

# Steps to College & Career for CCS Juniors



SPRING 2018/19



Junior year is flying by- you've already passed the halfway mark! Do your best to finish strong. Your final grades this year and the rigor of your senior schedule (yes, college admissions counselors will check to see if you have courses like math, science and foreign language on your schedule) will have the most impact on college admissions. Even if you feel like "coasting" your senior year, don't! It could cost you a lot of money and time to take remedial level courses in college if you are not prepared!

What if you are not planning on attending college classes right away- should you still take those challenging courses? Yes! The academic preparation you need to be successful in your first job (including the military) is the **same** preparation you need to be successful in college.

## Mark your Calendar:

- **Summer Opportunities Fair: Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (11-2:00) at Columbus Downtown Library** Register if possible at: [Summer Opportunities & Engagement Fair Registration](#)
- **CCS Construction Trades Fair: Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> (4-6:30) at Fort Hayes Career Center.** This will be a great time to connect with employers, learn about paid apprenticeships and plan for a high paying career with great benefits- wow!! For high school- adult.
- Our school's **Steps to College** meeting for junior families: **March 6, 2019**
- **BluePrint College: High School: April 3, 2019, 5-8pm, CSCC**– Register at [iknowican.org](http://iknowican.org)!

## Spring College Fairs and Visits:

**Plan now to visit colleges!** College admissions offices keep a record of every contact a student has with their office and/or staff members. If you are applying to some selective, and especially highly selective, colleges, numerous contacts are extremely important! If you have the time and means, visit campuses (be ready to interview!) and consider an on-campus summer program at one of your top choices. Summer is a great time to visit if you are too busy during the spring.

**Spring College Fairs:** If time and money are more limited, introduce yourself to college admissions counselors at college fairs (see below), make sure you are on email and mailing lists, and attend evening informational sessions in the area.

**National College Fair, Columbus:** Sunday, March 24: 1- 4:00pm  
<https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/national-college-fairs/> Greater Columbus Convention Center

National College Fair, Cleveland: Saturday, March 23: 1-4:00pm  
Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland

[Register before the fair](#) to make the most of your time onsite and ensure that colleges can follow up with you. Upon arrival at the fair, pick up a map to find your best-fitting colleges. **CCS school counselors**



and I Know I Can advisors will be available onsite at the Columbus fair to help you determine the colleges that meet your requirements regarding major, location, and other areas of interest! Come see us with any questions (including those about ACT/SAT) at the school counseling tables when you first walk into the Columbus Fair.

**Spring College Visits for Juniors:** Check your Naviance site, email and with your school counselor and IKIC advisors about any possible CCS college visits. Juniors may be eligible to go on free visits to colleges this spring! Upcoming visits (some are already full) so far:

- **Ohio Dominican University Panther Promise – March 6th**
- **Bowling Green State University – March 7th**
- **Shawnee State University – March 27<sup>th</sup>**
- **University of Mount Union – April 2nd**

Register at [iknowican.org](http://iknowican.org)

### **Naviance Student Site:**

Make sure to continue using our school's **Naviance Student** site for a wealth of information about college and career readiness. Remember to use your student ID# for both your username and password. Have you created your resume and activities template for college and job applications? Have you saved and reviewed your career and college interest inventories? Have you checked out the test prep links and previewed the list of scholarships for next year? Have you and your parent updated your emails so you can receive important updates from your counselor and IKIC advisor about college and career opportunities? All juniors should be adding colleges to your "Colleges I'm Interested In" list. Every senior in the CCS district now uses their Naviance Student site for all college applications, so it is important that you are familiar with the site. Make sure to share this information with your parents so that you can plan now for what you will do after high school!

### **I Know I Can Resources:**

I Know I Can is Columbus City Schools' great college access partner. For more information about their services, go to: [www.iknowican.org](http://www.iknowican.org). They are an excellent resource for financial aid information and provide such services as specific scholarship programs, FAFSA workshops for senior families, college visit sign-ups and Blueprint: College presentations. Each school has an IKIC advisor who can assist with "all things college!"

