To be eligible for the Young Scholars Program, all applicants must:

- Have a strong desire and motivation to enroll in and graduate from a 4-year college or university
- Have an interest in attending The Ohio State University and residing on campus in Columbus, OH during their college career
- Be currently enrolled in 8th grade and entering 9th grade in fall 2016
- Maintain a minimum, unweighted grade point average of 3.3 or above
- Have earned grades of all or mostly A’s (with few B’s and C’s) in core academic subjects: English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies/History, and Foreign Language since the beginning of 6th grade
- Demonstrate good school attendance and positive behavior
- Reside in the state of Ohio and be enrolled in a public school in the following school districts: Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Lorain, Toledo, or Youngstown
- Qualify as first generation – applicants’ custodial parent(s) cannot have earned a bachelor’s degree at the time of application. The education level of other family members will not be taken into account.
- Be at or below the household income maximum (defined as no more than 33% above federal poverty guidelines)
- Commit to successful completion of a college prep curriculum in high school that includes 4-5 units of Math, 4 units of English, 4 units of Science, 3 units of Social Studies, 3-4 units of the same foreign language, 1 unit of Visual and Performing Arts as well as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and/or honors and advanced courses with a GPA 3.3 or above
- Commit to attending all required meetings, workshops, summer programs and meet other program requirements regarding preparation, admission and financial aid

**HOW TO APPLY**

**Step 1:**

- Complete all sections of the YSP Application form
- Submit official report cards showing course subjects and grades for 7th and 8th grade
- Submit attendance records for 7th and 8th (if not shown on report cards)
- Submit a Short Answer Essay: *Describe a challenge you’ve faced and how you have overcome it.* You may also describe a current challenge you’re facing and how you’re working to overcome it. The Essay must be 175-200 words, typed, using a standard 12 point font.
- Submit parent documentation, including a copy of federal Tax Returns (or W2 forms from ALL jobs) from 2014 or 2015 and additional supporting documents if applicable. If not employed, you may submit documentation of public assistance, SSI or other income sources.
- Submit one Recommendation Form: To be completed by a teacher in a core subject area (English, math, social studies/history, foreign-language, visual and performing arts), or by a counselor, principal or other school staff that have knowledge of your personal and academic strengths and weaknesses. Recommendation letters should be included in the application packet or mailed to: ysp@osu.edu.

  **Letters of recommendation from family members and friends will not be accepted**

**Step 2:**

Eligible students will be contacted in March 2016 to schedule an in-person interview with the Young Scholars Program selection committee at a location in their respective city. Additional information may be requested at that time.