Overview of the Ohio Department of Higher Education Initiatives

Apprenticeship Pathways
The Apprenticeship Pathways initiative incorporates apprenticeship experiences into academic credit, providing a pathway to a technical associate degree at Ohio’s two-year public colleges.

Changing Campus Culture
A single act of sexual violence on an Ohio college campus is one too many. Changing our campus culture is the only way to make a lasting impact by reducing sexual violence and ensuring our students know that they will be supported in their time of need. The Changing Campus Culture initiative provides five concrete strategies that will assist Ohio colleges and universities with implementing best practices that will have the greatest chance of breaking the cycle of sexual violence.

Choose Ohio First
Choose Ohio First (COF) Scholarships are available to recruit Ohio residents into designated COF Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine (STEMM) and STEMM education programs in Ohio’s colleges and universities. STEMM and STEMM education programs that have been designated as COF programs have committed to implementing strategies and initiatives to recruit and ensure academic success for COF scholars enrolled in the program.

College Credit Plus
High school students can earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking college courses offered by colleges or universities.

Credit When It’s Due
Credit When It’s Due assists eligible students with obtaining an associate degree by using prior coursework successfully completed at two or more Ohio public colleges or universities to satisfy the requirements for an associate degree.

Education for Veterans
As part of Ohio’s commitment to veterans and service members, we’ve taken pro-active steps to provide them with specialized financial, educational, and career support.
Finish for Your Future
Ohio is committed to providing affordable and equitable educational opportunities to adult students; Finish for Your Future establishes the goal to increase the proportion of adults over age 25 enrolled in public higher education from the current 27 percent to at least 40 percent by 2025.

Forever Buckeyes
Forever Buckeyes extends the in-state resident tuition rate to any public or private Ohio high school graduate who leaves the state but returns to enroll in an undergraduate or graduate program at an Ohio college. Students must also establish residency in Ohio.

GEAR UP Ohio
The GEAR UP Ohio project is focused on embedding a college-going culture in targeted schools and communities to increase the number of low-income students prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The project aims to increase academic performance, postsecondary preparation and enrollment, and awareness of financial and professional options for those students and their families.

GIVE back. GO forward.
Through the GIVE back. GO forward. program, Ohioans age 60 and older can “give back” to their communities by volunteering at least 100 hours per year at any of the partnering local non-profit organizations. In exchange, they will earn a three-credit-hour tuition waiver from the participating university or community college. Volunteers may use the waiver themselves or donate it to another Ohio resident.

Low-Cost Pathways
Low-Cost Pathways provide an option to students to earn a bachelor’s degree at a lower cost than the traditional pathway of attending a university for four years. Typically, through a low-cost pathway, a student begins their course of study by completing an associate degree at a community college. Then he/she transfers to a four-year university to complete the remaining credit hours needed to earn his/her bachelor’s degree in his/her respective area of study. The community college and four-year university partner through an articulation agreement that ensures credits earned at the community college will directly transfer to the four-year partner.

Ohio Mathematics Initiative
The Ohio Mathematics Initiative provides information and guidance to students and educators about how the Ohio mathematics community has been working together to serve the needs of students for their academic success.

Ohio Means Internships and Co-Ops (OMIC)
Ohio Means Internships and Co-Ops helps students discover state career opportunities.
Ohio Strong Start to Finish
Ohio Strong Start to Finish (OhioSSF) is a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Higher Education, the Inter-University Council, the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, and the 18 community colleges and 12 universities in Ohio that have committed to the project. The goal of OhioSSF is to significantly increase the number of students completing gateway mathematics and English courses as part of a guided pathway within their first academic year.

One-Year Option
The One-Year Option allows students at Ohio Technical Centers who obtain an industry-recognized credential in a 600+ clock-hour pathway approved by the Chancellor to receive up to 30 technical credit hours toward an Associate of Technical Studies degree upon successfully enrolling in a public college or university in Ohio.

PLA with a Purpose
Prior learning assessment (PLA) provides opportunities for students to earn credit for prior learning through careful and rigorous evaluation by faculty. PLA provides an opportunity to assess student learning that has occurred outside the college classroom through a variety of methodologies (standardized and challenge exams, military credit recommendations, portfolios) and provides credit for learning determined to be college-level.

Remediation-free Standards
Ohio’s public college and university presidents were charged with establishing uniform statewide standards in mathematics, science, reading, and writing that each student enrolled in a state institution of higher education must meet to be considered remediation-free. The presidents also established assessments to determine if a student meets the standards adopted under this division.

