



FIRST GENERATION

College Success Checklist

**You may find college different from high school in many ways.
Learn how to succeed in higher education.**

ACHIEVE

Do your best in school.

Your grades matter for your future. They may also impact financial aid. Keep up good habits that help you succeed.

- Attend and participate in all of your classes.
- Stay on top of reading assignments.
- Determine the place where you study best.
- In college, you're the only one who can access your grades due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Talk to your family about their expectations for accessing your grades.

Take the right classes.

Talk to your advisor to make sure you're taking the classes you need to complete your degree on time.

- If you plan to transfer colleges, make sure the credits will transfer.
- Take a class unrelated to your major or program that interests you.

Get organized and get help.

In college, you are in charge of your own time. Take advantage of people and programs to help you succeed.

- Find a system that works for you to keep track of class material and assignments.
- Ask for help from your professors, advisor or classmates. Find a study partner or group, visit your professor during their office hours, and use tutors.

ENGAGE

Get involved.

College can be more than just classes. Extracurricular activities help you explore your interests and make friends.

- Join student groups, volunteer for an organization you care about, or get a part-time job. Try something new or start your own club.
- Make a plan for the summer, such as taking summer classes, participating in internships, research or special programs, or getting a job.

Spend time with good people.

Who you hang out with matters. Surround yourself with people who want to see you succeed.

- Choose friends who share positive goals and interests.
- Find a mentor, such as a professor, advisor, former teacher or older student you can talk to.
- Stay connected with family and friends while focusing on college experiences.

Make good choices.

Practice healthy, safe and kind behaviors.

- Take care of your physical and mental health. Exercise, eat healthy and get enough sleep.
- Be responsible, and don't partake in risky behaviors.
- Be kind and treat others with respect.

**Cuyahoga
Community
College**



EXPLORE

Narrow your career interests.

Visit the Career Center for help.

- ❑ Explore careers that match your degree and interests.
- ❑ Consider volunteer opportunities, internships, research or job shadowing to learn more.
- ❑ Attend a career fair.

Do you want to transfer colleges?

Visit the Transfer Center for help. Talk to advisors at both colleges to make sure the credits will transfer.

- ❑ Decide what is most important to you in a college.
- ❑ Research admission requirements to make sure you're on track.
- ❑ Get to know the colleges.
- ❑ Apply by the deadlines. Gather all the information you'll need before applying.

Considering graduate school?

Explore your options for your next steps.

- ❑ Talk to your advisor and professors about programs and careers that interest you.
- ❑ Research admission requirements. You may need to take an entrance exam before applying.
- ❑ Get to know the colleges and professors you might work with.
- ❑ Apply by the deadlines. Gather all the information you'll need before applying.

PAY

Keep track of your money.

You're the only one who can see your tuition bill and financial aid information due to FERPA. Talk with your family about managing college costs.

- ❑ Make a budget and stick to it. Beware of credit card offers! Use them responsibly.
- ❑ Understand your student loans. Accept only the amount of loans you really need, and remember, you'll need to pay them back.
- ❑ If possible, make interest-rate payments on unsubsidized loans while you're still in school.

Apply for financial aid each year.

Get help from the Financial Aid and Scholarships office.

- ❑ Reapply for FAFSA or ORSAA every year.
- ❑ Apply for scholarships. You may be eligible for more than you realize.

Get help if there are changes to your financial situation.

Life happens. Contact the Financial Aid and Scholarships office if you or a family member loses a job or has unexpected medical expenses, child care costs or other financial issues.

- ❑ Ask for a review of your financial aid offer.
- ❑ Take advantage of emergency grants or financial assistance, if available or applicable.

For more information, visit tri-c.edu/firstgen