### **Ohio State Tests: End-of-Course Exams/Graduation Tests:**

All juniors will take the American Government end-of-course exam this spring (unless you are taking an AP or CCP course that can replace it). If you scored *less than a 3* on any other end-of-course exam and need to retest, you can retest this spring also. Please use test prep resources:

<http://oh.portal.airast.org/ocba/resources/> For the Biology OST exam, try:

<http://www.bv.k12.oh.us/Biology1.aspx>. For the American History and American Government tests, try: <http://www.ohiotestprep.com/>. For the math tests, you can also review various topics on Khan Academy. You should also retake these tests again this summer if needed- don't wait until senior year!

**New graduation pathways** (in addition to earning 18 points on the Ohio State Tests) were announced in January for students in the Class of 2020! Please see all of your options to graduate (on top of earning your CCS course requirements) here: <https://www.ccsch.us/Page/2701>

### **College Testing:**

One of the most important steps juniors can take now is registering



Columbus City Schools, School

**All juniors took a free online administration of the ACT at their school on February 26.** Scores will be official and may be used for college application. Remediation-free scores in Math, Reading and Writing may be used to meet the high school graduation testing requirement.

for college entrance exams: **ACT and SAT. Each student should take both tests before the end of this year.** This will enable you to determine YOUR best test. All schools will accept either test. Students should then plan to retake their best test at least one to two more times. If you wait to test in the fall, you may not have time to do this! The **September ACT (not the October ACT)** and the **October SAT** administrations are the **latest** a student can test and still meet November 1<sup>st</sup> application deadlines (ex. OSU Early Action deadline for scholarships and special programs). See your counselor to come up with your testing plan!

Most colleges **no longer** require that students take the optional Essay. However, staff at some highly *selective* schools may want to see Essay scores and even SAT Subject test scores in one to three of your strongest subjects. Start/continue taking those tests this spring too! Some schools will accept the ACT instead of the combination of SAT and two Subject tests. Some colleges will use **super-scoring**, the practice of combining sub-scores from two or more test administrations (yet another reason to retake tests). How do you know test requirements for your colleges? Check their sites and see your counselor.

Please use the ACT/SAT sites for registration information. You will need to upload your photo for ID purposes. Register NOW so that you don't get closed out of your preferred testing site!

**If you have submitted the CCS Instructional Fee Waiver Application and meet the financial requirements, your counselor can provide two total test fee waivers for each test.** IKIC can pay the registration fee for one additional test for qualified students (so that's three total!). If you believe your family may possibly qualify for financial assistance due to temporary hardship, please see your counselor! Waivers do not cover additional fees (ex. late registration, rescheduled testing). Make sure to secure waivers before the end of the prior school year for any August or September tests.

**If you have an IEP or 504 plan and qualify for testing accommodations,** you should have already given permission for school staff to apply for your ACT accommodations for the February 27 test. If not, do so, ASAP for later spring tests! You must apply separately for SAT accommodations.

When you register to take tests, make sure to include any colleges you may be interested in applying to later. It's free to request scores before the test, but will cost about \$12 per score report if you request these after the test. Most colleges want scores to be reported directly from test companies, and some schools will combine sub-scores from different test administrations, so go ahead and send all of your scores. **If you choose not to, remember that you will have to send them later, at a cost, at least two weeks before your college application deadlines.**

**ACT registration:** [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

2019 test dates: **April 13** (register by March 8), **June 8** (register by May 3), **July 13** (register by June 14), **September 14\*** (reg. TBA)

\* Latest date to take test for November 1 deadlines!!

**SAT registration:** [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

2019 test dates: **May 4** (register by April 5), **June 1** (register by May 3), **August 25\*** (register by approx. July 27) **October 6\*** (reg. TBA)

\* Latest date to take test for November 1 deadlines!

