

POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING



Beyond **BREAKTHROUGH**
ALUMNI SUCCESS NETWORK

JULY 2024

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH CAREER

Breakthrough Public Schools is committed to providing Cleveland area scholars with an education that empowers them to lead lives full of impact and opportunity.

OUR MISSION

Beyond Breakthrough empowers the Breakthrough alumni community to identify and pursue their dreams through a supportive network of partners and innovative programming dedicated to their success.

OUR VALUES

All Breakthrough alumni will thrive through discovering and passionately pursuing their dreams.

WE OFFER

- Individualized Support
- Alumni Socials
- Career Connections
- & More!



THIS BOOK IS DESIGNED TO:

- Help you understand the college-going process
- Introduce you to tech & trade programs if college isn't your path
- Provide a timeline to keep you on track for key deadlines
- Help you understand how to apply for financial aid to pay for college and other non-college programs
- Give you a starting point for doing additional research

IF YOU REMEMBER ONLY ONE THING FROM THIS BOOKLET...

**Remember that Beyond
Breakthrough is here for you.**

If you encounter unfamiliar college or career processes and procedures, need assistance with acquiring financial aid, would like to talk about your path to your goal, or run into any roadblocks along the way, please get in touch with us!

We offer individualized meetings with alumni and their families and support through college/trade/tech graduation and into career.

Beyond

MEET THE TEAM



JILLIAN KELLER

Senior Director, College and Career

JKeller@breakthroughschools.org

Call/Text - 216.618.2224

AVAILABLE FOR

One-on-one conversations about all things post-high school!

Jillian's work begins during a scholar's senior year of high school. She works with students and their families to help them make a successful transition from high school to college, career, or tech/trade /certificate programs. Her support continues throughout college or alternate pathways. Jillian works closely with all college-going students and their families.



