Making the Right College Choice

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Currently, over 78% of all jobs require some training or education beyond high school.

Labor Review Article (about job projections through 2022)

Sites to research Colleges (technical, 2-year, and 4-year)

Peterson's
College Board.org

Advice for applying:

1. Apply to more than one school.
2. Apply to a "reach" school.
3. Apply to "middle" schools.
4. Apply to a "safe" school.

Note: There are application fees (nonrefundable whether accepted or not). These fees cover the cost of processing your application. Be AWARE of application DEADLINES! These are very strict dates. Some schools may require a portfolio of your best work. Many times these are required for music, art, or design programs.

Suggestion for Organization: Create a spreadsheet with the various colleges to which you applied, the deadlines for each school and pieces of information needed, required tests (ACT/SAT) and scores needed, etc.

Common Applications:

Common Application
Universal Application

Some colleges (over 500 in 47 states and D.C.) accept the common application. Many colleges also accept the universal application. See above links for these applications.

College Essays:
Whatever the topic(s)... Be sure that the college "hears your voice." Your qualities and character should shine through in your essays(s). This allows the college admission board to "see" how you would fit into their institution. Remember, they do not know you and you have to give them a glimpse of you and your personality.

Acceptance Letters: Keep track of these.

Schools will require other documentation. These documents will have due dates attached to them. You may want to write the due dates a week earlier than is required just in case a problem arises.

Rejection Letters:

Do NOT take these personally. The board of admissions does not know you. Regroup and move on. You may choose to reapply in a semester or two. You may also go to another college and transfer later to the school you really want to attend.
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Helpful Resources

INFOhio.org (Learning Express Library database) Then choose College Prep Center and/or College Center.

WhiteHouse.gov (Fact Sheet: White House Unveils America’s College Promise Proposal: Tuition-Free Community College for Responsible Students)

Pathfinder for college research

Parchment.com

Get Me to College (Tips on filling out a college application)

Application Boot Camp (Essay questions released for the 2014-2015 essay prompts)

Comprehensive College Counseling (Universal App versus Common App – article)

College Made Simple (Universal App versus Common App – article)

College View (2-year college info)

Bankrate (Ranking of the Top 25 2-year colleges)

Big Future (tips on transferring from a 2-year to a 4-year school)

NRCCUA (2-year school info)

The Best Schools (This includes 2-year, 4-year, and online degrees)

GetEducated.com (Guide to Online Colleges)

National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)

Scholarship.com (Pros and Cons of 2-year colleges)

American College Counseling Association (Fast Facts about Community College)

Online Colleges.net This resource includes: the most affordable online colleges in Ohio, including the most complete program-level information available on the web; a curated list of scholarships available to Ohio students, along with a database of nearly 20,000 general scholarships; a searchable database of all accredited online colleges in Ohio.

Online Schools

Guide to Online School (Costs)

BestColleges.com

My College Options (Need to create an account)

Adventures in Education

Virtual Tours of College Campuses

A2Z Colleges (2-year college information)

PayScale.com (List of 2-year schools that have the highest paid graduates)
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Office of the U.S. Department of Education
Scholarships.com
Fastweb.com
NCAA Eligibility Center (High School Portal)
Accredited Online Schools and Colleges
Financial Aid Info
Transitioning to College (from Kent State Libraries)
Ms. Davis' College Resource Page