Bloomfield Hills High School

COLLEGE PLANNING and POST SECONDARY GUIDE



Class of 2026

.

Revised September 2024

The Bloomfield Hills High School College Planning and Post Secondary Guide is intended for students to begin planning for life after high school. This task may seem overwhelming; however, we hope that using this tool will provide parents and students some insight into and a clearer understanding of the college application process and other post secondary options. Topics range from BHHS graduation requirements, choosing a college, and completing college applications to requesting letters of recommendation, financial aid, community colleges, vocational schools, military, employment and additional resources. A digital booklet can be found on the BHHS Counseling website.

https://bhhs.bloomfield.org/counseling

As always, if you have any questions or concerns,

please do not hesitate to contact the Bloomfield Hills High School Counseling Office.

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A COMPASS TO COLLEGE

Finding the right college will require the student to look at themselves– their likes, dislikes and needs. They will want to assess colleges in terms of environment, size, geographic location, cost, academic programs, extracurricular offering and entrance requirements. They can then compare their perception of themselves with that of the school they are considering. Financial aid is another consideration in the college decision process.

After surveying colleges, students should visit the campuses of the schools they are most interested in. Students can get the most out of a visit if arrangements are made in advance with the college admissions office. If a student indicates areas of interest in academics and activities, the college may arrange additional interviews. It is suggested that a brief thank you note be written to the admissions officer and to others who extend special courtesies during a college visit. If you cannot attend a campus visit, most colleges have extensive websites with virtual visits that can give you a good impression of the college campus.

When preparing college applications, remember to "package yourself" in the best possible manner. Applications should be prepared accurately. Make sure you proofread before you submit your application. Some colleges require essays on specific topics. This is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their uniqueness by presenting themselves as special individuals; different from others. It is necessary for students to think in depth about themselves. It is important to demonstrate an ability to organize thoughts logically and concisely while imparting this information. The essay should be written in rough draft and checked for grammar, punctuation, and the principles of composition-unity, coherence, clarity and emphasis.

Students should also develop a resume to attach to all applications. A resume offers a quick and concise overall impression to the evaluator. In addition, a student should use the information they have been acquiring through their Education Development Plans (EDPs) to help them complete their applications. After the final draft is written, the applicant should make a copy for future reference.

Colleges only know the applicant through his or her application!! Ask yourself – *what can I do to "standout" and make my application unique?*

Whose Job Is It Anyway?

Needs To Be Done:	You	Parents
Become familiar with your school's online data management system on which the status of your college preparations and applications will be tracked	X	X
Get on mailing lists of colleges of interest	X	
Respond to questionnaires/surveys from admission offices	X	
Talk to college reps at college night	X	
Continue to communicate in appropriate ways with college reps who recruit in your area	X	
Schedule campus visits	X	
Make arrangements for overnight visits	X	
Make sure you are officially excused from classes in order to visit colleges	X	
Make-up missed class-work in a timely fashion	X	
Drive to college campuses		X
Make hotel arrangements		X
Make senior year course selections	X	
Investigate test prep options	X	X
Register for SAT/ACT testing	X	X
Decide where to apply	X	X
Come up with essay topic	X	
Write the essay	X	
Complete the applications	X	
Provide the application fee	X	X
Communicate with college counselor and teachers regarding the timeframes for completing and submitting transcripts and letters of recommendation	X	
Make sure the teachers who will write on your behalf know you	X	
Submit the applications by deadline	X	
Provide moral support		X
Compile financial details for FAFSA, CSS Profile and scholarship applications	X	X
Keep track of online log-in and password information	X	X
Complete financial aid forms	X	X
Apply for scholarships	X	
Follow up with colleges that accept you	X	

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NAVIGATING THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Advice for Seniors

☑ Complete College Applications Early

It is recommended that students complete their college applications by the end of October, at the latest (the sooner the better), of their senior year. Many *in-state* colleges are extremely competitive and are experiencing an increase in the number of students applying. *Out-of-state* universities are in the same numbers game and will also want to see applications quickly. On that note, we cannot stress enough the need for seniors to maintain their grades and the number of academics that they are completing during their second semester. Even those students who have been admitted can have their admission rescinded if the college feels that they have developed a bad case of "senioritis". Students need to maintain their eligibility for college by taking a minimum of four academics each semester and maintaining or surpassing their current grades.

Many universities will want to see 7th semester grades (1st semester of senior year). If the college(s) you applied to have requested this information, be sure to request that our Records Office send this information on your behalf.

Students should also be investigating the numerous scholarships and financial aid awards that are available. Some interesting websites are included in the Helpful Websites in this College Planning Guide.

Advice for Juniors

☑ This is the Most Important Year of High School for Students

Because many students will be applying for college admission during the first semester of their senior year, colleges will be making admissions decisions based on their transcript through their *junior year*. Admission committees will evaluate a student's cumulative GPA or recalculated academic GPA, and transcript trend. College admissions continue to be extremely competitive and more students are making the decision to stay in state causing a substantial increase in the number of applicants.

☑ Stay Focused

Another factor that has developed over the last few years is an increase in the number of enrollees versus the number of admits. Colleges have been faced with more students accepting admission than anticipated based on earlier target figures. Stay focused with the goal of developing a transcript that accurately reflects your abilities. Colleges are very interested in seeing an upward trend or the maintaining of a great transcript. Juniors can visit several college websites to see the type of essay questions and information that they will need to address in their college applications. Colleges and universities would like their applicants to apply online. New applications are available around July for students to begin the application process.

☑ Develop Your Resume

Junior students, as part of an Education Development Plans (EDPs) lesson, will have an opportunity to develop a resume in XELLO. A college resume allows the student to submit a 1-page (back-to-back) synopsis of their academic, extracurricular, and personal attributes. Colleges really like having a quick, time saving investigation of students and the resume can provide such a tool. This guide has some sample resumes to give you an example of a high-quality resume.

☑ Visit College Campuses

Juniors should be taking advantage of our breaks for potential campus visits, if available. Many colleges offer guided tours at various times during the year. In addition, many campuses welcome students and their parents to their campuses by individual arrangements. Visiting a college campus can provide a "hands-on" experience for all family members to make an intelligent determination of "fit". If you cannot make the time to get on campus, visit the various college websites, many of which offer virtual tours. Remember, however, all colleges will show you their best side on the sunniest day!

☑ Update Your Education Plan

Juniors will be revisiting their EDPs using XELLO that they began as freshmen. This activity will focus on college searches based on career needs and financial aid/scholarship search information. The EDP is also a great way to help understand some of your dreams, plans, and expectations.

☑ Study for Standardized Tests

A successful way to increase your SAT test scores is with Khan Academy.
Link your College Board and Khan Academy accounts to get automatic personalized test strategy and practice recommendations based on your PSAT performance, or take diagnostics if you didn't take the PSAT.

☑ Take Standardized Tests

Another important goal for most juniors is to take a standardized assessment. This information can generally be found on the individual college website. All colleges/universities are now requiring that ACT/SAT scores be sent directly from the testing agencies. You can investigate the following websites for more information about these assessments. Practice tests are available on these sites and in the Career Resource Center (CRC): ACT website – www.actstudent.org SAT website – www.collegeboard.org

All juniors will be taking the MME (Michigan Merit Exam) in April of their junior year. This exam includes an SAT assessment that juniors may use for college admissions purposes. This will allow students another opportunity to take a standardized assessment that can be reported directly from the testing agency to college admissions offices.

ACT is also an option; it is wise to try both tests. You only have to send your best score.



Bloomfield Hills High School

An International Baccalaureate World School

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Effective for the class of 2023 and beyond

CONTENT AREA	CREDITS NEEDED	EXPLANATION OF CREDITS
English	4	4 credits
Math	4	Credits must include: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II 1 math course must be taken during the senior year. *The Personal Financial Literacy course could be 0.5 of this 1.0 credit.*
Science	3	1 credit of Biology 1 credit of Chemistry of Earth's Systems 1 Science elective credit (Physics of the Universe is recommended)
Social Studies	3	1 credit of World History & Geography 1 credit of U.S. History & Geography 0.5 credit in Civics 0.5 credit in Economics
Health & Physical Education	2	0.5 credit in Health Education 1.5 elective credit
Visual, Performing and Applied Arts	1	1 credit in Visual, Performing, or Applied Arts
World Languages	2	2 credits of World Language
Personal Financial Literacy*	0.5	0.5 credit course *beginning with the graduation class of 2028
Additional Credits	8.5 to 11	Note: "additional" will specify content areas (e.g. communications, arts, etc)
Technical Competency	All students must take one computer-based course during grades 9-12 (This requirement may be met by courses identified in most content areas).	
Online Learning Experience	All students must have an online learning experience before graduation. (This requirement can be satisfied by experiences within a regular course).	
Community Service	Minimum one Service As Action experience per year	
State of Michigan Assessment	ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE STATE-REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS PRIOR TO GRADUATION.	
Middle Years Program Personal Project	ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE PERSONAL PROJECT.	
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED	28	

Adopted by the Bloomfield Hills Schools Board of Education on July 28, 2022

TYPES OF TESTS

There are five major types of tests used for college admission, four of which are given by the same company, College Board. Students are responsible for registering for their own tests and for requesting that their scores be directly reported by the testing service to the colleges which they have applied to. We recommend that all students take both the SAT and ACT at the beginning of their college application process in order to determine which test best reflects the student's academic profile. Students may then focus on improving their performance on *either* the SAT or ACT.

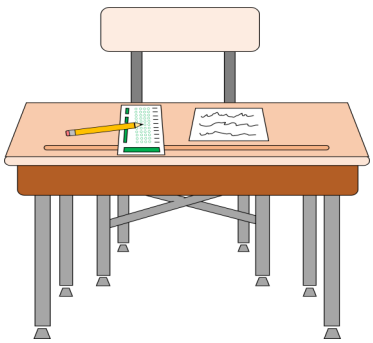
PSAT/NMSQT (Collegeboard.org) This test is given in October to all Juniors. Results may forecast your future SAT scores. Scores are also used by some colleges for academic scholarships.

SAT (Collegeboard.org) This three hour/50 minute test is identical to the PSAT in format and is designed to measure verbal and mathematical reasoning ability. In addition, it measures your knowledge and usage of the English language and syntax. Students may take the SAT two or three times, preferably in the spring of their junior year and in October of their senior year if necessary. Most colleges will accept your highest score.

ACT (ACTstudent.org) Is 3 hours & 35 minutes with the writing portion. Four 35-60 minute tests in the areas of English, math, reading and science reasoning are given. The Counseling Department highly recommends the optional writing portion which is an additional 30 minute test. Students need to check with the particular college to see if it is required.

Advanced Placement Tests (AP) (Collegeboard.org) Before early November of each year, students may sign up to take Advanced Placement exams for May testing. Tests are offered in all AP courses available at Bloomfield Hills High School. College credit or advanced placement in college courses is possible, if the student achieves a certain score on the exam. Each college/university determines specific requests for credits. Check specific college websites for more information.

TOEFL (ETS.org) Foreign students whose first language is not English are generally required to take this exam as part of college admissions.



The student is responsible for setting up their own ACT/College Board accounts. BHHS does not have access to students' ACT/College Board passwords. Students should NOT be using their school email addresses for their testing accounts. BHHS email accounts will no longer be valid once a student graduates.

To register for these tests you will need to provide your School Code:

Bloomfield Hills High School–232447

-If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, reach out to your counselor or Mrs. Frantz in the CRC to obtain SAT/ACT test fee waivers and test answers waiver. -

Students who cannot test on Saturday because of religious reasons must contact SAT to arrange a Sunday test administration, with registration accomplished via postal mail or the Internet. As is the case with the ACT, a letter from rabbi/ imam/cleric must be presented for SAT to authorize Sunday testing (seven different dates) for an eligible student.

Advanced Placement testing for 2024-2025 will be May 6-17, 2025

Diploma Programme testing for 2024-2025 will be April 27–May 19, 2025

SAT Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
October 5, 2024	September 20, 2024	September 24, 2024
November 2, 2024	October 18, 2024	October 22, 2024
December 7, 2024	November 22, 2024	November 26, 2024
March 8, 2024	February 21, 2025	February 25, 2025
May 3, 2025	April 18, 2025	April 22, 2025
June 7, 2025	May 22, 2025	May 27, 2025

Register here for the SAT.

ACT Date	Regular Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
October 26, 2024	**September 20, 2024**	**October 7, 2024**
December 14, 2024	**November 8, 2024**	**November 22, 2024**
February 8, 2025	**January 3, 2025**	**January 20, 2025**
April 5, 2025	**February 28, 2025**	**March 16, 2025**
June 14, 2025	**May 9, 2025**	**May 26, 2025**
July 12, 2025	**June 6, 2025**	**June 20, 2025**

Register here for the ACT.

You may consider looking into **SAT/ACT test strategies**. See the College Board and ACT websites or use an adult tutor from the BHHS Adult Tutor list found on our BHHS Counseling Page website.

Another successful way to increase your SAT test scores is with Khan Academy.
Link your College Board and Khan Academy accounts to get automatic personalized test strategy and practice recommendations based on your PSAT performance, or take diagnostics if you didn't take the PSAT.





Khan Academy

Using Khan Academy's Official SAT Practice

Overview

- **Link your College Board and Khan Academy accounts** to get automatic personalized recommendations based on your PSAT performance, or take diagnostics if you didn't take the PSAT.
- **We'll recommend practice to you based on your results.** You can practice other skills any time you'd like, even if we didn't recommend them to you.
- **Video and text explanations will help you learn the skills covered on the test** and show you how the test is structured.
- **Be sure to take some full-length practice exams, too!** We recommend taking them without interruption to give you a sense of what to expect on test day.

SAT vs ACT

Many students and parents begin the college prep process by comparing the ACT and SAT. Two of the most common questions they ask are: **Is the ACT easier than the SAT? Do colleges prefer scores from the SAT or ACT?**

The **SAT** and **ACT** generally test the same types of content. Both ACT and SAT scores are used for college admissions and merit-based scholarships. The biggest differences between the tests are that the ACT has a Science Test, and there's one SAT Math Section for which you cannot use a calculator. Some colleges don't prefer one over the other, so explore both tests to decide which one is right for you.

THE SAT VS THE ACT

KEY Differences

- Fewer Geometry Questions
- More Time per Question
- No-calculator Math Section

- Lots of Geometry
- Faster Paced
- Tough Science Section

TIMING & SCORING

SAT			ACT		
Overall Time	3h		Overall Time	2h 55m	
Reading	65m	200 - 800 points	1-36	35m	Reading
Writing	35m		1-36	45m	English
Math (No Calculator)	25m	200 - 800 points	1-36	60m	Math
Math (Calculator)	55m		1-36	35m	Science
Total Points	400 - 1600		1 - 36	Total Points	
Time per Question	75s Reading	48s Writing	83s Math	53s Reading	36s English	60s Math

MATH

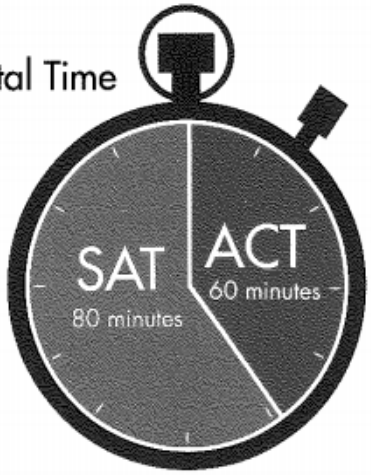
Number of Questions

SAT	ACT
58	60

Number of Sections



Total Time



Time Per Question



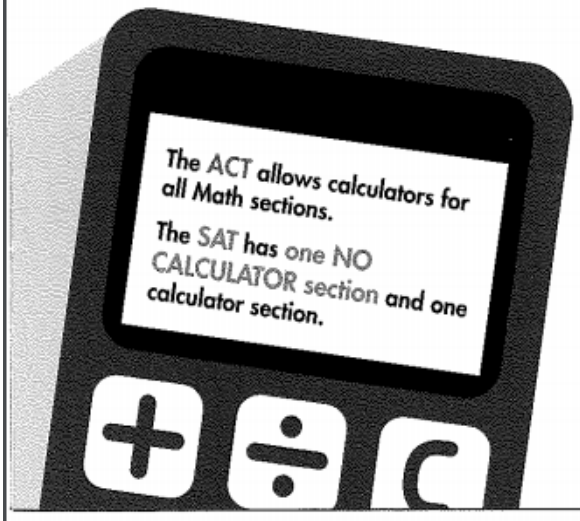
Formulas

The SAT provides a reference table of common formulas.

The ACT does not provide formulas for reference.

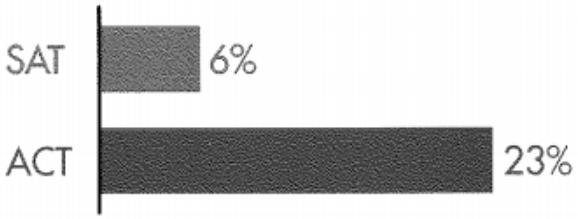


The SAT Math section includes **45** multiple choice questions and **13** **student-produced response questions** (i.e., fill-in questions).



Geometry Focus

The ACT has a much greater emphasis on Geometry. In contrast, the SAT focuses more on Algebra, word problems, and "Data Analysis" questions that ask you to incorporate information from tables and charts into your calculations.



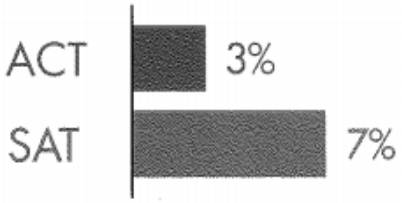
WRITING/ENGLISH

Number of Questions

SAT	ACT
44	75

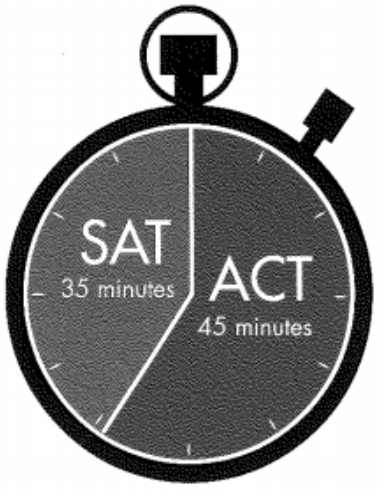
Vocabulary

What percent of questions test vocabulary?



Time Per Question





Total Time

Do the Reading sections have **Graphs and Charts?**

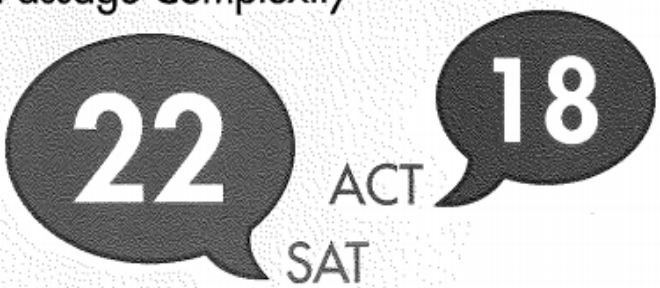
SAT	ACT
Yes, relating to two passages	No, only on the Science section

GRAMMAR VS. RHETORICAL SKILLS

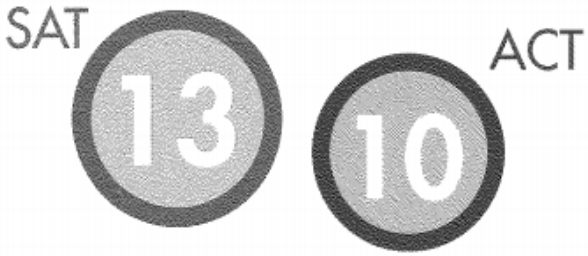


*The difference between the 49% Rhetorical Skills on the ACT and 55% on the SAT feels even greater in practice, as the questions on the SAT require a fuller understanding of the passage.

Passage Complexity



Average words per sentence



Average grade level*

*Flesch-Kincaid readability assessment

READING



Total Time

Time Per Question

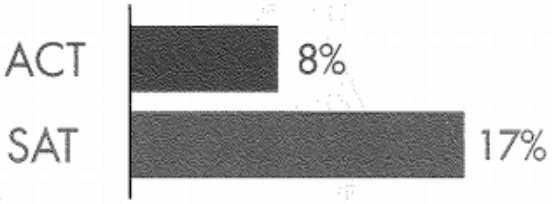


Number of Questions

SAT	ACT
52	40

Vocabulary

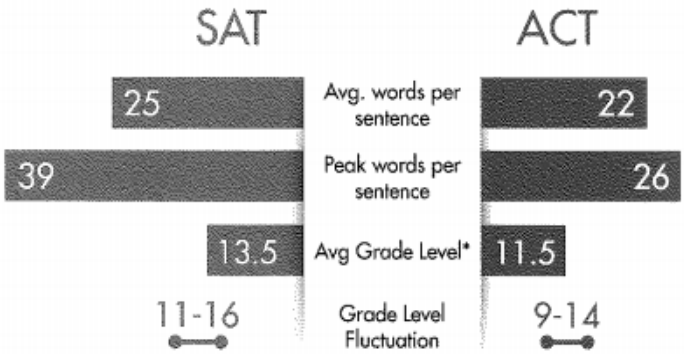
What percent of questions test vocabulary?



Do the Reading sections have **Graphs and Charts?**

SAT	ACT
Yes, relating to two passages	No, only on the Science section

Passage Complexity



*Flesch-Kincaid readability assessment

Number of Passages

SAT 5 — comparison

ACT 4 — comparison

Topics Covered

- Literature
- Science (2)
- History/Soc. Studies (2)

- Prose/Fiction
- Humanities
- Social Science
- Natural Science

866.789.PREP (7737) info@applerouth.com www.applerouth.com

SAT to ACT Score Concordance Table

College counselors, students, and their families use concordance tables to inform college searches and explorations. Colleges, universities, scholarship organizations, and athletic conferences also use concordances in a variety of ways including determining eligibility for a program or scholarship. Guide to the 2018 ACT/Sat Concordance.