Transfer to Degree Guarantee
The Ohio Transfer to Degree Guarantee helps students who have earned college credit or are planning to earn college credit at two-year and four-year colleges and universities find the shortest path to a degree.
State Share of Instruction (SSI) Funding Formula

SSI Funding Formula Components (by institution type)

Public Universities
- Degree Attainment
- Course Completion
- Doctoral Models
- Medical II FTEs
- Medical I FTEs
- Other earmarks/adjustments

Regional Campuses

Community Colleges
- Course Completion
- Student Success Factors
- Completion Milestones
- Course Enrollment

Individual Institution SSI Allocation
Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) Funding Flow

The Ohio Department of Higher Education administers the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) program, which provides grant money to Ohio residents who demonstrate the highest levels of financial need (as determined by the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that should be completed) who are enrolled at Ohio public colleges or universities, Ohio private, non-profit colleges or universities, and Ohio private, for-profit institutions.

In statute: OCOG grant amount = State cost of attendance – (EFC + Pell Grant)

In actual practice: “An alternate formula... that addresses the shortage of available funds and has been submitted to and approved by the Controlling Board.” [ORC 3333.122(C)(1)(c)]

OCOG 2018-2019 funding availability per full-time student

Public
- Community Colleges = $0
- Regional Campuses = $0
- Central State University = $252
- All Other Public Main Campuses = $1,500

Private
- Allegheny Wesleyan = $704
- God’s Bible College = $1,044
- Grace College & Seminary = $1,896
- Trinity School of Nursing = $2,664
- Western Governor’s University = $576
- All other private, non-profit = $3,000
- Private, for-profit = $1,112

Pennsylvania
- Ohio residents attending Pennsylvania Institutions = $500 (non-veterans) and $800 (veterans)
Affordability and Efficiency Task Force

Governor John Kasich established the Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in Higher Education to provide Ohio's colleges and universities defined action steps to ensure students have access to an affordable and valuable education.

Through the Affordability and Efficiency initiative, the Ohio Department of Higher Education collects data from the colleges and universities on their operational practices to highlight how institutions are:

- efficient in both expense management and revenue generation
- offering an education of equal or higher quality
- decreasing costs to students and their families

Ohio's 14 public universities plan to generate nearly $1.2 billion in efficiency savings and new resources over the next five years, according to action plans submitted in response to the Ohio Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in Higher Education.

$250 million reported savings in fiscal year 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Costs saved or avoided</th>
<th>Student financial aid</th>
<th>Reductions in tuition, fees room and board, etc</th>
<th>Help for student completion</th>
<th>Tools to increase efficiency and affordability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*NOTE. Only 27 out of 37 institutions reported an amount invested

Affordability & Efficiency Highlights

**The Ohio State University** increased utilization of preferred contracts, which translated into $2.6 million of savings that was re-directed for student aid.

**Belmont College's** review of their organizational structure resulted in a collective savings of $24 million in budgeted expenditures.

**Bowling Green State University** generated copier/printer savings of $1.9 million in fiscal year 2016.

**The University of Toledo** realized a $31 million savings by purchasing prescribers at the hospital discount and passing that savings on to the university.
Collaborative Capital Appropriations

In 2011, Governor John Kasich challenged Ohio's higher education leaders to work together and re-design the capital allocation process. The result is a collaborative process that promotes strategic and dynamic capital investments aligned with statewide priorities, rather than relying on a formula to determine capital allocations.

Featured Projects

- Columbus State Community College: Ready to Work Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts
- Miami University: Supporting STEM and Healthcare Education
- Cuyahoga Community College: Nursing and Allied Health Education Center
- State University: Working Towards Innovation
- Molloy College: Health Science Development Center
- Wright State University: Nanotechnology Interdisciplinary Collaborative
- Ball State University: Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Baldwin Wallace University: Student Center
- Cleveland State University: College of Urban, Community and Environmental Studies

Strategic Investment Themes
- Maintenance and Repair
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Workforce Development & Career Opportunities
- Interdisciplinary Approaches
- Enhancing Technology
- Modernizing Classrooms
- Reducing Campus Operating Expenses
- Student Success and Completion
State Funding for Higher Education Tied to Course and Degree Completion Instead of Enrollment

State Share of Instruction (SSI) Funding

Funding increased from
$1,735,530,031 to
$1,979,416,550
FY12
FY19

14% or $244 million from FY12 to FY19

Graduation

The number of degrees and certificates awarded increased by 17,934 (20%) from FY11 to FY16

