Time and change...

New November 1 policy for freshmen applicants to the Columbus campus

You must apply by November 1 if you wish to be considered for most university merit scholarships. Admitted students are automatically considered for most merit awards if they meet minimum eligibility criteria and submit a complete admission application by November 1. Scholarships are not guaranteed.

These scholarships require additional steps or have different deadlines:
- Eminence Fellows Program and Scholarship (Nov. 1 deadline; additional application)
- Morrill Scholarship Program (Nov. 1 highly recommended)
- Land Grant Opportunity Scholarship for Ohio residents (Feb. 1 deadline)

Details: meritwards.osu.edu; apply.osu.edu

As before, we highly recommend applying by November 1 if you wish to be considered for the Morrill Scholarship Program, Honors and Scholars Programs, and majors within the College of Engineering (after Nov. 1, applications to engineering majors are considered on a space-available basis).

A complete application includes:
1. Common Application
2. One letter of recommendation NEW: Letter of recommendation now optional
3. ACT/SAT scores (directly from the testing agencies)
4. Official high school transcripts
5. Application fee or waiver
6. A response to one of the following essay prompts:
   A background or story that is central to your identity
   Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure
   Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea
   Describe a place or environment where you are perfectly content
   Describe a problem you’ve solved or a problem you’d like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma—anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

New freshman applicants to the Columbus campus use the Common Application. Regional campus applicants use Ohio State’s traditional online application. All students should start at apply.osu.edu.

What’s new?

New SAT test (rSAT) and Ohio State’s changing requirements
undergrad.osu.edu/FFadmissions

In the spring of 2016, the College Board will release their newly redesigned SAT test: the rSAT. The writing portion of the rSAT will be optional. Your students may want to know which test to submit to Ohio State:

Applying for summer/autumn 2016: Submit test scores from SAT or ACT (writing score required). The rSAT will not be available in time to submit for either of these terms.

Applying for summer/autumn 2017 or spring 2018: Ohio State will accept scores from either the SAT or rSAT for these terms. The writing component for the SAT or ACT will not be required.

Continued on back...
$15 million in President’s Affordability Grants will benefit Ohio students

Ohio State University President Michael V. Drake recently announced the launch of an affordability initiative that will provide additional need-based aid to thousands of Ohio State undergraduates. The program begins this fall, with grants of up to $1,500 each for more than 12,000 low- and middle-income students at Ohio State.

The program will help more than one-third of all in-state undergraduate students on the Columbus campus. The university plans to grow the need-based grant pool from $15 million this fall to $100 million over five years.

That’s not all Ohio State is doing to make education more affordable. The university announced that it will freeze costs for in-state undergraduates for the 2015–16 academic year. This comprehensive freeze is the first of its kind at Ohio State in at least 40 years and covers in-state tuition, mandatory and instructional fees, and room and board on the Columbus campus.

The university had already frozen its in-state tuition and mandatory fees since 2012–13—the only Big Ten school to do so.

New second-year living requirement goes into effect

Beginning with the freshman class entering autumn of 2015, Ohio State will initiate a second-year living requirement, with optional participation in the Second-year Transformational Experience Program (STEP). Like the First Year Experience program, STEP is designed to focus on student success and development and allows students the opportunity to engage in activities that cater to their personal and professional interests and needs. A central feature of STEP is giving participants the opportunity to engage with faculty outside of the classroom. Faculty participating in STEP help students explore unique, education-enriching experiences.

New University Exploration themes

Ohio State is home to an excellent Exploration program, where very knowledgable staff help each undecided student find his or her best academic fit. Students may enter the university under general exploration; those who have an idea of their area of interest may enter under one of six broad theme areas:

NEW: Arts, Innovation and Design Exploration
NEW: Behavior, Culture and Context Exploration
NEW: Education and Public Service Exploration
NEW: Health and Human Services Exploration
NEW: Management and Industry Exploration
NEW: Science, Technology and Environment Exploration

Our high school and college fair visit calendar is now online

Find lots more great information at hscounselors.osu.edu!