



**Summer Before  
Senior Year**

Narrow Your College  
Choices & Work On  
Essays

AUGUST 1  
*Applications Open*

SEPTEMBER  
*Gather Application Materials*

NOVEMBER 1  
*Early Action Deadline*

MID-JANUARY  
*Early Action Acceptance Notifications*

FEBRUARY 1  
*Final Application Deadline*

FEBRUARY 1  
*FAFSA Deadline*

END OF MARCH  
*Final Acceptance Notifications*

MAY 1  
*Acceptance Fees Due*

JUNE- AUGUST  
*Attend Orientation*

JULY  
*Receive Housing Assignment*

AUGUST 21  
*First Day of Classes*

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**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

# Applying **101**

## FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**1. Who should I ask for a letter of recommendation?**

You should ask a teacher who knows you well and can speak to your academic strengths. Employers and coaches can also be good sources for recommendations.

**2. Do I need to declare a major before applying?**

No. It's very common to be unsure of which major is right for you before starting classes. Use the College of Arts and Sciences Explore tool at [asc.osu.edu/explore](http://asc.osu.edu/explore) to match your interests and strengths with majors, minors and graduate programs.

**3. Is it possible to earn a major and a minor?**

Yes, very easily. In fact, many majors will require you to complete a minor.

**4. Can I double major?**

Yes. With careful planning, you should be able to successfully double major in any two majors. Just make sure to talk with your advisor early in the process.

**5. Can I change my major?**

Yes. It is not uncommon for students to change their major, particularly during their freshman and sophomore years.

**6. Why is the Early Action deadline so important?**

If you wish to be considered for university merit scholarships, the Morrill Scholarship Program or either the Honors or Scholars programs, you must apply by November 1.

**7. What happens if I don't apply by the Early Action deadline?**

You can still be admitted to the university but you will not be eligible for the Honors or Scholars programs and you will be less likely to receive financial aid from the university.

**8. How will I pay for everything?**

A variety of need- and merit-based financial aid options, as well as student loans, are available. You might also consider a part-time job on or off campus or through the Federal Work-Study Program.

**9. Why is it so important to submit a FAFSA application?**

In order to be considered for need-based financial aid or federal student loans, you must submit a FAFSA application.

**10. How many courses should I take each semester?**

You'll need to take at least 12 hours to be considered a full-time student. To take more than 18 credit hours, you'll need to petition the university and pay an additional fee. Remember that 15 credit hours a semester will keep you on track to graduate in four years.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONT.)

### 11. What should I do if I need help with a class?

A variety of tutoring options and academic support services are available on campus, including the Younkin Success Center, the Dennis Learning Center, the Math & Statistics Learning Center and the Center for the Study and Teaching of Writing. You can also attend your instructors' office hours with specific questions.

### 12. Ohio State is so big. Won't I just get lost in the crowd?

We're a big university, but we don't have to feel too big. There are a variety of peer mentorship programs and over 1,000 student organizations to help you connect to a community on campus.

### 13. How long will it take me to graduate?

It depends on your major and whether you enroll full or part-time, participate in a co-op or internship, or study abroad. More than 83 percent of Ohio State's incoming first-year students graduate within six years of full-time enrollment (two semesters per year), and about 60 percent graduate within four years.

## CAMPUS RESOURCES

**Access to Education**  
[osu.edu/access](http://osu.edu/access)

**Buckeyes First**  
[fye.osu.edu/buckeyesfirst.html](http://fye.osu.edu/buckeyesfirst.html)

**First Generation Student Association**  
[facebook.com/OSUFirstGen](http://facebook.com/OSUFirstGen)

**The Student Advocacy Center**  
[advocacy.osu.edu](http://advocacy.osu.edu)

**Student Financial Aid**  
[sfa.osu.edu](http://sfa.osu.edu)

**Counseling and Consultation Services**  
[ccs.ohio-state.edu](http://ccs.ohio-state.edu)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Khan Academy**  
[khanacademy.org/college-admissions](http://khanacademy.org/college-admissions)

**First in the Family**  
[firstinthefamily.org/highschool/Introduction.html](http://firstinthefamily.org/highschool/Introduction.html)

## KEY TERMS

**Award Letter** - A document that outlines how much financial aid you will receive.

**Bachelor's Degree** - The degree awarded at the completion of undergraduate study.

**College of Arts and Sciences** - The largest college at Ohio State, focusing on the arts, humanities, social and behavioral sciences and natural and mathematical sciences.

**Cost of Attendance (COA)** - The estimated total cost to attend the university, including tuition, fees, room and board.

**Course Load** - The number of classes or credit hours taken each semester.

**Credit Hour** - A unit measuring the educational credit of a class usually based on classroom hours per week.

**Double Major** - A single degree with two majors leading to a single diploma with both majors noted on transcripts.

**Drop** - Formally discontinue a class during a designated time early in the semester so that the class will not appear on official transcripts.

**Dual Degree** - Two degrees leading to the award of two diplomas with both degrees designated separately on transcripts.

**Early Action** - The deadline to apply for an early response.

**Elective** - An optional course not required for a degree.

**FAFSA** - The Free Application for Federal Student Aid from the U.S. Department of Education.

**Full-Time** - Enrollment in at least 12 credit hours a semester.

**General Education Requirements** - Required courses designed to introduce students to core academic areas.

**Grant** - A sum of money given that does not need to be repaid.

**Hold** - A red flag in the system which prevents students from registering for classes.

**Internship** - An opportunity for students to work at a firm, business or agency for a fixed period of time with or without pay.

**Major** - Primary field of academic focus.

**Minor** - Secondary field of academic focus.

**Office Hours** - A period of time designated by instructors when students are encouraged to visit with questions.

**Placement Test** - A series of tests used to gauge your ability level in English, math and foreign languages.

**Prerequisite** - A condition for enrollment a student must meet prior to starting a course.

**Semester** - Half of the academic year (usually lasting 15-18 weeks).

**Subsidized Loan** - A loan in which the federal government pays interest during periods of deferment.

**Undergraduate** - A student enrolled at a university who has not yet received a bachelor's degree.

**Unsubsidized Loan** - A loan in which interest accrues from the date the loan is issued.

**Work-Study Program** - Part time jobs funded by the federal government for students with financial need.