College Board tuition and fee increases

Ohio’s in-state tuition and fees at four-year public universities

8.1%
Total SSI appropriation $1.9 billion

In FY17, $161 million was allocated specifically in support of at-risk student populations

First-to-Second Year Retention

FY14 FY11
72% 78%

Higher Education Appropriations per FTE

11%
3%

Public higher education appropriations per FTE increased by more than 11% in Ohio from FY11 to FY16
Compared to a national average of just over 3% during the same time period
Regionally Aligned Priorities in Delivering Skills (RAPIDS)

The Regionally Aligned Priorities in Delivering Skills (RAPIDS) program has been successful in providing grants to purchase equipment and training to aid in specific workforce development needs. Grants are awarded regionally to purchase equipment used by colleges, universities, occupational training centers, and business partners to deploy trained workers into existing and emerging jobs.

$8 million
Regional allocation based on JobsOhio maps

Business partners
Over 136 statewide business partners in occupations with projected employment growth of up to 30% (software developers to machinists)

Participating institutions
14 Universities, 22 Community Colleges, 16 Ohio Business Centers

Focus areas
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Cyber Security
- Healthcare
- Environmental Safety

Institutions provided a list of courses and programs where the equipment is used
Recruiting strategies
Collaboration between institutions with outreach to Ohio Technical Centers and secondary education

Represents industry activity in region
Changing Campus Culture Recommendations

1. Use data to guide action.
2. Empower staff, faculty, campus law enforcement and students to prevent and respond to sexual violence through evidence-based trainings.
3. Communicate a culture of shared respect and responsibility.
4. Develop a comprehensive response policy.
5. Adopt a survivor-centered response.

Staff, faculty, campus law enforcement, and students are empowered to respond to sexual violence through evidence-based trainings.

Campuses that have implemented training programs in response.

- 2015: 33%
- 2016: 87%
- 2017: 98%

Campuses that are implementing evidence-based training programs in response.

- 2015: 33%
- 2016: 87%
- 2017: 98%

Support services and resources for survivors of sexual violence are expanding on Ohio campuses.

Campuses reported they were implementing at least one survivor-centered strategy.

- 2015: 41%
- 2017: 100%

Percentage of students actively involved in activities to address sexual misconduct:

- 2016: 46%
- 2017: 24%

Percentage of students receiving training in the prevention of sexual misconduct since attending their college/university:

- 2016: 28%
- 2017: 52%

- On average, students report that it is "very likely" that campus officials would take a report of sexual misconduct seriously.
- On average, students report that it is "somewhat likely" that campus officials would take action to address factors that may have led to the sexual misconduct.
- On average students are "somewhat knowledgeable" about where to make a report on campus.
- On average, students report that they are "not very knowledgeable" on the formal procedures to address complaints, but have confidence that their college/university will follow these procedures.
- On average, students "disagree" that sexual misconduct is a problem on their campus and that it is "not at all likely" they will experience sexual misconduct on campus.
OHIO COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM
The Ohio Department of Higher Education administers the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) program, which provides tuition assistance to Ohio residents who demonstrate the highest levels of financial need (as determined by the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)) who are enrolled at Ohio public colleges or universities, Ohio private, non-profit colleges or universities, and Ohio private, for-profit institutions. Students must be Ohio residents in a degree (associate or first bachelors) or nurse diploma program at an eligible Ohio or Pennsylvania institution with an EFC (Expected Family Contribution) of 2190 or less and a maximum household income of $96,000 to be considered for OCOG.

Students apply for OCOG benefits by completing the FAFSA which is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov, from a high school guidance counselor, or college Financial Aid Office. The application deadline is October 1 of each year.

For more information, visit https://www.ohiohighered.org/ocog.

OHIO SAFETY OFFICERS COLLEGE MEMORIAL FUND
The Ohio Safety Officers College Memorial Fund provides tuition assistance to the children and spouses of peace officers, fire fighters and certain other safety officers who are killed in the line-of-duty anywhere in the United States. Also included is any spouse/child of a member of the armed services of the U.S. who was killed in the line of duty during Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or a combat zone designated by the President of the United States. The child is eligible for this program only if he or she is not eligible for the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship. Recipients must be Ohio residents and may enroll for full-time or part-time study at any participating Ohio post-secondary institution.

The Fund provides benefits which cover full instructional and student fee charges at public colleges and universities, and a portion of these costs at private post-secondary institutions.

