



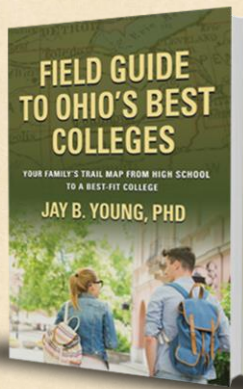
BASE CAMP

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Around the Fire with Dr. Jay

There are a number of reminders that fall is rapidly gaining traction. The leaves here in Old Worthington are yellowing and mornings are suddenly cooler. Inside our office, we are seeing more families seeking to optimize their student's search for a great-fit major and college. Can't get better than that!



Our book, *Field Guide to Ohio's Best Colleges* hit the newsstand last year and continues to provide value to our clients and others across the state of Ohio. The book takes a deep dive into what we believe to be Ohio's strongest 30 residential public and private colleges. We dissect their best academic and co-curricular programs. We also outline our process in a way that any family can follow without our help. We hope that those of you who take time to read it will benefit from a stronger and more optimized search process and a better ability to align college visits with exactly what you are looking for and can afford.

In this issue, we will identify six Ohio colleges offering fee-based learning support programs for students with learning challenges such as ADD, ADHD, Dyslexia, and even light autism. During

recent visits we learned a lot about how these programs are resourced, deliver their services, and make a difference. We will also explore some of Ohio's most unique and unusual majors – you will be amazed. Finally, we will look at a few “undergraduate early admission to graduate school” offerings from around the state. Now, since this is our fall issue, let's begin with a brief look at important college application dates you may need to keep in mind.

Important College Application Dates to Keep in Mind



Colleges vary in terms of the dates below – you will need to identify the specific dates for each college you are considering and follow them carefully.

Ideal Time for Early Application for Admission and Scholarships:

September - November Senior Year

FAFSA (Financial Aid) Opening Date:

October 1 Senior Year

Early Action or Early Decision Deadlines:

November 1 or December 1

Regular Application Deadline:
January 1 or February 1

Transfer Admission Deadline:
Most Often May 1

Rolling Admission Deadline:
Most Often March 1 up to May 1

National College Response Deadline:
May

Ohio's Six Unique Fee-Based Learning Support Programs for Students with Learning Differences



Muskingum University PLUS Program Offices in Walter Hall

Parents of college students with learning differences such as ADD, ADHD, or even light autism often find the traditional set of learning support services at most colleges to be insufficient to respond to their son or daughter's needs. All colleges provide "disability services" including a variety of accommodations such as extended test taking time and distraction free environments. They also provide traditional learning supports including peer tutoring, study skills classes, and early intervention systems. However, few students take full advantage of these opportunities and many need support beyond that provided.

Not to worry - You will be pleased to learn that six colleges in Ohio have taken it one huge step further.

Enter six unique, fee-based learning support programs that you should know about. They include:

1. Ohio Wesleyan University's Bishop ACCESS Program: Brand new and growing.
2. Bowling Green State University's FLY Program: A newer program and the only one at a public university.
3. Mount Saint Joseph University's Project EXCELL: Formed in 1982, this is the oldest program in Ohio.
4. Muskingum University's PLUS Program: Formed in 1983, this is the largest program in Ohio.
5. Defiance College's ASD Affinity Program: A small program specializing in students on the Spectrum.
6. Notre Dame College's Academic Support Center: An impressive center with strong metrics to prove it.

These programs offer a variety of services including some combination of:

1. Weekly individual sessions with a learning coach who serves as a point person for the student. The coach helps develop an individualized learning strategy for each student.
2. Intensive one-on-one course tutoring varying from 60-90 minutes per week per course. Tutors are often professionals and typically have access to students' course management software allowing them to monitor assignment completion, grades, attendance, and syllabus requirements.
3. Coordination with other university support services including Disability Services, Counseling Services, and Career Services.
4. Coordination of academic advising with students' traditional advisor to ensure students schedule fits their capability.
5. Periodic progress reports provided to the student, and in some cases to parents.
6. Workshops to improve time management, executive functioning, and other academic and study skills.

While these programs are fee-based, they are producing remarkable results including high graduation rates that often exceed university-wide graduation rates. If you are interested in exploring these programs more deeply, start by reading our more detailed blog entry on each program. If you are still interested,

schedule a visit with a representative of one or more of these exceptional learning support programs.