Remember, taking these tests **multiple times** and preparing for them each time will help to boost your scores and possibly make you eligible for admission to colleges and for merit-based scholarships. The higher your scores, the more options you have! **Whether we like it or not, your scores are VERY important to admissions officers.** Check your prospective schools for average SAT, ACT scores for incoming freshmen. You may be surprised at how high scores have risen at many schools! OSU's *average* ACT score for freshmen admitted to the Columbus Campus is 29 (25% are above that and 25% are below that score).

Retake tests at the beginning of the senior year, even if you are happy with your spring results. **Boosting scores could help you get into more colleges- and get more merit aid money.**

**Register  
by the deadlines!**  
Our School CEEB:  
361-636



If you are **interested in one of the 800 four-year colleges that do not require ACT/SAT scores**, you should check out the information at [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)! Ohio schools that do not require test scores include Denison, Wittenberg, Ohio Wesleyan, CCAD and Baldwin Wallace. This may be a good option for those students with high GPAs and strong extra-curricular records, but lower test scores. This may also be an option for those students who are philosophically opposed to this kind of testing. In addition, the OSU regional campuses and CSCC do not require either the ACT or SAT.

### **ACT/SAT Test Prep:**

**Make a plan to prepare for ACTs and SATs.** You can take free practice tests online or in person through the Princeton Review. Compare both tests and figure out your BEST test. Go to: [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com) enter your zip code and register.

**ACT Tip:** Take practice tests on the [OhioMeansJobs](http://OhioMeansJobs) site: and then plug your scores into free prep on the ACT site: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html> . Sign up for ACT Academy and click on Resources. Sign up there too for ACT Question of the Day- this is a great way fit quick test prep into your day. Our other **favorite ACT** online prep site is [www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com) .

**SAT Tip:** You cannot beat the free individualized test prep offered by Khan Academy through the College Board. If you took the PSAT, you can plug in your scores from your test report.

**More online resources:** There are many free online resources to help you prepare. See sites below! Three such sites are <http://www.freetestprep.com/index.php> , or [www.testprepreview.com](http://www.testprepreview.com). **Don't forget free resources on collegeboard.com and actstudent.org!** They offer ACT and SAT questions of the day sent straight to your phone.

### **Test prep classes and tutoring:**

**Columbus State** offers a very affordable ACT/SAT prep course. Go to <https://www.ed2go.com/cpe/online-courses/sat-act-preparation-1?tab=syllabus> . for more information and to register. Click on Exam Prep.

**CollegeSmiths** is a fabulous college consulting service that also offers a range of test prep options. Sign up at [www.collegesmiths.com](http://www.collegesmiths.com) Kristy and Rich Smith are award-winning college counselors with over 48 years of combined service.

**The ACT Review** offers quality, affordable ACT prep. Classes meet at Capital University. Sign up at [www.actreview.com](http://www.actreview.com) . This is a great option for those families who do not have a lot of time or money, but still want results!

**Kaplan Educ. Centers:** Call 442-055 for excellent prep programs at higher prices.

**Princeton Review:** Call 488-2929 for information on local courses and on taking **FREE practice tests** or go to [www.PrincetonReview.com](http://www.PrincetonReview.com) for online tutorials and free test taking tips.

**ACT/SAT Turbo Camps** take place at the Dublin Rec. Center (BWSEducationConsulting.com).

**Torch Prep** offers boot camps throughout the year. Go to <https://courses.torchprep.com/courses/> and search Columbus. These are more expensive (\$450 range) but are comprehensive multi-day programs.

**PrepAccelerator** is offering one more ACT Crash Course event **FREE** for all high school students at Worthington, Westerville and other libraries. Register ASAP!

<http://prepaccelerator.com/events/>



**The Columbus Libraries also offer free ACT/SAT events at different branches.** Go to their events calendar to search “test” for results at different locations. There are free practice ACT & SAT tests offered by Princeton Review in January and February at the Whetstone and Downtown branches.

