



# BASE CAMP

The Official Newsletter of College Bound Advantage –  
Issue 4: December, 2017

(614) 352-8413 693½ High Street, Suite C, Worthington, Ohio 43085 [DrJay@collegeboundadvantage.com](mailto:DrJay@collegeboundadvantage.com)

## Around the Fire with Dr. Jay



CBA Waiting Room in our “Old Worthington” Office

Once again, another holiday season lies on our doorstep. Thanksgiving is here and we have lots to be thankful for.

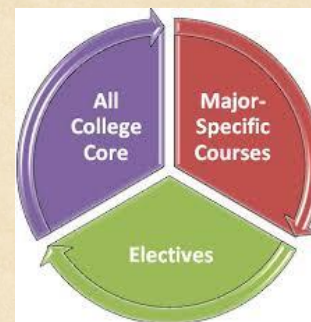
This year we have had the privilege to work with many college-bound families from Ohio and assist them in their search process. As the year progressed, we strengthened our process, particularly in helping students identify and understand potential majors for exploration. We also expanded our ability to identify and explain co-curricular options at our recommended colleges that align with each student’s interests.

Last week, we provided an Ohio college overview at the annual All Ohio Counselor’s Conference and had the opportunity to meet many high school counselors in our great state. Our web tools including our Ohio College Interactive Map and Popup data profiles have been updated and improved. We now have over 60 campus videos on our YouTube Channel that can help families view campuses without driving there. Our blogs have been organized by categories to help families find what they are looking for, and our upcoming book on Ohio’s colleges is well underway. All in all, a great year!

In this issue of Base Camp, we will continue our series discussing the anatomy of a college curriculum. We will relive one of our most popular campus ghost stories from Ohio Dominican University – you’ll love it. We will also

take a close look at Ohio’s Renowned Conservatories of Music. We hope you enjoy the ride.

## Anatomy of a College Curriculum



In our last issue, we discussed that a college curriculum is composed of three components including the Core Curriculum, Major Courses, and Free Electives. Now, we will look at each individually. The following discussion focuses on the Core Curriculum.

The “Core” or “General Education” Requirements comprise approximately 1/3 of a student’s total credit hours but this may vary by college and degree program. The goal of the core curriculum is to support the student’s intellectual growth as an “educated” person and citizen as well as to align the student with the core values and heritage of the specific college.

Courses in the core curriculum are typically found in the Humanities, Arts, Sciences and Social Sciences – these are the fundamental disciplines, many dating back to Roman and Greek times (e.g. languages, philosophy, theology, literature, biology, etc.). Beyond content, they also focus on developing a student’s writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills.

Within each college, the Core Curriculum is a political enterprise as its content determines jobs, resource allocation, and the actualization of values within the college. For example, most Catholic colleges require two courses in Philosophy and two courses in Theology due to their unique mission as a Catholic college, whereas a

public university may require no Theology and Philosophy would only be an elective among many other Humanities offerings.

Few families look closely at the Core Curriculum as they consider colleges, choosing instead to focus only on the major. At CBA, we believe it is important to take a look at the Core as well. A large required Core Curriculum reduces free electives and may limit the size of other degree offerings, particularly in the professions such as Engineering, Business, Nursing, Social Work, or Education. A large Core may also limit a student's ability to pick up a minor, certificate or second major.

The Core Curriculum is typically organized into categories. So, students may be required to take one course in the natural sciences, two courses in the humanities, one physical education course, one course in history, one course in Math, two courses in the social sciences, etc. Within each category the student may be able to choose from many options. Some of those options may be able to simultaneously satisfy a major requirement. For example, an Engineering major may be required to take Calculus in his or her first semester. This course would typically satisfy both the Core Math requirement as well as an Engineering major requirement. Students should work to maximize these "double dip" opportunities as each time they select a Core course that simultaneously satisfies a major requirement, they open up an additional Free Elective that can later be used to pick up a Minor, Certificate, or even second major.

Next time we will look at the courses required by the Major.

## Ghost Stories from Ohio's Colleges: A Mysterious Call for Help



Wehrle Hall at its Dedication in 1910

Our first story dates back to 1993, but has its roots much earlier. It occurred one dark night on the campus of Ohio Dominican College (now Ohio Dominican University).

Sister Ulela Wehrle, a member of the founding Dominican sister's congregation, died in 1959. Her family had donated the funds for the construction of Wehrle Hall, which was built well before Sister Wehrle's death. Sister Wehrle spent a considerable amount of time in Wehrle Hall as many of her art classes were held there and her office was also in the building. Following her death, students began reporting "strange goings on" in the basement of Wehrle Hall, raising the suspicion with some that Wehrle Hall was haunted by the spirit of Sister Wehrle herself.

On the night of July 15, 1993, Wehrle caught fire. It was summer, and virtually no one was on campus. A phone call was placed to the fire department notifying them and asking that they "come quickly." The caller provided specific instructions on how to get to the location of the fire including the particular campus sidewalks to take. Thankfully, the firefighters arrived in time and the building was saved.