A Few Unique Major Offerings you may not have heard about



The Toxicology Lab at Ashland University is under lock and key, but people are dying to get in there.

Tired of the same old major offerings – English, Economics, Business, Nursing, Pre-Med, Education, Art, Engineering, Music, Biology, Psychology, and others? Not to worry – Ohio colleges have a large number of unique and, for some students, attractive majors.

We believe students who find a major they are excited about are more likely to be satisfied, willing to work hard, and ultimately graduate than those who simply “settle” for some other less exciting option. Furthermore, once they find a major they are excited about and later decide to change majors, they are most likely to move to another major they are even more excited about. In the process, they have learned to identify and pursue opportunities that are important to them and aligned with their values and interests. Coincidentally, these students are more likely to self-advocate, seek out internships, join professional organizations, network with professionals, and land jobs they are excited about. You get the idea!

It seems that sometimes the run-of-the-mill majors are not so exciting to all students – go figure. So, just for the fun of it, here are just a few unique majors, minors, or certificates to think about and one college offering each.

1. Toxicology – Ashland University
2. Sales – the Schey Sales Center at OU
3. Environmental, Safety, & Occupational Health Management – U. of Findlay
4. Screen Writing – OU
5. Biomedical Art – Cleveland Institute of Art
6. Forestry Fisheries & Wildlife – OSU
7. Planetary Science – Ohio Wesleyan U.
8. Engineering Education – Ohio Northern U.
9. Children’s Book Illustration – U. of Findlay
10. Petroleum Engineering – Marietta College
11. Zoo & Conservation Sciences – Otterbein U.
12. Museum Studies – Walsh U.
13. Nuclear Engineering - OSU
14. Fashion Design – Columbus College of Art & Design

Of course, these are only a few of the unique and unusual majors offered at Ohio colleges. As you visit colleges around our great state, you might keep an eye open for these fascinating offerings – you never know.

A Few Early Admission Assurance Early Admission Graduate Programs in Ohio



Some colleges around Ohio offer their qualifying undergraduate students early admission guarantees to some of their most competitive graduate programs, particularly in health science fields. More frequently found at smaller, private colleges these unique opportunities offer real advantages to eligible students who don’t have to sweat admission to such competitive graduate programs in Pharmacy,

Physical Therapy, Medicine, Physician Assistant, and others. Let's take a look at a few examples:

BA/MA in Counseling/Human Development

At Walsh University freshmen with a 3.5 GPA and a 27 ACT may be admitted to this joint program which can be completed in 6 years. Students earn a BA in Behavioral Sciences and a MA in Counseling and Human Development. Tracks in the MA include Clinical Mental Health, School Counseling, and College Student Affairs.

BS/Doctorate of Pharmacy

At Ohio Northern University, qualifying students are admitted as incoming freshmen directly into the program and complete 6 years of study on the way to earning a PharmD.

BS/Doctorate in Physical Therapy

The University of Findlay has one of the few early admission assurance DPT programs in the state. Freshmen with a 3.5 GPA and a 26 ACT may be eligible for direct admission to the DPT program. The program is a six-year (3+3) program.

BS/ Doctorate in Occupational Therapy

The University of Findlay accepts 10 freshmen annually into its DOT program. They are required to have a 3.5 high school GPA plus a 25 ACT score for consideration. The program is designed as a 3+3 and thus can be completed in a total of 6 years.

BS in Accountancy/MS in Accounting or MBA

John Carroll University's Boler College of Business offers two unique 4+1 options to their undergraduate accountancy majors. Typically, students apply during their junior year and if accepted begin taking graduate courses as seniors and then complete both their undergraduate and graduate degree (MS in Accounting or MBA) in a total of five years. Since students need 150 credit hours to sit for the CPA exam, this option completes their hour requirements while they earn two degrees.

BS in Accounting or Computer Information Systems or Network Security or Computer Science or Human Resources or Software Engineering and an MBA

Baldwin Wallace University offers this unique 3+2 program allowing students to complete both an MBA and undergraduate degree in 5 total years. Application is made during a student's junior year.

Well, hopefully you have the idea! These are examples of `terrific combined undergraduate/graduate programs that offer students early admission assurance to graduate programs and reduce time to completion of both their undergraduate and graduate degrees. What's not to like?

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!