<https://events.columbuslibrary.org/events> . Just search through calendars.

### **ALL ATHLETES:**

**Thinking about playing sports at a Division I or II college? You must sign up with the NCAA Eligibility Center ASAP! NCAA Sign-up is done on-line.** [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) See your counselor to determine if you are eligible for a fee waiver. When registering for the ACT/SAT the NCAA wants your scores sent directly. Add their code **9999** as one of your choices under schools and scholarships.

### **ALL ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS:**

**SlideRoom** (<http://www.slideroom.com/>):

SlideRoom is used by their visual arts admissions offices to receive digital portfolios for a Fine Arts applicant. A college's SlideRoom will be accessible on that college's website if used.

**Acceptd** (<http://getacceptd.com/>):

Acceptd is a 3rd party website that works with schools (as listed on this page) to allow students to upload a digital portfolio for music, theatre, dance, or visual arts programs/schools.

### **ALL STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES:**

This website ([www.collegeacademicsupport.com/](http://www.collegeacademicsupport.com/)) includes links to the Offices of Disability Services at Ohio Colleges as well as links with information about the academic and counseling support services at Ohio Colleges. This site also includes information about a comprehensive resource and planning guide for students with disabilities that can be ordered for those who would like more in-depth information about the transition from high school to college. The guide also includes over 40 colleges that have developed specialized programs for students with disabilities and over 55 additional colleges that have services that provide supportive environments for students with disabilities).

There is also a college fair that features colleges that are committed to students with learning difference every fall at Gahanna Lincoln HS (2019 date TBA).

### **Spring & Spring Break:**

**Plan now to visit colleges!** College admissions offices keep a record of every contact a student has with their office and/or staff members. If you are applying to some selective, and especially highly selective, colleges, **numerous contacts are extremely important!** If you have the time and means, visit campuses (be ready to interview!) and consider an on campus summer program at one of your top choices. If time and money are more limited, introduce yourself to college admissions counselors at college fairs (there's a National College Fair- [www.nacacfairs.org](http://www.nacacfairs.org) - in Columbus this spring on **Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**!). Make sure you are on email and mail lists and attend evening informational sessions. Summer is also a great time to visit if you are too busy during the spring.

The CCS School Counseling Office and IKIC will be sponsoring **FREE college visits** to multiple campuses this spring (see above). Check with your counselors and advisors, read emails and sign up on the IKIC web site! Most trips occur on school days.

### **Summer Plans:**





Now is the time to plan for a productive summer. Many coveted jobs, internships and study programs fill before spring break. Please consider and apply to summer scholar programs. Some programs are free and most offer financial aid. You can find some programs online by searching “summer scholars programs”, and you may also check out the summer enrichment programs under the college tab on your Naviance Student page. Scholarships are often available and organizations such as the Rotary Club and Support for Talented Students (schoolmatch.com- they also provide a great list of programs!) may also provide funds. If you have a high GPA (3.8 +), PLEASE check with your counselor to see if you qualify for summer programs through QuestBridge or other highly selective summer college programs. Just a few examples of upcoming summer programs: Explorations in Neuroscience Camp @ OSU, the Medical Academy at the OU Heritage Medical School in Dublin, or summer art workshops at CCAD. These all fill quickly so register ASAP!

In terms of your resume for college admissions, you should focus on activities that build/expand on interests you already have. College reps are looking for strong themes in applicants’ files. It is better to show leadership, initiative and/ or passion related to a few interests than to list membership in many unrelated activities. Acting on your passions and career interests this summer will strengthen your college applications and, more importantly, allow you to build confidence and explore future options. If you have questions about the merit of a particular summer program, please see your counselor.

Working is also a great way to save money and earn valuable skills. Look into summer jobs at the Columbus Zoo, City of Columbus - Columbus Recreation and Parks or search for internships on the OhioMeansJobs site or Cap4Kids.org or through the Franklin County Summer Youth Works Program the Franklin County Board of Commissioners (this last one is for TANF eligible youth).