ACT COMP	SAT TOTAL	SAT RANGE
36	1590	1570–1600
35	1540	1530–1560
34	1500	1490–1520
33	1460	1450–1480
32	1430	1420–1440
31	1400	1390–1410
30	1370	1360–1380
29	1340	1330–1350
28	1310	1300–1320
27	1280	1260–1290
26	1240	1230–1250
25	1210	1200–1220
24	1180	1160–1190
23	1140	1130–1150

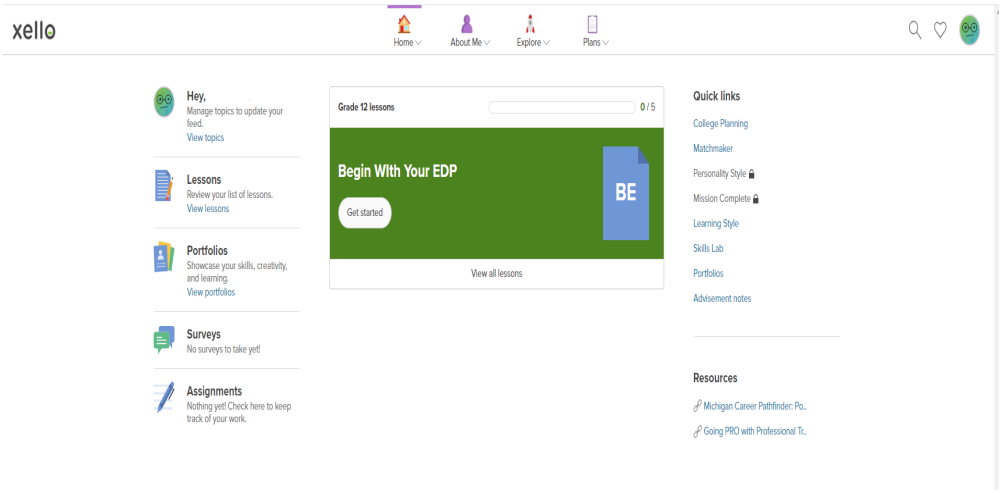
ACT COMP	SAT TOTAL	SAT RANGE
22	1110	1100–1120
21	1080	1060–1090
20	1040	1030–1050
19	1010	990–1020
18	970	960–980
17	930	920–950
16	890	880–910
15	850	830–870
14	800	780–820
13	760	730–770
12	710	690–720
11	670	650–680
10	630	620–640
9	590	590–610

TOEFL

The **Test Of English as a Foreign Language** or **TOEFL** was developed to test English language proficiency for non-native speakers wishing to study at American universities. The TOEFL assesses a student's ability to use and understand English in an academic setting. It is designed and administered by Educational Testing Service. It has become an admission requirement for non-native English speakers at many English-speaking colleges and universities. A TOEFL score is valid for two years.

Consult the ETS website (www.ets.org/toefl) for information regarding test dates, registration and fees.





The Counseling Department is happy to utilize **XELLO,** a web-based service designed especially for our students and families. **XELLO** is a comprehensive website that students can use to help in making decisions about courses, colleges, and careers. **XELLO** also lets us share information with you about scholarship opportunities, and other resources for college and career information. Students can access XELLO through their Bloomfield High School Clever portal.

Engage Every Student With a Student Driven Future-Readiness Program

Built with thousands of hours of research with educators, Xello puts students at the heart of their journey of self-discovery. By delivering an engaging student experience, Xello helps educators achieve real results.



Efficiently Support Every Student

Take one thing off of your already very full plate. With Xello you'll deliver personalized learning at scale, save time on administrative tasks, and keep student plans organized in a centralized spot.



Meet College and Career Readiness Requirements

Meet your local and federal requirements for college and career readiness with an engaging program that accurately tracks student progress and completion rates.



Teach Future-Ready Skills & Knowledge

Help students build the 21st century skills to thrive. Xello equips all students with the knowledge, real-world skills, and planning capabilities to navigate their future.

COMMON COLLEGE APPLICATION

What is the Common Application?

It's one online application that is used by 900+ colleges and universities across all 50 U.S. states and 20 countries. Many people think of the "Common App" (as it's often called) as only used for private institutions, but plenty of public universities use it too, including University of Michigan and many campuses in the SUNY system.

What's so special about the Common Application?

Instead of filling out your personal information, academic history and extracurricular activities **each time** you apply to a school (sounds exhausting, right?), you only have to go through those steps *once* on the Common App. So, basically, the application saves you time and energy by not having to duplicate your efforts. You enter your info once, and it is accessible to all of the colleges on your list.

As part of the Common Application, students will write one essay (up to 650 words) that will go to all of the colleges to which they apply.

Supplemental Information

Many colleges/universities that use the Common App also use what's called a supplement. It's an additional application where you're asked about information not already covered on your main Common Application. This is where you list the major(s) that you are considering, whether or not you are applying for need-based financial aid and/or are interested in merit scholarships..

Some of these schools will ask for an additional written response...They range from questions like *Please briefly elaborate on an extracurricular activity* to *what is the truest thing that you know?* Some schools don't require any additional writing, and others have a very meaty supplement (ahem, Stanford, we're looking at you).

How much does it cost to use the Common Application?

Technically, the Common App is free to use. You can create an account, add colleges and enter as much content as you like. However, when you're ready to submit your application, many schools require payment that can range anywhere from $20 up to over $100. Two pieces of good news:

1) Some schools don't have an application fee. Thank you, Tulane, Macalester and Carleton (among others)!
2) You can request a fee waiver in the Profile section of the application if you meet certain economic requirements, and your counselor verifies the fee waiver request (make sure to check in with your counselor!)

Excerpts from the College Essay Guy LLC, PO Box 250876, Glendale, California 91225, United States

AXS Companion is a great tool to use while filling out the Common Application.

http://www.axscompanion.org/

COMMON BLACK COLLEGE APPLICATION

What is the Common Black College Application?

The Common Black College Application is an HBCU-exclusive platform that allows students to apply to 65 member HBCUs (Historically Black colleges and universities) for a total of $20.

Unlike other application platforms, you rank your top four choices as part of the application process (though all 65 schools have access to your application). This allows the colleges to gauge your level of interest in their college.
It is recommended that you contact all of the schools that you're interested in attending, as some schools will only review applications that were tagged as one of the top four choices. You can either email the admissions office or call.
You can pay $20 via Paypal, the application also accepts debit and credit cards, or you can mail in a money order. *Note that there are no fee waivers available for the CBCA.*

Do all HBCUs use the Common Black College Application?
No, however 60% of all HBCUs use the CBCA.

Test scores?
You can upload your test scores in the Student Dashboard. If you haven't taken any exams, you can still complete the application.

How do I send transcripts to the schools I'm interested in?
Your School Counselor has to create an account to upload your official transcript in the School Counselor Dashboard. If your counselor didn't receive an email requesting your transcript, they can go to www.commonblackcollegeapp.com and click on *High School Counselor*. There, they can create an account and upload your records.

What about supplementary materials like letters of recommendation?
Unfortunately, the CBCA doesn't have the capability to share supplementary information with the colleges, so you'll need to work with your counselor to make sure all relevant and required information is transmitted to the schools on your list.

Visit the Common Black College Application website for a current list of participating HBCUs:
https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/

Excerpts from the College Essay Guy LLC, PO Box 250876, Glendale, California 91225, United States

Post-Secondary Education

Four Year Degree

A bachelor's degree is a four-year degree typically taking four years of full-time study to complete at a college or university. Normally, it is the completion of 120 semester credits or around 40 college courses. A bachelor's is a post-secondary undergraduate degree.

Two Year Degree

A 2-year degree program most commonly results in an associate's degree, and these degrees may be earned at community, technical, vocational colleges and some universities. Students often use this degree as their first step, then transfer to a university to gain a four-year degree. Normally, this is the completion of 60 semester credits.

Community colleges play a crucial role as open access institutions for economic mobility and growth. They ensure that the promise of an earned higher education credential is attainable for all.

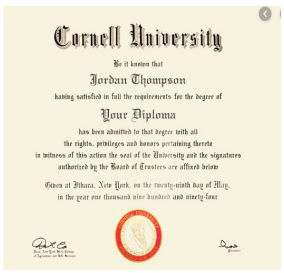
- Increased lifetime earnings, employment stability, health outcomes
- Intergenerational impact of a college degree or credential
- Reduces poverty and improves both early childhood education and college attainment across generations
- Grows prosperity, civic participation, and quality of life across communities, county, and region
- Provides opportunities for Certificates of Achievement
- Provides courses that satisfy college and university transfer agreement requirements toward a four year degree.

Trade Schools

A trade/vocational school is designed to give students the technical skills to prepare them for a specific occupation. Trade schools can be public or private, but many are for-profit businesses. At a trade school, students can get a degree in fields like information technology, nursing, and health sciences, automotive technician training, and medical assisting. Program lengths vary from eight months to two years. Usually, upon completion of the program, students receive a diploma or trade certificate acknowledging they have successfully finished. For some programs students can earn an associate degree, which is the degree received from a two-year college.

Certificate Programs

A certificate is earned after a student takes a series of classes in a particular subject. Students can earn certificates to get a step ahead in a professional field. These are usually offered at a community college or trade/vocational school.


Cornell University

Be it known that

Jordan Thompson

having satisfied in full the requirements for the degree of

Your Diploma

has been admitted to that degree with all the rights, privileges and honors pertaining thereto in witness of this action the seal of the University and the signatures authorized by the Board of Trustees are affixed below

Given at Ithaca, New York, on the twenty-ninth day of May, in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-four

MAKING THE RIGHT COLLEGE CHOICE

Why do Bloomfield Hills High School graduates attend over 50 different colleges every year?

OUR COUNSELORS STRIVE FOR THE RIGHT MATCH!

The right school for you equals the right course of study + the right price + the right "atmosphere."

☑ ***Know Yourself***

Ask yourself these questions – What is my GPA? What are my ACT or SAT scores? What are my strong subjects? What are my career goals?

☑ ***Establish Your Requirements***

Think about your preferences in these areas: type of college (public, private, two or four year school), geographical location, size, price range, entrance requirements, major and career information, academic level, social and athletic organizations.

☑ ***Research Each School***

Talk with your counselor
Visit the college website
Use the College/Career Resource Center
Research the school's requirements for admissions
Speak with other students
Converse with professionals in fields of your interest
Attend College Night at BHHS
Explore **XELLO**

☑ ***Visit the Campus***

Plan your trip in advance. Check the college website for visitation and tour sign-up. Call the admissions office of the college for information. Visit the school when it is in session and try to stay overnight.

☑ ***Prepare for Campus Interview***

Be prepared to answer questions about yourself such as scholastic standing, test scores, course work, extracurricular activities and work experience. Take a transcript! You may wish to talk about your areas of interest, your plans and objectives, your reasons for interest in the school, and your values and ideals. (Many colleges are only offering interviews for particular college majors.)

☑ ***Know How Colleges Evaluate You***

Evaluations are based on (the order may vary): academic transcript record, upward trend, course selection, test scores, auditions/portfolios, recommendations, extracurricular activities, high school standing, majors and number of applicants.

☑ ***Obtain College Applications***

Most colleges require you to complete your application online. Please check with each college's website to determine when applications are available. Applications are submitted in the fall of the senior year. *Updated high school transcripts will be available after the Senior meeting, the first week of school.*

COLLEGE FAIRS

College Fairs are a great opportunity to speak with college representatives and ask your specific questions. BHHS holds the College Night in October where over 100 colleges and universities are represented.

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

How to Get the Most Out of a College Fair

GOING TO A COLLEGE FAIR

- Take a pen and a small notebook.
- Take a bag to carry the brochures you pick up.
- Print out some address labels with your name, address, phone number, email address, high school, and year of graduation. Spend your time at the college tables asking questions, not filling out contact cards!
- When you arrive, check out the floor plan and find out where the tables for your top choice colleges are located so you can go directly to them.
- Write down your most important questions in advance so you don't forget them.
- Check on whether any information sessions, such as financial aid, are being offered. Interested? Budget your time accordingly.
- Jot down notes about a college while your memory is fresh, such as right after visiting the table.
- Pick up the business cards of any representatives you talk to, so you can contact them if you have any more questions.

AFTER YOU GET HOME

- Make a point of going through the materials and your notes within one week after the fair. You'll probably remember more about your conversations with college representatives while the memories from the fair are still fresh.
- Follow up with any college that interests you by contacting the admission office to ask further questions and, if possible, plan a visit to the campus.

CAMPUS VISITS

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR SEEING A COLLEGE YOURSELF!!

There are many ways to find out about a college – from the internet to brochures to college fairs. The bottom line is that nothing beats the opportunity of going to a college and seeing it for yourself. The following ideas will help you make the most of your campus visit.

BE PREPARED BEFORE YOU GO

Call the admissions office in advance – Just as there is no substitute for seeing a college firsthand, there is no substitute for advance planning. When you call the admissions office, tell them the date you would like to visit and the time of day you expect to arrive. If you want to stay overnight in a residence hall, ask to see if this can be arranged. Also, find out about lining up an interview (if they offer them and you would like one) or attending an information session.

You may also want to visit classes, talk with faculty, and read the campus newspaper. You will be amazed at the informal information you can gather.

Research the college and prepare questions you would like answered. Review the information you have collected about the college. Browse the college's website. This research will help you think of questions to ask and give you knowledge of other areas about the college to explore while you are there. We have provided a list of questions in this section to get you started. As you think of other questions, write them down.



College Search/Visit

Finding the Right College and Program

How to begin your search

- Assemble a list of colleges/universities/trade schools you'd like to attend. Go on campus visits, in-person or virtual.
- Consider attending International Schools, such as Canada. https://www.educanada.ca/index.aspx?lang=eng
- If you prefer online learning, check out the best online colleges. https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/best-colleges-online/
- Be sure to check each school's program offerings. Not all schools offer all programs and degrees.
- List your choices of schools into categories: 1-4 schools that you could definitely get in & 1-2 schools that you could probably get in

Budget how much you can afford for application submission. If the application submission costs for 4 or more schools is too much, narrow your search. Check with colleges' admission offices for application fee waiver codes. If you think you may qualify as *need based*, ask your high school counselor for a fee waiver form.

Things to look for and do for each college visit

- Talk to professors
- Visit the library
- Tour campus
- Sit in on a class
- Eat in the cafeteria
- Talk to the admissions office
- Read the college newspaper
- Visit student housing
- Read bulletin boards
- Check out recreational facilities
- Check out student activities
- Tour the city around campus
- Eat at an off-campus student hang-out
- Picture yourself living there

Ask a student

- What is the best part about this college?
- What is the worst part?
- What is a typical day like?
- What do the students do on the weekends?
- How are the classes structured?
- Why did you choose this college?



QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELORS

General:

- What makes your school different or special?
- How many undergraduates go here?
- What is the average class size here? *(Are there 24 students per class or 50 students per class? This will give you a reasonable idea of how many people will be in class with you.)*
- What is your retention rate? *(This means...the % of first year college students who continue on to their second year at a given institution. It's a great measure of student satisfaction)*The national average retention rate is 77%*
- What is your graduation rate? *(This is the % of students who graduate in 6 years at a 4-year school.)*The national average is 55% (figures for 2009)*

Academics:

- Are certain majors hard to get into? Which ones?
- What are your largest majors on campus?
- Do you offer study abroad opportunities? What countries can students go to?
- What % of graduates go directly into the work force? What % go to grad school?
- Do graduate students teach undergraduates?

Campus Life:

- How large is the campus?
- If the school is far away, ask…How far is the campus from the nearest airport?
- Does the college provide transportation locally? To airports/ shopping areas?
- Are freshman allowed to have cars on campus? What about sophomores?
- How are students assigned to a room and or roommate?
- Are there co-ed dorms? Or are dorms all single-gender?
- What services are provided in the dorms (Ex. laundry, kitchen, air conditioning?)
- What meal plans are available?
- What athletic teams do you have?
- What other activities can students get involved in on campus?

Admission:

- When is your admission deadline?
- Do you require students to submit letters of recommendation to apply?
- Does your application include an essay or multiple essays?
- What is the GPA you are looking for in order to be admitted to your school?
- What is the ACT Score you are looking for?
- Do you have an application deadline?
- How much does it cost to apply?

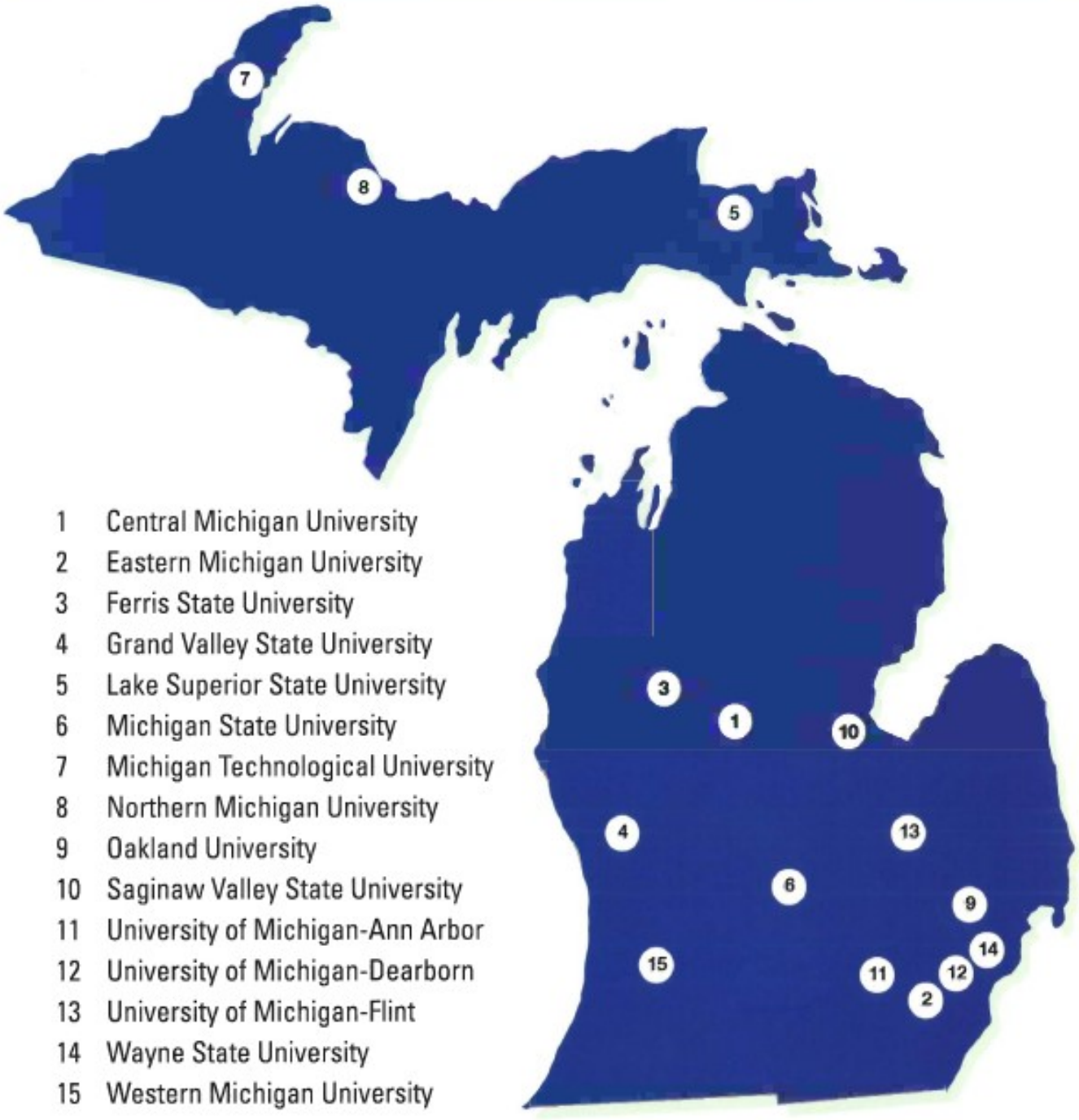
Financial Aid:

- What is the cost of attending this school?
- Do you offer scholarships? What types are available? How do you apply?
- Are there jobs available on campus for all students?
- What %of students receive financial aid?

Academic Assistance:

- What type of academic advising is provided…who helps students figure out which classes to take?
- How do I meet with professors if I have questions or need help?
- Do you offer free tutoring for students?
- Do you offer internships? Are they available for all majors?
- Do you have a career counseling office on campus that helps students?

MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES Guide to Admissions 2024 2025



1 Central Michigan University
2 Eastern Michigan University
3 Ferris State University
4 Grand Valley State University
5 Lake Superior State University
6 Michigan State University
7 Michigan Technological University
8 Northern Michigan University
9 Oakland University
10 Saginaw Valley State University
11 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
12 University of Michigan-Dearborn
13 University of Michigan-Flint
14 Wayne State University
15 Western Michigan University

	First-Year Class Size	*First-Year Class Average GPA*	*First-Year Class Average Test Scores*	*Tuition*
Central Michigan University	2044	3.51	ACT: 24* SAT: 1088 *small number submitted	$14,310
Eastern Michigan University	1600	3.43	SAT: 1050	$15,920
Ferris State University	1608	3.27	ACT: 21 SAT: 1011	$14,778
Grand Valley State University	4000-4500	3.46	ACT: 24 SAT: 1069	In-state: $15,140 Out-of-state: $21,548
Lake Superior State University	350	3.21	N/A	$14,592
Michigan State University	9700	3.7	ACT: 27 SAT: 1270	In-state: $16,522 Out-of-state: $44,726
Michigan Tech University	1463	3.83	ACT: 27 SAT: 1221	In-state: $18,796 Out-of-state: $42,662
Northern Michigan University	1550	3.4	N/A	In-state: $13,992 Out-of-state: $19,488
Oakland University	2236	3.5	ACT: 24 SAT: 1040	In-state: $15,262 Out-of-state: $23,188
Saginaw Valley State University	1325	3.56	ACT: 23 SAT: 1050	In-state: $12,150 Out-of-state: $28,550
University of Michigan- Ann Arbor	7350	3.92	ACT: 32-35 SAT: 1380-1550	In-state: $17,736 Out-of-state: $60,946
University of Michigan- Dearborn	1155	3.7	N/A	In-state: $15,240 Out-of-state: $32,496
University of Michigan- Flint	533	3.49	N/A	In-state: $14,158 Out-of-state: $27,610
Wayne State University	3000	3.43	ACT: 26 SAT: 1163	In-state $14,638 Out-of-state; $31,244
Western Michigan University	2433	3.53	N/A	In-state: $15,252 Out-of-state: $19,034

Early/Middle College programs offer students a unique opportunity to earn college credit wh

	First Year		
	Housing and Food	*Financial Aid and Scholarships (FAFSA Required)*	*Total Cost*
Central Michigan University	$12,178	Automatic consideration and competitive awards cmich.edu/scholarships	cmich.edu/admissions-aid/cmu-cost
Eastern Michigan University	$13,652	Automatic consideration and competitive awards emich.edu/scholarships	emich.edu/finaid/understanding/costs
Ferris State University	$11,462	Automatic consideration TIP Phase 1 & 2 ferris.edu/wnf	ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/costofattendance.htm
Grand Valley State University	$11,550	Automatic consideration and competitive awards gvsu.edu/scholarships	gvsu.edu/financialaid/cost-of-attendance-2024-2025-257.htm
Lake Superior State University	$12,820	Automatic consideration TIP Phase 1 & 2	lssu.edu/financial-aid
Michigan State University	$12,564	Automatic consideration	admissions.msu.edu/cost-aid
Michigan Tech University	$13,050	Automatic consideration	mtu.edu/admissions/tuition
Northern Michigan University	$12,886	Automatic consideration and competitive awards TIP Phase 1 & 2 nmu.edu/scholarships	nmu.edu/tuition
Oakland University	$10,662	Automatic consideration March 1, 2025 priority deadline oakland.edu/scholarships	oakland.edu/tuition
Saginaw Valley State University	$12,340	Automatic consideration	svsu.edu/tuition
University of Michigan- Ann Arbor	$15,328	Automatic consideration (CSS Profile required) Suggested filing date Dec. 15 finaid.umich.edu/types-aid/scholarships	finaid.umich.edu/getting-started/estimating-costs
University of Michigan- Dearborn	N/A	Automatic consideration umdearborn.edu/financial-aid/types-aid/scholarships/incoming-first-year-undergraduates	umdearborn.edu/fa_costdetail
University of Michigan- Flint	$10,832	Automatic consideration	umflint.edu/studentaccounts/tuition-fees
Wayne State University	$11,956	Automatic consideration wayne.edu/scholarships	wayne.edu/tuition
Western Michigan University	$12,174	wmich.edu/finaid/aid-types/institutional-offers/first-year-scholarships	wmich.edu/registrar/tuition

g in high school. These students are considered entering first-year students, even if an associates degree is earned prior to high sc

	Test Optional + Official Transcripts (Unless Noted)	*App Deadline*	*Decision Release Dates*	*App Fee (Fee Waivers Available)*
Central Michigan University	Yes, unofficial transcripts allowed	Rolling, Dec. 1 priority deadline for scholarships	Rolling	$40
Eastern Michigan University	Yes, no longer accepting self-reported admission information	Rolling	Rolling	$35
Ferris State University	Yes	Rolling	Rolling	Free
Grand Valley State University	Yes	Rolling, March 1 for merit scholarships	Rolling	Free
Lake Superior State University	Yes, self-reported	Rolling	Rolling	Free
Michigan State University	Yes, self-reported	EA: Nov. 1 Regular: Feb. 1	EA: by Jan. 25 Regular: by March 31	$65 domestic $75 international
Michigan Tech University	Yes with 3.0 GPA	Priority Deadline: Nov. 1 Regular: by Feb. 1	Priority: by Jan. 15 Regular: by March 1	Free
Northern Michigan University	Yes	Rolling, Oct. 14, 21, or 28 for Presidential Scholars Competition	Rolling	Free
Oakland University	Yes	Rolling, recommended Fall: Aug. 1; Winter: Dec. 1; Summer: July 1	Rolling	Free
Saginaw Valley State University	Yes	Rolling, Dec. 1 for President's Scholarship consideration	Rolling	Free
University of Michigan- Ann Arbor	Yes, self-reported	EA: Nov. 1 Regular: Feb. 1	EA: end of January Regular: early April	$75
University of Michigan- Dearborn	Yes	Rolling, Recommended Application & FAFSA Submission: Feb. 1 Preferred Deadline: April 1 Final Deadline: Aug. 15	Rolling	Free
University of Michigan- Flint	Yes	Rolling, March 1 for True Blue full tuition scholarship	Rolling	Free
Wayne State University	Yes	Rolling, Priority Deadline: Dec. 1 Scholarship Deadline: April 1 Final Deadline: Aug. 1	Rolling	$25
Western Michigan University	Yes	Fall EA: Dec. 15, Rolling admission: June 1; Spring: Jan. 1; Summer I: May 1; Summer II: June 15	Rolling, variable by program	$40

ool graduation. We welcome students in **Early/Middle College** programs to apply and enroll.

