



COLLEGE SELECTION WORKBOOK



GETTING STARTED

There's no better time than now to start identifying, researching and visiting potential college options. Although research on college options and financial aid opportunities can be done from the comfort of your own computer, you'll want to start visiting college campuses during fall and spring of your junior year.

You will get more out of each visit if you do some research in advance and use the visit as an opportunity to get answers about the college experience firsthand. Your visit, combined with the knowledge gained from research and preparation, will give you a good idea of the experience you will have as a student at each particular college.

Use this workbook to help you navigate through the college selection process, help you choose the best college option and prepare for an exciting and successful freshman year in college.

RESEARCH TOOLS

Helpful links and tools that will help you prepare for college and identify potential colleges and universities.

COLLEGE BOARD

www.collegeboard.org

SAT information, test questions, and planning and financial tools

ACT

www.actstudent.org

ACT information, sample test questions and planning tools

PETERSON'S GUIDE TO COLLEGES

www.petersons.com

Access college search tool and profile information

KNOW HOW 2 GO

www.knowhow2go.org

Learn the four steps to prepare for college

COLLEGE NAVIGATOR

www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

A U.S. Department of Education resource for choosing colleges

COLLEGE PROWLER

www.collegeprowler.com

Read campus reviews from current students

VISIT WORKBOOK

The color-coded workbook section of this guide will help you to get the most out of each of your college visits. Once your research and visits are complete you'll be armed with the knowledge you need to make the right decision.

COLLEGE A

Name CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Location 2121 EUCLID AVE., CLEVELAND OH 44115

Web address ENGAGECSU.COM

Admissions Contact

ACADEMICS

How many majors are offered?

Do they offer the major(s) I am interested in?

Yes No Don't Know

Major programs of interest:

Minor programs of interest:

What are the class sizes like?

Is there an honors program?

Yes No Don't Know

Honors Program:

Are there libraries on campus staffed by professionals ready to help me succeed?

Yes No Don't Know

CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

How many student organizations and clubs are on campus?

Is the campus safe?

Yes No Don't Know

Is there a variety of campus dining options?

Yes No Don't Know

What kinds of dining options are located off campus?

Are the residence halls updated and well maintained?

Yes No Don't Know

The residence hall(s) I like best:

Is there a place on campus where I can go for answers about class registration, financial aid and other college related questions?

Yes No Don't Know

How many undergraduate students attend the college/university?

What is the average class size?

Is wi-fi available?

Yes No Don't Know

Is there tutoring and academic help available?

Yes No Don't Know

Is there a free laptop loaner program?

Yes No Don't Know

What collegiate sporting events can I attend on campus?

Is there a recreation center available on campus?

Yes No Don't Know

What kinds of exercise equipment and fitness-related activities does the recreation center offer?

What kinds of athletic events can I participate in on campus?

What kinds of off-campus activities are available (i.e. major league sports, shopping, theatre, etc.)?

LOCATION

Is the campus easily accessible?

Yes No Don't Know

Is the campus ADA compliant?

Yes No Don't Know

Is there a local transportation agreement with the college/university to allow me to get around without using my vehicle?

Yes No Don't Know

Does the institution have partnerships with neighboring businesses and organizations?

Yes No Don't Know

Are there internship opportunities near campus that will help me prepare for a career after graduation?

Yes No Don't Know

Types of internships:

Local partners:

Is the campus far enough from home so I am is on my own, but close enough to get home quickly if need be?

Yes No Don't Know

COST

What is the cost of tuition per credit hour?

\$ _____

What is the cost of tuition for a full year of classes?

\$ _____

What's a ballpark amount I might pay for books each year?

\$ _____

How much is it to live on campus per year?

\$ _____

Total estimated cost?

\$ _____

Do I qualify for merit scholarships?

Yes No Don't Know

Estimated scholarship amount available?

\$ _____

List merit scholarships available:

How soon should I apply for those scholarships?

Is there a college application fee?

Yes No Don't Know

Amount of fee:

\$ _____

Is there a deposit required?

Yes No Don't Know

Amount required for deposit:

\$ _____

Application deadline:

VALUE

Is there a career services/advising/job placement department or office?