### **Special Opportunities:**

**Support for Talented Students Scholarships:** Support for Talented Students is a non-profit organization that provides scholarships for gifted students in Central Ohio to attend summer programs of students’ choice. Each year, STS works funds programs for students who are economically disadvantaged, and more than \$25,000 of their funds go to students in Columbus City Schools. The STS Scholarship Application website ([supportfortalentedstudents.org](http://supportfortalentedstudents.org)) is open for parents and students to apply for scholarships for summer programs in 2019. Students must be identified as gifted and should currently be in grades 3-11. Lists of camps from 2018 can be found at <http://www.ccsosoh.us/GiftedandTalented1.aspx>. Other popular sites include COSI and CCAD summer programs among others. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is March 30, but early application will assist students with early funding to ensure they get the camp enrollment of their choice.

**Opportunity Scholarships for the Class of 2020!** The College Board is offering money to students who complete steps toward attending college. The more effort you put in, the more chances you get to earn a scholarship ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. If you complete all six steps, you’re eligible to earn a \$40,000 scholarship. Scholarships are awarded—through monthly drawings—to students who complete each step. Go to <https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/?excmid=oc320-pr-01-acsd> for more information.

The Columbus Women’s Commission and the Community Workforce & Apprenticeship Committee invites you to attend the **Women in Trades Learning Session**. Hear directly from women working in the trades, and explore the benefits of this lifelong career! Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 6-7:30 p.m. (Dodge Recreation Center 667 Sullivant Ave., Columbus) Bring your mom, sisters, and friends- this is a great career opportunity for women!

**The 2019 Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted and Talented™ at Otterbein University** for rising juniors and seniors will take place June 18-24. This is a fantastic residential camp that many CCS students have attended. See your counselor for more information Registration. Deadline: TBA-early spring

**United States Service Academy Nominations:** This is an extremely competitive process that requires a Congressional nomination for a college education that covers *all* costs. Most students begin seeking these out in their junior year. Ohio senators and representatives usually host information sessions in the spring. Go to:



[http://serviceacademycoach.com/Congressional\\_Nomination.html](http://serviceacademycoach.com/Congressional_Nomination.html) for more information on service academies.

**Deadline for submission of ALL required materials is October 1.**

**Denison Alliance Program for CCS Students:** Please stay in touch with your school counselor and I Know I Can advisor about a Denison University program that can ultimately lead to a four-year, full tuition scholarship for 20 CCS students each year! Current juniors will apply and be selected next fall.

**U.S. Senate Page Program:** Page duties consist primarily of delivery of correspondence and legislative material within the Congressional Complex. Other duties include taking messages for Members, calling them to the phone, preparing the Chamber for Senate sessions, and carrying bills and amendments to the desk. Pages are paid on the basis of an annual salary of \$ 25,605. Consider applying for this program either in the summer or next year. Applications can be found at: <http://www.brown.senate.gov/services/students/pages> or at <http://www.portman.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/page-program>.

**Raise.me** (<https://www.raise.me>) is a site on which students can enter their information for a variety of “micro-scholarships” at specific colleges and universities. Register and see how your individual achievements can add up (beginning now!) at a great variety of colleges (including Oberlin, Denison, U. of Dayton, Kent State, Temple, DePaul, Tulane, Colby, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and more)!

**ODE's Career Pathways** (link in resources below): These can help you figure out what courses, from high school through two and four-year colleges, you need to take to go into certain fields. Great guides!

### **Financial Aid for College:**

Your family's earnings and assets for 2018 will determine any need-based aid for college. If you have a complicated situation or are wondering how certain assets will affect your ability to receive financial aid, you may want to consider talking with a financial consultant who understands college financial aid. This should be a person who is recommended to you through your own contacts. Otherwise, **DO NOT** sign up for any programs that require a fee to find money for you! All of this information is available to you for FREE. Every year families get caught up in programs that sound very professional but provide little in the way of results. Your I Know I Can advisors and school counselor will be able to help guide you through every step of the process!