For more information, contact a college Financial Aid Administrator or the Ohio Department of Higher Education/Office of Financial Aid https://www.ohiohighered.org/safety-officers-college-fund for more information.

For more information, visit https://www.ohiohighered.org/ocog.
WAR ORPHANS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
The Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Program awards tuition assistance to the children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio veterans who served in the armed forces during a period of declared war or conflict. To receive War Orphans Scholarship benefits, a student must be enrolled for full-time undergraduate study at an eligible Ohio college or university. Ohio residency is required. Applicants must be under the age of 25. Scholarship benefits cover a portion of instructional and general fee charges at two- and four-year public colleges and universities and a portion of these charges at eligible private colleges and universities.

Applications are available from the Ohio Department of Higher Education /Office of Financial Aid, high school guidance offices, veterans’ service offices, and college financial aid offices and submitted to the Ohio Department of Higher Education /Office of Financial Aid. The application deadline is May 15 of each year.

For more information or to apply, visit https://www.ohiohighered.org/ohio-war-orphans.

NURSE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM
The Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program (NEALP) provides education assistance to qualifying Ohio applicants who intend to serve as nurses after graduation and are enrolled in an approved Ohio pre-licensure nurse education program for at least half-time study. NEALP also provides education assistance to qualifying Ohio applicants who intend to serve as nurse instructors after graduation and are enrolled in approved Ohio post-licensure nurse education programs for at least half-time study.

Awards are made on the basis of financial need. Recipients may be eligible for 100% loan forgiveness if they meet cancellation requirements. The application deadline is July 15 of each year.

For more information or to apply online, visit https://www.ohiohighered.org/nealp.

CHOOSE OHIO FIRST SCHOLARSHIP
The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program is part of the state’s strategic effort to significantly strengthen Ohio’s position in world markets such as aerospace, medicine, computer technology and alternative energy.

The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program assigns a number of scholarships to universities and colleges to recruit Ohio residents as undergraduate students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, medicine (STEMM) or STEMM Education fields. Scholarships are student-centered grants from the state for participating eligible students to attend a university or college.

For more information, visit our website at https://www.chooseohiofirst.org/.

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIP
The Ohio Army National Guard Scholarship program encourages young Ohioans to go to school in Ohio and serve in the Ohio National Guard. The Scholarship provides benefits that cover full instructional and general fee charges at public colleges and universities, and a portion of these costs at private post-secondary institutions.

For more information or to apply online, visit http://ong.ohio.gov/information/education/scholarship_index.html.

 OhioHigherEd.org  1-800-AFFORD-IT  https://www.ohiohighered.org/
Ohio Public Universities & Colleges

Universities
1. The University of Akron
2. Bowling Green State University
3. Central State University
4. University of Cincinnati
5. Cleveland State University
6. Kent State University
7. Miami University
8. Northeast Ohio Medical University
9. The Ohio State University
10. Ohio University
11. Shawnee State University
12. The University of Toledo
13. Wright State University
14. Youngstown State University

Community Colleges
39. Belmont College
40. Central Ohio Technical College
   A. Coshocton Campus
   B. Knox Campus
   C. Newark Campus
   D. Pataskala Campus
41. Cincinnati State Technical & Community College
42. Clark State Community College
   A. Greene Center
   B. Springfield Campus
43. Columbus State Community College
   A. Columbus Campus
   B. Delaware Campus
44. Cuyahoga Community College
   A. Eastern Campus
   B. Metro Campus
   C. Western Campus
45. Eastern Gateway Community College
   A. Choffin Career & Technical Center
   B. Columbiana County Career & Technical Center
   C. Jefferson County Campus
   D. Mahoning County Career & Technical Center
   E. Trumbull Career & Technical Center
   F. The Valley Center
46. Edison Community College
   A. Darke County Campus
   B. Piqua Campus
47. Hocking College
   A. Nelsonville Campus
   B. Perry Campus
48. Lakeland Community College
49. Lorain County Community College
50. Marion Technical College
51. North Central State College
52. Northwest State Community College
53. Owens Community College
   A. Findlay Campus
   B. Toledo Campus
54. Rhodes State College
55. Rio Grande Community College
56. Sinclair Community College
57. Southern State Community College
   A. Central Campus
   B. Fayette Campus
   C. North Campus
   D. South Campus
58. Stark State College
59. Terra Community College
60. Washington State Community College
61. Zane State College
ALLEN: Lima City Schools
BUTLER: Hamilton City School District
CLARK: Clark State Community College; Springfield City School District
COSHOCTON: Coshocton County Job & Family Services
CUYAHOGA: Cuyahoga Community College; Parma City School District; Seeds of Literacy
FAIRFIELD: Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency
FRANKLIN: Godman Guild Association; South-Western City Schools
HAMILTON: Cincinnati Public Schools
HANCOCK: Owens Community College (Findlay Campus)
HIGHLAND: Southern State Community College