CRITERIA FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

1. High School Transcript

- The quality of work during all four years

  Types of classes taken – Did you challenge yourself? What classes are you taking during your senior year? How many academics have you taken? What are your grades in the academic classes? Did you take advantage of the rigorous and demanding courses avail able to you? What is your overall grade point average? What is your recalculated academic grade point average? (Some schools recalculate, not all.)

  Colleges and universities like to see a minimum of four academic classes per semester. (Most prefer five Academics include English, Science, Social Studies, Math and World Languages.)

  Overall trend of the student: Consistent grade point average, Upward trend; overall improvement

- If there appears to be a problem during a particular semester, is there a reason for the discrepancy? (This could be due to illness, family problems, etc., and may have to be explained.)

2. Standardized Test Scores

- The more selective the school, the higher test scores are expected. Some colleges and universities use the test scores for placement rather than admission.

- Report high AP scores on application; do not send scores; only send score to the college you will attend.

3. Extra-curricular Activities

- These can include involvement in clubs, organizations, athletics.

- Community Service

4. Letters of Recommendation

- These should come from core teachers and/or counselors. Juniors should plan to ask for letters at the end of their junior year. A thank you letter should always be sent to the recommender.

5. Essay(s)

- Colleges and universities are looking to hear your "voice". Essays should be well-written, personal and thoughtful.

6. Additional Admissions Criteria

- When two students are fairly equal in most components, the college or university will look for *uniqueness* between applicants.

- Bloomfield Hills High School will provide a weighted & unweighted GPA on your transcript for AP & IB classes. Bloomfield Hills High School does not rank students. Our students are not penalized in any fashion because we do not rank. We provide a Bloomfield Hills Profile with every submitted application. This gives detailed information about the high school and provides a graphic breakdown and representation of earned grade point averages. Even though a specific rank is not given, a general computation of approximate value can be determined (i.e., top ten percent of the class, top twenty-five percent of the class, etc.).

TIPS FOR APPLYING ONLINE



When applying to ANY College or University REMEMBER to:

✔ Create an account on the school's website as well as common application if applicable.
BE SURE TO WRITE DOWN YOUR USERNAME AND PASSWORD FOR EACH SCHOOL.

✔ Include application fee (payable by credit card). **If you qualify for free & reduced lunch, see your Counselor for a college application fee waiver.**

✔ Include your (APPROPRIATE) email address. Do **NOT** use your Bloomfield Hills High School email.

✔ Submit the required personal statement and essay. Always include the optional essay *because it's not optional.*

✔ Read the online application slowly and answer all questions carefully. Before you submit your application, review everything for accuracy.

✔ Save your work frequently.

✔ Always print your final application and keep a copy for your records.

NACAC
National Association for College Admission Counseling

DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST *SUITS YOU*?

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll and withdraw all other applications. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

For a copy of this flyer, please visit www.nacacnet.org



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

How do I get a letter of recommendation from my teacher or counselor?

- Ask your teacher/counselor for a recommendation in advance and in person. Give them ***at least two weeks notice*** prior to the date you wish it sent and indicate the deadline date.

- Supply information for your teacher/counselor about yourself in written form (i.e., senior questionnaire, resume, etc.). Include where the letter of recommendation should be sent: email or postal mail. If postal mail, provide the recommender with a stamped, addressed envelope.

- **ONLY** ask for the number of letters the school is requesting.

- **DO NOT** ask the teacher/counselor for a copy of the recommendation. Recommendations are meant to be kept confidential.

- Wait two weeks – then confirm with your teacher/counselor that the recommendation was submitted.

VERY IMPORTANT – follow up with a personal thank you note to the teacher or counselor.



CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

Your High School Résumé

A helpful resource to have during the college and scholarship application process is a résumé. A résumé provides a quick summary of your extracurricular activities, special abilities and talents, and leadership skills. You may want to prepare several versions for different audiences (colleges, scholarship organizations, etc.). Be sure to have several people review your drafts for feedback on format and information.

KEY FEATURES OF AN EFFECTIVE RÉSUMÉ

- **Be concise:** Most readers will not have time to review a lengthy, rambling résumé. You want to make the most of the time you have their attention.
- **Prioritize:** Know your audience and what information will be most important for them to see. Choose your key activities or skills to highlight at the beginning of the document. This shouldn't be a long list of activities, but rather the top activities to which you have committed a longer period of time and had in-depth participation.
- **Highlight honors and awards:** With the name of the award be sure to summarize what the award was for, why you received it, and the date.
- **Provide detail:** Give a short description of the activity, time commitment, specific projects on which you served, and the leadership roles and your specific responsibilities in that position.
- **Avoid acronyms:** Although initials may reference a school club, an acronym may have no meaning to your reader. Be sure to provide a clear name of the group, and if not self-explanatory, a short description of the club's purpose.
- **Include summer programs or jobs:** Be sure to provide a brief description of the program or your job responsibilities.

YOUR AUDIENCES

- **Colleges:** If the college requires or encourages the inclusion of a résumé with the application, be sure to do so. You don't need to repeat any academic information that is available on other parts of the application (i.e., transcript).
- **Scholarship organizations:** Be sure to highlight your specific achievements or talents that meet the criteria for the scholarship. This is where your details and descriptions can be very important.
- **Educators:** For someone writing a recommendation for you, a résumé can be helpful in reminding them of your talents outside the classroom.
- **Teachers:** Mention a specific class assignment, project, or participation that they can reference in their recommendation.
- **Counselors:** Highlight any specific circumstance you would want them to comment on in their letter.
- **Interviewers:** If you are interviewing for a college, scholarship, internship, or job, you may want to have a résumé to give to the interviewer or to include in your follow-up thank-you note.

WRITING THE COLLEGE RESUME

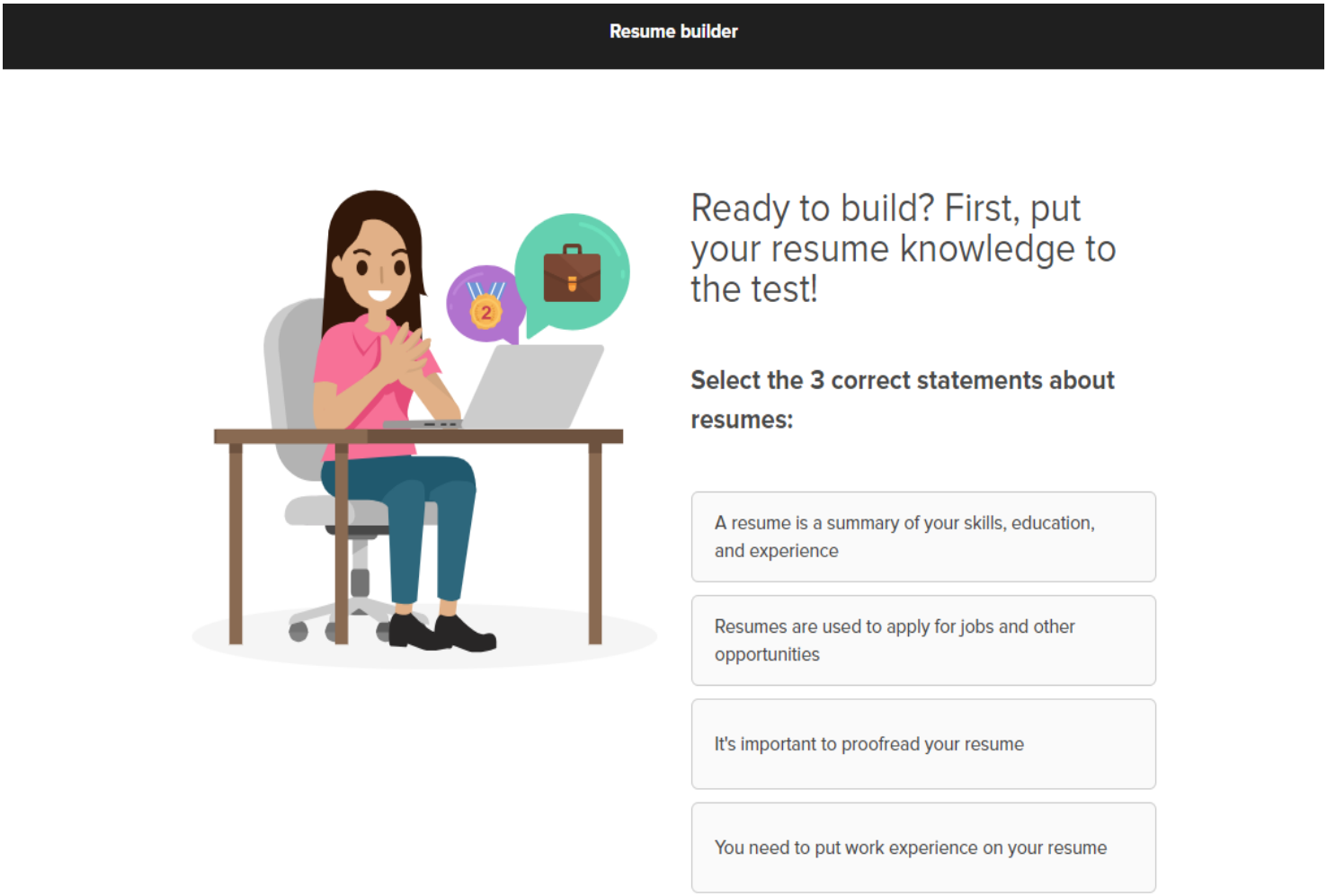
The college resume represents a snapshot of your high school academic record and extracurricular activities.

Xello has a resume builder. We highly encourage you to use it to build and store your resume in your Xello account.

It is helpful to include a list of all honors and AP/IB classes on your resume.

Your resume should be a clear and concise 1 -2 page summary of your accomplishments, abilities and interests. It is a quick and easy way for college admissions officers to see what you've done during high school and what you'll contribute to their student body.

The following samples represent strong examples of high school students' resumes. (These samples are provided by Adventures in Education – www.aie.org.)



Sample Resume 1

PERRY JAMESON
1515 Stanley Drive #62
Hometown, KS 66202
perry.jameson@dbplanet.com
(913) 555-1938

OBJECTIVE
To obtain knowledge of the day-to-day workings of a communications, public relations, or publishing firm through a part-time job or summer internship.

EDUCATION
Completed three years at Hometown High School.
Graduation date: May 2023
G.P.A. 3.85. Top 5% of class.

EXPERIENCE
Newspaper Staff Member, Hometown High School

- Aug 2020 - present. Features editor of campus newspaper.

Aug 2020 - Aug 2021. Researched information for news articles using library and Web sources. Composed and edited informational articles, columns, editorials, and advertising copy.

Yearbook Committee Member, Hometown High School

- Aug 2020 - present. Editor-in-chief of yearbook staff. Leader of design and publication teams from initial layout through finished product.
- Aug 2020 - Aug 2021. Yearbook staff member. Experience taking photographs, designing layout, and writing captions and sidebars.

RELEVANT HIGH SCHOOL STUDIES
Technical writing; advanced composition; debate; video production; computer classes providing knowledge of word processing, desktop publishing, and Web software.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND MEMBERSHIPS

- U.S. Media Association Scholarship recipient Scholarship based on academic achievement, community service, and campus participation and leadership in high school communications projects and studies.
- 2020Best High School Newspaper Design winner Central State Regional Communications Contest, sponsored by the Communications Department, State University.
- President of high school chapter of Future Communicators of America (FCA), 2020- present Member, 2020 - present.
- Treasurer of National Honor Society, 2020 - present

Sample Resume 2

Roberta Jordan
12345 Hemingway Ln.
Austin, TX 78722
(512) 456-7891 – R.Jordan@email.com

Work Experience

Country Club - summer 2020 and 2021
Lifeguard

- Monitored swimming areas for rule violations and drowning victims.
- Assisted in maintaining pool facilities and recreation areas surrounding pool areas.
- Supervised entertainment activities sponsored by country club.
- Worked assigned shifts at check-in and concession stand.
- Attended training courses and maintained CPR certification.
- Taught summer swimming classes.

Hawkins, Robins, Warbler and Finch, Attorneys at Law - Fall 2019- Fall 2020

- Picked-up and delivered catering and supplies for luncheons and corporate functions.
- In-house mail delivery and sorting.
- In-house document delivery.
- Office supply pick-up for local merchants.
- Assisted clerk in the law library.

Delivered documents to and from the courthouse and other law offices.

Volunteer Work

Big Brothers/Big Sisters – 2020-2021

- Assisted with and participated in group activities and field trips.
- Monitored youth during activities.
- Tutored ages 8-13 and assisted with homework assignments.

Texas School for the Blind -2021 - Book Reader

- Read literary masterpieces into a tape recorder for use by the community.

Assisted with volunteer office duties.

School Organizations

National Honor Society - 2020, 2021
Pep Squad - 2020 and 2021
Decorations Committee Chair - 2021
Latin Club - 2020 - 2021
Secretary - 2020
Vice President - 2021
Senior Student Council Representative - 2021
Secretary - 2020

Education

City High School 2020 - 2023
May 2023 Graduation – GPA 3.45
May also include Honors and AP courses

Sample Resume 3

Joe Smith

▪ 4681 Myers Road ▪ Anytown, TN 54321 ▪ joesmith@gmail.com ▪ (123) 333-6789

EDUCATION - Bloomfield Hills High School 2020-2023

Academics

- GPA – 3.95
- ACT 29 (English 26, Math 30, Reading 30, Science 32)
- Honors: National Honor Society
- Intended Field of Study: Computer Science/Engineering

Curriculum

- Senior Year: AP Physics C (self-taught on line class), AP Calculus BC, AP English: Literature and Composition, Honors STEM Engineering, English Applications
- Junior Year: AP Calculus AB, American Literature, Anatomy and Physiology, Economics, AP American Government, Intro to Design Environment, Intro to Design Concepts and Methodology, Web Design
- Sophomore Year: Pre-Calculus, Honors Writing Literature II, Honors Physics, Honors Chemistry, AP US History, Spanish 200, Java Programming
- Freshman Year: Honors Algebra II Accelerated, English 9, Biology, Earth Science, Spanish 100, World History, Geography
- 8th Grade: High School Geometry Accelerated
- 7th Grade: High School Algebra 1

ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS

Academic

▪ National Honor Society ▪ Academic Achievement Award (9th, 10th, 11th Grades) ▪ Academic Varsity Letter

Athletic

▪ JV Tennis ▪ Hockey ▪ Varsity Letter/Football ▪ Varsity Award/2011 Football ▪ MHSAA District Championship 2011

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- My Brother's Keeper Ministry – Detroit. Helped rebuild a church and served meals to the homeless
- Special Olympics at Oakland University
- Knight of Stars (Special Olympic football game held annually at Bloomfield Hills High School)

INTERNSHIP

- Bloomfield Hills School IT Department (Internships) – Summer 2021

CLUBS

▪ Student Respect for Self and Others Club (SOS) ▪ Fellowship Christian Athlete

Tips for writing your

College application essay.....

Here's advice from the people who read them!

Does writing a college application essay seem like a daunting task to you? For most people, the answer is a resounding "yes!" However, the essay is also an opportunity for you to show your talents and creativity to their best advantage.

To help you get started, here are some insights on writing an essay from the people who read hundreds of them every year —admission officers at ACM colleges.

The essay is your chance to use your voice

The essay is the living, breathing part of your application to a college. In the essay, you can speak in your own voice and **personalize** your application. Here's your opportunity to show something about you that doesn't really come across elsewhere in your application.

So, step back and be reflective. Think about who you are as an individual. How do you view the world? What do you care about deeply? What experiences and people have been important in shaping you as a person? What are your aspirations in life?

It is in such reflection that you can find your own, unique voice. That's the voice that will help you write an interesting essay that only **you** could have written.

Now, on to some nuts and bolts of writing the essay.

Show your command of the basics of good writing

Here are some key points that admission officers look for in an essay:

- Make sure to **answer the essay question** and to follow **all** the instructions that are given.
- Start off with a strong opening paragraph that captures the reader's interest.
- Use a style that you find comfortable and that is appropriate for the subject matter.
- Use correct grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Make a point and stick to it; develop your argument or narrative.
- Check **all** of your facts. Do you mention a date, place or event in your essay? Make sure it's correct.
- Have you given your reader complete information, so he or she won't be confused?

(continued)

Why do colleges require essays?

A college application includes a lot of information about you, such as grades, recommendations, lists of your extracurricular activities and test scores. All of that information is very important and helps admission officers form a picture of your accomplishments and abilities. However, while it tells about how other people see you, there isn't much about how you see yourself. It's that inside view —how you see yourself —that colleges hope to find in your essay.

The essay performs other functions, as well, such as:

- The essay can be a way of showing that you have researched and thought carefully about the college to which you are applying. It shows, in your own words, why you and the college would be a good "match."
- An essay demonstrates your writing ability, which is a key component to success in college.
- In your essay, you can show that you are willing to put **yourself** into what you do. That kind of commitment is an important part of effective learning in college. And it shows the admission committee that you are someone who is willing and able to be a contributing member of a community of learners.
- Your academic record is the central and most important part of your application. For selective colleges especially, your essay provides additional insights about you —as a student and as an individual —for a college to consider as it reviews your application.

ACM
ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE MIDWEST

Beloit • Carleton • Coe • Colorado • Cornell • Grinnell • Knox
Lake Forest • Lawrence • Luther • Macalester • Monmouth • Ripon • St. Olaf

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- In general, it's best to be succinct. If there a recommended length for the essay, pay attention to it.
- The essay should be neatly typed.
- Remember that mistakes, especially sloppy mistakes, make it look like you don't take the essay (and, by extension, the application) very seriously.

What to write about? Where to look for an essay topic

Does the application ask you to choose a topic to write about? There are as many (actually, many more) good topics as there are applicants. Here are some ideas for where you might look for an essay topic:

- Do you have hobbies and non-school pursuits that really excite you and that engage your heart and mind? Writing about your out-of-classroom interests could help bring out a part of you that's not covered — or not covered completely and to your fullest advantage — elsewhere in your application.
- Is there a social cause that you hold near and dear? Remember, an essay is not an academic paper; but a cause that you feel passionately about, and that has been in your thoughts and activities, might be the basis for a strong essay.
- Perhaps there is an event (local, national or international) that has touched you in a personal way.
- Is there an academic subject that really sparks your interest? Why does the subject engage you? Has it led to experiences or study outside of school? There may be essay material that goes beyond the courses you took or scores on AP tests.

How to handle a topic

Often, colleges will ask you, the applicant, to write about an experience you've had, an achievement in your life, or someone who has had a significant influence on your life. In handling such a topic — or, for that matter, any topic you select — go beyond the ***what*** and dig into the ***how*** and ***why***. In other words, don't settle for simply providing a description of an event. Take the next step and tell about the impact the situation had on you. For example:

- This is a personal essay, not a travelogue. So, if you're writing about a trip to another country, tell about how your experiences effected you, and why they were interesting or meaningful to you. In other words, the people reading the essay are interested in what makes you tick and how you got the way you are, not in how the trains run in Paris.
- Are you writing a tribute to your grandparents and their influence on your childhood? Be personal and specific, not just sentimental. Explain how the particular things your grandparents did or said were important to you.
- Did you overcome an athletic injury and recover to perform well? A description of the type of cast you wore and your rehab routine is not likely to make a compelling essay. However, your reflections on what it felt like to be watching your teammates, instead of competing alongside them, might be the basis of a memorable essay.

Possible pitfalls when writing an essay

- Writing a poem or making a videotape in place of an essay is probably not a good idea, unless you're applying to a specialized school that encourages such a submission.
- Humor can be risky, so be careful how you use it.
- "Honor code" rules are in effect when you write an essay, so do your own work and don't make things up.

  As a practical matter, other items in the application, such as letters of recommendation, make it quite possible that you would be found out if you tried to make things up.

