

## More Resources

### College Access Information Hotline

1-800-428-8246

Information from the Ohio Board of Regents on preparing for college, applying to college, and general information about Ohio colleges.

### Ohio College Access Network

(Ohio CAN) [www.ohiocan.org](http://www.ohiocan.org)

Cleveland: (216) 241-6133

Columbus: (614) 456-6531

Cincinnati: (513) 831-1200

Organizes college access programs throughout Ohio.

### Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education

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

1-866-GO-OACHE

Resources for preparing and paying for college, particularly for students in Ohio's 29 Appalachian counties.

### Student Access and Success Coordinating Council of Ohio

(SASCCO) [www.ohioaccess.org](http://www.ohioaccess.org)

Directs federal college access programs throughout Ohio.

### Ohio Board of Regents

[www.regents.state.oh.us](http://www.regents.state.oh.us)

Information about Ohio colleges and state financial aid.



Ohio State Legal Services

555 Buttles Avenue

Columbus, Ohio 43215

614-221-7201

800-589-5888

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



Equal Justice Foundation

88 E. Broad St., Suite 1590

Columbus, Ohio 43215

614-221-9800

800-898-0545



Youth Empowerment Program

Coalition on Housing &

Homelessness in Ohio

175 South 3rd Street

Suite 250

Columbus, Ohio 43215

614-280-1984

# You CAN Go to College



A Guide to  
**Preparing and Paying for  
College**  
for Ohio Students and  
Families

## Choosing to Attend College

There are **important benefits** to attending college.

### Why should I attend college?

- ◆ College graduates earn more--an average of 80% more than high school graduates.
- ◆ A college degree is required for more jobs than in the past.
- ◆ A college education provides experience with important aspects of today's global economy—including technology and cultural awareness.

### Can I afford college?

- ◆ Yes! This brochure explains how grants, scholarships, and low-interest student loans make college affordable for everyone.



### Will I have to move away from my family and friends?

- ◆ No, Ohio has over 100 colleges and universities with a wide variety of programs and degree offerings.

### Can I go to college if I got my GED instead of a high school diploma?

- ◆ Yes! Almost all colleges and universities accept the GED.

## Preparing for College

It is **never** too early for you to begin preparing for your educational future.



### How can I start preparing?

- ◆ Consider your hopes for the future, including career goals.
- ◆ Research the degrees or certificates you will need to achieve your career goals.
- ◆ Visit colleges that offer the degree or certificate programs that you are interested in.

### What courses should I take to be ready for college?

- ◆ At a **minimum**, you should take:
  - ◆ 4 years of English
  - ◆ 3 years of social studies, science, and college-prep math
- ◆ It is **recommended** that you take:
  - ◆ 4 years of English, social studies, and college-prep math
  - ◆ 3 years of science, including chemistry, biology, and physics

**Make sure your guidance counselor knows that you are planning to attend college!**

## Paying for College

You **can** afford a college education. Student aid comes in many forms, some of which does not need to be repaid.

### How can I get financial aid?

- ◆ The most important step is to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1--this is the process used by the federal government and most colleges to determine financial aid.

### Do I have to include information about my parents' income?

- ◆ For most students, the answer is yes.
- ◆ There are specific exceptions, including students over age 24, married students, and students with dependents.
- ◆ If you are a homeless youth living away from your parents (an "unaccompanied youth"), your college's financial aid officer **may** be able to give you a special exemption.

### What kinds of aid are available?

- ◆ Grants and scholarships: money based on merit or need that does not need to be repaid.
- ◆ Low-interest student loans: from the school or federal government, with special interest rates and repayment terms.
- ◆ Employment opportunities: allowing you to earn money by working.