Later, an investigation revealed that Wehrle Hall had been locked with no one inside at the time of the fire. Information provided to the police by the "elderly female" caller was inaccurate in some ways. For example, the sidewalks described by the caller did not exist. Sisters, however pointed out that they did exist at the time of Sister Wehrle's death. Finally, and most compelling....the call that was made in the middle of the night, just in time to save Wehrle Hall, was made..... from inside the building.

## Ohio's Renowned Conservatories of Music

Consider that there are only 53 public and private conservatories of music in the United States and Ohio has five of them, including a few that are among the best in the land.

A college "Conservatory of Music" is dedicated to training students who have a passion for music and plan for music to be central to their professional life. In choosing a conservatory, students look for a college with a strong reputation in training musicians in their chosen instrument or area of interest for a professional career. Conservatory students have opportunities to perform, conduct, or have their music played by others. This may be solo or as part of an ensemble, band, or orchestra. Some conservatories exclusively focus on music while others may expand to include musical theatre and/or dance. Most conservatories focus on

Western classical music and a broad range of related instruments, but some include jazz, world music, or pop music.

Alternatively, “university music departments” have historically placed more emphasis on the academic study of music instead of performance and their graduates are less likely to pursue professional careers as music performers. However, this varies from institution to institution with performance being emphasized more than in the past.

So enough talk, let’ take a look at these Ohio jewels.

## Oberlin Conservatory of Music



The Oberlin Conservatory of Music is the oldest Conservatory of Music in the United States. It was founded in 1833 and is affiliated with Oberlin College. Oberlin’s Conservatory is typically ranked as one of the top Conservatories in the country and is particularly well known for its programs in contemporary and baroque music as well as its unique Technology in Music and Related Arts Program (TIMARA).

Oberlin’s conservatory has an enrollment of around 600 and admission is very competitive. Considered an “All Steinway” conservatory, Oberlin is the proud owner of 233 Steinway pianos. Some Conservatory students double major in music with another major offered at Oberlin College – time to completion is five years for most students. Architecturally unique, Bibbins Hall, the home of the Conservatory, was designed by Minoru Yamasaki who also designed the prior World Trade Center buildings. Bibbins houses 40 studios and 10 classrooms.

## Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music



Baldwin Wallace University is one of our favorites among Ohio’s private Universities and it doesn’t hurt that they are the home to one of Ohio’s top Conservatories of Music. The Conservatory is composed of three buildings connected by the Boesel Musical Arts Center. They are known for their Music Theatre program, “All Steinway” status, and their role as host of the oldest collegiate Bach festival in the U.S. BWU’s Conservatory offers a wide range of performance majors as well as Music Composition, Music Education, Music History, Music Theatre, Music Theory, and Music Therapy.

## University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music



Ranked nationally for both undergraduate and graduate music programs, the University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) is housed in Memorial Hall, a stately gothic structure divided into studio, classroom, and performing space. Formed in 1867, CCM is the only public university Conservatory in the state and, as a result, offers a much broader set of offerings including programs in Electronic Media; Ensembles and Conducting; Keyboard Studies; Theatre Arts; Production and Arts Administration; Performance; Composition; Musicology; and Music Theory.

CCM boasts an impressive roster of over 150 internationally known faculty who work with students hailing from all over the world. They are also an “All Steinway” school with 165 new Steinway pianos. Rumor has it that CCM’S order of 165 Steinways was the largest single order in Steinway’s history. Now that’s something to sing about!

## Capital University Conservatory of Music



Capital’s Conservatory of Music opened its doors in 1919. Legendary faculty member Ray Eubanks launched the Jazz and Music Industry programs which were some of the first such programs in the United States.

Major options include Composition, American Studies, Jazz Studies, Music Education, Performance (instrumental, piano, organ, vocal, vocal opera/musical theatre options), Music Industry, and Music Technology.

Alumni of Capital’s Conservatory of Music can be found in the ranks of professional performers, teachers, conductors, composers, and industry entrepreneurs. Some enter the world of audio and video production or arts administration while others are off to graduate school or on to performance careers.

The Conservatory holds over 250 different performances each year and offers nearly 50 ensembles to both majors and nonmajors. The Chapel Choir has performed around the world and the annual Christmas Festival is a popular local institution. The Conservatory is proud of its impressive performance halls, including the 180-seat Huntington Recital Hall and the 900-seat Mees Hall Auditorium.

Admission to the Conservatory of Music is competitive and, depending on the major, an audition may be required.

## Cleveland Institute of Music



The Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM), is another of Ohio’s “All Steinway” conservatories and is located in University Circle, the heart of culture and education near downtown Cleveland.

The home of the Cleveland Orchestra, Severance Hall, is located only blocks from campus. CIM is small and selective, admitting only 30% of applicants, but boasts an excellent reputation across the board. They are particularly well known for music performance in strings and woodwinds and over half of CIM’s faculty are past or current members of the world-class Cleveland Orchestra. CIM specializes in undergraduate education and is recognized nationally as a top 20 (top 10 in some ratings) conservatory of music.

## Happy Trails



Well, it’s time to re-pack the backpacks and get on down the trail. Thanks for joinin’ us for the fun. See you next time!