Get PREPPED

Colleges are looking for students who prepared well in high school. The right classes are called “college preparatory” or college prep, and your schedule should consist of at least four college prep classes per year, including:

• 4 years of English
• 4 years of math—through algebra II and geometry. Trigonometry and calculus are good ideas, too.
• 2 years of a foreign language (Many colleges may require more than this minimum requirement. Take more, if you can.)
• 3 years of natural science (Many colleges ask for more—including biology, physics and chemistry—because science courses are essential for so many majors.)
• 3 years of history/social studies
• 1 year of visual or performing arts
• 1 year of electives from the above list

Think outside the box

Whether you are planning to attend college or enter the workforce, the data show that the most successful people took the most rigorous course schedule they could.

• Ask your school counselor about honors, Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and International Baccalaureate courses.
• Join clubs or sports teams that teach you leadership, discipline and teamwork.
• Get involved! Community service broadens your experience and looks good on your college application. Extra efforts at your job or place of religious practice also help.

Study, Study, STUDY!

Now that you’re in high school, the grades that you are getting will be sent to colleges when you apply. Hit the books!

Explore the WORLD of college

How many colleges are there in the United States? Let’s just say you have a lot of choices. What’s a high school senior to do?

• Start by asking questions. Do you know what you’re interested in? How large or small of a place feels right to you?
• Explore your options: community colleges, universities, small colleges…you never know what is going to appeal to you by the time you’re a senior.
• Take a little trip. A couple of college visits during these years are a good idea.

Start a “ME” file

Create a file of important documents and notes. Hang on to copies of report cards, lists of awards and honors you’ve received and notes from your boss at work, and keep a list of school, religious and community activities in which you are involved each year.

Cultivate a college MENTOR

It’s always good to talk to your parents about your plans for college, but there may be other people you know—a teacher, school counselor, relative, family friend—who can serve as a sounding board where college is concerned. If you don’t have someone in mind, contact the Ohio College Access Network (ohiocan.org) to get connected. It’s always a good idea to find someone who can offer guidance about your future and help you achieve your goal of a college education.