There are different kinds of financial aid. Basically, if you want to be eligible for merit-based aid, you usually need a GPA of at least 3.0 and strong test scores- and/or possess a talent desirable to colleges. Aid does not come to you- you must earn it and actively seek it out!

Please attend any school or IKIC meetings that address college admissions and financial aid. These meetings are the best way we have of sharing information with you. Make sure to review scholarship information on our Naviance Student site. This will allow you to anticipate scholarships that you might qualify for next year. Register now on FastWeb, Cappex, and on [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to begin receiving scholarship information that matches your profile. Most scholarships target graduating seniors but you can start to shop around! Also, search college websites for school-based scholarship programs. Most merit aid comes from the colleges, not from outside sources, so choosing to apply to good college matches is key!

**Scholarships:** Juniors may apply now to any scholarships open to them. Usually, these are essay competitions. Try finding these through Cappex (<http://www.cappex.com/scholarships/>) and the other scholarships sites listed below.

### **Earning College Credits while in High School:**

If you are interested in taking college courses next year at, you and a parent **MUST** attend a CCP counseling session. You can meet this requirement by attending a CCS College Credit Plus Meeting. During these meetings, you will have the opportunity to speak with representatives from OSU, CSCC, Otterbein, COTC and other CCP partners. You may also schedule a counseling session with your counselor if you are unable to attend any of these meetings. **You must also sign a Letter of Intent by April 1** if you have any plans or interest to take



part in CCP courses, whether they are offered at your high school or at a college. You must complete and return this form every year for the following year of participation.

Don't forget, you can also earn college credit at your high school by taking AP courses and earning scores of 3-5 on your AP exams. See your counselor for other ways you can earn college credit at your school and ask if your school might be holding their own CCP meeting. Get general CCP information now on the OhioHigherEd website at: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/ccp>.

## **Helpful Websites:**

Remember to visit all of your colleges' websites **often** for the latest information. Check all deadlines, especially those for scholarships and honors programs!

### **General College Application/ College Information Sites:**

[www.CTLC.com](http://www.CTLC.com) is a great site about the highlighted colleges in the book, Colleges that Change Lives. See what makes these lesser known colleges so highly rated!

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) is a comprehensive site where students may explore every aspect of the college admissions process.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org> is part of the College Board site and offers guidance on everything from the college search to paying for college- great user-friendly site with lots of student testimonials.

[www.InLikeMe.com](http://www.InLikeMe.com) is a great resource for everything from application tips to essays to scholarships.

[www.collegedge.com](http://www.collegedge.com) features a college and scholarship search.

[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) Find out if your colleges use the Common Application, a service that saves you a lot of time! This site also links you to colleges' supplemental forms.

[www.EducationPlanner.org](http://www.EducationPlanner.org) gives students information related to all aspects of the college admission process.

<https://www.collegegreenlight.com/> College Greenlight connects first generation and underrepresented students to caring colleges, generous scholarships, and life-changing counselors and mentors.

[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com) features an excellent college search program and is a great application resource.

[www.OhioMentor.org](http://www.OhioMentor.org) is a wonderful site full of information where students can fill out financial aid and admission applications online.

<http://www.collegeconfidential.com/> provides a great forum for "insider" college perspectives.

[www.edupass.org](http://www.edupass.org) is a great source of info. for international students.

<https://professionals.collegeboard.org/guidance/financial-aid/undocumented-students> provides a starting point for undocumented and DACA students. Please see your counselor for more information- **school counselors keep your information confidential!**

[www.aicuo.edu](http://www.aicuo.edu) provides information on all of Ohio's private colleges, including financial aid options for those who plan to attend one of these schools. Also, this site includes the Estimated Family Contribution Calculator that you can use to predict your family's college costs.