JEFFERSON: Eastern Gateway Community College
LORAIN: Lorain County Community College
MARIAN: Marion Technical College
MONTGOMERY: Kettering City School District
MUSKINGUM: Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center
RICHLAND: Mansfield City Schools-Adult & Community Education
SCIOTO: South Central Ohio Educational Service Center
SUMMIT: Project Learn of Summit County
WOOD: Owens Community College

ATHENS: Tri-County Career Center
BROWN: Southern Hills Career & Technical Center
CLERMONT: Grant Career Center
COLUMBIANA: Hannah E. Mullins School of Practical Nursing
CUYAHOGA: Cuyahoga Valley Career Center
GREENE: Greene County Career Center
HANCOCK: Millstream Career Center
LAKE: Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools
LORAIN: Lorain County Joint Vocational School
LUCAS: Oregon City Schools; Toledo City Schools
MAHONING: Mahoning County Career & Technical Center
MARION: Tri-Rivers Career Center
MEDINA: Medina County Career Center
RICHLAND: Madison Adult Career Center; Pioneer Career & Technology Center
SCIOTO: Scioto County Career Technical Center
STARK: Alliance City Schools
SUMMIT: Portage Lakes Career Center
VAN WERT: Vantage Career Center

ALLEN: Apollo Career Center
ASHLAND: Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center
ASHTABULA: Ashtabula County Technical & Career Center
BUTLER: ButlerTech
COLUMBIANA: Columbiana County Career & Technical Center
CUYAHOGA: Polaris Career Center
DELAWARE: Delaware Area Career Center
ERIE: EHOVE Career Center; Sandusky City Schools
FRANKLIN: Columbus City Schools; Eastland-Fairfield Career Center
GALLIA: Buckeye Hills Career Center
HAMILTON: Great Oaks Institute of Technology & Career Development
HENRY: Four County Career Center
KNOX: Knox County Career Center
LAKE: Auburn Career Center
LAWRENCE: Collins Career Center
LICKING: C-TEC
MADISON: Tolles Career & Technical Center
MAHONING: Choffin Career & Technical Center (Youngstown City Schools)
MIAMI: Upper Valley Career Center
MONTGOMERY: Miami Valley Career Technology Center
MUSKINGUM: Mid-East Career & Technology Centers
PIKE: Pike County Career Technology Center
PORTAGE: Maplewood Career Center
ROSS: Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center
SANDUSKY: Vanguard-Sentinel Career & Technology Centers
STARK: Canton City Schools
TRUMBULL: Trumbull Career & Technical Center
TUSCARAWAS: Buckeye Career Center
WARREN: Warren County Career Center
WASHINGTON: Washington County Career Center
WAYNE: Wayne County Schools Career Center
WOOD: Penta Career Center

Aspire and OTC sites are subject to change. See OhioHigherEd.org for the most current listing.
As a student at an Ohio public institution, you can be confident that the credits you have earned are yours to take anywhere among the state’s 14 universities, 24 regional campuses and 23 community colleges.

**Ohio TRANSFER TO DEGREE guarantee**

By building a comprehensive credit transfer system, Ohio public institutions of higher education help students customize an educational pathway that fits their needs and budget.

Knowing in advance that the courses and programs taken at one of Ohio’s public institutions will transfer around the state gives students the flexibility of choosing lower-cost and more convenient options. Students are able to accumulate credits from an inexpensive community college or branch campus prior to transferring to a four-year university.

In addition to saving money, students who take advantage of easy transfer are more likely to excel academically and graduate with a bachelor’s degree.

By taking advantage of the easy and flexible transfer options at one of Ohio’s 14 public universities, 24 regional campuses and 23 community colleges, students – from high school graduates to returning adults – can establish a clear pathway for gaining the skills and knowledge necessary for a productive and satisfying future.

**Ohio Transfer to Degree Guarantee (T2DG)**

website: [transfercredit.ohio.gov](http://www.transfercredit.ohio.gov)

T2DG enables Ohio students to streamline credit transfer among the state’s public institutions of higher education and from adult/secondary career-technical institutions to find the best pathways to degree completion and ultimately launch successful careers.

