



BASE CAMP

The Official Newsletter of College Bound Advantage

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Around the Fire with Dr. Jay



Welcome to the first issue of College Bound Advantage's "Base Camp" newsletter. At CBA, we specialize in helping families identify a small set of "best fit" Ohio colleges to visit. Along the way, we also help them establish priorities, understand options, clarify major area of study selections, compare costs, and conduct effective campus visits.

Base Camp is our new brief, but lighthearted quarterly newsletter that will offer snippets of news and insights from colleges and universities around Ohio. Each quarter we will take a quick look at an Ohio College; an iconic campus building; something unusual; an interesting major or minor area of study and a campus tradition.

As most of you already know, we use "hiking" as a metaphor for the college journey. Our specialty - preparing "Trail Maps" to help folks navigate the journey through the complex landscape that is - Ohio colleges! Thanks for hiking with us.

We hope you enjoy the fun.

On the Trail



Last month we wandered down to Ohio University in the stunningly quaint town of Athens. Did you know that **Ohio University** is one of America's oldest universities? It's charter was proposed in 1787, approved in 1804, and opened for students in 1809. Considered by many to be one of the most beautiful campuses in America, OU is nestled in the rolling hills of southern Ohio.

OU is known for its strong academic programs in Communication, Engineering, Business, and Health Sciences. Beyond rigorous academics they also offer students over 450 organization options, an active Greek system, NCAA Division I varsity athletics, a multitude of club sport and intramural teams, a world class recreation center, and a residential campus that is as active on the weekends as during the week. By the way, many also consider Ohio University to be the most haunted university in America. Did I say anything about the Halloween Party?

Iconic Campus Buildings



Weaver in 2016



Weaver in 1937

The charming campus of Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio is home to one of the most iconic campus observatories in the state, Elgar Weaver Observatory. Built in 1931, Weaver houses a 10" refracting telescope with an enviable Carl Ludin Company cast lens. These lenses are rare today, but have stood the test of time and still perform admirably. Completely refurbished in 2003, the telescope is regularly used by students in astronomy and physics classes and provides spectacular views of the Moon, planets and deep-space objects. The Wittenberg Astronomical Society, a student organization, actively schedules programs dedicated to both students as well as the local community.

Majors & Minors

Probably one of the most popular majors in the country is "Pre-Med," and yet few really understand what "Pre-Med" really means other than that it suggests that a student is preparing for admission to medical school. Perhaps the best place to start this discussion is at the end of the trail and look at what Medical Schools generally require of applicants. Most medical schools ask that applicants have completed one year each of biology, general (inorganic) chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, and related lab work for each. In addition, about two-thirds require a year of English and about one quarter require calculus – that's it. Of course, it helps if a student has gained some experience in a health care setting. Beyond that, they just want strong grades and well rounded, involved, and committed people.

So, what to major in? The fact is, medical schools have students out of all sorts of majors including the humanities and social sciences. The traditional path is Biology or Chemistry, but many also come from Exercise Science, Exercise Physiology, Athletic Training, Biochemistry, and others. The good news is that a student can pick a major to love while qualifying for application to medical school by working in a relatively small set of courses – how great is that?

The Unique & Unusual



Tiffin University is home to the School of Criminal

Justice & Social Sciences. They are best known for their broad set of related programs including majors in Forensic Psychology, Cyber Defense & Information Assurance, Law Enforcement, Forensic Science, Criminalistics, and Homeland Security & Terrorism. Imagine participating in "Hacking" or "Crime Scene" competitions – it happens at Tiffin! Even visiting students interested in their Criminal Justice programs enjoy a day on campus that begins with a murder. Over the course of the day, and as they learn about Tiffin, they work to solve the murder. You guessed it – by the end of the day someone's goin' to jail! In this unique niche, TU is unmatched in Ohio.

Traditions



Every fall, members of the faculty, staff, and students at the University of Findlay gather to welcome incoming first year students with the famous, "Arch Ceremony." It is a tradition at Findlay for students to walk through the Arch at the front of campus toward Old Main their freshman year. Professors, faculty, and Derrick (the campus mascot) lead the class from the Recreation Center to the front of, and through,

the arch. Students are greeted by friends, family, music, and of course refreshments. Students are not to walk through the arch again until they have graduated from the University of Findlay, which they do after graduation. Alumni claim that you don't want to know what happens to the students who walk through the arch too soon!

Happy Trails

Well, it's time to re-pack the backpacks and get on down the trail. Thanks for joinin' us for the fun. In our next issue expect to hear about Greek Life traditions at Heidelberg University, the "Pre-Vet major," Old Kenyon residence hall, Antioch College and other stuff from Ohio's rich inheritance of public and private colleges and universities.