[www.collegeplanning.nelnet.net](http://www.collegeplanning.nelnet.net) Nelnet is a comprehensive college planning course that offers a \$1,000 scholarship per week sweepstakes. There are college planning tools, information, resources, school and scholarship searches, interactive school comparison tools, calculators, and FAFSA information.

[www.campuspride.org](http://www.campuspride.org) Campus Pride offers great information about LGBTQT-friendly campuses and universities as well as scholarship information for LGBTQT students.

### **Information about College Costs:**

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/> The US Department of Education launched this site to provide families with college cost comparisons. You can also do a basic college search on the site.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/college-admissions/paying-for-college> Khan Academy takes on the challenge of paying for college!

<http://www.thecollegesolution.com/> features excellent information on how to cut college costs, including free webinars and reliable resources from Lynn O'Shaughnessy, college expert and higher-ed journalist.

<http://costoflearning.com/> uses Net Price Calculators to help you compare the cost of attending several of your top choice colleges.





<http://www.collegedata.com/> provides such tools as net price calculators, Estimated Family Contribution calculators, financial aid award comparisons and scholarship information.  
<http://collegecost.ed.gov/catc/> is a site maintained by the US Department of Education's College Affordability and Transparency Center.  
<https://collegeabacus.org/> College Abacus is a one-stop, secure search site that helps students and families compare the net price estimates of 5,000+ colleges before students apply and before any financial aid determination is made.

### **Scholarship Search Sites:**

\*Your Naviance Student site!

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) tailors scholarship searches based on students' profiles. Every student should register for this free service.  
<http://www.cappex.com/scholarships/> Here you can uncover millions of dollars in scholarships from colleges, universities, private companies, foundations -- and more -- to help pay for school.  
[www.columbusfoundation.org/scholarlink/index.aspx](http://www.columbusfoundation.org/scholarlink/index.aspx) is the link to the Columbus Foundation's list of scholarships. Type in your information, and they match you with possible scholarships!  
[www.free-4u.com/minority.htm](http://www.free-4u.com/minority.htm) is an excellent site that lists scholarships for each ethnic background (Irish, Portuguese, Japanese, Jewish, African American....)  
<https://scholarships.uncf.org/> provides information about UNCF (and affiliated) scholarships, including one for Central Ohio students. This site is updated on an ongoing basis.  
[www.blackexcel.org/link4htm](http://www.blackexcel.org/link4htm) is a great site for minority students.  
[www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org](http://www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org) is a great site for students of Hispanic descent.  
<https://www.goldendoorscholars.org/> and <https://getschooled.com/dashboard/article/1320-scholarships-for-undocumented-daca-mented-students-get-that-money> provide scholarship resources for DACA and undocumented students  
<https://www.collegegreenlight.com/> assists first generation and underrepresented students.  
[www.finaid.org/otheraid/gay.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/gay.phtml), [www.thepointfoundation.org](http://www.thepointfoundation.org), [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org) and [www.safeschoolscoalition.org/rg-scholarships.html](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/rg-scholarships.html) are all excellent sources of financial aid for GLBT students, students with GLBT parents and/or students involved in social activism.

### **Financial Aid Informational Sites:**

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) is the site for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You can file your FAFSA after January 1<sup>st</sup>.  
<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> is the first stop for students and parents who plan to complete the FAFSA online. An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature. Your FSA ID application can take 1-3 days to process before you can begin using your number(s) to complete the FAFSA online. Both the student and one parent must each get an FSA ID. Contact the Social Security Administration first if you believe yours or your parent's names or other information needs to be updated! Your FSA ID and SSA information must MATCH!  
[www.OhioMentor.org](http://www.OhioMentor.org) is a wonderful site full of information where students can fill out financial aid and admission applications online.  
[www.ed.gov/OSFAP/Students](http://www.ed.gov/OSFAP/Students) deals with federal programs.  
[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) covers both federal and private loan options.  
[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) provides many answers to financial aid questions.  
[www.nasfa.org](http://www.nasfa.org) is a site sponsored by the National Assoc. of Student Financial Aid.  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) is the home page for the CSS Financial Aid Profile, a form required by many selective colleges. Click on CSS/PROFILE