T2DG helps students meet general education requirements, as well as requirements in 60+ career-oriented programs when transferring equivalent coursework. T2DG also includes Advanced Placement, CLEP and military training and experience, as well as the new Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways.

Updated, March 2019
Education Opportunities for Veterans & Service Members

fast facts

Currently over 150,000 open job opportunities with over 2,000 military-friendly employers

Over 23,000 students using the GI Bill

Over 3,400 students using the Ohio National Guard Scholarship

Over 1,000 service members using military tuition assistance

Ohio House Bill 488, intended to help military service members and veterans, was signed into law in June 2014, and has been fully embraced by Ohio’s public colleges and universities.

Did you know?

All Ohio public colleges and universities:

- Accept military credit
- Have priority registration
- Have a single point of contact
- Have career services/alumni links
- Have adopted a policy of support
- Will survey students to identify their needs
- Allow the establishment of veteran/military student groups

A complete list of veteran services contacts on Ohio public college and university campuses can be found online at www.ohiohighered.org/veterans/campus-services

A complete list of military courses that have a statewide transfer guarantee can be found at: transfercredit.ohio.gov

OhioHigherEd.org
Choose Ohio First Facts:

- The average COF scholar maintains a 3.5 cumulative GPA.
- 44% of Choose Ohio First scholars are first-generation and/or low income.
- One out of five COF students is a nontraditional student over the age of 25.
- The average annual scholarship is $4,200.

Choose Ohio First
Developing Our Future Innovators

Advancing STEMM and STEMM Education

The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program is designed to significantly strengthen Ohio’s competitiveness within science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM) disciplines and STEMM education. Choose Ohio First provides scholarships to students in innovative academic programs developed by Ohio’s colleges and universities and their business partners, to recruit and retain more students in STEMM fields.

Choose Ohio First funds higher education and business collaborations that will have the most impact on Ohio’s position in world markets, such as aerospace, medicine, computer technology, and alternative energy. These collaborations will ultimately produce substantive improvements to the pipeline of STEMM graduates and STEMM educators in Ohio. Choose Ohio First is part of a strategic effort to bolster Ohio’s economic strength by ensuring a ready workforce for STEMM-related industries.

The Scholarships

Each collaboration develops its own selection criteria for Choose Ohio First scholarships. For grant cycle 2017-2021, Choose Ohio First serves 111 programs and over 2,500 scholars statewide.

Prospective students and families can learn more about Choose Ohio First, including the different academic offerings at over 40 Ohio campuses, at www.ohiohighered.org/cof.
Ohio Receives $2.1 million Strong Start to Finish Grant

FACT: Currently, only one third of first-time students at Ohio’s public colleges and universities complete college-level math and English in their first year of postsecondary education.

Research and experience confirm that the sooner students take courses that count toward a college degree, the greater the chance that they will earn a degree. Yet, for many students, access to credit bearing courses is delayed. Traditional remediation models in which some students take a series of remedial classes to acquire the skills needed to move forward to college-level mathematics courses generally do not result in students progressing to graduation.

One third of first time students completing college-level mathematics or English in their first year is unacceptable. Ohio’s higher education leaders understand this and have committed to increasing that number to 50 percent by 2021, including reducing equity gaps for economically disadvantaged students, students of color, rural students, and students over the age of 25.

To support their efforts, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, working in partnership with Inter-University Council and the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, has been selected to

"The overarching goals of our Strong Start to Finish initiative are to put all students on a path to a successful future and to ensure that our businesses have the skilled workers they need to succeed. This grant will go a long way in pursuing those goals while supporting students as they begin their postsecondary journey."

Chancellor John Carey
Ohio Department of Higher Education

"This award is an affirmation from national funders that Ohio community colleges have repeatedly shown they are up to implementing reforms at scale that will lead to more students completing college and entering the workforce."

Jack Hershey, President and CEO
Ohio Association of Community Colleges

"Public universities in Ohio are pleased to participate in this grant. It will help focus our resources in improving graduation rates for at-risk students. Graduating on time is the most effective way to reduce student costs."

Bruce Johnson, President
Inter-University Council
receive a $2.1 million dollar grant from Strong Start to Finish (SSTF) aimed at getting students on successful pathways to college completion, while also addressing the attainment gaps for historically underserved populations.

