



**College Now**  
Greater Cleveland

### Helping Cleveland Students Say Yes! to Higher Education

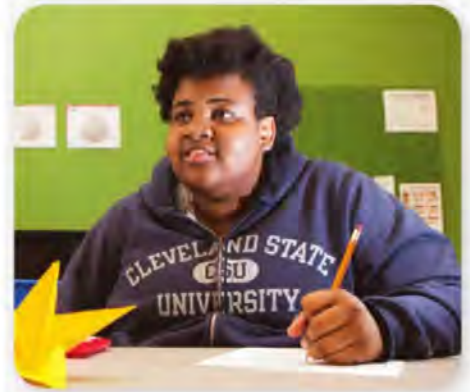
College Now provides support and resources to middle school students, high school students, and adult learners to prepare for and explore educational opportunities after high school, including two-year and four-year degree programs and technical/vocational certificate programs.

Our advisors serve 29,000 students each year in more than 185 settings, including schools, our downtown Resource Center, businesses, and community settings.

# College readiness

## 1 Prepare for College & Career

At College Now, advisors are uniquely trained to match individuals of all ages and levels of experience with the educational pathways to wealth-creating occupations. This is not a “one size fits all” approach. For some the educational pathway might be a four-year degree in accounting; for others, a two-year nursing degree; and still for others, an 18-month welding apprenticeship.



College Now advisors meet students where they are, assess their education and career experience and goals, and match them with the opportunities that are their best fit.

## 2 College & Career Access Advising

With the help of College Now advisors, students develop a college and career plan by:

- Determining their skills and interests
- Exploring career fields and relevant academic programs
- Navigating the admissions process, and
- Registering for required tests.

## 3 Financial Aid & Student Loan Counseling

College Now offers advising in schools, in our Resource Center and at community venues on student financial aid, including:

- Learning about financial aid options
- Completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), federal, state, institutional, and private grants, loans, and scholarships
- Evaluating financial aid award packages

The advisors focus on helping students achieve a goal of securing maximum financial aid with minimal loan debt.

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# Apprenticeship: the other 4 year degree

For over 100 years, Ohioans have built meaningful careers, provided for their families, and started their own businesses through building trades apprenticeships. Increasing diversity in these trades strengthens the industry and the communities they build.

They're building inclusive pathways to middle-class construction careers for all Ohioans through tuition-free, earn-and-learn union building trades apprenticeships.

## They're looking for students with these four As:

### 1 ACADEMICS

Qualified apprentices display a desire to learn both the theory behind and practice of skilled construction work.

### 2 APTITUDE

Apprentices have a fundamental grasp of math and science concepts to thrive in their training.

### 3 ATTENDANCE

Every day, apprentices are given the opportunity to learn new skills from professional journeymen and classroom instruction.

### 4 ATTITUDE

Apprenticeship programs include complex topics and practices which take time and energy to learn. Individuals with a positive attitude become more successful in their apprenticeship course.

Learn more from the Cleveland Building & Construction Trades Council, [cbctc.org](http://cbctc.org)



Let's compare Ohio's minimum wage to a building trades wage:

#### Ohio minimum wage

\$8.55/hour  
x 40 hours/week  
x 52 weeks/year

**\$17,784** per year, minus cost of health insurance premiums.

#### Manager level

\$11/hour  
x 40 hours/week  
x 52 weeks/year

**\$22,880** per year, minus cost of health insurance premiums.

#### Ohio building trades painting apprentice

\$14.80 x 40 hours x 26 weeks = \$15,392  
+ \$17.26 x 40 hours x 26 weeks = \$17,950

**\$33,342** per year, plus healthcare and pension

Average wages once the apprenticeship is completed are **\$27.94 per hour, or approximately \$58,000 per year with full benefits.**

#### Building trades include:

- Boilermakers
- Bricklayers
- Cement Masons & Plasterers
- Electrical Workers
- Heat & Frost Insulators
- Iron Workers
- Laborers
- Painters & Glaziers/Finishing Trades
- Plumbers & Pipefitters
- Sheet Metal Workers
- Roofers