JAYDA WIMBLEY

Manager, Alumni Success

JWimbley@stmdphs.org

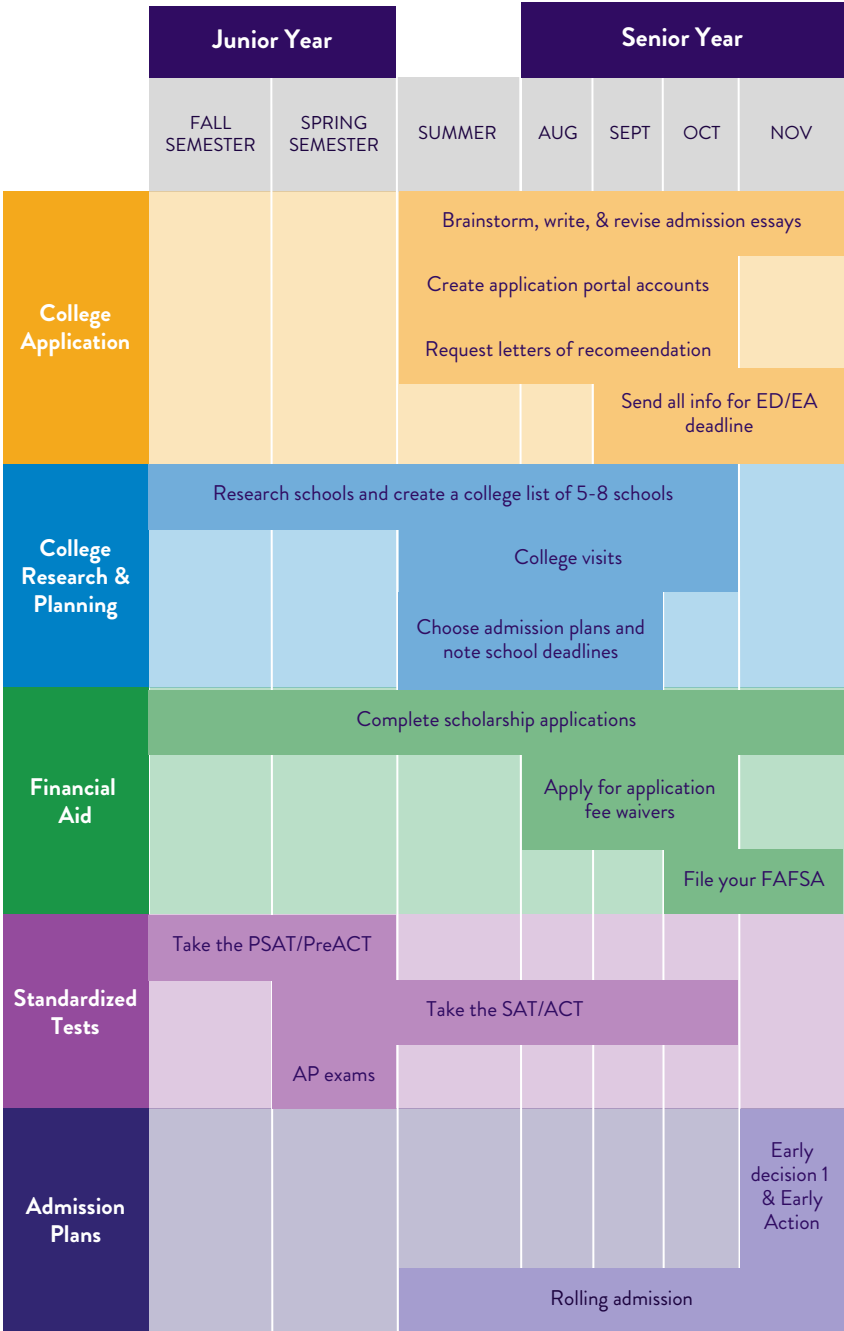
Call/Text - 216.618.2377

AVAILABLE FOR

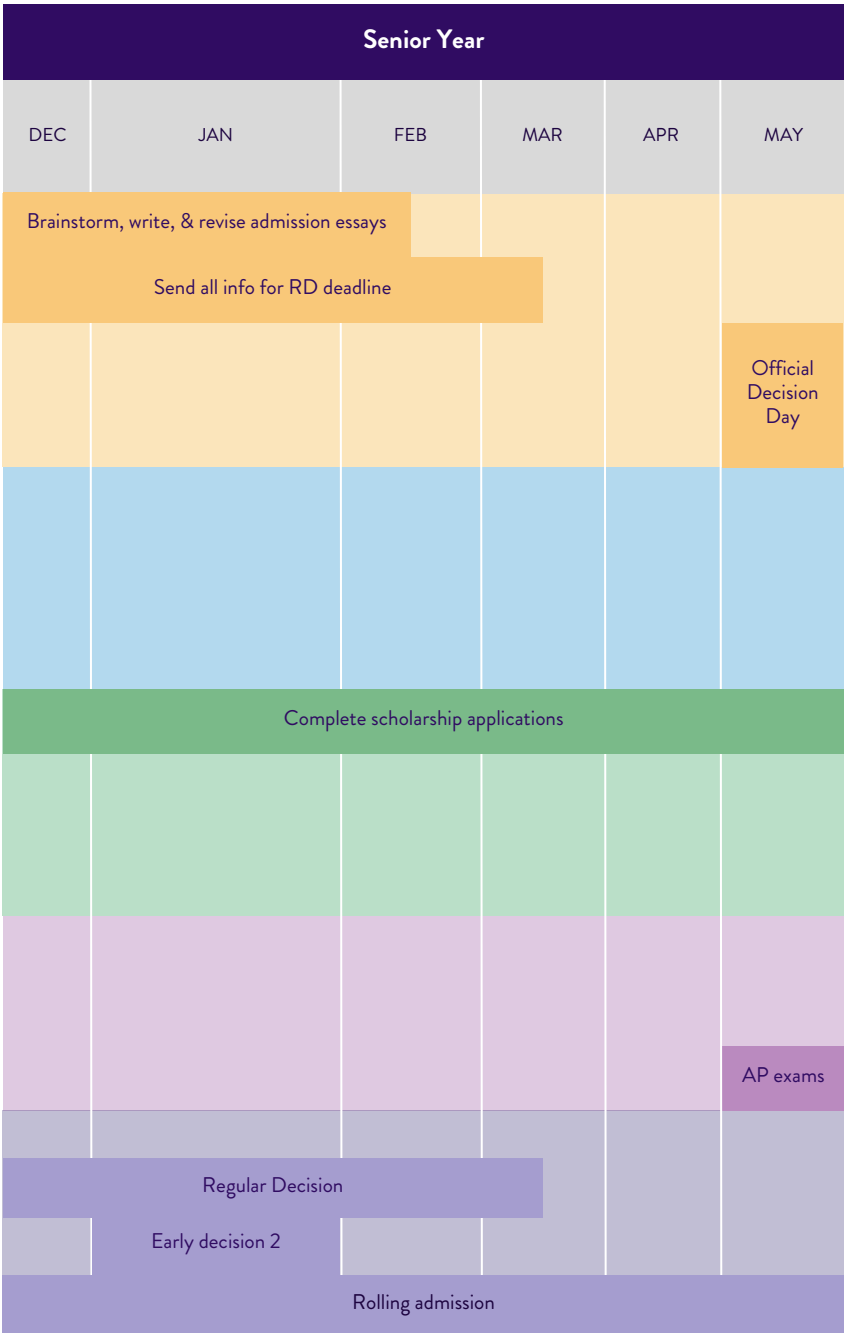
One-on-one conversations about all things post-high school!