Ohio is one of only four sites in the country to receive a $2.1 million dollar grant, which will be paid over three years. Ohio’s application was chosen for its exemplary “use of evidence-based practice and commitment to achieve greater equity,” according to SSTF. Grant funding will be used to address attainment gaps for underserved populations, and to boost student success strategies.

SSTF funding builds upon momentum created by years of policy and practice improvement for student success. These initiatives include Ohio Mathematics Initiative, Completion by Design, Ohio Guided Pathways Scaling Project, Ohio Bridges to Success, Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways, the state’s Uniform Statewide Standards for Remediation-free Status, and other completion initiatives. Collectively, these programs strive to help public colleges and universities improve student success by systematically linking three successful initiatives, structured degree pathways, redesigned mathematics gateway courses, and corequisite remediation.

Funding for SSTF has been provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates, and The Kresge Foundation.

Ohio universities participating in the Strong Start to Finish Grant are:
- Bowling Green State University
- Central State University
- Cleveland State University
- Kent State University
- Miami University
- The Ohio State University
- Ohio University
- Shawnee State University
- University of Cincinnati
- The University of Toledo
- Wright State University
- Youngstown State University.

Participating community colleges are:
- Belmont College
- Central Ohio Technical College
- Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
- Clark State Community College
- Columbus State Community College
- Edison Community College
- Lorain County Community College
- Hocking College
- Marion Technical College
- North Central State College
- Owens Community College
- Rhodes State College
- Rio Grande Community College
- Sinclair Community College
- Southern State Community College
- Stark State College
- Terra State Community College
- Washington State Community College

Ohio | Department of Higher Education
www.ohiohighered.org/math
Why wait for your future?

With College Credit Plus, you can earn college and high school credits at the same time...

And if you take courses from a public college, it’s free!

Ohio's College Credit Plus program can help you earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking college courses from colleges and/or universities. The purpose of this program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wide variety of options to college-ready students. Taking a College Credit Plus course from a public college or university is free, which means no cost for tuition, books, or fees. If you choose to attend a private college or university, you may have limited costs.

Your high school may have an agreement with a local college for specific courses; however, you can choose to take College Credit Plus courses that would benefit your future from any college. This includes online courses.
Can I Participate?
If you are a student in grades 7-12, you can apply for College Credit Plus admission to a public or participating private college. The college will determine your eligibility based on your college-readiness in one or more subject areas. Your school counselor can help you understand your options, deadlines, and how to proceed. You may not participate in the College Credit Plus program beyond your anticipated high school graduation date.

How Can College Credit Plus Benefit Me?
College Credit Plus provides more options for you to pursue rigorous academic coursework beyond the high school classroom. Under College Credit Plus, you can complete your freshman year of college or more, or explore college content that interests you. Earning college credits while you're in high school can reduce your time and costs of attending college after high school.

How Do College Courses Earn Me High School Credit?
College Credit Plus allows high school students to earn college credit and apply that credit toward their high school graduation requirements. Successful completion of a three or more credit-hour college course will result in 1.0 Carnegie unit earned at the high school. A two credit-hour college course will earn students 2/3 of a high school credit and a one credit-hour college course will convert to 1/3 of a high school credit.

How Are High School Graduation Requirements Affected?
High school graduation requirements will not be waived as a result of participation in College Credit Plus.

College Credit Plus (CCP) does not replace the requirements to earn a high school diploma. This includes earning 18 points or more on the graduation tests. Even if you are enrolled in college courses, you must take the end-of-course exams in English I, English II, Algebra I, and Geometry. You do not have to take the end-of-course exams in Physical Science, American Government, and American History if you are enrolled in College Credit Plus courses that substitute. A CCP student's end-of-course grades in Physical Science, American Government, and American History will correspond with a point scale used for graduation requirements.

Where Can I Take College Classes?
Some college courses under College Credit Plus may be offered at your high school. You may also travel to the college where you have been admitted or enroll in one or more online courses offered by that college.

My High School Has a Formal Arrangement With a Local College to Offer College Credit Plus. Are Those the Only Courses I Can Take?
No. After you are admitted to a college, you can take any courses offered by that college that you are college-ready to take. Also, each Ohio high school has developed two sample pathways—one leading to 15 credits and another to 30 credits. These should be included in your high school's course offerings. However, students have no obligation to take courses identified on a pathway or to complete a pathway. Students can take courses offered in person or online by any public or participating private college in Ohio.
Will College Credit Plus Grades Appear on My High School Transcript?
Yes. High school credit awarded for courses successfully completed under College Credit Plus will satisfy or exceed the graduation requirements and subject area requirements of the school district. Courses successfully completed under College Credit Plus must be listed by course title on the high school transcript. College Credit Plus courses will be computed into the GPA using the same scale as Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes in your district.