Yes No Don't Know

What services are offered?

What kinds of companies and organizations conduct on-campus job interviews?

Will the institution help me find a job after I graduate?

Yes No Don't Know

Is there a large alumni network?

Yes No Don't Know

MISC NOTES

COLLEGE B

Name

Location

Web address

Admissions Contact

ACADEMICS

How many majors are offered?

Do they offer the major(s) I am interested in?

Yes No Don't Know

Major programs of interest:

Minor programs of interest:

What are the class sizes like?

Is there an honors program?

- Yes No Don't Know

Honors Program:

Are there libraries on campus staffed by professionals ready to help me succeed?

- Yes No Don't Know

CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

How many student organizations and clubs are on campus?

Is the campus safe?

- Yes No Don't Know

Is there a variety of campus dining options?

- Yes No Don't Know

What kinds of dining options are located off campus?

Are the residence halls updated and well maintained?

- Yes No Don't Know

The residence hall(s) I like best:

Is there a place on campus where I can go for answers about class registration, financial aid and other college related questions?

- Yes No Don't Know

How many undergraduate students attend the college/university?

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- Yes No Don't Know

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MISC NOTES

COLLEGE C

Name _____

Location _____

Web address _____

Admissions Contact _____

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How many majors are offered?

Do they offer the major(s) I am interested in?

Yes No Don't Know

Major programs of interest:

Minor programs of interest:

What are the class sizes like?

Is there an honors program?

Yes No Don't Know

Honors Program:

Are there libraries on campus staffed by professionals ready to help me succeed?

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MISC NOTES

COLLEGE D

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Location

Web address

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MISC NOTES

RESULTS

Congrats! You've survived the college visit experience!

Each campus had its own unique personality that may or may not be the right fit for you. Use the charts below to record the major positives and negatives you recorded for each college you visited.

COLLEGE NAME

Positive

Negative

COLLEGE NAME

Positive

Negative

COLLEGE NAME

Positive

Negative

COLLEGE NAME

Positive

Negative

COLLEGE VISIT RANKINGS

Now compare and contrast the pros and cons to rank your college choices from best to worst (best = 1, worst = 4) in the following five areas. Be sure to give more weight to those factors that are most important to you!

ACADEMICS

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

LOCATION

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

COST

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

VALUE

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

TOP COLLEGE CHOICES

Now add up your point totals for each college. The college with the lowest point total represents your top choice, the college with the next lowest point total represents your second choice, etc.

The top college choices for me are:

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

FINANCIAL AID

Every college-bound student should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA determines your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) — the annual amount that the government expects your family to pay toward your college education. If your college costs (Cost of Attendance, or COA) exceed the calculated EFC, you will be eligible for need-based loans and/or grants to help pay college bills. Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 of the year you will enter college.

Complete the FAFSA even if you don't think you will qualify for need-based aid. If you want to take out a federal loan of any type then you will need to file the FAFSA.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA

- FAFSA PIN
- Social Security number
- Driver's license (if available)
- Your tax forms
- Your Parent's/Guardian's tax forms
- Records of untaxed income, such as payments to tax-deferred savings plans, child support, veterans benefits, or workers' compensation
- Information about any businesses you or your family own, investment mortgage information, business and farm records, and other investment records

FAFSA STEPS

Apply for a FAFSA PIN online at www.pin.ed.gov in November or December of your senior year of high school.

1. Use your PIN and the documents you have gathered to help you file the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible after January 1 of the year you will enter college to ensure that you are at the head of the line for many of the first-come, first-served aid programs.
2. Take advantage of the data retrieval tool which helps minimize your chances of receiving a request for additional documentation.

FINANCIAL AID TOOLS

Helpful links that will help you learn more about loans, grants and scholarships that help pay for college.