Jayda is on the ground at St. Martin de Porres High School four days per week where she works closely with St. Martin scholars as well as St. Martin alumni who are attending college. She meets with Breakthrough alumni attending St. Martin de Porres on a regular basis to assist with all things high school and college.

COLLEGE APPLICATION TIMELINE



COLLEGE APPLICATION TIMELINE



GOING TO COLLEGE IN THE FALL?

TOP 5 POST-HIGH SCHOOL TASKS TO COMPLETE!



BE AWARE OF DEADLINES

Ask your high school to send your transcripts to each college you apply to now and a final transcript report after you graduate in June.

01



November 1st

Most early decision, early action and honors programs deadlines are November 1 or 15.
Apply early!

February 1st

Deadline to apply for regular admission to many colleges

Deadline for maximum financial aid consideration at many colleges.

FILL OUT THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) AS SOON AS YOU CAN.



Request your FAFSA info to be sent to every college you are applying to. This helps the government and colleges decide on loans, grants, and scholarships. Try to submit it November 1st, though at the latest submit March 1st

02

TELL US YOUR COLLEGE CHOICE BY APRIL 20. SECURE YOUR SPOT BY SAYING YES TO ADMISSION AND PAYING THE DEPOSIT BEFORE MAY 1, NATIONAL COLLEGE DECISION DAY!

We work with many colleges and can link you to people and programs to help with a smooth transition, making friends, and ensure a great start. But, we need to know where you're going by each college's special program deadlines to help you.

04

MEET WITH OUR TEAM TO SHARE YOUR PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, REVIEW FINANCIAL AID LETTERS AND MORE.

The college-going process can be confusing and there is much to figure out. What is the right school for me? How will I pay for college? How much debt will I have? Does the college have a strong graduation rate? Meeting with your Beyond Breakthrough college support person can help you understand everything so you can make the best choice for you!

03

REACH OUT WITH QUESTIONS OR IF YOU NEED GUIDANCE. WE'RE HERE FOR YOU! WHAT DO YOU NEED TO SUCCEED?

Call/text/email Jillian Keller
216.618.2224
JKeller@breakthroughschools.org

05

FOR RISING SENIORS

CHOOSE 5-8 COLLEGES TO APPLY TO BETWEEN AUGUST TO OCTOBER SENIOR YEAR

- **50% of the colleges you apply to should be target schools.** That means your GPA and test scores are in the middle of the school's accepted student range.
- **25% of schools should be safety schools,** meaning your GPA and test scores are on the upper end or above the accepted student range.
- **25% of schools should be reach schools.** This can mean that the school admits fewer people or your test scores and GPA are lower than their accepted student range.

THE COMMON APP OPENS AUGUST 1ST FOR '24-25

The Common App allows you to apply to many schools with one application and often just one essay. It's a great time-saving tool.

FAFSA OPENS OCTOBER 1ST FOR '24-25

Apply for financial aid at www.fafsa.gov as soon as possible to maximize your aid.

EARLY ADMISSIONS, EARLY DECISION, AND HONORS DEADLINES ARE TYPICALLY NOVEMBER 1ST TO 15TH

Deadline for honors programs and early admission/early decision is much earlier than general admission.

NATIONAL DECISION DAY IS MAY 1ST

Send your enrollment deposit by May 1 to accept your admission and formally commit to a college. You can lose your spot at some colleges if you don't!
Need assistance paying your deposit? Contact us!

