



Postsecondary Education Pathways

Opportunity depends on training and learning beyond high school. Fortunately for recent or imminent graduates entering the workplace as well as for adults transitioning through the workplace, many alternatives to the traditional postsecondary education pathways are available to assist jobseekers on their journey.

Ohio offers many programs, incentives and interventions that enable more individuals to find pathways to a postsecondary certificate or degree and acquire the knowledge, skills and abilities they need to attain their goals and succeed in the workplace and in life.

Help is Available

Several programs can help youth and adults pursue further education and training:

- **PLA With a Purpose.** Ohio's Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) initiative recognizes the college-level knowledge and skills that students have acquired outside the traditional collegiate experience. It may be learning acquired from a corporate training program, through military service or via extensive volunteer experience. Granting postsecondary credit for such experiences can help increase postsecondary participation, persistence and completion.
- **2 + 2 Guaranteed Transfer Pathways** allow students to complete a two-year associate degree at a community college and have it count toward a bachelor's degree at a college or university. The 2 + 2 option has the potential to significantly lower the cost of obtaining a postsecondary credential for low- and middle-income families.
- **College Credit Plus** is Ohio's dual enrollment program that provides students in grades 7-12 the opportunity to earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking courses from Ohio colleges or universities. This enables students to reduce the costs of earning a postsecondary education credential. During the program's first two years (2016-17), almost 65,000 students realized more than \$262 million in tuition savings; ninety percent of students who took courses earned passing grades and college credits.
- **Ohio Strong Start to Finish** aims to get students on successful pathways to college completion while also addressing attainment gaps for historically underserved populations. The specific goal of the program is to help move the percentage of students who complete gateway math and English courses in their first year of college from 33% to 50%. Students who do not pass these courses are placed in ineffective remediation courses, delaying their ability to take credit-earning courses.
- **The Ohio Means Internships and Co-ops (OMIC)** program invests state and private-sector dollars to increase student completion and strengthen Ohio's global talent pipeline. According to OhioMeansJobs.com, more than 24,000 internships are available in Ohio (as of Dec. 2, 2018). In 2017, Ohio placed 5,748 students in OMIC internships and co-ops and the private sector contributed almost \$25 million in matching funds. About 2,241 student participants graduated and were employed in Ohio, with reported average earning of \$39,000 annually.