Some final tips

- **Leave yourself time to rewrite and revise.** For the great majority of people, this is not an easy assignment. Start early and leave plenty of time! Most likely that means to give yourself weeks (not days, and certainly not hours!) to rework your essay.
- If your essay is longer than three pages (unless the instructions call for something longer), then it had better be interesting! Think hard about what you really want to focus on, and take out whatever gets away from your central point.
- **The admission committee will take your essay seriously.** You should, too. You have a lot to gain by putting in the time and effort to write a good essay!

Suggested reading

The College Application Essay by Sarah Myers McGinty (The College Board, New York, NY).

ACM This *College Guide* handout is published by the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. Visit the ACM website for more pre-college planning materials. www.acm.edu
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WRITE AN ATTENTION-GRABBING COLLEGE ESSAY

Four essay myths debunked – and the facts that make a difference.

BY KIM LIFTON

Fall of senior year is officially crunch time, especially if your child is eyeing early admission deadlines. But that's no reason to get worked up. There's one thing left to do for your child to stand out: nail that college essay!

You can help your child by sharing these four college essay myths and facts before they write their essays and click send to the schools of their dreams.

● **MYTH:** *An application essay has to be written about an impressive topic.*

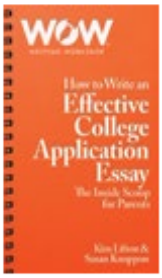
● **FACT: Your child is impressive, not the topic.**

A college application essay is all about reflection; it's an opportunity for applicants to share something meaningful about themselves.

"We get a lot of essays about mission trips, camp counselors and sports injuries," says Kim Bryant, assistant director of admissions at the University of Michigan, adding students list what they did at camp (playing archery, riding in a boat, meeting a lot of really great people) without sharing much about themselves.

Bryant and other admissions officers want to read more compelling essays that "tell us how that experience affected" the student.

"The essay does not have to be about something huge, some life-changing event," says Calvin Wise, director of recruitment at Johns Hopkins University. "You can write about an 'aha' moment, what defines you as a person. But it doesn't have to be really extensive. ... What does it mean to you? That is what we want to know."



GET MORE TIPS!

Download a free electronic copy of Kim Lifton's book *How to Write an Effective College Application Essay, The Inside Scoop for Parents* at wowwritingworkshop.com/free-parent-book.

● **MYTH:** *A college entrance essay should sound sophisticated, like Hemingway or a college professor.*

● **FACT: A college essay should sound like the applicant who wrote it.**

The college essay is your child's story, and it should be written using their words, in their voice. Your son or daughter is a high school senior, and the essay should sound like one. Not mom, dad or their English teacher. And certainly not one of the most revered writers of all time!

"I wish I saw more of a thoughtful voice of a 17-year-old," says Christoph Guttentag, Duke University's dean of undergraduate admissions. "By the time the applications come to us, many of them have gone through so many hands that the essays are sanitized."

● **MYTH:** *There is a right way and a wrong way to write an essay.*

● **FACT: Your child's best story will grow out of the process of writing a college application essay.**

There are no tricks or shortcuts to writing the perfect college application essay. It's less stressful if your child allows it to emerge from a process of discovery that includes brainstorming, free writing, revision, review and editing.

● **MYTH:** *Only superstar students impress admission officers with their essays.*

● **FACT: Anyone can stand out with a great story!**

Your child doesn't have to rescue a child from a house fire, get a million downloads for an app they developed or train seeing-eye dogs to impress admission officers.

"I think sometimes students feel that because they haven't found the cure for cancer they have nothing to share," says Vanderbilt University's assistant director for undergraduate admissions Jan Deike. "Life is truly lived in the smaller moments."

Kim Lifton is president of Wow Writing Workshop, a strategic communication and writing services company that is a leading expert on the college application essay. She works directly with students, and trains school counselors, English teachers and independent educational consultants. Reach her at kim@wowwritingworkshop.com.

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

College Essay Advice for Seniors

by Patrick O'Connor, Ph.D.

This piece was a big hit when it first appeared a few years ago, and many counselors on social media are looking for advice to give students about college essays.

In an encore presentation, I still live to serve.

Students, you amaze me. You love to share your opinions. I know this, because you share them **everywhere—**Chattersnap, Gramphoto, and all the rest of those social media sites I know nothing about, other than you use them because *you love to talk about yourselves.*

Except when it comes to college essays.

If I asked you for 650 words on your impressions of *Riverdale,* you'd go on for weeks. But colleges want 650 words about your favorite place in the world, and you say things like "The library. Gotta love that big dictionary."

I'll die alone. I'll sing alone.

Your college wants you to come to campus, talk with them for three hours, eat lunch, and go home. If they did admissions that way, they'd probably get great students—and by the time they were done interviewing everyone, each of those students would be 45 years old.
So you aren't writing essays—you're having a conversation, except you're putting what you have to say on paper. That means you'll want to do this:

Stop guessing. When a college asks "Name a problem you'd like to solve", there's no one right answer for everybody. Cure cancer? Great. The need for your mother to work three jobs? Absolutely. The squeak in your garage door? That can work, too—as long as it means something to you, and you can convey that meaning. This isn't Algebra; you get to decide what the answer is, and why it makes sense. Put it down on paper, put the commas in the right place, and you're good to go.

Tell a story. Remember the time you told your best friend about the first concert you went to, or the best pizza you ever ate? You were on fire at the end of the story, genuinely excited at the chance to share part of your life with them. *That's* how you should feel once you're done writing a college essay. This isn't a speech you give to thousands of people; it's a story that means something to you, and you're telling it to someone who really wants to hear it. Save the speech; tell the tale.

Head or heart? Some students think the key to a great essay is to pack it with facts that make you sound like a brainiac, while others say the college will only beg you to come if they need a whole box of tissues to get through your essay. Life is a little of both, and so are college essays. Show the colleges what you think about, and why it means something to you. This will let them know you're past the drama and trauma of teenagehood, and eager to embrace the tasks of becoming a thoughtful, caring adult.

Answer the question. If the college asks "Who do you admire?" and they still don't know your answer once they've read your essay, you've given them one more reason to reject you. Ducking the question may work in Washington, but it doesn't play well in admissions offices. If they want to know, you need to tell them.

Your goal is to write an essay that sounds so much like a conversation, they'll be surprised you aren't in the room with them when they're finished reading it.

Kind of like Gramphoto. But with words.

ELIGIBILITY CENTER

NCAA Link

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY FAQ
2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR AND BEYOND

In January 2023, NCAA Divisions I and II adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements for students who initially enroll full time in an NCAA member school on or after August 1, 2023.

The questions and answers below have been developed to assist in understanding this new legislation and ensuring awareness regarding COVID-19 policies that may apply to students who initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year and beyond.

FAQ Topics – Quick Links

Submission of Academic Documents Academic Evaluations Prior Classes

Initial-Eligibility Standards – 2023-24 Academic Year and Beyond

Q1: What initial-eligibility standards apply to students who initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year and beyond?

A1: The following initial-eligibility standards apply to students who **initially enroll full time in the 2023-24 academic year and beyond**:

INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS — 2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR AND BEYOND*		
Standard	Division I	Division II
Qualifier Athletics aid, practice and competition.	Complete Academic Record: » Core-course progression (10/7) before starting 7th semester;* » 16 core-course units in the required subject areas; » ≥ 2.300 core-course GPA; and » Proof of graduation.	Complete Academic Record: » 16 core-course units in the required subject areas; » ≥ 2.200 core-course GPA; and » Proof of graduation.
Early Academic Qualifier** Athletics aid, practice and competition.	Pre-7th Semester: » 14 core-course units in the required subject areas; and » ≥ 3.000 core-course GPA.	Pre-7th Semester: » 14 core-course units in the required subject areas; and » ≥ 2.500 core-course GPA.
Academic Redshirt Athletics aid (1st year) and practice (1st term).	Complete Academic Record: » 16 core-course units in the required subject areas; » ≥ 2.000 core-course GPA; and » Proof of graduation.	N/A***

**Students certified based solely on international credentials are exempt from the 10/7 core-course progression requirement. **Final high school transcripts are required. ***Please see linked resources for additional information regarding Division I and Division II standards.*

Division I Academic Standards

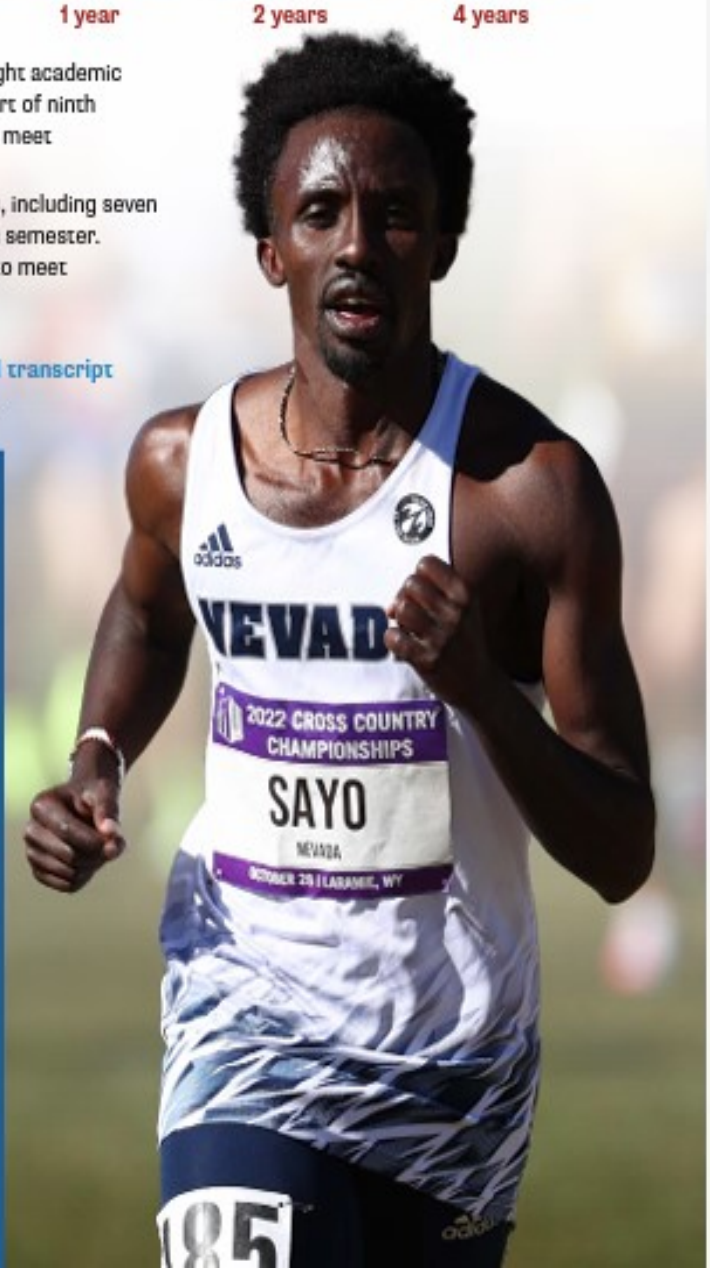
Division I schools require you to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year of full-time enrollment, you must meet the following requirements:

NCAA DIVISION I

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE (including one year of lab, if offered)	EXTRA (English, math or science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	OTHER (Any area listed to the left or courses listed in additional discipline (world language, comparative religion or philosophy)
4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year	2 years	4 years

2. Complete your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade. If you graduate from high school early, you still must meet core-course requirements.
3. Complete 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math or science, before the start of your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, any course needed to meet the 10/7 requirement cannot be replaced or repeated.
4. Earn a minimum 2.3 core-course GPA.
5. Ask your high school counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.



EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

If you meet **specific criteria** after six semesters of high school, you may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division I and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

QUALIFIER

You may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

You may practice during your first regular academic term and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment but may NOT compete during your first year of full-time enrollment. You must pass either eight quarter or nine semester hours to practice in the next term.

NONQUALIFIER

You will not be able to practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

Division II Academic Standards

Division II schools require you to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year of full-time enrollment, you must meet the following requirements:

DIVISION II

MAKE IT YOURS.

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE (including one year of lab, if offered)	EXTRA (English, math or science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	OTHER Any area listed to the left or courses listed in additional discipline (world language, comparative religion or philosophy)
3 years	2 years	2 years	3 years	2 years	4 years

2. Earn a minimum 2.2 **core-course GPA**.
3. Ask your high school counselor to upload your **final official transcript** with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.

EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

If you meet **specific criteria** after six semesters of high school, you may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division II and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

QUALIFIER

You may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

PARTIAL QUALIFIER

You may practice and receive an athletics scholarship but may NOT compete during your first year of full-time enrollment.



NCAA RECRUITMENT

Throughout the past 14 years in college admission I have observed athletic recruiting, coached a nationally competitive collegiate club team and worked with student-athletes and their parents. I have done presentations regarding athletic recruitment and the ways in which one might be recruited. Through all of this, I find it rare that a paid athletic consultant does anything more than the student or parent cannot do themselves.

It is my observation that division one recruits are sought out by division one coaches. And the same recruitment process occurs as you continue through the various NCAA levels, NAIA and club sports (yes, competitive clubs even recruit now and coaches find those who can compete at their level). Coaches find good student-athletes who fit well into their program and/or system.

The single most important aspect of a college search is finding the right fit and only one person can determine that fit, the prospective student-athlete. Not an athletic consultant. If he or she is at the highest level of NCAA Division 1, they will be found by a coach attempting to build a strong program. Analyze the successful Division 3 programs, they seek a high level student-athlete looking for a major they offer in a location they desire. If your a school, college or independent counselor, work with these students on the fulfillment of their interests and then have the student-athletes and their parents begin reaching out to coaches.

The majority of students not recruited by an NCAA Division I school by the end of their junior year should consider other options. That doesn't always mean Division II because they are the next scholarship level. There are many D3s that have stronger programs than their close counterpart D2 programs. With so many institutions being enrollment driven, you must be careful of the D2 scholarship or financial aid offer. Many schools want the butt in the seat and will give a false appearance of an "athletic scholarship" making the student feel as if they made the team. Reality is, they have a nice financial and merit scholarship offer, not athletic offer and may be the last man or woman off the bench. It's my buyer beware statement for this message! Remember, if you don't have "athletic money" built into your financial aid package, you have until

May 1st to weight your options regardless of what a coach might tell you.

Meet with coaches in person. Ask them tough questions. Ask them if this is an athletic scholarship or financial aid offer when high receive your aid award. Ask where you fit in the depth chart. In some sports it's easy. You shoot 77 on 18 and their second man/woman averages 79, you'll likely make it. Consider who's calling you and how often. Head coach or full time assistant or a GA. Some GAs are assigned territories to recruit and some are calling the "admission student referrals". Attend camps as many coaches are there to find talented student-athletes and often times from many levels. Don't be afraid to visit several schools and weigh options until May 1st of you don't have athletic money. If you have trouble connecting with a coach on a campus you consider to be a good fit and they are an enrollment driven institution, call the Office of Admission to help you.

Most of all, find a great fit where you'll have a phenomenal four years because as we all know, less than 1% are playing sports professionally.

Not sure this was all helpful, but maybe there are 1 or two takeaways. In the end, I'd advocate the student and parents begin with identifying schools that are great academic fits or the right location and then begin contacting coaches if they haven't contacted you already. Anybody can
find a school to continue sports, just depends on how far you'll travel and what the family can afford.

Have a great weekend.

Ross R. Grippi II
Baldwin Wallace University
Director of Undergraduate
Recruitment and Marketing

ADDITIONAL POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS

COMMUNITY COLLEGES/VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS/EMPLOYMENT

A four year college or university is not the right choice for all of our graduates. Some students may choose to attend a two year community college to explore areas of interest, use transfer credits to a four year university, or receive certifications. Others may choose a technical school to learn a specific skill or occupation. Joining the armed services or the work force may be an appropriate choice for a student. The following resources may be beneficial to those students who elect not to continue their studies in a traditional university or college setting.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The American Association of Community Colleges (aacc.nche.edu) features community college finders, academic resources and publications for potential students. Several community colleges are in close proximity of Bloomfield Hills High school, including:

Oakland Community College (campuses in Auburn Hills, Farmington Hills, Royal Oak, Southfield and Waterford)

Lansing Community College (Lansing, Howell and St Johns)

Macomb Community College (campuses in Clinton Township and Warren)

Schoolcraft College (Livonia)

VOCATIONAL/TRADE/CAREER SCHOOLS

Vocational and similar schools teach students skills necessary to perform a particular job. Most trade schools design their curriculum for fields with future employment opportunities.

The Technical Schools Guide (https://www.trade-schools.net/) lists technical schools in the United States and Michigan, as well as local career and job fairs.

Only Trade Schools (https://www.onlytradeschools.com/michigan/) site compiles information about 10 of the best trade schools in Michigan. Click on page navigation on website.

Compare Top Schools (www.comparetopschools.com) lists vocational and career schools in Michigan.

Oakland Schools Technical Campuses (https://www.ostconline.com/ When space allows, high school graduates may take additional course work (tuition required.)

CAREER SPECIFIC INSTITUTIONS

Specs Howard School of Media Arts (ltu.edu/specs/) is a career school within Lawrence Technological University which offers programs of study in Broadcast Media Arts, Graphic Design and Digital Media Arts.

College of Technology (https://miat.edu/) Since 1969, MIAT College of Technology has helped thousands of individuals get the industry-relevant skills, experience and connections it takes to pursue rewarding technical careers. See page 61.

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Many individuals have a negative perception of community college. We're here to set your mind at ease and enlighten you about the advantages of community college so you can make the best decision for your future.

1. Financial Relief
Universities are expensive. We've all heard about the crippling debt that comes with student loans and wish to avoid it like the plague. Fortunately, community colleges do not cost an arm and a leg to attend.

Community colleges provide some of the lowest higher education prices for college courses, offering you a financial edge whether you want to save money or seek a more cost effective route to higher education. It will feel fantastic getting your first two years of college courses out of the way before you transfer to a university. You can save money, make friends, join clubs, and stay active while saving money! It's fantastic.

2. A Chance to Keep Improving
You might not have performed well in high school. Community colleges allow you to improve your overall information and can present you as a fantastic candidate. When you attend a community college, your high school records are not as vital as they formerly were. After attending community college and improving there, you can transfer to the university right for you, giving your academic record a fresh start.

3. Flexibility in Timing
One of the many advantages of community college is the ability to plan your classes around your schedule. Community colleges offer night programs, allowing you to schedule your sessions whenever you choose without concern of losing out on your education. It is a fantastic option for individuals who work and have families.

4. Qualified Teachers
Many people believe that community colleges lack qualified teachers and professors. In reality, many skilled instructors teach at community colleges.

In addition, many academics choose employment at community colleges because of the flexible hours, passion for teaching, and desire to complete their work. Students can take advantage of this and get their education from qualified professionals.

5. Transfer to a Traditional College/University
The student may transfer to a four-year college or university at any time. Not just that, but students have the option of taking their community college credit with them, ensuring that their time doesn't get squandered.

6. Smaller Classrooms
Surprisingly, community institutions have a smaller student population per classroom. However, it is an excellent aspect since this atmosphere allows students and teachers to learn about one another. It also allows students to learn at their own pace and to ask as many questions as they want. They can move from the high school environment, transition into college, and create relationships that last.

7. A Chance to Select A Major Without Pressure
Not everyone has everything figured out. Nobody knows what the next step is. When universities are expensive, it might be frightening to select a degree without knowing if you want to pursue it later in life or not.

It is something that a community college can assist you with quickly. Without the extra burden of financial loss, you may attend classes at your local community college and evaluate what degree matches your needs.

The great aspect about community college is that you can try out courses and still stay on track without breaking the bank. This is not so at universities as they may have more stringent academic plans.

8. Transfer Credits
A two-year community college program allows you to transfer your credits to a four-year college/university to pursue a bachelor's degree. It is a fantastic method to acquire an education while simultaneously saving up for a traditional school and earning credits along the way.

9. Online Programs
A growing number of community colleges provide online programs to their students. If you are unable to attend classes in person, this is an excellent chance to learn. In addition, community colleges make it a point to hire instructors available to lecture at all hours of the day and night.

10. Earn Professional Certificates
Community college allows you to obtain professional degrees and certificates that you would not typically get in a four-year institution. In addition, it provides them with additional resources, expertise, and the opportunity to make more money.

The Benefits Of Community College Are Many
The truth is that the benefits of community college are appealing to many individuals. It can offer a bridge from one place in your life to the next chapter of your life, helping you to take the right courses and make a meaningful difference.

Indeed, community college provides several options. First, it provides a springboard to further education without the actual costs of a four-year college. Then, whether you are unclear of the field you want to pursue, require a less financially burdensome institution, or raise a family, community college acts as a space for you to figure out without excessive stress.

Source: www.klamathcc.edu/en-us/kcc-blog/august-2021/the-benefits-of-going-to-community-college-first



Oakland Community College offers programs leading to five degrees:

Associate in Applied Science • Associate in Arts • Associate in Business Administration
Associate in General Studies • Associate in Science

Program Degrees and Certificates

ARTS AND COMMUNICATION

Degrees

- Cinematic Arts
- Fine Arts/Visual
- Global Studies
- Graphic Design
- Interior Design
- Music
- Photographic Technology
- Theatre

Certificates

- Digital Media Communications
- Music
- Photographic Technology

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, MARKETING AND TECHNOLOGY

Degrees

- Business Administration
  - Accounting
  - International Business
- Computer Information Systems
  - Business Systems Analysis Option
  - Cybersecurity Option
  - Information Tech. Support Option
  - Software Engineering Option
- Management Development
  - Business Management
  - Hospitality Management
- Paralegal

Certificates

- General Accounting
- Computer Information Systems
  - Cybersecurity Option
  - Information Tech. Support Option
  - Software Engineering Option
  - Web Designer
- Paralegal - Post-Bachelor Degree
  Professional Paralegal

Certificate of Achievement

- Cisco Internetworking

ENGINEERING/MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Degrees

- Automobile Servicing
- Computer-Aided Design & Drafting Technology
  - Computer-Aided Engineering*
  - Product Design
  - Vehicle Design
- Construction Management
- Construction Management Professional
- Heavy Equipment Repair
- HVAC/R Systems Technology
  - HVAC/R Technician
- Industrial Technology
- Machine Tool Technology (CNC)
- Pre-Engineering
- Robotics/Automated Systems Technology
- Technological Sciences
  - Mechatronics

Certificates

- Automobile Servicing
- Computer-Aided Design
  - CAD Level II Intermediate Option
- Collision Auto Repair - Non-Structural
- Collision Auto Repair - Paint and Refinish
- Construction Management
- Heavy Equipment Repair
- HVAC/R Systems Technology
  - Air Conditioning
  - Heating
  - Refrigeration
- Machine Tool Technology (CNC)
- Robotics/Automated Systems Technology
- Welding/Fabrication Technology
  Level 2 Intermediate

Certificates of Achievement

- CAD Level I Fundamentals
- Collision Auto Repair -
  - Detailer/Painter Assistant
  - Body Repair Technician
- Programmable Controllers
- Welding/Fabrication Technology
  Level 1 Fundamentals

TRANSFER STUDIES

Certificate

- Transfer Studies

HEALTH SCIENCES

Degrees

- Dental Hygiene
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Health Care Administration
- Medical Assisting
- Nursing, RN
- Nursing, Transitional LPN to ADN Track
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technology
- Respiratory Therapy
- Surgical Technology
- Veterinary Technician

Certificates

- Health Care Administration
- Medical Assisting

Certificates Of Achievement

- Medical Office Administrative Procedures
- Medical Insurance Coding and Billing
- Phlebotomy

HUMAN SERVICES

Degrees

- Criminal Justice
  - Corrections
  - Crime Scene Investigation
  - Generalist
  - Law Enforcement
- Culinary Arts
- Early Childhood Education
- Emergency Medical Services
- Firefighter Technology
- Library Services & Technology
- Mental Health/Social Work
- Sign Language Interpreter

Certificates

- Baking & Pastry Arts
- Oakland Police Academy
- Paramedic

Certificates of Achievement

- Early Childhood Education
  - Administrator
  - Lead Infant & Toddler Teacher
  - Lead Preschool Teacher
  - Lead School Age Teacher/Site Supervisor
- Emergency Medical Services (EMT)
- Fire Academy
- Homeland Security
- Library Services & Technology

oaklandcc.edu/ged [See this OCC presentation for more information](#).

20829 05/22

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/APPRENTICESHIPS

The following websites provide information on current job opportunities:

- **Bureau of Labor Statistics/Occupational Outlook Handbook** (www.bls.gov.ooh)
- **Michigan Labor Market** (www.milmi.org)
- **Michigan Job Search and Employment Opportunities** (https://www.mitalent.org/)

Students interested in learning a skill on the job may consider an apprenticeship. Source dof information regarding local apprenticeships:

- **Michigan Laborers Training and Apprenticeship Institute** (www.mltai.org)

  See this OCC presentation for more information

ARMED SERVICES

Some students may wish to serve a term in a branch of the armed forces following their high school graduation. The following websites may help students explore various options:

- todaysmilitary.com
- military.com

For information on specific branches of the military:

- www.goarmy.com
- www.airforce.com
- www.navy.com
- www.marines.com

GAP YEAR

Students who wish to postpone entering college following high school graduation may be interested in spending time in a Gap Year program. This is a period of time in which students suspend curricular education and participate in activities such as traveling or volunteering. A few sources for Gap Year information are:

- **USA Gap Year Fairs/**www.usagapyearfairs.org
- **Adventures Cross Country/**www.adventurescrosscountry.com



FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Financial aid is money for college that comes from sources other than the family. It is meant to supplement what the family can contribute to the total costs involved in attending college or a university.

The primary responsibility for paying the educational expenses of a student belongs to the family. The amount of financial aid is dependent on the parent and student income, assets of the family, family size, and other expenses of the family. The first step to apply for financial aid is to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid – www.fafsa.gov) as soon as possible **after** October 1. Filing allows the student to apply for all of the possible loans and grants the federal, state and college agencies provide. The FAFSA will also determine the family's contribution for the student's education.

Each college will attempt to package a financial aid award in a combination of grants (money that does not need to be paid back), loans and campus work study. This package should cover the unmet needs of a student. The unmet need is determined by subtracting the family's ability to pay from the total costs of the school.

While the unmet need varies according to the cost of the college, the family contribution is the same for all schools. The family contribution is not based on the cost of the college, so in planning for college, a student should look at all factors in choosing a school.

Each college has a financial aid office, and we recommend that the family confer with this office on possibilities for financial aid. More than 90% of all financial aid is awarded through these offices. It is important to make informed financial decisions. See The Smart Guide to Student Loans: How to Assess and Avoid Risk as a Borrower, for assessing and navigating the financial aid process at publicservicedegrees.org/financial-aid/student-loan-risk-and-responsibility

Students should check the Counseling Canvas, and **XELLO** regularly for scholarships. Other helpful websites are www.fastweb.com , www.scholarships.com and Michigan.gov

Applying for financial aid is time consuming, but without your effort there will be no aid!



Sources of College Funding

Grants

This type of financial aid does **NOT** have to paid back. Grants come from state and federal governments, the college/university you are considering, or even private organizations.

Scholarships

Scholarships do **NOT** have to be paid back. Scholarships can be based on need, merit, academics, athletics, community service, etc. Every scholarship has its own specifications for applying and accepting. Colleges/universities, corporations, financial institutions, and other organizations offer scholarships. Often, scholarships are renewable. Be sure to research all scholarships well.

Loans

Federal and private loans are available to assist students with paying for the cost of college. Loans **MUST** be paid back with interest; however, interest rates and terms vary. The federal government offers federal student loans that usually offer lower interest rates and flexible terms. Loans can be taken out in a parent's name. *Be sure to accept or not accept loans on your college account.*

Work Study

The Federal Work Study program is considered financial aid offering part time employment for college students who demonstrate financial need. A student MUST answer YES on the FAFSA Work Study question to be considered for Work Study. A student MUST research employment opportunities on campus themselves.

The FAFSA is the most important tool is finding sources for college funding. It is imperative to fill out the FAFSA as soon as it is released in October. Factors considered when getting aid are: estimated family contribution, family size and members in college, and the cost of attendance at the chosen college.



How to recognize and avoid college scholarship scams

Average college costs have doubled in the last two decades, and this financial pressure along with new technologies makes today's students particularly vulnerable to financial aid and scholarship scams. "Scammers know to take advantage of those who are stressed," says Robert C. Ballard, president and CEO of Scholarship America, the nation's largest nonprofit scholarship and education support organization. "Fortunately, there are some ways you can avoid getting duped." To help you spot scams, Scholarship America offers the following insights.

Fees and Other Red Flags

Scholarship programs charging a fee to apply often look legitimate. But look at the bigger picture: if the provider is awarding $500 in scholarships and collecting fees from thousands of applicants, it's not funding education so much as making money. Your chances of earning a scholarship are slight if not impossible – sham providers often collect fees and disappear. Some providers claim to have a no-strings-attached grant or an incredibly low-interest loan to offer, as long as you pay a tax or "redemption" fee in advance. Others offer to match you with guaranteed scholarships-if you pay for a premium search service. Keep in mind, there's no such thing as a "guaranteed scholarship." Free, comprehensive scholarship searching and matching services like Fastweb and Cappex will connect you to legitimate, competitive scholarships that don't charge application fees.

Too Good to Be True

Be wary of the "too-good-to-be-true" scam model: an official-sounding organization tells you about an incredible opportunity, offers you a coveted spot at a scholarship seminar, or just sends you a check with a note of congratulations, using messaging designed to get your adrenaline pumping and make you act fast. Remember, scholarship providers aren't in the practice of sending funds out randomly; it's likely the check will bounce, or you'll be asked to send money back for "processing" or an "accidental" overpayment. Your safest bet? Tearing up the check and, if you have time, filing a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. Often unexpected "opportunities" are attempts to get you to divulge personal information. Even clicking on links can expose your data to scammers. Be cautious: Google the name of the scholarship or organization. Scams have often been flagged by the FTC or Better Business Bureau.

Social Scammers

A new scam making the rounds starts with a random friend request on Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat. Accept, and your new friend will start messaging you about a foolproof way to make money for college: they work for a scholarship provider and have found a loophole. They just need to enter you as a winner and you can split the money. If this was real, it'd be incredibly unethical. However, in the midst of stress, you may be tempted – and that could cost more than money. While you may be asked to send cash as an advance, most such scammers are phishing. Give them enough info, and you'll be worrying about getting your identity back. For more scholarship tools, resources and opportunities, including the annual Scholarship America Dream Award, please visit scholarshipamerica.org. "Scholarship scams seem to work just enough for people to keep trying it," says Ballard. "However, two main rules will help you avoid them: never pay to apply and if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

Story courtesy of StatePoint Media. Reprinted from the Oakland Press 11-7-18

Do you need **money** for college?

Overview of State Financial Aid Programs for 2024-25

MI Student Aid
Accessible • Affordable • Attainable

Money is available to help you pay for college!

01

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov during your senior year of high school and every year you enroll in college.

02

MiSSG Student Portal
A few days after you complete the FAFSA, MI Student Aid receives a copy of it. To check your eligibility for State financial aid programs, create a MiSSG Student Portal at michigan.gov/missg. While logged in, you can also change your college choice and complete additional applications. A Social Security number (SSN) is required to create a MiSSG Student Portal account.

03

Make Sure MI Student Aid Knows Where You Are Attending
Awards are sent to the first Michigan college listed on your FAFSA. If you decide to go to another college, you can update it in the MiSSG Student Portal or by contacting the Customer Care Center at 888-447-2687.

04

Attend College
Attending an eligible Michigan college at least half-time (six or more credits) is required to receive State financial aid funds, with exception of the Michigan Achievement Scholarship and MI Future Educator Fellowship & Stipend programs, which require full-time enrollment. The State financial aid you qualified for should be listed on the financial aid offer from your college. You can also check award amounts in the MiSSG Student Portal.

Most State Financial Aid Programs Require Students To:

- Submit a FAFSA.
- Be a Michigan resident.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Enroll at least half-time (six or more credits) at a participating Michigan college.
- Not be in default status on a Federal student loan.
- Meet the college's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards.

Current and future awards are subject to available and approved funding.

In Academic Year 2023 - 2024, MiLEAP provided more than $350 million to Michigan college students.

MI Student Aid
P.O. Box 30462
Lansing, MI 48909-7962
888-447-2687
michigan.gov/mistudentaid

@mistudentaid

MiLEAP
Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

MICHIGAN ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Recent Michigan high school graduates may be eligible for Michigan Achievement Scholarship. Students must be enrolled full-time and choose one of the following paths:

COMMUNITY COLLEGE GUARANTEE

This program pays for in-district tuition, mandatory fees, and contact hours. There are no income requirements for this program. An additional $1,000 Michigan Achievement Bonus is available for Pell-eligible students.

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

Students can receive up to $5,500 per year up to five years. Students must demonstrate financial need by completing the FAFSA with an SAI of $30,000 or less.

CAREER TRAINING

Those who qualify could receive up to $2,000 per year for up to two years to earn an industry-recognized certificate for a faster track to a high-paying career.

MICHIGAN RECONNECT

Scholarship program for students age 25 and older which pays for the cost of in-district community college tuition or a significant tuition discount if you attend an out-of-district community college.

TUITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIP)

Provides assistance to Michigan students who have received Medicaid coverage for 24 months within a 36 month period between age nine and high school graduation.

MI FUTURE EDUCATOR STIPEND

Stipend to support Michigan's hardworking student teachers as they continue their journey to being in the classroom full-time. Student must be completing a required, full-time student teaching experience to receive the award.

MI FUTURE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP

Program to create low-cost tuition pathways for future Michigan educators up to three years. Student must be enrolled full-time to receive the award.

FOSTERING FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP

Provides assistance for college expenses to Michigan students who had formerly been in foster care.

Priority Application Deadline: August 1

POLICE OFFICER'S AND FIRE FIGHTER'S SURVIVOR TUITION GRANT

Provides a waiver of tuition for children and surviving spouses of Michigan police officers and fire fighters killed in the line of duty.

Application Deadline: July 15

CHILDRENS OF VETERANS TUITION GRANT

Provides tuition assistance to the natural or adopted child of a Michigan veteran that has died or become totally and permanently disabled, or missing in action (MIA), as a result of military service.

Application Deadline: July 15

More information on programs, award amounts, and deadlines can be found at michigan.gov/mistudentaid.

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MI Student Aid



MICHIGAN ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

MI Student Aid
Accessible • Affordable • Attainable

Michigan high school seniors and students who recently graduated from high school may be eligible for the Michigan Achievement Scholarship.

Community College Guarantee

All students are eligible for the Community College Guarantee (regardless of family income), which includes:

- Earning a skills certificate or associate degree tuition-free at your local community college!
- An additional $1,000 Michigan Achievement Bonus for Pell-eligible students to use toward additional college costs.

Public or Private University

Students may be eligible to receive the Michigan Achievement Scholarship at a Public or Private University.

- Up to $27,500 to earn a bachelor's degree—that's $5,500 per year for up to five years.
- 7 in 10 high school graduates are eligible.
- Find out if you are eligible by completing the FAFSA.

Career Training

Students may be eligible to receive the Michigan Achievement Scholarship at a career training program.

- Up to $4,000 to earn a skill certificate—that's $2,000 per year for up to two years.
- Find out if your program is eligible by visiting michigan.gov/careertraining.

Visit michigan.gov/achievement to find the right path for you!

MI Student Aid
P.O. Box 30462
Lansing, MI 48909-7962
888-447-2687
michigan.gov/mistudentaid

@mistudentaid

MiLEAP
Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE GUARANTEE

MI Student Aid
Accessible • Affordable • Attainable

TUITION-FREE PATHWAY TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Beginning in Fall 2024, Michigan high school seniors and recent graduates are eligible for the Community College Guarantee through the Michigan Achievement Scholarship. This includes:

- Earning a skills certificate or degree **tuition-free** at their local community college.
  - In-district tuition, contact hours and mandatory fees.
- An additional $1,000 Michigan Achievement Bonus for Pell-eligible students to use toward additional college costs.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).**
- **Be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.**
  - If you're a dependent student, your parent(s) must also be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year. (We'll confirm this based on your FAFSA.)
- **Graduate from a Michigan high school.**
  - You're eligible if you earn a diploma, certificate of completion or earn a high school equivalency certificate in 2023 or after.
- **Enroll full-time in college within 15 months of high school graduation.**
- **There are no income requirements for the Community College Guarantee.**

Visit michigan.gov/achievement for full program details.

MI Student Aid
P.O. Box 30462
Lansing, MI 48909-7962
888-447-2687
michigan.gov/mistudentaid

@mistudentaid

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Myths About Financial Aid

Don't fall for these myths about federal student aid and the application process!

"Federal student aid is just 'free money' like grants."

Reality: Federal student aid includes three different kinds of financial help: grants, low-interest loans, and work-study funds (a part-time job on or near campus). To learn more about the different types of federal student aid, visit **StudentAid.gov/types**.

"My parents make too much money, so I won't qualify for aid."

Reality: There is no income cut-off to qualify for federal student aid. Many factors—such as the size of your family and your year in school—are taken into account. And remember: when you fill out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form, you're also automatically applying for funds from your state, and possibly from your school as well. In fact, some schools won't even consider you for any of their scholarships (including academic scholarships) until you've submitted a FAFSA form. Don't make assumptions about what you'll get—fill out the FAFSA form and find out.

"Only students with good grades get financial aid."

Reality: While a high grade point average will help a student get into a good school and may help with academic scholarships, most of the federal student aid programs do not take a student's grades into consideration. Provided a student maintains satisfactory academic progress in his or her program of study, federal student aid will help a student with an average academic record complete his or her education.

"I don't have good credit, so I can't get a student loan."

Realty: You don't need to get a credit check for most federal student loans (except for Direct PLUS Loans). Also, you won't need a cosigner to get a federal student loan in most cases.

"My ethnicity or age makes me ineligible for federal student aid."

Reality: There are basic eligibility requirements (which you can find at **StudentAid.gov/eligibility**), but ethnicity and age are not considered.

"My parents aren't U.S. citizens, so there's no way I'll get aid."

Reality: Your parents' citizenship status is NOT a factor, and the FAFSA form won't even ask you about it. If your parents don't have Social Security numbers, they must enter 000-00-0000 when the FAFSA form asks for their Social Security numbers.

"The FAFSA® form takes forever to fill out, and it's really hard to do."

Reality: If you've got 30 minutes to spare, you're good. Because that's about how long it takes to fill out the FAFSA form. It's also not nearly as hard as you might think.

"I support myself, so I don't have to include parent information on the FAFSA® form."

Reality: This is not necessarily true. Even if you support yourself and file taxes on your own, you may still be considered a dependent student for federal student aid purposes. If you are considered dependent, you must provide your parents' information on the FAFSA form. The form asks a series of questions to determine your dependency status. You can preview the questions at **StudentAid.gov/dependency**.

"I can't file my FAFSA® form in October because I haven't applied to any schools."

Reality: Actually, you CAN complete your FAFSA form before submitting any college or career school applications. You'll need to list at least one school on your FAFSA form, but go ahead and add every school you're considering, because some schools have early deadlines to apply for their limited funds. Then later, you can add or delete schools on your FAFSA form.

"I'll have to update my FAFSA® form after I file my taxes in the spring, won't I?"

Reality: Nope! Just enter the tax information the form asks for—or better yet, transfer it directly from the Internal Revenue Service if you're offered that option while applying—and you're good to go. No need to update later.

Remember: The FAFSA form asks for your and your parents' tax information from the tax year that was two years prior to the start of the school year for which you're applying for aid. For example, the 2018–19 FAFSA form asks for 2016 tax and income information, while the 2019–20 FAFSA form will ask for 2017 tax and income information.

"I didn't qualify for financial aid last year, so filling out the FAFSA® form again is just a waste of time."

Reality: It's super important to fill out a FAFSA form every year you're in college or career school. Why? Because things can change. For instance, your school or state might create a new grant or scholarship, or the factors used to calculate your aid could change from one year to the next. Either way, if you don't submit a new FAFSA form, you're out of luck.

So what's next?

Go to **fafsa.gov** and fill out the form. If you applied for admission to a college or career school and have been accepted—and you listed that school on your FAFSA form—the school will receive the information from your FAFSA form, calculate your aid, and send you an electronic or paper aid offer telling you how much aid you're eligible for at the school.

Have questions? Contact or visit the following:

- **StudentAid.gov**
- a school's financial aid office
- **studentaid@ed.gov**
- 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) toll free
- TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing: 1-800-730-8913

Decoding YOUR financial aid offers

6 tips you should know before making the big decision

College and money series

1. The acronyms you need to know

- **Cost of attendance (COA):** an estimate of what one full year of school will cost. It includes tuition, along with housing, meals, fees, books, and more. Check your school's website for a detailed COA.
- **Student Aid Index (SAI):** an index number the U.S. Department of Education and schools use to determine what types, and how much, financial aid you could get. The amount you actually pay may be different.

2. You might get a few types of financial aid

- **Scholarships and grants:** free money that you won't have to pay back—seriously!
- **Work-study:** money you earn by working a part-time job through your school
- **Loans:** money you can borrow that you will have to pay back with interest

3. Remember this equation

COA – financial aid = what's left to pay

Do this equation for every school on your list. If you still owe money, you may need to use savings, private student loans, or other sources to cover the difference.

4. Hold on: don't just pick the biggest offer

A small financial aid offer with more free money may be better than a larger offer with more loans. Why? Because you'll have to pay back those loans with interest.

5. Read the fine print

Before you pick your offer, pay attention to the conditions. Some types of financial aid may be renewable, and some may be for one year only. Also, some scholarships might require you to maintain a certain GPA.

6. Choose what works for you

You don't have to accept all the aid listed in your financial aid offer. Pick the types and amounts of aid you need, and make sure to respond before the deadline.

Learn more at **salliemae.com/finaidoffers**

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Reading Your College Award Letter

College award letters can be confusing. Here's what you need to know.

Sample University · 7651 S. University Rd

SAMPLE AWARD LETTER

Jane Doe
123 Park Street
Anytown, Texas 76767

Dear John,
Your Offer of Financial Assistance for the 2019-2020 academic year is based on your demonstrated financial need, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). A detailed statement of your financial aid award is below.

Average Tuition:	$30,000
Average Room & Board:	$10,000
Average Cost of Books and Supplies:	$1,200
Average Total Cost of Attendance:	$41,200
Expected Family Contribution:	$6,200
Need:	$35,000

1. Cost of Attendance
2. Expected Family Contribution
3. Financial Need

Awarded Financial Assistance	
College Scholarship (Institutional or State)	$4,000
Pell Grant	$3,000
Work Study	$ 0
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	$1,500
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	$3,000
Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan	$23,500
Total Financial Award	$35,000

4. Free Money!
5. Work Study
6. Student Loans

Your billed (direct costs) are estimated to be $40,000. In addition, you should anticipate books, supplies, transportation and personal expenses (indirect costs) of approximately $1,200 annually.

Reading Your College Award Letter

College award letters can be confusing. Here's what you need to know.

1. Cost of Attendance

Your award letter will detail the total estimated costs of attending college for one year, and will include tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, and personal costs. This is the total **Cost of Attendance (COA)**.

2. Expected Family Contribution

The **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** is a number calculated to determine how much financial aid you are eligible to receive. This is *not* the amount you or your family will have to pay for college. It is used to determine the amount of eligibility for grants and loans.

3. Financial Need

The financial need is determined by taking the total **Cost of Attendance (COA)** and subtracting the **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**. This may not be the total amount of need your family has or actually pays.

4. Free Money!

Scholarships and grants that **do not have to be paid back**. Other private scholarships may not be listed if provided directly to student. Use these sources of financial aid first! Note: You may still have to complete the application process for these forms of aid.

5. Work Study

Award based on work! This is a limited job opportunity offer from the school, normally paid directly to the student. The listed amount may or may not be realized based on the amount of work and time put into the program.

6. Student Loans

These are loans and must be repaid! The student loans listed are Federal Student Loans. The lender of these student loans is the Federal Government. The terms, like interest rate and repayment terms of these student loans are not listed on your Award Letter. You can find the terms of the student loans offered in your award letter at https://studentaid.gov/

There are sources of loans other than Federal loans available that are ***not*** listed on your award letter. You do not have to accept Federal Student Loans and are free to research, compare, and choose the student loans that best fit your financial and family situation. Some features you should research to make an informed decision are interest rates, repayment terms, total cost, repayment plans and forgiveness options.

studentloans.com
by Brazos Higher Education

How to Appeal Your Need-Based Financial Aid Award

ivywise.com/ivywise-knowledgebase/resources/article/how-to-appeal-your-need-based-financial-aid-award

By Amy, IvyWise College Admissions Counselor

You've just been admitted to the school of your dreams. You are over the moon, sharing your excitement with your family — until you see the financial aid package. What?! Where did that number come from?

Sticker shock over college costs is real. Despite the rollout of net price calculators and general talk about college being expensive, many families are still completely surprised when they see their expected family contributions. Ideally, you've done your research ahead of time. I recommend families utilize tools like net price calculators — which are mandated by federal law at any institution that accepts federal aid — and MyinTuition (https://myintuition.org/quick-college-cost-estimator/ t) to help estimate costs. Sometimes, however, even the most diligent preparation and research can result in a surprise, especially if your family owns a business or sees large fluctuations in yearly income. Family contributions for divorced or separated parents or guardians can also be complicated and hard to predict.

Thankfully, it's not the end of the road. You can still appeal your financial aid (ivywise.com/blog/the-ultimate-guide-to-understanding-financial-aid-for-colleges/) offer and, while there are no guarantees it will result in more money, you have nothing to lose in trying. (A college will NOT rescind your offer of admission if you attempt to negotiate your financial aid!) I like to remind families that even if an appeal results in another $1,000 in aid, that's a pretty good hourly wage for an hour or two of effort!

Make Fair Comparisons Between Offers

Before you can appeal, especially if you're trying to get one college to "match" another college's offer, first ensure that you're comparing apples to apples. Colleges with need-based policies will not compete with colleges that have merit-based or a combination of need and merit policies.

For example, Harvard might look closely at Princeton's award so they don't lose a student over the difference of a few thousand dollars. This is an apples-to-apples comparison. But Harvard won't match a Trustee Scholarship from Boston University — which covers full tuition and fees — or a full-ride Morehead-Cain Scholarship from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. These are apples and oranges.

Do Some Old-Fashioned Math

You also want to interpret award letters similarly. Each school's award letter will look different. You need to know how to pull out the relevant info. There are many tools to help families do this, but I recommend keeping it simple by doing some old-fashioned math. Find the total cost of attendance for billed AND non-billed expenses so you have a true reflection of the total cost of a school. Then subtract any grants or scholarships you were awarded that you don't have to pay back. That's it. Compare the answers for each school.

It doesn't matter if one school gives you more scholarships than another if that school costs more to begin with. I don't compare loans or work study because essentially these numbers can be the same (or very similar) at every school — federal loan amounts are standard and set by the government.

Contact the Financial Aid Office

Now it's time to call the college's financial aid office and ask to speak to a financial aid officer. You may want to explain that you are an accepted student (or parent/guardian) and ask who manages the financial aid for this particular group. Explain that you are seeking a reconsideration of your award package. Ask what the process is, who to address your appeal to — they will ask for something in writing — and the due date. Do NOT miss the deadline they give you!

If you can get the officer to explain the details of how they arrived at your award, that's even better. However, this is rare — at least on a first phone call. But the more you understand about how they calculated your contribution, the better you can prepare and tailor your appeal.

Write Your Appeal Letter

After you've gathered as much info as you can from the financial aid office, it's time to write your letter. The more stress you convey, the better. They are more likely to respond to a specific situation or circumstance, but just registering your general inability to pay their calculated family contribution is important.

Start the letter with a heartfelt expression of gratitude for what they have done already, and simply state that it does not feel feasible to your family. Then give as many specifics as possible. This is not the time to be embarrassed or ashamed —they have seen and heard it all! Nothing will surprise them, and they can only respond if you share.

Things to consider sharing in your letter:

High medical expenses for non-elective procedures or emergency circumstances

- Fluctuations in income due to medical situations, reduced hours, lay-offs, etc.
- Low assets and/or retirement savings for your age and/or lack of primary home ownership
- Better offer from a peer school (attach the award letter, even if they say they don't match other schools' awards)

Things colleges won't take into consideration (although you might want to share them anyway as evidence of general financial stress):

- Exchange rate fluctuations with foreign currencies
- The cost of caring for extended family members
- Home upgrades or repairs such as new roofs, furnaces, remodeling, etc.
- Car purchases or repairs
- Private school tuition, as public education is free

When preparing your letter, also consider the colleges' counter arguments. Financial aid awards consider a family's overall financial health and ability to absorb the cost of college over time. They don't expect you to have the money in-hand immediately to cut a check. Instead, they assume you will view college as an investment and draw from savings, assets, and borrowing tools accordingly. Colleges also assume that if you borrow to finance a car or have a mortgage, then borrowing for college should be on the table as well.

Colleges define your income as the money you had in your pocket before any choices were made. It's essentially your gross income before you funneled anything into a retirement account, an HSA, etc. Owning a business or real estate makes defining income even more complicated. This is a good example of when you'd want to call a college and ask questions about how your income was built in the calculations.

After you've written your letter, providing as much detail and evidence as possible (potentially including pay stubs, receipts, award letters, etc.), send it as soon as possible. There are often tight timelines to make decisions, and you don't want to hold things up on your end.

Stay in Touch with Admissions and Financial Aid

If you need an extension from admissions, make sure you are in touch with your admissions officer as well. Explain that your financial aid is under reconsideration. Usually, financial aid and admissions offices work closely together, but never make any assumptions. You should be communicating regularly, thoroughly, and honestly with both offices.

In the meantime, **do not put down your deposit at the college until you have the results of your reconsideration.** When you put down the deposit, you're signaling that you intend to make the finances happen — whether or not your reconsideration is successful. Financial aid offices can see if you've made the deposit, and the reconsideration is unlikely to go your way.

If financial aid officers have any questions about your letter, they will contact you. If you haven't heard in the timeframe they provided you, make sure you email (for documentation purposes) and call to follow up. Once you have the reconsideration result, feel free to ask further questions if things are still not clear. Sometimes, in complicated situations, it may be necessary to appeal more than once.

It is important to remember that your financial aid officer is on your side and represents you, often to a full committee of other financial aid officers who make decisions as a team. Your financial aid officer is advocating for you and trying to understand your situation so they can make college possible for your family. That said, they are also trying to remain fair and consistent to all families. Try to remain calm and courteous and be grateful for their help.

Regardless of the outcome of the appeal, make sure you discuss financing options with the financial aid office. Ask about a combination of student and parent loans, student employment, outside awards and scholarships, and even university-administered payment plans to help with cash flow. Financial aid officers can go through all of this with you and explain how everything works. They are valuable resources through the reconsideration process and beyond, should you decide to enroll at the school.

A college education is an important investment. If you need help comparing financial aid offers, IvyWise can help. Contact us to learn how we can support you through every stage of the college admissions process, including choosing the best financial aid package.



CSS Profile

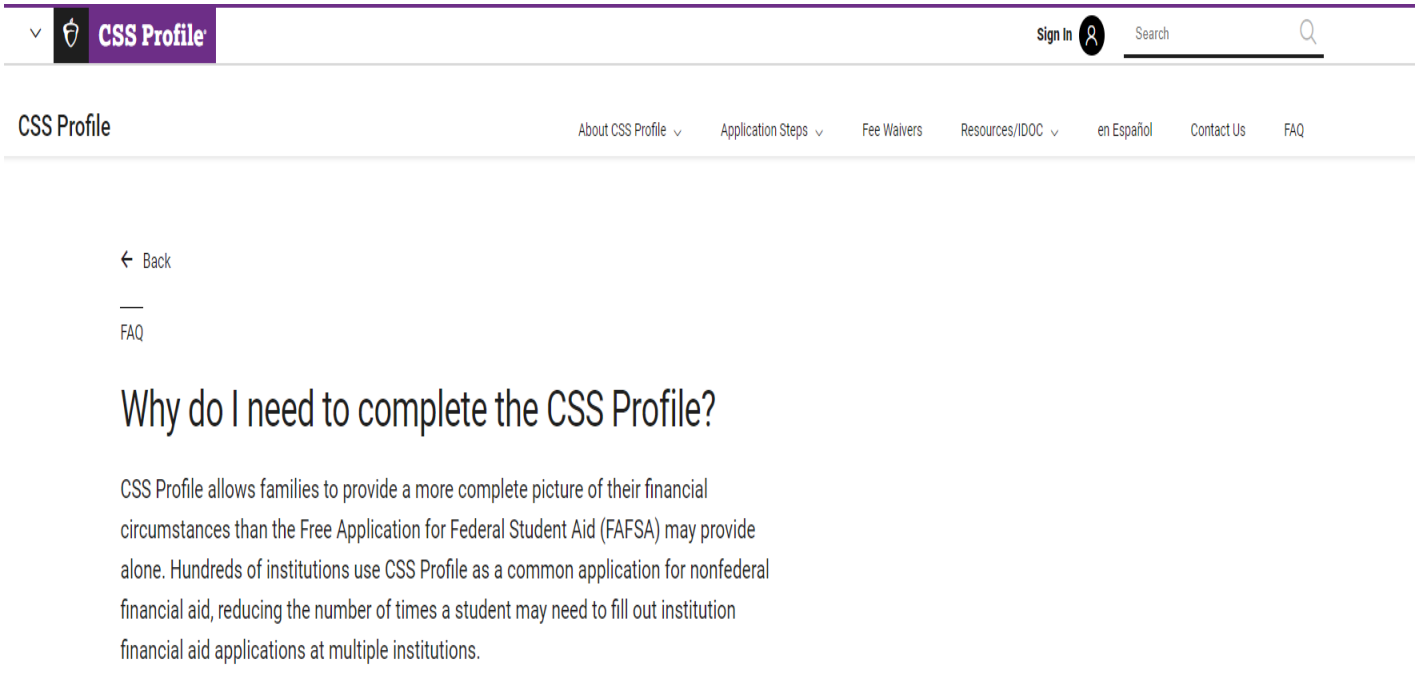
CSS stands for College Scholarship Service, and the CSS Profile is an online application that helps students apply for non-federal financial aid. The College Board, a US-based organization, creates and maintains the CSS Profile.

The CSS Profile is used by many private colleges and universities, as well as some public institutions, to determine a student's eligibility for institutional financial aid. It's designed to provide a comprehensive view of a student's and their family's finances, which helps colleges make informed decisions about distributing their own financial aid resources.

The CSS Profile is available on October 1 each year. It requires extra paperwork compared to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is required for federal financial aid. The CSS Profile asks for detailed information about a student's and their family's finances, including: trust funds, equity in family home, total retirement savings, non-retirement annuities, medical spending accounts, siblings' assets held in a parent' name, and siblings private k-12 school tuition.

The CSS Profile can help students access institutional grants and scholarships, and may result in a lower net price for some families.

https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/



u·aspire

FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

Follow these steps in your senior year of high school to apply for financial aid. Deadlines vary so complete the steps when you can, even if it's passed the suggested timing.

PREPARE

SEPTEMBER

- [ ] **Make college list**

  Work with your advisor/counselor to identify and apply to at least one financially safer school – a college that you're likely to be accepted to and able to afford.

- [ ] **Create FSA ID**

  Username and password that all students and their parent(s) must create to start the FAFSA.

  - Watch How to Create a Username & Password (FSA ID)
  - Create an FSA ID at studentaid.gov

APPLY

OCTOBER – DECEMBER

- [ ] **Submit FAFSA**

  Available by December 1, 2024, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required by all colleges, universities, and technical programs for students to apply for financial aid.

  - Watch FAFSA Overview
  - Collect information needed using the FAFSA Checklist
  - Fill out and submit your FAFSA at fafsa.gov

- [ ] **Submit CSS Profile**

  Required by some private colleges for students to apply for financial aid directly from the college.

  - Visit cssprofile.collegeboard.org to see if your college(s) require the CSS Profile and to submit the application
  - Collect information needed using the CSS Profile Checklist

FOLLOW UP

JANUARY – FEBRUARY

- [ ] **Review FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)**

  The FSS becomes available shortly after you submit the FAFSA. It summarizes the information you reported on it, includes your Student Aid Index (SAI), and flags issues with your FAFSA that must be resolved.

- [ ] **Submit institutional forms**

  Some colleges require you to fill out their own financial aid forms, which can be found online or will be sent to you via mail or email.

  - Visit your college website(s) to see if they require an institutional form

- [ ] **Complete verification**

  If you're selected for verification, a process colleges use to ensure the information reported on your FAFSA is correct, you're required to provide the requested documents in order to receive financial aid.

  - See our Verification Handout

DECIDE

MARCH – MAY

- [ ] **Review financial aid offers**

  Aid offers show you the amount of financial aid you will receive if you attend a specific college. Compare all offers before deciding where to attend college.

  - Use the College Cost Calculator to compare your offers and estimate your indirect costs

- [ ] **Pay tuition deposit**

  A non-refundable down payment required by most 4-year colleges and universities to hold your spot at the college, due by May 1.

  - See our Tuition Deposit Handout for more information

Scan or go to
uaspire.org/Checklist
to view checklist online

The New York Times



The Choice
Getting into College

Tip Sheet: What to Do After Your Admissions Decision Arrives

Spring – the season of transformation, not just for flowers, trees, and hibernating animals but also for high school seniors.

You are no longer an applicant; a decision has been made. Since the middle of March, college admissions offices have been sending out their decisions and your long wait is over. The news is here. The contents of each letter can be the cause for joyous celebration, great disappointment, or bewilderment (or a mixture of all three) about what to do next.

For many of you, now you have to make a decision. It needs to be one that is judicious, and it needs to be done in a timely fashion.

Do Not Rush Your Decision

The National Candidates' Reply Date is May 1. Each acceptance letter should clearly state that you have until that day to submit your deposit and reserve your place in the class of 2017. No college should request a deposit before that date.

Review Your Options Carefully

Use your time wisely between now and then to gather as much information as possible about your future options. Compare financial aid and scholarship offers, attend prospective student events at the colleges to which you were accepted, and talk with your parents and high school counselor about what you are thinking. Where are you going to be happy, healthy and able to grow?

Accept Only One Offer

If the decision is proving difficult, you cannot buy more time by sending deposits to multiple schools. This is an unethical practice that may result in your acceptances being withdrawn by the colleges involved.

If you need more time to make a decision, contact the admissions offices to request an extension.

Notify the Colleges That You Chose Not to Attend

Continued...

Notify the Colleges That You Chose Not to Attend

For those colleges that you will now deny, notify those admissions offices that you will not be attending. It is courteous, and by letting them know that you will not be coming, the admissions officers will be able to begin assessing whether or not they will need to go to their wait list.

Develop a Plan for Wait-List Offers

Perhaps the most frustrating letter for a senior to receive is one that invites them to join the wait list. No decision yet, just more waiting.

You should only accept a spot on the wait list if you really intend to attend that college, if they offer you admission. Remaining on a wait list simply to see if you will be offered admission is unfair to your peers on the wait list and to the college.

Should you accept a spot on a wait list, there are some specific actions you should take:

- **Submit your college enrollment deposit elsewhere.** Be sure to send a deposit by May 1 to a college where you were accepted, since there is no guarantee you will be offered admission to your wait-list school.
- **Do not pay to remain on the wait list.** Admissions offices are not permitted to request a deposit for a student to remain active on a wait list. They should also notify students and families on the wait list about financial aid and housing availability at the earliest possible time.
- **Develop an action plan with your college counselor.** Be sure to notify your counselor that you have accepted a place on a wait list and have a conversation about your next steps. Though it is called a "wait list," you should not be waiting passively to hear the college's final decision.
- **Get your acceptance in writing before submitting a deposit.** Wait lists remain active until the incoming class is full but should not be used after Aug. 1. If you receive an offer of admission from the wait list, you should be given a reasonable amount of time (at least 72 hours) to respond to the offer. The offer of admission should be a written letter or through electronic communication. If at all possible, the offer should also include your financial aid package (if you applied for aid) and housing information. No admissions officer should ask for a commitment to enroll from a student on the wait list before the student receives this written communication.

The Waiting List

Colleges may put you on a waiting list if you meet their admission requirements, but they've already admitted the maximum number of applicants they can accommodate for this fall. You may or may not be offered a place in the class -- it will depend upon how many places become available and where you are on the waiting list.

Colleges use the waiting list in very different ways – make sure to read the decision letter carefully. Many colleges will ask you to let them know if you are interested in staying on their waiting list and will require a response by a specific deadline. Some colleges will provide information about whether they rank their waiting list and what you should (or shouldn't) submit. Typically, colleges don't decide who will be admitted from the waiting list until the

May 1 decision deadline has passed. You should prepare to attend another school by completing appropriate paperwork and submitting a non-refundable deposit so that you are assured enrollment for next fall. If you're accepted off of the waiting list, you will forfeit your deposit at the first school and be required to submit a deposit to the second.

What is the waiting list?

The waiting list is formed by applicants who are qualified for admission, but were not offered a place in a college's class, initially. After May 1, colleges look at the number of students who've sent in deposits and then determine if they can accept more students. Colleges can use the waiting list to create a more diverse or well-rounded class. For example, if a school is concerned about gender balance, diversity initiatives, or enrollment in specific majors, the waiting list can act as a means to meet the school's priorities.

Should I stay on the waiting list?

If you get a waiting list notice, decide whether you really want to attend that school before you agree to remain on the list. If this school isn't a top choice, don't stay on the waiting list – you may end up taking a spot from someone who truly wants to be there. Sometimes it is difficult emotionally to stay on a waiting list, not knowing what the final outcome is going to be. In the meantime, though, choose another school while waiting to hear if you are eventually admitted to the school that waitlisted you.

When should I expect to hear about my waiting list status?

Any waiting list movement typically takes place after May 1 – the National Candidate's Reply Date. If you're eventually accepted, you often get only a few days to decide. Also investigate the conditions attached to being wait-listed; you may lose priority housing or financial aid options.

Who should contact the admission office with questions?

All contact with admission offices regarding the waiting list should come from the *student*. Students may ask to use a phone in their guidance or college counselor's office. Certainly any letter written to an admission office should be authored and signed the by the applicant.

What are appropriate next steps?

- Get a better sense of your chances of admission.
    - Colleges sometimes rank waiting lists. The higher you rank on the list, the better your chances are of being accepted. Contact the admissions office to find out if it ranks wait-listed students or if it has a priority list. Most admissions officers are willing to tell you about your status.

- Contact the admission office by email, phone or letter.
    - Being wait-listed means that the school has already determined you are qualified for admission. You could provide an update on recent accomplishments or activities that were not part of your initial application. You could emphasize your strong desire to attend the college and make a case for why you're a good fit and what you feel that you have to offer. You could also indicate that if you are accepted, you will enroll, but such a promise should be made only if it's true!

- Study hard.
    - This is no time to slack off. If you're wait-listed, you may be reevaluated based on your 8th semester grades.

- Stay involved.
    - Show admissions officers you're committed to sports, clubs, and other activities.

- Realize that you've already achieved something.
    - You were wait-listed, not turned away. Many students were not as successful.

- Reconsider the colleges that accepted you.
    - Thoughtfully select another school and submit your deposit. Get excited about it, learn more about it and plan to attend! If the college that waitlisted you offers you admission, you can consider both options at that time.



When Should You Write a Letter of Continued Interest?

ivywise.com/blog/when-should-you-write-a-letter-of-continued-interest/

A letter of continued interest (often referred to as a LOCI) is a written statement that a student sends to the admissions office of a school they are still interested in attending, despite being deferred or waitlisted. Generally, these letters reiterate the student's interest in and fit for the college in question and update the admissions office on any achievements that the student has earned since submitting their initial application.

What Is a Letter of Continued Interest?

When college admissions decisions are released, being deferred or placed on a waitlist can feel like the most frustrating outcome possible. Unlike rejected and accepted applicants, deferred and waitlisted students must grapple with the uncertainty that comes with being told "maybe." While writing a letter of continued interest is generally considered to be an impactful way to boost deferred or waitlisted applicants' admissions odds, some schools don't accept these documents — which is why research and attention to detail are key. When you receive your decision, review all of the information provided closely to determine if such a letter will be considered in the review process.

What Do You Put In a LOCI?

LOCIs should focus on presenting new information to the admissions office. Being deferred or placed on a waitlist indicates that you're already a competitive applicant, and writing a LOCI is your final opportunity to make the case for why you deserve a seat in the upcoming class. That's why it's important to include updates on extracurricular activities, improvements in GPA or test scores, and any scholarships, rewards, or recognitions that you've received since submitting your application.

Additionally, students should make sure to thank the admissions office for reevaluating their application materials and reaffirm their interest in attending the school. If this college is your first choice and you would attend if admitted, a LOCI is the ideal place to say so. To strengthen this assertion, consider weaving in a few details that highlight your demonstrated interest, such as what you enjoyed about your campus visit or a reason you think you are a perfect match for the school. (But be careful not to simply repeat what was stated in your initial application, particularly if it included a "Why X College?" supplement essay.)

Students should closely read their waitlist or deferral letter and search for any specific instructions from the school regarding materials they can send to the admissions office. Some schools will outline very specific information that applicants should include, while others will tell students not to send additional communications at all.

Schools That Don't Accept LOCIs

Students should not write a LOCI if the school asks applicants not to send additional information. Some colleges that make this request include:

Carnegie Mellon University
New York University

Stanford University

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

University of Southern California

University of Virginia

Even among the colleges listed above, deferral and waitlist admissions policies vary and can be nuanced. For example, Carnegie Mellon will request a single paragraph when there are additional places to fill, while NYU asks students to complete a deferral or waitlist response form in their application portal. Therefore, it's important to understand what the admissions office wants and consult your college or independent counselor for advice on how to proceed.

What Can You Do Instead?

The most important step that deferred or waitlisted students can take is to follow the instructions that the admissions office includes in their letter. If students are asked not to send any additional materials, they must adhere to those guidelines. Sending in your information anyway will not help your admissions odds.

Most colleges that do not accept LOCIs will still consider mid-year grade updates. If this is the case for your prospective school, you should request these update reports to be sent by your school counselor. Regardless of the school's LOCI policy, all students who are waitlisted or deferred should channel some of their energy into getting excited about other schools on their best-fit list that have offered them acceptances and stay optimistic about the future. If you have been waitlisted, you will likely need to submit an enrollment deposit to another college, even if you have opted to remain on the waitlist, as most waitlist decisions are not released until after the enrollment deadline.

If you're waitlisted and looking for additional guidance on improving your odds of acceptance, contact your counselor to create a plan of action that aligns with the school you're looking to get into and your academic goals.

IvyWise College Admissions Blog



Brian Harke Ed.D.
Dr. Brian Harke, Dean of Students, University of Southern California

The Waiting Game

Each year, high school seniors spend the month of March in a nail-biting, gut-churning, adrenaline-fueled state of anticipation. It's the anxiety that each March brings as thousands wait for their college acceptance letters.

Like many associated with college admissions departments, I have started to receive dire calls and emails from potential students hoping for an early indication of their admittance status. As I reflect on these communications, I realize how controlling we have allowed the college admissions decision to become.

Yes, getting into your first pick college is important, but let's keep it in perspective. Being accepted by your first choice college is certainly something to celebrate, but it's not the end of the world if it doesn't work out exactly as you'd hoped. Too often I see students who don't get admitted into their first pick college beat themselves up, think they did something wrong, or succumb to the belief that they weren't good enough. I've heard of friendships that end because one student got admitted to the college and the other didn't. To add to the drama, parents often take the admittance or denial as a personal victory or defeat. Some wear it as a badge of pride while others blame themselves and see it as failure. It isn't!

Here are some things to keep in mind if you receive a denial letter from your first pick college:

1. The process is very subjective.
Forget about your GPA, SAT score and all the advance placement classes you took. Yes, the numbers are important, but when compared to other's scores they are just that: numbers. Looking at applications through a quantitative lens, one would think that the highest scores should get accepted. Oh, if it were that easy. There is a qualitative component that makes getting admitted to college much more subjective than most students and parents realize. Subjectivity comes into play as application reviewers contextualize what you have submitted in comparison to what they have reviewed in the past. Reviewers have their own take on things and there is no black and white with subjectivity. It is out of your control.

2. As hard as it is, don't take denial personally.
Someone at the college just didn't think you were the right fit at the time. Try to trust that they know what's best. As much as you wanted to get into the college, chances are pretty

good that the admissions team did you a favor. If they didn't see you as a good fit, you'd probably end up disliking the college had you gotten in. There is a lot of thought about "fit" and student success when making the decision to admit students. Sometimes the shoe just doesn't fit no matter how much we think we love them.

3. You are not a failure.
Too many students assume they are a failure by not making it into their top pick college. Nothing could be further from the truth. Remember subjectivity? It is really out of your control. There are so many variables in making the admit decisions that I could write books and books on the topic. You are still the same successful person you were before you got your admit or denial letter. Don't forget that. The sting of a denial will go away.

4. Celebrate the colleges you do get into.
Whether it is your first choice or third, any college you get into is something to celebrate. For every college you get into, someone else didn't. Keep that in mind and be humble. It is an incredible accomplishment.

5. There is always a transfer option.
I recommend students go to the college they got into, and after a year if they are still not happy, try to transfer. However, if you go to a college with the intent of transferring, you will never give the college a real try. You'll avoid settling in and experiencing the true nature of the college. Most who go this route end up staying at the college they were admitted to. They figured out that the admissions team from the college that denied them did them a favor.

6. Parents, give your students a break.
The selection process belongs to them, not you. You've had years to learn how to deal with the rejections life often throws our way. This may be the first major rejection many students experience. Be supportive and find the good in the situation. There is always good.

The bottom line: You are a success regardless of the college you get in to. Don't let a college admittance letter take that away.

So, stop biting your nails and worrying about your life crashing down if you don't get into your first choice college. Whatever your future holds will unfold as it is supposed to. Trust me, I was one of those students who didn't get into their first pick college. I did okay and so will you.

--

Why you were denied

WRITTEN BY JON BOECKENSTEDT DECEMBER 13, 2022

Some early decision admission decisions are rolling in, from the sound of things. And the annual understandable confusion from parents, counselors, and students rolls in right behind them. Few of them, of course, are questioning or complaining about acceptances; it's the denials (also called "rejections") that cause the stress and strain.

(Disclaimer: You know which colleges we're talking about here. We're not talking these 69 major research universities established by the Morrill Act in 1862 that have admit rates of at least 60% and enrolled well over 200,000 first-year students in 2021.)

We're talking about the colleges everyone loves to talk about. You know the ones. Those of us who sit on stage at high school events where stressed parents (and by osmosis, their stressed children) ask questions like, "What do colleges want, anyway?" or "Why is it so hard to get into <insert college not listed above>?" We know too.

I'm reminded of this every time a counselor on a discussion list I subscribe to starts a question with, "How do colleges feel about…". Colleges, collectively, of course, have very few consensus opinions about things. That's both the good and the bad thing about American higher education. We're all different.

I'm also reminded of a colleague of mine who hired a consultant to help with her son's college application chances. "Our consultant told my son that <college not listed above> likes entrepreneurial students, so she advised him to start a business." This, of course, is a great example of how Campbell's Law manifests itself: Chasing that elusive slot, parents and students try to make themselves look like what colleges say they really want. This, of course, gives parents and students the illusion that they are in control.

I have bad news for you. In college admissions at the colleges not listed above, your ability to control things is far less than you think. Let's take a look at things you can't control:

Who reads your file: The admissions office may have dozens (or more) first readers, who have a big say in what happens to your file. That person is human, and subject to all the biases and random events of life that affect attitude on any given day. The day your file pops up for a read, they could have gotten a nice acknowledgement from a boss; or their dog might have died. They might really like your sarcastic and ironic take on things; or it might cause them to stop reading your file before finishing your essay.

When your file gets read: Your file might pop up after the application of the student who cured cancer. Or the one who submitted the worst essay of the year. It might get read at 10 am on a Tuesday, or 4pm on a Friday, with dozens more to read before the reader can knock off for the weekend. Context matters.

...continued

What other people say about you: Your letters of recommendation might not be glowing, even though the teacher who submitted it thought it was great. When I worked at Grinnell, a student from Iowa had a teacher write that "she's not afraid to ask questions if she doesn't understand the content." Anyone from Iowa would recognize that as a compliment, but if you're not from Iowa, let me translate it: "Although you can tell from her academic record that this student is the best our high school has produced in years, she is nonetheless still blessed with that humbleness we expect. She doesn't think she's better than her classmates." One faculty member (a native of Brooklyn–the one in New York, not the one ten miles from Grinnell) read this and said, "Clearly, this student is sort of slow on the uptake."

Whether you were born with an athletics gene: A letter from the coach of the college basketball team saying, "This student will be a starter from year one" gives you an incredible–literally, incredible–boost. (And this is not diminishing the work that athletes put in, of course.)

Where your parents went to college: Children of alumni get preferential treatment at many colleges. Many colleges think this is fine, because it's always been that way. Others (including me) think this is unfair. If your parents chose poorly 30 years ago, you can't help it.

Whether your grandparents have their name on a building on campus: If your name is Barney Rubble VI, and the library is named "The Betty and Barney Rubble IV Memorial Library," your file will get a lot of attention, even before the Advancement Office signs the deal on the Pebbles and Bam-Bam Rubble Recreation Center. Yes, Bam-Bam was actually named Barney Rubble V, and he and Pebbles did marry after the series ended.

The college's preferences: At some colleges, standardized tests are still important, even if the college reluctantly went test optional during the pandemic. At some of those institutions, submitting tests can hurt you; at others, not submitting tests can hurt you. And you have no way of knowing this or predicting which college is which (unless they come out and say it, like MIT and Purdue have done recently by re-instating testing requirements for Fall, 2024 admission. It's not an approach I agree with, but it's better than colleges who claim to be test-optional but still like tests.)

How a college views that choice you made in your senior schedule: I was once on stage at a New England prep school, and a student said she would graduate seven AP courses, but was worried that if she took a pottery course she really wanted to take, she couldn't take the eighth. She wanted to know how her "top choice" might react to that, and what she should do. I thought about it for a moment and suggested that she ask the question differently: "If your top choice doesn't value your decision, why do you think it should be your top choice?" I don't think she was satisfied.

The lesson here is that you will probably never know why you were not admitted; it's almost never one single factor. And you won't know if you missed it by a hair or a country mile. It is perhaps a cruel but poignant lesson that will be repeated many times in your life. Sometimes things don't go your way. And even when they don't, they usually turn out just fine.

Plan B: What if I'm Not Accepted to College?

After all of the time, energy and effort you've put into the college application process, the last thing you want to think about is not getting into the school(s) you've chosen.

However, as there are no guarantees—
and admission committees make their decisions for all kinds of reasons—
a rejection letter or two may be something you have to face. This situation is rare (especially when students include at least one "safety school"), but it does happen.

Whatever you do when faced with such undesired results, though, don't despair.

There are still many options for you. You can still go to college—
and to a college of your choice. There is always plan B.

Late Openings

First, see your high school counselor.

"The counselor can do a bit of digging and find out why the applicant was not successful," said one director of college counseling.

Perhaps you aimed too high, didn't include a safety school, or just faced a more competitive pool of applicants than expected.

But don't lose hope. In early May, the National Association for College Admission Counseling maintains a list of colleges that still have openings—called the Space Availiability Survey. Your counselor can help you decide which of these colleges you should apply to.

"We look for schools that have the type of atmosphere [the students] want—a campus that frequently has cross-applicants with the one they really wanted to go to, but has slightly lower admission standards," said another college and career counselor.

Remember—just because you're not accepted at one college doesn't mean you wouldn't be another college's first choice student.

Nontraditional Admission Options

Some colleges may have nontraditional admission options. For example, you might be able to enter college for the winter semester rather than starting in the fall. Or you could be admitted conditionally or

on probation until you prove your ability to handle college work. Talk to your counselor about these options or call the admission office of the colleges that interest you.

Community Colleges

Community colleges and some other two-year colleges have open admission policies. That means that all qualified applicants are accepted. Often, students who excel at a community college can then transfer to the college of their choice after a year or two. In addition, community colleges often offer a more personalized approach to education—smaller classes and in-depth academic and career counseling. Many community colleges have extensive resources for students who need a little extra help, and a growing number have honors programs. Plus, community colleges tend to be much less expensive than four-year colleges, which can help you save money.

"I do not think of [community college] as a last-choice option," the college and career counselor said. "It provides a nice stepping stone to four-year colleges."

If you go the community or two-year college route, look for a college that routinely sends students to the four-year college you ultimately want to attend, and work closely with your academic advisor to make sure that you take the courses you need to transfer.

A Year Off

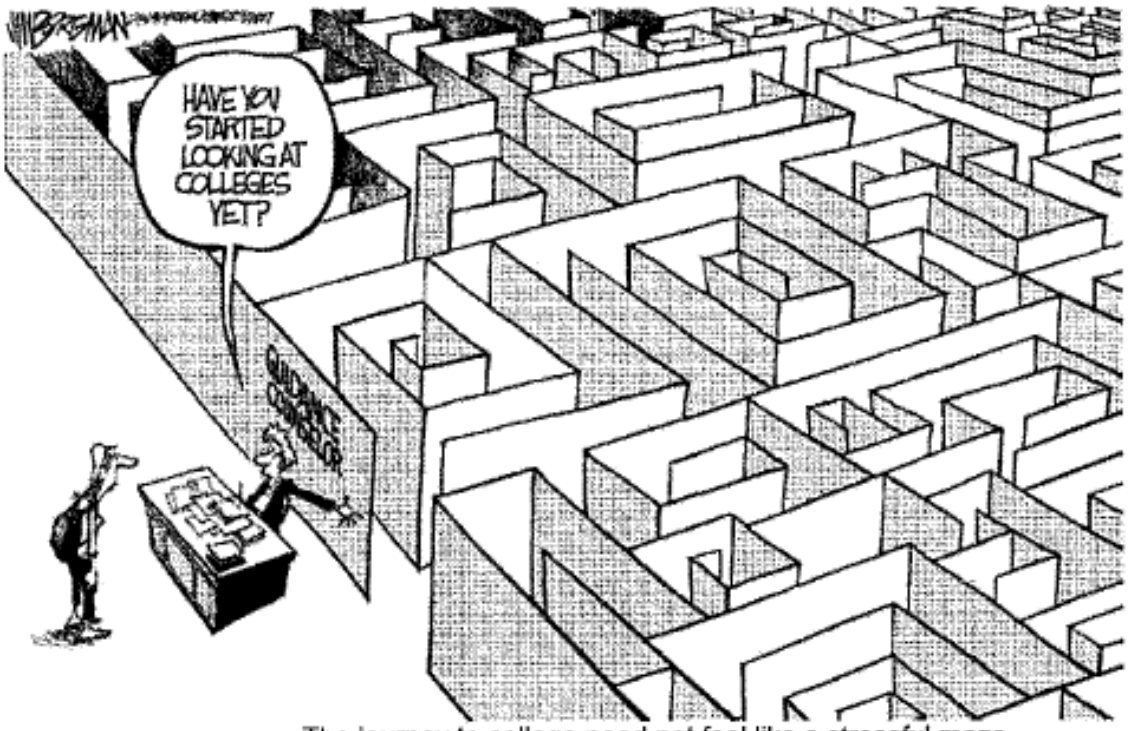
If you're a bit unsure whether you're ready for college at all, consider taking a year off. You can use that year to work, explore career options, travel, volunteer, or participate in any of hundreds of programs for young people.

If this option appeals to you, begin by researching possible activities for the year. As attractive as it may seem right now, hanging out in front of the TV gets old fast—and it doesn't help you with your college or career decisions. Talk to your counselor and your family about options for a year off. You may find yourself teaching English in a foreign country, living in a kibbutz in Israel, studying endangered species in a remote area, or building houses in an economically disadvantaged area. Your experience may even make you more attractive to your first-choice college—or change your mind about what college you wish to attend.



Ways to Reduce Stress in the College Process

POSTED ON JULY 31, 2017 BY JILL MADENBERG



The journey to college need not feel like a stressful maze.

In my nearly 25 years in the college admissions field, I have worked with many students and parents who were in a mild state of panic about the college process. They come to my office with lists of questions about standardized tests, college visits, extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, the Common Application, high school classes to take, and more. Students feel like they need to start a new club or small business so they can convince colleges that they're leaders. Parents worry that their children won't get jobs after graduation if they don't go to name-brand schools.

Unfortunately, this overwhelming anxiety can spoil a process that can be informative and fun. It can also create a hostile home among children and their parents. One of my roles as a college counselor is to provide students and their families with practical strategies for navigating the college admissions process. Equally important is my role in reducing the stress in the household surrounding the topic of college.

Here are some of my favorite tips for keeping the stress level down:

1. I remind the student and parents that there are about 4,000 colleges in the country. A student who wants to go to college and is willing to put in the necessary work can absolutely find schools that would love to have him or her. My daughter Amanda, co-author of *Love the Journey to College: Guidance from an Admissions Consultant and Her Daughter*, who recently went through the college application process herself,

wrote "getting into college does not have to worry you because if you apply to several schools—including schools below your academic range—you *will* get into college."

2. Designating one hour per week that the family can devote to college admissions talk can help. Sunday afternoons from 3:00PM to 4:00PM tend to work well. The rest of the week should be kept off-limits, meaning that parents are not to mention "college" at any other time, unless the conversation is initiated by the child. That way, the child doesn't need to worry about being bombarded with questions, especially in moments when she or he is trying *not* to think about college.
3. For rising high school seniors, I highlight the need for them to set aside time to get some rest over the summer. Junior year can be extremely challenging, with standardized tests, AP classes/ exams, and college visits, and students need time to recharge.
4. While taking a break is important, too much rest and relaxation over the summer could set students up for an unnecessarily heavy workload during the school year, with regular school work, finalizing college lists, and completing college applications and essays. On the other hand, rising high school seniors who make a significant dent in his or her college applications and essays over the summer definitely lightens the load for senior year. There needs to be a balance between taking time to have fun and relax, and getting some college admissions work done to make senior year a bit easier.
5. With respect to extracurricular activities, I always encourage students to remain authentic and not get caught up in what "looks good" for college. Some students think that particular activities are regarded more favorably by colleges than others, so they participate just to make their resumes look good. Or, they avoid participating if they think they won't be a leader in the group. It is certainly nice if you can land a titled leadership position such as *president*or *secretary* when you are more senior in high school, but it is far more important to make a significant contribution to the club. Titles do not actually mean that much; it's more than fine if you are a "quiet leader." My suggestion is that you find a niche in a few clubs that you enjoy and make a real, visible difference.
6. Students should be open to looking beyond rankings and the list of 30 colleges to which everyone they know applies. You can have an amazing college experience at a school you've never heard of, or at a school that doesn't usually receive applications from your high school. Colleges try to create diversity by accepting students from all over the country and the world, so you only help yourself when you distinguish and differentiate yourself from students within your own high school.

I strongly encourage students to embrace the journey to college as a period of maturation and self-exploration, with an honest assessment of skills and interests, and to remain authentic throughout the process. Rather than being stressful, the journey to college can be manageable and even exciting.

Finish High School on a High Note

The last bit of information is that you need to finish your senior year strong – both academically and socially.

Reread your acceptance letters. The first time through, it is not uncommon for most of the words after "Congratulations!" to become a blur. The acceptance letter or a document that accompanies it usually informs you that your joyous news is conditional upon the successful completion of your senior year.

With very little time left in high school and good reasons to celebrate on the horizon, it is often easy to lose sight of the fact that the race is not over yet. Colleges can, will, and do rescind their offers of admission if a student's grades significantly decline or if a student becomes involved in a serious disciplinary situation after the offer of admission is made.

Congratulations, you have almost completed the college admissions process. Enjoy your last few weeks of high school, support and watch out for one another, be safe, and finish in a manner that will make yourself proud.



🥳 You got into college...

What to do next

Link to sites

...if you got into 1 college / your top-choice college

💰 Make sure you can pay for it

- **Submit your FAFSA®, CSS Profile, state aid forms, etc**: Make sure you've submitted all the forms you can, to receive the maximum government and institutional aid. Find out if your college has any scholarships with their own applications.
- **Apply for external scholarships** using sites like Going Merry, Fastweb, or Bold.org
- **Consider appealing for more aid**. If you didn't quite get enough financial aid, or if your family finances have changed, consider sending in an appeal letter to request more money. Here's a guide to financial aid appeals.
- **Take out student loans, if you need them**. Max out on federal government loans first (those are usually cheaper), before seeking private loans. Get rate estimates from various companies, to find the best option for you. Here's an informative article on how loans work.

📄 Stay on top of remaining documents & deadlines

- **Accept your admissions**: Most colleges have a deadline (often in May/June) for when you need to accept your admissions and/or pay a deposit to secure your spot.
- **Submit required documents** like your final high school transcript, ID, financial aid documents, or proof of vaccination.
- **Keep track of other deadlines**, like when to sign up for orientation or apply for student housing. Often all this info is communicated both via email and in your student portal.

...if you got into multiple colleges

⚖️ Decide on the right one

- **Consider the experience:** What matters most to you about your college experience? Do research to assess which college can help you best achieve that. You can potentially attend multiple student orientations to help you further decide.
- **Consider the money:** Compare costs of attendance and likely post-graduation salary. Which college represents the best return on investment?
- **Talk it out:** Chat your friends & family. You might also want to speak to current or former students at each college, or visit campus to speak to professors or administrators.

😞 You didn't get into your top college...

Tips on handling your rejection letter

😢 Acknowledge your feelings, and let yourself grieve (just a bit).

- Maybe you had gotten really excited (or even confident) about the school, and now it won't happen. That feels awful and sometimes hurtful. So allow yourself a couple days to grieve the loss—cry, wallow, and even shred/burn your rejection letter.
- Just try not get stuck in "What ifs" - These can drive you crazy! And make sure you don't let yourself get wrapped up in feeling bad for *too long*. Grieve, but then *move forward*.

❌ Try to remember: It's not personal.

- Almost every senior receives at least one college rejection letter, so you're not alone. For many, it's just one (unfortunate) part of the college process.
- It doesn't mean you didn't deserve it. At many colleges, there are more deserving applicants than there are available spots.
- A college rejection is *not* a rejection of who you are. Your college app didn't 100% represent all the facets of who you are and what makes you great.

✅ Get excited about your acceptances.

- Most students who didn't get into their top-choice college end up still enjoying the school they *do* attend.
- If you were accepted by another (or even several other) colleges, get excited about those other options. Read through their websites, to remember what you liked about those schools and why you originally applied to them. Speak to students about why they like the college. Even buy a college t-shirt or water bottle, and start feeling the school spirit!

📋 Remember the logistics ahead.

- In addition to *emotionally* moving forward, remember that there are likely a bunch of *logistical* things you still need to do too, like accept your admissions, pay a deposit fee, submit required documents, and keep track of deadlines 🗓 to apply for student housing or attend orientation.
- Beyond just *getting admitted*, you also need to think about *paying for college* 💰 - Make sure you have a college financial plan (yes, #adulting). For most students, this plan is a combination of grants/scholarships, family contributions, personal savings, student loans, and a part-time job. Make sure you have all of that lined up!

😞 You didn't get into college...

What to do next

First, manage the initial disappointment

😢 Acknowledge your feelings, and let yourself grieve (just a bit).

- College rejection letters feel awful and sometimes hurtful. Allow yourself a couple days to grieve the loss—cry, wallow, and even shred/burn your rejection letters.
- Just try not get stuck in "What ifs" - These can drive you crazy! And make sure you don't let yourself get wrapped up in feeling bad for *too long*. Grieve, but then *move forward*.

❌ Try to remember: It's not personal.

- A college rejection is not a rejection of *who you are*. Your college app didn't 100% represent all the facets of who you are and what makes you great.

...and then make a plan to move forward

🤓 Still go to school, just a *different* one.

- **Take community college classes, and then transfer:** If you have your heart set on a four-year college, you can always just start taking general education classes at a local community college and then transfer to a four-year college later. This is pretty common: 1.4 million students change colleges each year. Plus, going this route could save you money!
- **Apply to rolling-admissions universities:** There are some colleges that accept applications throughout the summer or have "rolling admissions." So it might not be too late to apply and still start a four-year college in the Fall.
- **Attend a trade/vocational school**: There are alternate paths to your career goals. For instance, if you want to become a lawyer, maybe you could attend a technical achool to first become a paralegal, and then eventually apply to law school. Or maybe you want to instead focus on a non-academic trade, to become an electrician or police officer.

🌴 Take a gap year.

- **Think of this as an opportunity:** Use your gap year to take classes; learn a new skill or trade; volunteer, intern, or work; or travel.
- **Strengthen your application for the following year:** Speak to a counselor or college admissions officer if you need help figuring out what would help. Maybe improve your academic record by taking classes at a local community college or re-taking the SAT/ACT.

Differences between High School and College Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Applicable Laws

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
I.D.E.A. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)	A.D.A. (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990)
Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973	Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973
I.D.E.A. is about high school completion.	A.D.A. is about access.

Required Documentation

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
I.E.P. (Individualized Education Plan) and/or 504 Plan	High school I.E.P. and 504 may not be sufficient. Documentation guidelines specify information needed for each category of disability.
School provides evaluation at no cost to student.	The college does not provide an evaluation. Student is responsible for obtaining an evaluation from resources outside of the college.
Documentation focuses on determining whether student is eligible for services based on specific disability categories in I.D.E.A.	Documentation must provide information on specific functional limitations, and demonstrate the need for specific accommodations.

Self-Advocacy

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
Student is identified by the school and is supported by parents and teachers	Student must self-identify to an ACCESS Office
Primary responsibility for arranging accommodations belongs to the school	Primary responsibility for self-advocacy and arranging accommodations belongs to the student
Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance	Instructors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance

Parental Role

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
Parent has access to student records and can participate in the accommodation process	Parent does not have access to student records without student's written consent
Parent advocates for student	Student advocates for self

Instruction

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
Teachers may modify curriculum and/or alter pace of assignments.	Instructors do not modify curriculum design or alter assignment deadlines.
You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed, and often re-taught, in class.	You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class.
You seldom need to read anything more than once, and sometimes listening in class is enough.	You need to review class notes and text material regularly.

Grades and Tests

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
I.E.P. or 504 plan may include modifications to test format and/or grading.	Grading and test format changes (i.e. multiple choice vs. essay) are generally not available. Accommodations to HOW tests are given (extended time, test proctors) are available when supported by disability documentation.
Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material.	Testing is usually infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material.
Makeup tests are often available.	Makeup tests are seldom an option; if they are, you need to request them.
Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.	Instructors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.

Study Responsibilities

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
Tutoring and study support may be a service provided as part of an I.E.P. or 504 plan.	Generally, students with disabilities should use tutoring resources available to all students through the Academic Support Centers (ASCs).
Your time and assignments are structured by others.	You manage your own time and complete assignments independently.
You may study outside of class as little as 0 to 2 hours a week, and this may be mostly last-minute test preparation.	You need to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour in class.

Adapted with permission from Cuyahoga Community College, "Differences between High School and College Accommodations for Students with Disabilities."

