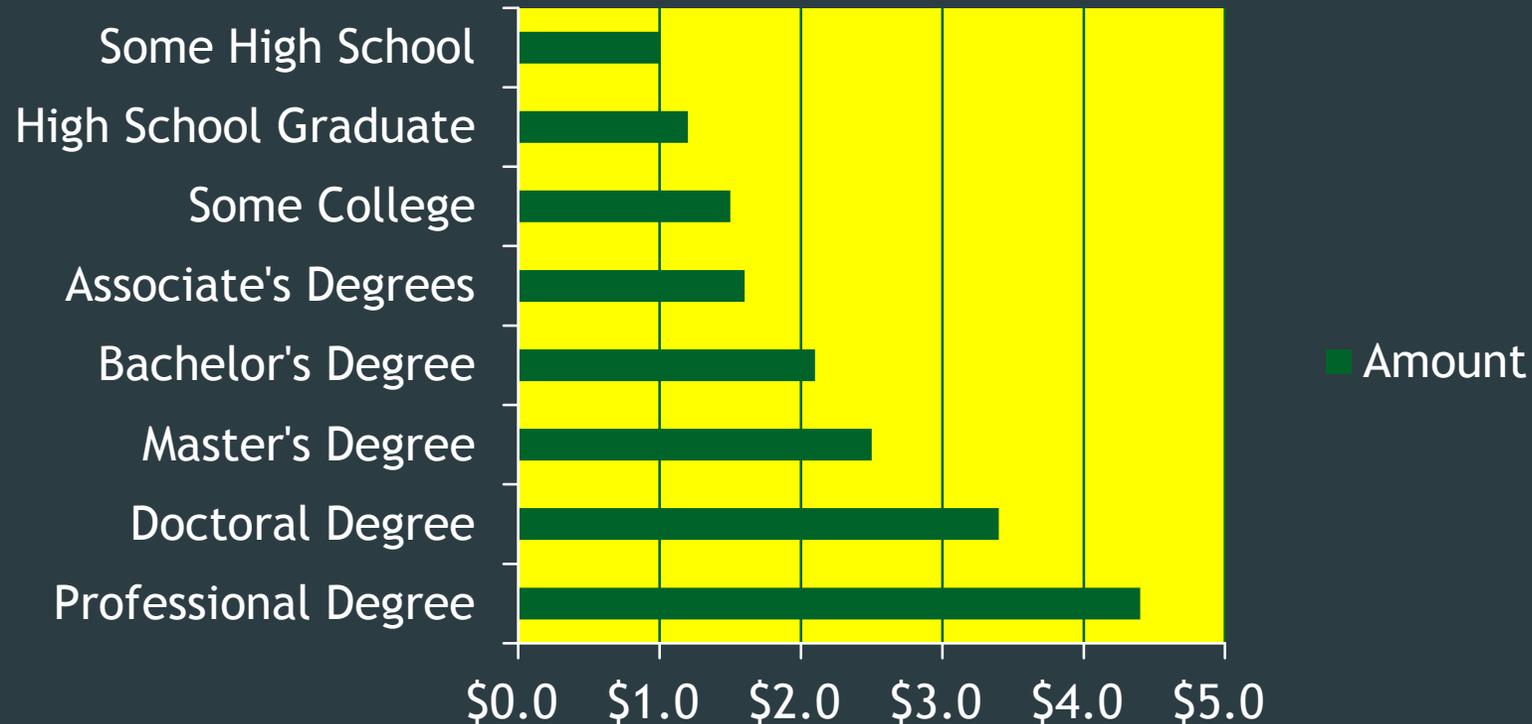
- ▶ Family Contribution
- ▶ Trust Funds
- ▶ Employment
 - ▶ Working while in school
 - ▶ Starting your career what do expect to earn

Majors

- ▶ Do your research
- ▶ What fields fit your interest
- ▶ Spend a day in that field
- ▶ If you think you may be interested in a subject, take a class on it
- ▶ Is the money that you will spend on that degree worth the investment
- ▶ What will you be able to do with this degree
- ▶ What is important to you (holidays off, 9 to 5 type of position, location)

Benefiting From a College Degree

Total Amount of Earnings During A Lifetime



Average Starting Salary for University

What is your salary going to be based on their career choice?

- ▶ \$39,100 - Ball State
- ▶ \$39,800 - Bowling Green
- ▶ \$44,900 - Ohio State
- ▶ \$42,200 - Ohio University
- ▶ \$43,100 - Toledo
- ▶ \$41,154 - University of Dayton

Average salary for Mercer County Resident

- ▶ \$48,000

Winning the college search game!

- ▶ Visit Colleges!
- ▶ Apply Early!
- ▶ File your FAFSA early!
- ▶ Apply for Scholarships!
- ▶ Be cautious of deadlines!
- ▶ Figure out what you want to do with your life!
- ▶ Ask Questions!
- ▶ Be open to the possibilities!

Have admissions questions? Contact us!

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Useful Resources

- ▶ www.collegeboard.com
- ▶ http://regents.ohio.gov/colleges_universities.php
- ▶ <http://career.wright.edu/student/careerexploration/index.html>
- ▶ <http://www.college-scholarships.com/100college.htm>
- ▶ www.fafsa.ed.gov