PAYING FOR COLLEGE, TRADE, AND TECH PROGRAMS



- **Every high school senior should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which opens on October 1 for the following academic year. It's available at studentaid.gov.**
- **FAFSA asks questions about income and other circumstances and is how the government and colleges/programs determine what loans, grants, and scholarships you qualify for.**
Aim to complete the FAFSA by November 1, as some types of financial aid run out, and the first ones to apply for it are the first to be awarded.
- **When asked which schools you want to review your FAFSA, list any and every school/trade/tech program you are considering.**
You never know who will give you the most money and where you feel most at home. List more schools vs. less.
- **The FAFSA can be tricky, and there can sometimes be roadblocks.**
If this happens, or you'd like a helper to complete the FAFSA, contact us!
- **Every year, thousands of HS seniors who want to go to college don't because they are confused by or fail to complete the FAFSA app and follow-up questions.**
Don't let this be you! We are here to help!
- **Even if you are an amazing scholar and offered a full scholarship, you still need to complete the FAFSA so that there is an account in your name to deposit the scholarships and grants.**
- **After completing the FAFSA, you should receive an email confirmation that it's done.**
Several weeks to a few months later, you will get an award letter from the colleges you applied to and had your FAFSA information sent to.
- **Do not choose a school until you have a complete financial aid offer, which includes what the government offers.**
This includes some or all of the following: federal subsidized loan, federal unsubsidized loan, Pell Grant, Ohio College Opportunity Grant, etc. AND institutional aid. Institutional aid is the money a college/tech/trade program offers you. This is usually scholarship money and you may or may not be selected for a scholarship.



TYPES OF DEGREES

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS/ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE (AA/AS)

- Typically takes 2 years and is often referred to as a “two-year degree”.
- AA is general, and many who earn an AA intend to pursue a bachelor’s degree at a university.
- An AS is more often STEM-based and includes degrees in medical and technology fields. Those who earn an AS (nursing, radiology tech, computer networking, etc.) often go straight to work upon graduation.

BACHELOR’S/BACCALAUREATE (BA/BS) - UNDERGRADUATE

- It is frequently referred to as a “four-year degree,” although it can take 4-6 years, depending on the program of study and the number of courses taken each semester.
- When people ask, “Do you have a degree?”, they typically mean a bachelor’s degree.

MASTER’S (MA/MS) - GRADUATE

- Typically an additional 2 years in addition to a bachelor’s degree.
- Can begin immediately after BA/BS or at any point thereafter
- There are a few programs where you can earn a bachelor’s and master’s in 5-6 years. These are called 4+1 or 4+2 programs.
- You can get a master’s degree in the same field as your bachelor’s or something different.

PROFESSIONAL - GRADUATE

- Law School, Pharmacy School, Medical School, Veterinarian School, Dental School, etc.
- These degrees require a bachelor’s degree and specific coursework to apply.
- These degrees take between 3 (law) and 7+ years to earn AFTER a bachelor’s degree.

PHD/DOCTORATE

- It takes 4-7 years beyond a bachelor’s degree, an average of 6 years.
- You can earn a PhD in many fields and earn the title of Doctor but don’t confuse this with a medical degree, such as MD, DO, etc.
- Think of a PhD as the degree a professor or researcher might hold.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- **Community Colleges are also called 2-year colleges, and they cost approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ the price of a 4-year (Bachelor's) college/university.**
Some Associate's degrees lead to jobs that pay well, and some might not be worth the time or money.
- **You can earn certificates, a technical skill or trade credentials, or an Associate's degree (a 2-year degree).**
"This means that you might attend a community college with the purpose of earning a certificate but not a degree, and that's okay! You might also attend with a degree as your goal. Both are valid.
- **Community Colleges often have agreements with four-year colleges that guarantee class X at one school is accepted as class Y at another and meets major requirements.**
Search for "transfer guides" on a college's website and be sure to talk to academic advisors/counselors at the school you are at and the school you intend to transfer to.
- **Community Colleges offer many classes that do not transfer to a 4-year college and, therefore, don't help you if you plan to get a Bachelor's degree after an Associate's.**
These include medical (coding, STNA, assistant, phlebotomy, transcription, etc.), dental (assistant, hygienist), trade/tech, real estate, paralegal, fire/safety, culinary, cosmetology, and more.
- **If you plan to get a Bachelor's degree in business, do NOT get an Associate's degree in business.**
Most classes will not fulfill requirements at a 4-year college. Instead, get an Associate of Arts degree, transfer, and take required business classes at the 4-year college.
- **If you want to earn a bachelor's degree one day, be careful not to use too much financial aid at a community college, or you might run out of financial aid before you complete a bachelor's degree.**
This is especially an issue if you take courses that don't transfer to a 4-year college or withdraw from (drop) or fail classes. Even failed or dropped classes count against financial aid limits.

