
The Ohio Parent's College Research Checklist

Student Name: _____

College / University: _____

Move-In Date: _____

Major / Area of Interest: _____

Parent / Guardian Contact: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Primary Doctor: _____

Health Insurance Provider: _____

Important Deadlines:

1. Institutional Research

Use official college data sources such as **College Navigator**, the **Common Data Set**, and each college's website.

Cost of Attendance

Review tuition, fees, housing, meal plans, books, transportation, and personal expenses.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Graduation Rate

Check how many students complete their degree.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Retention Rate

Review how many first-year students return for their second year.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Majors Offered

Confirm the school offers your student's intended major or area of interest.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Student-to-Faculty Ratio

Consider how much access students may have to professors.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Admissions Profile

Review average GPA, test scores if available, acceptance rate, and application requirements.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Campus Support Services

Look for tutoring, advising, disability services, mental health support, and career services.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

2. Financial & Legal Readiness

Before your student leaves for college, make sure financial responsibilities and emergency permissions are in place.

Student Banking

Set up a checking account and debit card.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Budget Plan

Discuss monthly spending for food, gas, entertainment, supplies, and emergencies.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Financial Aid Paperwork

Finalize FAFSA, scholarships, grants, loans, and school payment plans.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Tuition Payment Deadlines

Record due dates for tuition, housing, meal plans, and fees.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

HIPAA Release

Allow parents or guardians to receive medical information in an emergency.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Healthcare Proxy / Medical Power of Attorney

Choose who can make medical decisions if the student cannot.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Insurance Review

Confirm health insurance coverage, car insurance, renter's insurance, and prescription coverage.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

3. Campus & Logistics

Prepare for daily life on campus before move-in day.

Campus Visit Completed

Visit the campus, residence halls, dining areas, classrooms, and student centers.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Safety Questions Asked

Ask about campus police, emergency alerts, lighting, transportation, and dorm security.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Food Options Reviewed

Review meal plans, dining halls, allergies, and off-campus food options.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Social Life Discussed

Talk about clubs, athletics, student organizations, faith groups, and campus culture.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Dorm Essentials Purchased

Bedding, towels, laundry supplies, desk items, storage, toiletries, and basic cleaning supplies.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Roommate Coordination

Decide who brings larger shared items such as fridge, microwave, rug, fan, or TV.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Transportation Plan

Determine whether the student will have a car, use public transit, bike, or rely on rides.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Move-In Plan

Confirm move-in date, time slot, parking rules, unloading instructions, and required documents.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

4. Health & Personal Readiness

Make sure your student is prepared physically, emotionally, and practically.

Immunizations Updated

Confirm required vaccines and submit records to the college.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Prescriptions Refilled

Transfer prescriptions to a nearby pharmacy if needed.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Medical Appointments Completed

Schedule physical, dental, vision, or specialist appointments before move-in.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Emergency Contacts Saved

Add parents, doctors, campus security, resident assistant, and roommate contacts.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Mental Health Support Identified

Know how to access campus counseling or outside support if needed.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

Basic Life Skills Reviewed

Laundry, basic cooking, budgeting, scheduling appointments, and asking for help.

Parent Notes / Thoughts:

5. Final Parent-Student Discussion

Use this section for important conversations before move-in.

What should you do if you are sick or injured?

Parent Notes / Student Response:

Who will you call in an emergency?

Parent Notes / Student Response:

How often should we check in?

Parent Notes / Student Response:

What is your monthly budget?

Parent Notes / Student Response:

What are your academic goals for the first semester?

Parent Notes / Student Response:

What will you do if you feel overwhelmed?

Parent Notes / Student Response:

Where will you go for tutoring, advising, or counseling?

Parent Notes / Student Response:
