

Gap Year Checklist

Start Here: Why Gap Year?

- Figure out why you want a Gap Year and explore the paths that interest you. ***You can chose more than one at once!***
 - Resources: [Gap Year Association](#) (WEB), [Gap Year Planning Guide](#) (PDF)
- Think about what you like, what matters to you, what you're good at.
 - Resources: [Personal Values Assessment](#) (WEB), [My Next Move](#), (WEB) [High5 Strengths](#) (WEB)
- Set clear goals that make sense for what you want: Set goals that make sense for which path you chose.
 - Resources: [MindTools](#) (WEB), Grad's Guide - [Goal Setting](#) (VIDEO)
- Seek out financial aid and scholarships to help reach goals.
 - Resources: [FAFSA](#) (WEB), [Appily](#) (WEB), [Gap Year Financial Aid](#) (WEB)

Path A: Build Skills For A Future Career

Take classes or earn short-term certifications that match what you're into.

- Resources: [Coursera](#) (WEB), [SEMCA](#) (WEB), [Detroit at Work](#) (WEB)

Look into apprenticeships and internships in industries of interest to gain hands-on experience.

- Resources: [Going-Pro](#) (WEB), [Pure Michigan Talent Connect](#) (WEB)

Connect with pros in fields of interest, find mentors and learn about careers.

- Resources: [LinkedIn](#) (WEB), [Mentoring.org](#) (WEB)

Make a great resume and LinkedIn profile with your new skills.

- Resources: [Indeed](#) (WEB) , [LinkedIn](#) (WEB)

Path B: Make Money & Gain Independence

Get paid work or freelance gigs to handle money on your own.

- Resources: [SEMCA](#) (WEB), [Indeed](#) (WEB), [Upwork](#) (WEB)

Learn about personal finance and managing money well.

- Resources: [MI Financial Literacy](#) (WEB), [Practical Money Skills](#) (WEB)

Path C: Serve Others

Explore and join volunteer programs to help causes you care about.

- Resources: [VolunteerMatch](#) (WEB), [AmeriCorps](#) (WEB), [Peace Corps](#) (WEB)

Path D: Personal Growth, Travel or Entrepreneurship

Find programs abroad or in different cultures to work or learn about new places.

- Resources: [Go Overseas](#) (WEB), [Gap Year Abroad](#) (WEB)

Consider starting a small business to serve others or solve problems.

- Resources: [Small Business Association](#) (WEB), [EdX](#) (WEB)



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Newsletter on Smore