FOR EXAMPLE

An Associate's Degree in Dental Hygiene takes 3 years at a community college.

The average salary for a dental hygienist is \$81,400/year, which is \$39.14/hour.

You can use financial aid to get this degree and land a great job with little (or perhaps no) debt.

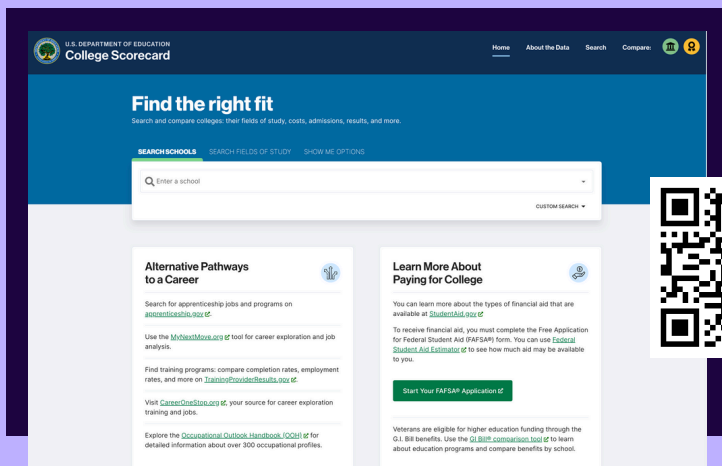
You can earn a Registered Nursing degree (RN) at a community college and get a job earning approximately \$70,000 starting pay at a hospital.

Many hospitals will then pay for you to get a Bachelor of Nursing (BSN).

**EXPLORE OTHER
ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES THAT
PAY WELL!**



HOW TO USE THE COLLEGE SCORECARD AND WHAT IT MEANS

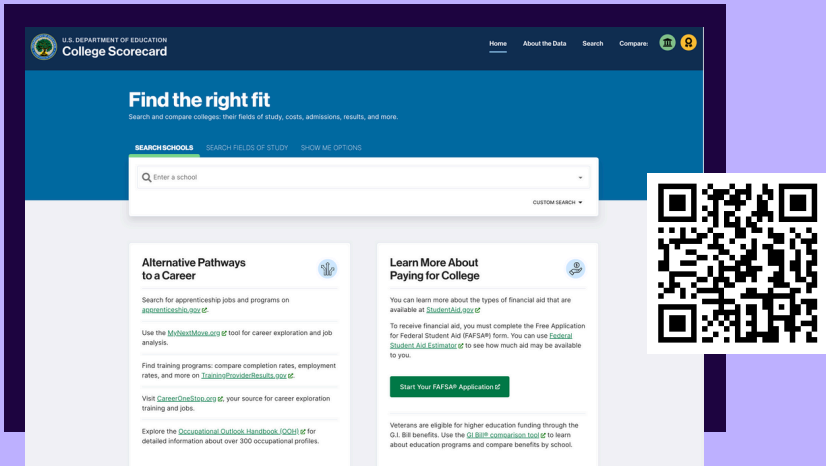


This interactive College Scorecard helps you identify colleges and universities in Ohio based on several key metrics. The first table features a summary view of Ohio's schools, calling out key metrics such as access/affordability, diversity, culture, and outcomes. The second table offers a fully interactive, detailed view of all the underlying data that drives these scores.



Our overall scorecard covers 10 key areas measured for select colleges in Ohio. These areas offer insights into each school as you consider your options. This scorecard contains data taken from the US Department of Education College Scorecard (collegescorecard.ed.gov) as well as additional Beyond Breakthrough explanations to help interpret the data. Beyond Breakthrough does not endorse specific colleges or universities. Definitions of each area are included on the next page.

HOW TO USE THE COLLEGE SCORECARD AND WHAT IT MEANS



The U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard helps you research colleges and universities based on several key metrics. It is a great tool to help you identify where to apply. The language can be a bit daunting, so we've broken-down a few terms below.

GRADUATION RATE

The graduation rate is the share of students who graduated within 8 years of entering this school for the first time.

A significant difference between graduation rate and Pell only graduation rate may indicate that low-income students (who are also often first generation) may not be receiving the academic and social-emotional support they need to succeed. Many schools have support, but students might have to apply/opt-in to the support programs.