### **Sites for College Entrance Tests and Free Test Preparation:**

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) is the site used to register for the ACT but there are also a number of test prep resources! ACT Question of the Day, ACT Academy (Individualized Prep!) for ALL students and practice tests are all available here: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/act-online-prep.html>  
[www.number2.com/](http://www.number2.com/) is a free site for test prep. It includes word of the day vocabulary builder and more. Teachers, parents or other mentors can sign up as coaches to monitor student progress.  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) is the site used for SAT registration and students may also do some test prep here. There are many free test prep resources through College Board and Khan Academy.



<https://jobseeker.k-12.ohiomeansjobs.monster.com/Assessments/Home.aspx> from OhioMeansJobs offers prep for a variety of tests, including ACT, SAT and Accuplacer and WorkKeys mainly in the form of **practice tests**. The site also offers basic test taking strategies.  
<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep> Khan Academy is the site to use for SAT and PSAT prep!  
<http://www.erikthered.com/tutor/> offers a great overview of SAT and ACT math formulas & strategies.  
[www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com) is a site sponsored by the US Army that provides free test prep for ACT, SAT & ASVAB  
[www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org) provides information on the SAT and the TOEFL (see below) as well as practice questions.  
[www.review.com](http://www.review.com) provides some test prep resources and information about free practice tests and courses for fees  
[www.testprepreview.com](http://www.testprepreview.com) has online ACT/SAT practice tests for no charge!

### **Online tutoring sites:**

**General subject sites:** [hippocampus.org](http://hippocampus.org) , [www.kahnacademy.org](http://www.kahnacademy.org) , <https://academy.act.org/> and [cliffsnotes.com](http://cliffsnotes.com) all offer homework help and resources for a variety of high school **courses** (including science and foreign languages).

**Math sites:** [inmath.com](http://inmath.com) , [sosmath.com](http://sosmath.com) , [www.kahnacademy.org](http://www.kahnacademy.org) and [www.patrickjmt.com](http://www.patrickjmt.com) are all excellent math sites that supply math tutorials for all levels of math.

**Science sites:** [physicsclassroom.com](http://physicsclassroom.com) , [www.kahnacademy.org](http://www.kahnacademy.org) and [hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/hph.html](http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/hph.html) covers much of the high school science curriculum.

**English/writing sites:** [owl.english.purdue.edu](http://owl.english.purdue.edu) , [www.grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/index.htm](http://www.grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/index.htm) and [www.easybib.com](http://www.easybib.com) are all helpful sites for improving grammar and writing papers.

**Study skills:** [www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/notes.html](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/notes.html) (great information on note-taking, listening and participation), [www.studygs.net/](http://www.studygs.net/) is a whole site devoted to all areas of study skills and can be translated into over 37 languages, <http://school.familyeducation.com/skill-builder/college-prep/37653.html> (provides a good basic overview of the 10 top skills necessary for academic success)

### **In-person tutoring: Always ask your teachers and counselor for tutoring options at your school!**

**Columbus Metropolitan Library Homework Help Centers:** <http://www.columbuslibrary.org/hhc>

**DeVry** also offers free tutoring at their Livingston campus. Call their Student Support Center to schedule tutoring session. (614) 253-7291

#### **Free tutoring resources in the Columbus community:**

<http://cap4kids.org/columbus/education-resources/tutoring-and-homework-help/>

#### **CCS Recommended Tutoring Resources:**

<http://filecabinet6.eschoolview.com/A63F9E96-CA96-447F-BB4B-B30A0309411F/TutoringResourcesforParentsandStudents2016-2017.pdf>

#### **Tutors for pay in Columbus area:**

<https://schooltutoring.com/tutoring-in-columbus-ohio/>