How Does College Credit Plus Impact Athletic Eligibility?
If you are a student athlete, you must remain eligible in accordance with the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) bylaws. To be athletically eligible, students must be passing five, one credit courses or the equivalent per grading period with the high school and college courses combined. Most College Credit Plus courses taken during a semester will equal one Carnegie unit, allowing students to earn more than the required five for athletic eligibility. Please check with your counselor to ensure that the course work you are taking is compliant with the OHSAA.

What Are My Academic and Social Responsibilities?
You will be expected to follow the rules and regulations set by the college/university. You will also be expected to follow the rules and regulations set for high school students detailed in the student handbook. Once enrolled, you are eligible to receive advising from campus-based support services of that institution. Additionally, you will continue to have access to your school counselor and all other resources available to high school students. Participation in College Credit Plus does not guarantee you admission to college after high school. You should follow the regular undergraduate application process for whatever college you plan to attend after high school.

What Courses Are Available through College Credit Plus?
Once you are admitted to a college for College Credit Plus, you may take any course in the college's course catalogue that is not remedial or religious, and that applies toward a degree or professional certificate, in a subject area in which you are college-ready.

Who Pays for College Admission, Textbooks, Fees, and Transportation?
Students attending a public college will not be charged for tuition, books, or fees. Students attending a private college may be charged based on the particular private college and where the course is delivered, in accordance with law. Responsibility for transportation rests with the student. Students who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program may not have to pay any fees to a private college. Please talk with your counselor for details.
What If I Fail a Class?
Classes failed or withdrawn with an “F” will receive an “F” on the high school and college transcripts and will be computed into the high school and college GPA. If you do not receive a passing grade, the district may, in some instances, seek reimbursement for the amount of state funds paid to the college on your behalf for that college course. The school district may withhold grades and credits received for high school courses taken until reimbursement has been made.

Does College Credit Transfer After Graduation?
Thanks to Ohio’s Transfer to Degree Guarantee, many entry-level courses earned at an Ohio public college are guaranteed to transfer to any other Ohio public college. Credits earned at private colleges, or those that you want to transfer to an out-of-state institution, will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the institution you are seeking to attend. Go to HTTPS://TRANSFERCREDIT.OHIO.GOV to learn more about credit transfer among the state’s public institutions of higher education. This tool allows you to find the best pathways to degree completion and launch successful careers! Earning college credit will not affect applications for financial aid/scholarships limited to entering freshmen.

Are Private School and Homeschool Students Eligible for College Credit Plus?
Yes. College Credit Plus is an opportunity available to all 7-12 grade students who are accepted into the program by a college or university within Ohio. The program operates in much the same way regardless of what high school a student attends. However, students attending a private high school and homeschool students must apply to the department of education to receive funding to underwrite their costs. PLEASE CHECK HTTPS://OHIOHIGHERED.ORG/CCP FOR INFORMATION, FORMS AND UPDATES.

I Am Ready to Sign Up. What Are the Next Steps?
• Talk with your school counselor. Discuss your interest in taking college courses and how it fits in with your overall academic plan and career goals.
• Prior to February 1, your district will provide information about the College Credit Plus program to all students in grades 7-12. An informational session will be held by February 15 and all colleges and universities within a 30-mile radius will be invited to attend. If you cannot attend, schedule an appointment with your school counselor.
• By April 1, notify your school counselor by submitting the intent to Participate form if you intend to participate in College Credit Plus during the next school year. After April 1, you will need permission from the school district principal to participate.
• You and your family should contact colleges for information, application forms, and criteria for acceptance into College Credit Plus. Some materials are available from your high school counselor and at the college’s website. You must go through the procedures established by the colleges/universities to apply to College Credit Plus and to enroll in the course(s). You will have to take a college placement test to make sure you are college-ready. A map showing all Ohio public colleges can be found here: HTTPS://OHIOHIGHERED.ORG/CAMPUSES. Ohio private colleges can be found here: HTTP://NICU.EDU/ABOUTOHIOCOLLEGES.HTML
• Prior to college class attendance, your high school counselor will assist you in determining a course’s equivalency to a high school course(s).
• Register for classes and provide a copy of your schedule to your high school counselor for review.