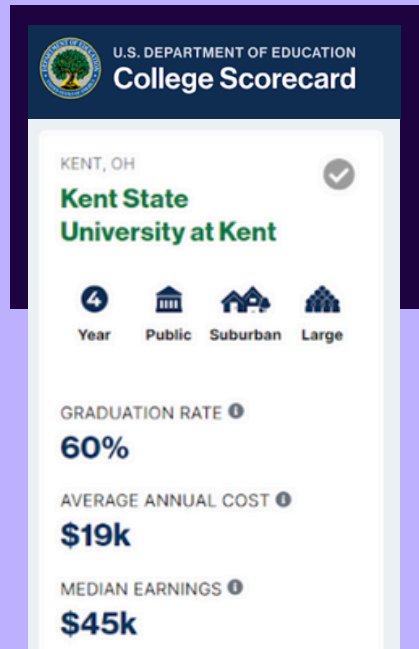
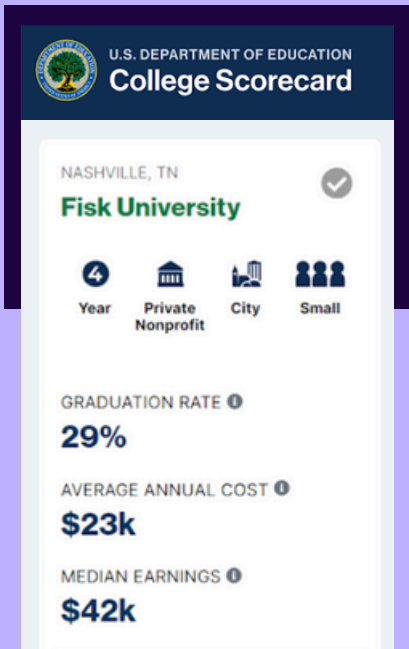
YEAR 1-2 RETENTION

The share of first-time, full-time undergraduates who returned to the school after their freshman year.

This number matters because it is an indicator that these students are doing well enough academically to return, have financial means (financial aid or self-pay) to return, and may feel a sense of belonging.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The proportion of students in specific race/ethnicity categories.



MEDIAN LOAN DEBT AFTER GRADUATION

The median cumulative federal debt of undergraduate borrowers who graduated. This figure includes only federal loans originated at the school awarding the credential; it excludes private student loans, Parent PLUS loans, and federal loans originated at previously attended schools. Note that this value includes federal loan debt from all undergraduate borrowers who completed their program.

The exclusions are very important! This total debt number only includes the student loans taken out at the school a student graduates from. Therefore, if a student started at a community college or other school and then transferred, it doesn't include loans taken there. It also doesn't include Parent Plus loans, which are in the parent's name, or loans taken at a bank or credit union.

PELL GRANT

A federal grant awarded only to undergraduate students who display exceptional financial need and have not already earned a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree. Pell grants are not loans and do not need to be repaid. You must complete the FAFSA to be considered for a Pell Grant.

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PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACCEPTED

The share of first-time students who applied to this school that were accepted.



ACCEPTED TO A COLLEGE? NOW WHAT?

Be patient! Don't rush your decision because there's more to explore!

VISIT OR REVISIT THE SCHOOLS THAT HAVE ACCEPTED YOU

- How did you feel when you visited?
- Do they have more than one major that interests you?
- What do students do for fun?
 - Search “student life”.
 - Are there many clubs and social organizations?
 - Do you want to join a fraternity or sorority? Does the college have National Pan Hellenic (often called Divine Nine and includes Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Phi Alpha, Omega Psi Phi & more) Greek letter organizations?

UTILIZE THE COLLEGE SCORECARD TO GAIN KEY INSIGHTS


- Check how many first year students return for a second year, graduation rates, average debt, and more.
- If you are eligible for a Pell Grant, click “Pell only” in the College Scorecard and note the difference between all and Pell only. A larger difference is negative, signaling that low-income students (often the first in their families to go to college) might not be getting the services and support they need to succeed.