Federal Government

<http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov>

1-800-4-FED-AID

Student aid on the web

FAFSA Forecaster

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

A federal financial aid estimate tool

Ohio Board of Regents

www.ohiohighered.org

Ohio college and university information and financial aid

Finaid!

www.finaid.org

Financial aid information and calculators

FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

JUNIOR YEAR

- Become informed about the financial aid process now. Use the links in the Research Tools section of this workbook to help you find information

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

- Take practice ACT/SAT exams to boost your chances of qualifying for scholarships

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

- Request information from colleges and research them online
- Attend any financial aid programs or presentations offered by your high school

WINTER/SPRING

- Visit www.studentaid.ed.gov to find out what kind of aid is offered by your state
- Begin your scholarship search and request applications from appropriate organizations
- Take ACT/SAT exams. Be sure to send your scores to CSU (ACT Code = 3270, SAT code 1221)

SENIOR YEAR

AUGUST

- Many colleges/universities open their admissions applications. Check for application dates at your top choices as many scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

- Take ACT/SAT exams if you have not done so already
- Create a scholarship application deadline list and begin applying for scholarships
- Begin asking for teacher recommendations for scholarships, if required

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

- Apply for a FAFSA PIN at www.pin.ed.gov

JANUARY

- Parents to complete income taxes ASAP after January 1st
- Complete FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov immediately after completing taxes and submit. CSU's FAFSA code is 003032

APRIL/MAY

- Use worksheet to compare financial aid packages received from prospective colleges
- Select college or university and inform institution of your intent to enroll

FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE WORKSHEETS

Worksheets to help you identify which college financial aid package is best for you and how much the actual cost will be to attend each college. Use the financial aid award letter you receive from each college to help you complete each worksheet.

COLLEGE NAME

Tuition per year \$.

+ Room and Board \$.

+ Books, Parking and other expenses \$.

= Total \$.

- Total Grants \$.

- Total Scholarships \$.

= Total Tuition, Room and Board per year \$.

- Student Loans \$.

= Total Out of Pocket Expenses \$.

COLLEGE NAME

Tuition per year \$.

+ Room and Board \$.

+ Books, Parking and other expenses \$.

= Total \$.

- Total Grants \$.

- Total Scholarships \$.

= Total Tuition, Room and Board per year \$.

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COLLEGE NAME

Tuition per year \$.

+ Room and Board \$.

+ Books, Parking and other expenses \$.

= Total \$.

- Total Grants \$.

- Total Scholarships \$.

= Total Tuition, Room and Board per year \$.

- Student Loans \$.

= Total Out of Pocket Expenses \$.

NEXT STEPS CHECKLIST

Now that you have determined your top college choices, use this checklist to ensure that you complete the required steps to prepare for an exciting and successful freshman year in college.

APRIL/MAY

- Review college acceptance letters, financial aid packages and select college
- Notify college of intent to enroll
- Submit enrollment deposit (if required)
- Register for an Orientation Session
- Submit housing application before deadline (if applicable)

JUNE/JULY

- Attend Orientation session
- Meet with advisor
- Register for classes

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- Purchase textbooks
- Research and apply for campus jobs if interested
- Move into campus housing (if applicable)
- Begin classes

ABOUT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Cleveland State University offers an exceptional learning experience. Its 85-acre metropolitan campus, located in the heart of downtown Cleveland, allows the university to partner with local world-class businesses, healthcare institutions, and renowned arts organizations to give CSU students an unmatched engaged learning experience on and off campus.

Named one of “America’s Best Colleges” by *U.S. News & World Report*, CSU offers affordable, quality academic programs with nearly 200 fields of study. The university is a leader in business, biomedical research and healthcare; K-12 education; sports management, and professional programs in law, business, engineering, urban affairs and more.

CSU FACTS

- Established in 1964
- Nickname: Vikings
- Mascot: Magnus
- Colors: Green and White
- Athletics: NCAA Division I Horizon League – 16 Varsity Sports
- Approximately 200 academic programs
- 150+ online offerings, including complete degree programs
- More than 120,000 graduates
- Over 17,000 current students
- Student-to-faculty ratio is 19 to 1
- Average class size is 27
- 3,000 Internships + Co-Ops completed each year
- 200+ student organizations and clubs
- More than 1,100 students living in new and renovated campus residence halls
- Big city amenities (arts, culture, professional sports, restaurants and clubs) nearby
- \$500 million campus makeover includes new Student Center, residence halls, College of Education and Human Services, and more!