Find Michigan's Career Outlook on the website: Michigan.gov



https://milmi.org/_docs/publications/Hot50_Statewide_2030.pdf

MICHIGAN'S HOT 50 JOB OUTLOOK THROUGH 2030

OJT = On-the-Job Training

MICHIGAN'S HIGH-DEMAND, HIGH-WAGE CAREERS	PROJECTED ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS	HOURLY WAGE RANGE	GROWTH 2020–2030	TYPICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL
Accountants & Auditors	3,735	$29–$44	9.4%	Bachelor's Degree, License
Administrative Services & Facilities Managers	785	$36–$59	8.9%	Bachelor's Degree, Work Experience
Architectural & Engineering Managers	880	$58–$78	8.2%	Bachelor's Degree, Work Experience, License
Bus & Truck Mech. & Diesel Engine Specialists	855	$19–$29	12.7%	Long-term OJT, License
Child, Family, & School Social Workers	1,420	$19–$30	12.0%	Bachelor's Degree, License
Civil Engineers	530	$30–$47	12.3%	Bachelor's Degree, License
Computer & Information Systems Managers	925	$49–$78	7.6%	Bachelor's Degree, Work Experience
Construction Managers	750	$37–$61	9.4%	Bachelor's Degree, Moderate-term OJT
Dental Hygienists	505	$29–$37	10.6%	Associate Degree, License
Electrical Engineers	645	$37–$58	8.2%	Bachelor's Degree, License
Electricians	2,655	$23–$38	13.1%	Apprenticeship, License
Financial Managers	1,485	$47–$78	17.6%	Bachelor's Degree, Work Experience
Flight Attendants	520	$29–$37*	21.5%	Moderate-term OJT, Work Experience
General & Operations Managers	6,545	$29–$72	11.9%	Bachelor's Degree, Work Experience
Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	370	$31–$65*	25.7%	Doctoral or Professional Degree, Work Experience
Healthcare Social Workers	640	$23–$31	12.1%	Master's Degree, Residency, License
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	7,635	$19–$29	12.7%	Postsecondary Nondegree Award, Short-term OJT, License
Human Resources Specialists	1,925	$23–$37	10.7%	Bachelor's Degree
Industrial Engineers	2,280	$36–$48	20.4%	Bachelor's Degree, License
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	2,650	$23–$30	28.2%	Long-term OJT
Industrial Production Managers	930	$39–$63	10.1%	Bachelor's Degree, Work Experience
Lawyers	1,080	$37–$75	11.6%	Doctoral or Professional Degree, License
Logisticians	1,150	$29–$48	29.7%	Bachelor's Degree
Machinists	2,740	$18–$28	11.1%	Long-term OJT
Management Analysts	1,980	$30–$50	11.0%	Bachelor's Degree, Work Experience
Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	2,485	$23–$39	23.9%	Bachelor's Degree
Marketing Managers	500	$44–$78	9.8%	Bachelor's Degree, Work Experience
Massage Therapists	485	$23–$37	29.6%	Postsecondary Nondegree Award, License
Mechanical Engineers	2,920	$37–$49	10.1%	Bachelor's Degree, License
Medical & Health Services Managers	1,505	$37–$61	31.5%	Bachelor's Degree, Work Experience
Nurse Practitioners	595	$48–$60	50.7%	Master's Degree, License
Nursing Instructors & Teachers, Postsecondary	285	$23–$47*	25.5%	Doctoral or Professional Degree, Work Experience
Occupational Therapists	340	$30–$40	16.1%	Master's Degree, License
Paralegals & Legal Assistants	985	$22–$30	17.5%	Associate Degree
Physical Therapist Assistants	535	$23–$30	30.6%	Associate Degree, License
Physical Therapists	485	$36–$48	18.5%	Doctoral or Professional Degree, License
Physician Assistants	435	$48–$62	31.9%	Master's Degree, License
Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters	1,420	$22–$38	8.0%	Apprenticeship, License
Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	1,575	$25–$37	7.9%	Moderate-term OJT, License
Project Management & Business Oper. Specialists	3,770	$29–$48	8.1%	Bachelor's Degree
Public Relations Specialists	800	$21–$38	10.3%	Bachelor's Degree
Registered Nurses	6,345	$30–$38	7.9%	Bachelor's Degree, License
Sales Managers	885	$40–$79	6.9%	Bachelor's Degree, Work Experience
Sales Reps, Services and Non-Technical Goods	8,240	$21–$40	9.6%	Moderate-term OJT
Sales Reps., Goods, Technical or Scientific	635	$32–$63	8.1%	Bachelor's Degree, Moderate-term OJT
Social & Community Service Managers	500	$29–$40	13.0%	Bachelor's Degree, Work Experience
Software Developers & Quality Assurance Analysts	3,985	$37–$58	22.8%	Bachelor's Degree
Speech-Language Pathologists	345	$30–$46	21.9%	Master's Degree, Residency, License
Substance, Behavioral, & Mental Health Counselors	1,025	$19–$29	21.3%	Bachelor's Degree, License
Training & Development Specialists	825	$19–$37	11.6%	Bachelor's Degree, Work Experience

Source: Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget

Note: This list includes occupations that show a favorable mix of projected long-term job growth, projected annual job openings, and median wages. It does not necessarily reflect current hiring demand. Hourly wage represents the 25th to 75th percentiles.

* These occupational wages are typically published as annual wages. To calculate hourly wages for these occupations, annual wages were divided by 2,080 hours.

JUNIOR YEAR CHECKLIST

	TASK	DATE	✓
1.	Review interests and skills.	On-going	
2.	Explore career fields.	On-going	
3.	Obtain information from schools of interest. Admissions applications process/dead-lines Determine entrance test(s) required	On-going	
4.	Review college literature. Select schools with programs suited to personal interests Consult school websites for information and applications	On-going	
5.	Review college choices. Visit campuses of interest Speak with academic departments Talk to currently enrolled students and alumni at schools of interest	On-going	
6.	Register for and take the PSAT/NMSQT.	October	
7.	Attend College Night.	October	
8.	Attend college visits/meet college reps at your school.	Sept - November	
9.	**Link your College Board and Khan Academy accounts** to get automatic personalized recommendations based on your PSAT performance, or take diagnostics if you didn't take the PSAT.	On-going	
10.	Register for SAT and ACT tests.	Winter of Junior year	
11.	Take SAT and ACT tests.	Spring of Junior year	
12.	Review transcript sent home with your graduation credit check in June. Contact Records Secretary for any errors or additions (i.e. summer school.)	June - September	

SENIOR YEAR CHECKLIST

	TASK	DATE	✓
1.	It is recommended that you apply to four to six colleges, on average. Competition for college admission varies every year. Send your applications in as early as possible.	On-going	
2.	Review your transcript before it is sent to colleges. **Allow time for requested corrections.**	September	
3.	Send ACT/SAT scores to colleges you are applying to directly from ACT or College Board.	June until you've completed taking tests.	
4.	Feel free to retake the ACT or SAT to improve your score.	September - January	
5.	Don't get "Senioritis!" Your senior classes and grades do make a difference. Notify the schools you have applied to if there is a change in your schedule.	On-going	
6.	Continue to visit colleges you are interested in.	June - November	
7.	Apply for financial aid. First step is the FAFSA. Attend Financial Aid Night.	October-January	
8.	Research scholarship opportunities.	On-going	
9.	Attend College Night.	October	
10.	Attend small group meetings with college representatives visiting our school.	Sept - October	
11.	After you've decided on the college you plan to attend, notify all other colleges to which you have been admitted of your decision.	On-going	

HELPFUL WEBSITES

College Search

Campus Tours	campustours.com
College Board	collegeboard.org
Big Future	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-to-find-your-college-fit/college-search-step-by-step
College Data	collegedata.com
Cappex	cappex.com
Go College	gocollege.com
Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (Michigan College Mall)	macrao.org
XELLO	https://xello.world/en/middle-and-high-school/
College Results Online	collegeresults.org
Peterson's	petersons.com
Princeton Review	princetonreview.com
U.S. News & World Report	usnews.com

ACT/SAT Test Prep

ACT	actstudent.org
SAT	collegeboard.org
KHAN Academy	khanacademy.org
Princeton Review	princetonreview.com

Financial Aid/ Scholarships

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)	fafsa.ed.gov
FinAid! (Financial Aid Info)	finaid.org
Nat'l Association Of Student Financial Aid Administrators	nasfaa.org
Sallie Mae Student Loan	salliemae.com
Michigan Scholarship Search	MISSG STUDENT PORTAL
Scholarship Search	fastweb.com
Merit-Based Scholarships	meritaid.com

Career Exploration

XELLO	https://xello.world/en/middle-and-high-school/
Occupational Outlook Handbook (Bureau of Labor Statistics)	bls.gov/ooh
Michigan Labor Market Info	milmi.org

All Subjects

Parenting for College	https://www.parentingforcollege.com/2023/02/06/100-college-prep-resources/
Michigan Career Finder Resources	https://pathfinder.mitalent.org/resources



PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

In many ways, you've been preparing your college application for years.

We like to say that the college application process is a 'test' of the self. Rather than testing your knowledge of the quadratic formula, photosynthesis, or the correct placement of a subordinate clause, applying to college is a time for you to demonstrate how well you know yourself. Your college applications are a display of your growth and development over the course of high school, and they offer universities the chance to get to know you as a student, a community member, and an evolving individual.

The college application process is also a time for you to consider the many, many options you've afforded yourself by your years of hard work in high school, as well as to think about how you'd like the topics you've studied and the experiences you've had to come together in a plan for your future. A large portion of the college application process is considering the type of university that would be a good fit for you. Take time to reflect on your past achievements, consider your future goals, and think about how you hope college will shape you socially and academically.

The good news is that you are never alone in this journey! High school counselors are excellent resources and can offer you professional guidance every step of the way. Likewise, parents, teachers, and friends can serve as invaluable sources for advice. Admissions officers at colleges across the country are also happy to provide perspective and serve as a resource. We know this process can be challenging and confusing because we've lived it as students, and also because we help other prospective students, like you, navigate this process every day.

Feel free to consult this guide as you progress through the application process. We hope that, once you've finished reading, you'll feel more comfortable navigating the application process at highly selective schools and also confident and excited about your path to college.

EXTRACURRICULARS

Extracurriculars are the activities that you do outside of class. They can include high school clubs, sports, hobbies, jobs, and even significant family responsibilities. Many colleges will ask about your extracurriculars to understand how you spend your time when you are not in the classroom and how you might contribute to their campus community.

Hopefully, you've enjoyed exploring your interests through clubs, activities, and community organizations throughout your time in high school! Find activities that matter to you and that you enjoy doing. Try to get as involved in those things as you can, and look for ways to develop your leadership skills. Remember: you do not have to be the president of 17 clubs to go to college! Colleges will be more impressed by genuine commitment to an activity, interest, or family responsibility than by superficial involvement in any number of activities.

COLLEGE LIST

Your college list will contain all the colleges where you want to apply. As you begin to create this list, prioritize schools that match your interests, goals, and talents. This will require a lot of research, but a good college list can give you a great start towards strong college applications and success once you arrive on campus.

COLLEGE LIST

SCHOOL TYPE

Regardless of where or how you look for schools, your first priority should be to find colleges that have shown **strong performance in these two categories:**

Graduation Rate

The graduation rate is the percentage of students that complete their studies at a college and receive a degree. The higher this number, the more confident you can be that a college offers a quality education and great support for students.

Average Student Debt

Average student debt reflects the affordability of a college's education. As with most things, more expensive does not always mean better! Find schools that offer good financial aid or low tuition costs in order to take on as little debt as possible and set yourself up for success after college.

STRIKING A BALANCE

Building a strong college list is also about researching a school's standards to see what combination of academic and non-academic features is a good fit for you. Make sure to apply to a few different universities! Having a variety of options ensures that you'll have multiple choices that are well-suited to your skills and personality.

ONLINE COLLEGE RESOURCES:

- The Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success (coalitionforcollegeaccess.org)
- Big Future by the College Board (bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
- College Greenlight (collegegreenlight.com)
- The College Scorecard (collegescorecard.ed.gov)

COLLEGE PREFERENCES TO KEEP IN MIND

Size: Student body size? Small or large class sizes?

Location: Urban, rural, or suburban? In-state or out-of-state?

Culture: Sports fans? Religious affiliation? Greek life?

Academics: Core curriculum or general ed requirements? Preferences in major/minor offerings?

Type: Liberal arts school? Public? Private? Religiously affiliated?

Financial Aid: Need-blind or need-aware? Scholarship offerings?

Opportunities: Post-graduate and internship offerings?

Services: Essential campus services? Student support services? Academic and career counseling?

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION

As you begin to think about your college applications, the most important thing to remember is that your applications will be more than essays, more than transcripts, and much more than test scores.

TRANSCRIPT

After you submit your application, your counselor will receive a notification to send your high school transcript to colleges, along with a School Profile that includes additional information about your school's curriculum and student body. The transcript tells the story of your time in high school—classes in which you challenged yourself and did well, upward trends across your four years, and your grades and GPA. Rather than worry about any one particular class or grade, think about how each class fits into your overall story; that is what colleges are looking for.

TESTING

Some colleges, but not all, require students to submit standardized test scores as part of their application. Those that don't are "test-optional," and may allow you to submit alternative materials—like research projects, creative writing projects, or other works of note—that demonstrate your college readiness and ability to solve problems. Colleges that do require standardized test scores typically accept either the SAT, the ACT, or both. Be sure to check specific testing policies on a college's website.

ACT

- Contains multiple-choice sections in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science, and an optional essay-writing section
- Scored on a scale of 1-36

SAT

- Contains multiple-choice sections in Reading, Writing and Language, and Math, and an optional writing section
- Scored on a scale of 400-1600

ADDITIONAL TESTING

Some schools may also ask you to submit supplemental standardized test scores for a specific academic subject. Examples of this type of test include: IB assessments, AP Exams

STUDY RESOURCES

- ACT offers free daily practice questions and a free study guide online at act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html#free.
- ACT has partnered with OpenEd to provide free instructional videos and quizzes at resources.opened.com/act-practice.
- Khan Academy offers free online SAT prep in partnership with College Board. You can access over 4,000 questions and videos lessons, as well as SAT Tips and Strategies, at khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat.
- College Board has published a series of study guides on their website at collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/inside-the-test/study-guide-students. They also have a free mobile app that offers daily practice for the New SAT (download from the App Store or Google Play by searching "Daily Practice for the New SAT").

ESSAYS

Your personal essay will be an integral part of your application. Whatever you choose to write about should reflect an aspect of your personality in a creative, attention-grabbing way. **Tips for writing a short essay:**

- Remember: no idea is inherently bad! As long as it does not portray you in a negative light, anything about yourself and your life experiences can be used to craft an interesting and compelling narrative.
- Details are the most important component of your essay. Authentic details paint a vivid and memorable picture of you and your experience in your readers' minds. Know the line between good detail and excess.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

You should ask for letters of recommendation from teachers who have impacted you in your time in high school—teachers who inspired you, teachers whose class you looked forward to going to every day, teachers with whom you developed a quality relationship. Many selective schools require a letter of recommendation from your high school counselor and two additional letters of recommendation from your teachers.

INTERVIEWS

Some schools offer applicants interviews during the application process. When preparing for an interview, knowing yourself and how to talk about your strengths will enable you to present these qualities to admissions representatives. **Before your interview, make sure to**:

RESEARCH

Do some research on the school. Pay attention to which majors, internships, and programs they offer that interest you in particular.

GO IN WITH QUESTIONS

The interviewer will ask you if you have any questions at the end of the interview. Show them that you did your research and have a genuine interest in attending the college!

STRENGTHS

Consider some of your personal qualities that you're most proud of. How might you best provide a two-minute answer to a question about these skills?

DRESS NICELY AND ARRIVE ON TIME!

There is no need to wear business formal attire, but you should dress for the occasion—a button-down shirt or blouse and slacks is standard.

FOLLOW UP

Follow up by sending the interviewer a thank you email after the interview. Be direct, be courteous, and consider including a specific reference to your conversation that will allow the interviewer to recall who you are.

COMMON INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

- What is your favorite subject/class in school? Why?
- What have you been involved in outside of class?
- Why did you apply to ---- College?
- What is your least favorite class in school? Why?

INTERVIEW ALTERNATIVES

Some schools will offer alternatives to in-person interviews, like a video submission. With a video interview, practice what you want to tell the school in the video, and make sure to review and edit the video before sending it in with your application. Keep in mind schools will also have varying deadlines, so make sure you give yourself enough time to create and upload the video.

⏱ DEADLINES

It is important to remember application deadlines when you are preparing your application. Colleges often have unique application deadlines or application plans that are detailed on their application website.

EARLY ACTION (EA)

Early Action is a non-binding application plan with an early deadline, generally around early November, for students who are applying to a top-choice college. Decisions are usually released in mid-December.

EARLY DECISION (ED)

Early Decision is an application plan for students who are applying to their top-choice college and are ready to make a binding commitment to attend. To apply ED, you, along with your parents and high school counselor, must sign a contract that confirms that you will attend the school to which you applied and will withdraw all your other college applications.

REGULAR DECISION

Regular Decision is a non-binding application plan with a deadline in late December. You can apply to as many schools as you want to under the RD plan. Decisions are usually released in mid-March.

RESTRICTIVE/SINGLE-CHOICE EARLY ACTION

Restrictive or Single-Choice Early Action is similar to EA, but students agree not to apply to other **private** colleges and universities under any Early application rounds (including EA, ED, and Restrictive/Single-Choice EA).

- You can apply to other **public** colleges and universities with a non-binding early application.
- You can apply to colleges and universities with a **non-binding** rolling admission process.
- You can apply to private institutions with a **non-binding** early application **IF** they have early scholarship deadlines or special academic programs.

ROLLING ADMISSION

Colleges with Rolling Admissions accept applications from fall of senior year through the summer, and usually notify you of your decision within a few weeks of applying. Apply early to improve your chances for acceptance, scholarships, and first choice in housing.

?? DECISIONS

ACCEPTED

Congratulations, you've been admitted! You have until May 1st to respond to your offer of admission. If you applied under Early Decision, you've committed to attending the college to which you were accepted. Withdraw your other applications and submit your enrollment deposit.

DEFERRED

The college wasn't prepared to make a decision yet, so you've been moved into the Regular Decision pool. Express your continued interest with a strong letter (sub-500 words) to the school, along with any relevant academic or extracurricular updates. You'll receive a decision when RD results come out. Being deferred and in the Regular pool means you can apply ED-II to another school.

WAITLISTED

When a college has more applicants it wants to accept than it has room for, students are waitlisted to be admitted as spots open up. If you've been waitlisted, express your continued interest with a strong letter (sub-500 words) after accepting your spot on the waitlist. Consider other schools you've been accepted to, in case your preferred school is unable to accept you off the waitlist.

DENIED

The college you applied to was unable to offer you admission. Selective colleges are often unable to offer admissions to all qualified applicants. Sit tight for your other decisions and finish any other incomplete applications you may have.

FINANCIAL AID

There are various types of aid, including grants, scholarships, work study, and loans. Take into account the different aspects that play into how your financial aid is determined.

TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Need-Based: Solely for financial aid; "need" is determined by schools in proportion to the financial background of students

Academic: Solely for academic achievement; students should have a good GPA to apply (3.5 or higher in most cases)

Athletic: Solely for athletic talent; given with intent for the student to play the sport for the school

"Full-Ride": Very competitive scholarships; covers cost of tuition and fees, room and board, and possibly student life costs (books, travel, etc.)

Full Tuition: Covers cost of tuition and fees (registration, classes, graduation, examinations, etc.) at the school

Merit-Based: Solely for achievements; given based on the value of the merit the student contributes to the school

Other: Anything and everything! Scholarships based off religion, ethnicity, location, personal preferences, family situation, disabilities, activities, service, academics, etc. (may or may not be affiliated with the school)

SOME BIG SCHOLARSHIPS

Gates Millennium Scholars: A scholarship funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that offers students of color the chance to pursue higher education without financial burden

Horatio Alger Jr. Scholar Program: A scholarship named after Horatio Alger Jr., a man who believed every person could achieve the American Dream with hard work despite adversity

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation: A scholarship program dedicated to giving students from low-income backgrounds the tools necessary to be successful in higher education environments

Stamps Foundation: Partner schools offer scholarships to students who show exceptional leadership qualities, academic merit, and strong character

Posse Foundation: A full tuition, nomination-based program for students to be in a "Posse" of about ten students from the same area who go to the same college/university and serve as a support system for each other throughout college

QuestBridge Scholar Program: A full-ride scholarship opportunity for students from low-income backgrounds

HOW TO APPLY

Research the possibilities!

Search for scholarships on the following websites: scholarships.com, cappex.com, scholarshippoints.com, fastweb.com, College Board Scholarship Search, scholarshipexperts.com, supercollege.com, nextstudent.com, and more!

- Make sure the scholarships are legitimate by cross-checking scholarships across different websites.
- Do not pay for a service to find scholarships for you.
- Review the application to see what it entails.
- Compile a list of scholarships you can apply to in the upcoming year.
- Be mindful of application deadlines!

FINANCIAL AID

FAFSA (FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID):

The FAFSA Document

The FAFSA is a straightforward document to fill out.

You will need:

- Your social security number
- Your parents' social security numbers (if you are a dependent student)
- Your driver's license number (if you have one)
- Your Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. Citizen)
- Your federal tax information and tax returns, including IRS W-2 information, if applicable
- Your parents' IRS 1040 or Foreign Tax Return (if you are a dependent student)
- Records of untaxed income—child support received, interest income, veterans' noneducation benefits—for you and for your parents (if you are a dependent student)

FAFSA Awards

Colleges use your FAFSA to determine your eligibility for financial aid awards, **which include:**

- Federal Pell Grant: -$6,125 (amounts change annually)
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (for students with exceptional financial need): up to $4,000
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH Grant, for undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate students pursuing a career in teaching): up to $4,000
- Iraq-Afghanistan Service Grant (for non-Pell eligible students whose parent/guardian has died as a result of military service or the events of 9/11): up to the maximum Pell Grant amount
- Federal Work Study (part-time jobs on- or off-campus; money is earned while attending school)



Eligibility

To see if you qualify for federal funds, review eligibility criteria at: **studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/basic-criteria**.

Interest

All loans, whether federal or private, come with interest rates. An interest rate is a percentage of the student loan funds added onto the original sum of the loan that you took out. As you pay off your student loans, you must also pay off the interest that has accumulated over time. No loan is exempt from interest.

CSS/FINANCIAL AID PROFILE (FOR NON-FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID)

- Almost 400 colleges across the U.S. accept CSS. You can see a list at: **profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatinginstitutions.aspx**
- Available for international students and non-US citizens!
- Instructions for applying can be found at: **cssprofile.collegeboard.org**

Net Price Calculators. Many schools offer Net Price Calculators on their websites, which allow you to estimate the amount of financial aid you can expect to receive.

COALITION FOR COLLEGE