WAIT UNTIL YOU HAVE AND UNDERSTAND YOUR FULL FINANCIAL AID AWARD BEFORE CHOOSING A SCHOOL

- Do not accept admission to a school-based just on institutional aid. Wait for a full financial aid award from schools that includes both institutional (a specific college) aid as well as state & federal loans (subsidized/unsubsidized) and grants (Pell, Ohio College Opportunity Grant, etc.).
 - *Institutional aid awards are grants or scholarships that a particular college/program offers you. Institutional awards are sometimes offered upon admission. This is different from federal or state-based financial aid (loans and grants) that you qualify for based on your FAFSA.*
- Once your FAFSA is received and processed, and admission offers made, colleges will send (email or snail mail) a full financial aid award letter that includes a complete financial aid offer.
- With the complete financial aid award letter, you should be able to predict the cost to you and/or your family, the amount of student loan debt you will have, and how much your monthly loan payment will be. If you are not sure how to do this, contact Beyond Breakthrough.

CONTACT JILLIAN KELLER, SENIOR DIRECTOR, COLLEGE AND CAREER, TO BRAINSTORM, REVIEW, LEARN, SHARE, BRAG, AND MORE!



We want you to move forward confidently and achieve your goals, so we offer individualized meetings with alumni and families. Our team hopes to hear from you soon!

NOT GOING TO COLLEGE IN THE FALL?



There are exciting jobs that require a certificate or other training instead of a degree, but it takes research and planning.

TOP 5 POST-HIGH SCHOOL TASKS TO COMPLETE

EXPLORE PROGRAMS AND CERTIFICATES ON ORGANIZATION WEBSITES

01

Note program start dates and admission requirements.

BEGINNING OCT 1 FOR THE 24-25 SCHOOL YEAR, FILL OUT THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) AND SEND IT TO ALL OF THE PROGRAMS YOU ARE CONSIDERING

02



Many programs offer financial aid, so apply early to secure grant money.

EXPLORE JOB INFORMATION IN THE OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

03



Learn about pay, job growth, and more.

SHARE YOUR POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLANS WITH BEYOND BREAKTHROUGH EARLY

04

We can help connect you with schools and provide guidance for success. Let us know your needs, including program supplies.

REACH OUT TO US FOR QUESTIONS AND GUIDANCE - WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

05

Call/text/email Jillian Keller
216.618.2224 | JKeller@breakthroughschools.org

ALTERNATIVE PATHWAY PROGRAMS

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER



- Certified Production Technician
- Cosmetology, Dental Assistant
- EKG Technician
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Esthetics
- Fiber Optic Technician
- Graphic Design
- Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning
- Machine Technology
- Phlebotomy
- Practical Nursing
- State Tested Nurse Assistant (STNA)
- Telecommunication Tower Technician

TRI-C



- Plumbing
- Fire Training
- Hospitality Management
- Plumbing
- Logistics
- Commercial Driver License (trucking)
- Public Safety
- Manufacturing
- Precision Machining
- Auto CAD
- CNC
- IT
- Various healthcare and more!

AUBURN CAREER CENTER



- Firefighter
- Practical Nursing
- Dental Assistant
- Certified production technician
- Welding
- Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning
- and more!

LINCOLN ELECTRIC



- Beginner through advanced welding training leading to certification and employment as a:
- Boilermaker
 - Ironworker
 - Pipefitter
 - Specialization in military, pipeline, structural or underwater welding

FREE!

TRI-C ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY



- Welding
- Emergency Medical Technician
- State Tested Nursing Assistant (STNA)
- Automotive Technology
- Precision Machining Technology
- 911 Dispatch
- Information Technology
- Patient Access Specialist
- and more!

LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE



- IT
- Dental hygiene
- Paralegal studies
- Medical coding
- Welding
- Fire science
- Feospatial tech
- Machining/CNC
- and more!

OHIO TECHNICAL COLLEGE



- Complete Automotive
- Rod & Custom Restoration
- Collision Repair & Refinishing
- Diesel Equipment
- Motorcycle & Power sports
- High Performance & Racing
- Welding & Fabrication

BROWN AVEDA INSTITUTE



- Cosmetology
- Esthetics
- Advanced Manicuring
- Hair Design

FIRST ENERGY LINEMAN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM



This new training program begins in Fall 2024 and can lead to a career paying \$80,00-\$100,00+

FAA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER



Paid training while earning certification that leads to a career that pays more than \$100,000/yr

**Whatever your post-
high school plan may be,
we are here to help.**

Not sure what you want to do? That's okay! Beyond Breakthrough will be your partner in career exploration and help you forge a path forward as you create a life of impact and opportunity. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

alumni@breakthroughschools.org

NOTES



BEYONDBREAKTHROUGH.ORG

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