It’s never too early to start preparing for college. Early planning and preparation will help you and your student feel more informed and in control of the bright future ahead!

### Eleventh & Twelfth Grades

#### ELEVENTH GRADE

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<th>Fall</th>
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**Fall**
- *Sign up to take the PSAT or PLAN.*
- *Meet with your counselor to discuss your curriculum and make sure you are on taking the courses you need to graduate.*
- *Explore extra-curricular activities at your school or in your community.*
- *Take a tour of a local college or university while classes are in session to get a feel for the campus.*
- *Make a list of colleges that you would like to consider.*
- *Make sure you are aware of the college requirements for those schools.*
- *Attend a College Fair or College Night.*

**Winter**
- *Talk to friends who are home for winter break from college about their college experiences.*
- *Review your PSAT or PLAN score report; identify areas requiring additional assistance.*
- *Ask the school counselor about fee waivers for ACT or SAT exams. Eligible students can receive up to two waivers.*
- *Plan for the SAT or ACT. Obtain schedules and practice exams schedules. Register 6-8 weeks to ensure date and location.*
- *Between junior and senior year, study for ACT and/or SAT so that you can take or retake it in the fall, if applicable.*

**Spring**
- *Continue college visits.*
- *Review senior year class schedule with counselor.*
- *Begin actively searching for scholarships and financial aid.*
- *Be aware of college application requirements and deadlines.*
- *Use tools like FASFA Forecaster (www.fafsa4caster.edu.gov) to help calculate how much financial aid you can receive and estimate your Expected Family Contribution. (EFC).*

**Summer**
- *Finalize summer plans.*
- *Take a college tour.*
- *Complete a draft of the personal statement for applications. Look into workshops offered by local colleges, as they can provide information and structure you need to get started.*
- *Narrow your list of schools you plan to apply and make sure admission requirements are met. (transcripts, application fees, test scores, essays, financial aid applications, etc..)*
- *Mark your calendar for deadlines and financial dates.*
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- Review admission requirements and deadlines for all schools that you will apply to. Meet with your counselor to review details.
- Attend a College Fair or College Open House.
- Make sure school office sends transcripts to colleges.
- Send ACT and/or SAT scores to colleges.
- At the beginning of the school year seek out your favorite teachers, employers, etc… to ask for college recommendation letters. If required, give each recommender required forms, resume and a stamped address envelope.
- Take or retake ACT or SAT in the fall of your senior year to that you will have your results in time to apply for college.
- Complete your FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 and prior to March 1. Be aware of college deadlines for completing the FAFSA.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Make a final decision on where you want to go.

- Take advantage of College Goal Sunday where families can visit local colleges/universities and get help filling out financial aid forms.
- Approximately 4 weeks after completing the FAFSA, your family will receive the Student Aid Report (SAR), a summary of the information provided on the FAFSA. Make any necessary changes and return.
- Filing out college applications/essays… watch for deadlines.
- If you plan to attend a community college in the fall, apply now.
- Look for a summer job or internship.
- Admissions decisions and financial aid award letters will arrive in April.
- Compare aid award letters. Talk to financial aid officers if you have any questions. If you have not received enough aid, ask if other options are available.
- Notify colleges of acceptance or rejection of admissions or financial aid offers by May, and send a deposit to the chosen college.
- Find out about test dates for placement exams for college.

- Final transcript should be sent to the college you have chosen to attend.
- Finalize summer plans.
- Prepare for the following school year.
- Celebrate for your hard work and accomplishments!
College Readiness Vocabulary: Eleventh and Twelfth Grades

**ACT Exam** – a 3 ½ hour national college admissions exam that test your knowledge in English, Math, Reading and Science. The ACT Plus Writing Exam includes a 30 minute Writing Test. Most colleges require that students take the ACT Exam or the SAT Reasoning Exam as a college entrance requirement.

**ACT Plan (PLAN)** – helps 10th graders build a solid foundation for future academic and career success. It is a comprehensive guidance resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and beyond. This test serves as the midpoint measure of academic progress in ACT’s College and Career Readiness System.

**Advance Placement (AP) Courses** – College level courses in a variety of subject areas that students can take while in high school. Students can boost their high school GPA by doing well in AP courses because they will earn more grade points in AP classes. When completed, students have the option of taking a corresponding AP Exam and earning college credit.

**College Entrance Requirements** - These include completion of specific academic coursework, entrance exams such as the ACT and SAT, and a scholarship requirement (combination of GPA and standardized test scores.) Required coursework and testing may vary at different colleges.

**Extra-Curricular Activities** – Activities that happen outside of the school day, including jobs (paid or unpaid), school based activities (such as student government, clubs, yearbook, student council, etc…) or activities affiliated with a community organization or a faith-based community.

**Preliminary SAT (PSAT)** – This test measures some skills that has been developed over the course of your education. Students usually take the test in eleventh grade, but benefit from taking the test in the tenth grade or sooner because they will receive personalized feedback on the academic skills needed for college. By taking the test early, students have more time to develop these skills and begin the college-planning process. The PSAT is a good way to prepare for the SAT.

**SAT Reasoning Exam** – The SAT is a 3 ½ hour test that measures critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, and writing skills. Most colleges require that students take this or the ACT as a college entrance requirement.
Get an early start on career exploration

Career exploration will expose you to the educational and professional requirements for various careers. Career preparation and work-based learning experiences can help develop goals and make informed choices about careers.

1. **Career Interest and Personality Assessments** - Talk with the school counselor about assessments, which can raise your self-awareness and create a foundation for informed career and educational planning.

2. **Informal Interview with a Professional** – Look to the professionals in your community. Do you dream of being in the medical field? Next time you visit the doctor, ask questions about the profession.

3. **Internships** - Through an internship you can learn first-hand about a particular career path. Information on internships can be found at the counselor’s office, summer job fairs or through community-based organizations. Look into paid and unpaid internship opportunities for high school students at local colleges.

4. **Career Shadow Days** – Many high schools organize their own career shadow days. On this day, you can choose to “shadow” a professional of your choice and learn more about that career.

**TIP:**

If you plan on participating in Division I or Division II college sports and want to be recruited, you should register with the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse in the summer of your junior year.
10 THINGS Owens Community College Upward Bound can do for you

- Provide professional tutoring at your high school.
- Assist with test taking and study strategies including ACT, SAT and OGT.
- Provide help filling out college applications, scholarships, FAFSA (financial aid).
- Monthly workshops to prepare you and your family for college.
- A Summer Program providing real-life college experience courses.
- Visiting college campuses or college fairs.
- Participate in educational field trips.
- Career exploration and academic advising.
- Improve grades and meet friends.
- Generate skills, motivation and confidence for success in completing high school and enrolling into college.