

The College Application Process

CHS Counseling Department Presentation
2025 Open House
Wednesday, August 20th

Postsecondary Options

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity created a Post-Graduation Opportunities Informational Packet. You can find a lot of useful information there:

<https://pathfinder.mitalent.org/resources>

- College Information
- Financial Aid
- Getting A Job
- Serving the community or the Country
- Skills Assessment
- Earning college credit in high school
- Additional Training Resources

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS AT CHS

Counselors meet individually with each senior to guide them through the mechanics of the application process.

We also have a senior class meeting in mid-September with instructions for the students.

The objective of this parent evening is to give you a sense of the timeline for this year and a general overview of the application process as well as an introduction to financial aid.

TIMELINE

College Application Month: **October**

Earliest Deadline: Early Action or Early Decision, **November 1st**

Applying for Financial Aid - FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid - Opens on **October 1st**; preferred deadline **March 1st**

College Decision Day: **May 1st**

Students submit applications in fall and apply for financial aid. Colleges send a decision and a financial aid package. Students and families decide which is the best offer/best fit for the student and communicate a decision to the colleges by May 1st (or earlier to secure the best housing).

COLLEGE VISITS

- As seniors, students can miss three days of school for three college visits. Paperwork in the counseling office.
- Encourage your students to attend college visits at CHS! Many colleges come and visit in the fall in the counseling career room.
- Students sign up for CHS visits in Naviance, then they receive a pass on the morning of the visit.
- Encourage your students to log into Naviance (no user name and password, it is a single sign on process connected to their CHS email) and add colleges to the list: “Colleges I am Thinking About” - this will allow them to receive automatic email invitations when reps from those colleges visit CHS!

How Many Colleges Do Students Typically Apply To?

Most students apply to 4 - 8 colleges, but if your student has only a couple of favorites and they are a match for their qualifications, that is totally fine.

If the application is free during college application month, and they are applying via Common App, meaning they create one application to send to many colleges, it might be worth it to see what various colleges will offer as a financial aid package.

Go to colleges websites to find information about the last admitted freshman class: average GPA, average SAT scores.

Reach Schools: the average GPA and SAT scores are higher than your student's

Target Schools: the average GPA and SAT scores are a match for your student's

Safe Schools: the average GPA and SAT scores are lower than your student's scores

COLLEGE APPLICATION ELEMENTS

- 1) The **application** itself: could be directly on the institution's website, or via Common App - check the college's website to see what they require. This has to be completed by your student.
- 2) The **application fee** (or waiver code if during college application month). Please note: if your senior qualifies for a free or reduced lunch at school, they can get fee waivers for all college applications!

Chelsea School District will be offering free breakfasts and lunches for all students as part of the Michigan School Meals program which is currently funded through 9/30/2025. We are hopeful that a Michigan School Aid Budget will be in place before then and that the Michigan School Meals program will be able to continue. If a budget is not in place, further communication will be coming regarding the status of free meals after 9/30/2025. We encourage all families to apply for free and reduced price meal benefits and that can be done online at chelsea.familyportal.cloud or by scanning the QR code



COLLEGE APPLICATION ELEMENTS, continued

- 3) The **Official High School Transcript** - needs to be requested via Naviance.
- 4) **SAT Scores** - optional for many colleges; if your student decides to share them with the college, they must be ordered by your student directly from the College Board Website
- 5) Some college applications require an **essay**

COLLEGE APPLICATION ELEMENTS, continued

6) Some colleges require **letters of recommendation**: your student needs to check if letters of recommendation are required, how many letters are required and who should the letters be written by - some colleges only require teacher letters; others require a letter from the counselor too

If letters are not required, but your student has a particular situation that happened and needs to be explained, they can ask their counselor

Remind your students to give at least 2 weeks time to the recommender to write a letter

The person who is going to write the letter for them might need additional information; please make sure they submit the requested information in a timely manner. Students need to request letters by having a conversation with their recommender first, then they need to officially invite them through Naviance

Application Processes Types

Rolling Admission: can apply anytime and will receive a decision within about 1 month of the application. Examples: Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, Ferris, Grand Valley, Lake Superior State, Michigan Tech, Northern Michigan University, Oakland, Saginaw Valley, U-M Dearborn, U-M Flint, Wayne State, Western Michigan.

Early Action (EA): Examples: University of Michigan Ann Arbor and Michigan State University. It is an option for an early application. The deadline is November 1. When Early Action is available, meeting that deadline gives you a better chance at admission.

Regular Decision (RD): after Nov. 1st, , you can apply by the Regular Decision deadline. Example:, U-M Ann Arbor and MSU have a regular decision deadline on Feb 1st.

Early Decision (ED): an option available at some selective universities. Examples: NEW: University of Michigan, University of Chicago, Harvard, Yale. It is a **binding** application process by which you commit to enrolling in a certain college if you're admitted. You can apply to other colleges, but only apply ED to one college. If admitted, you must withdraw your other applications. It requires a student signature, a parent signature and a counselor signature. Use the net price calculator on the University's website to see what the price would be for you.

Using Common App Vs. Applying Directly To The Institution

- If the option of using the Common App is available and your senior is planning on applying to several colleges that use the Common App, it is very convenient to use.
- Sometimes it is faster and easier to apply directly to the institution - if your senior only plans to submit one application for example.
- Some colleges do not use Common App at all. They will have your senior apply directly on their website.
- We will help your senior connect the Common App to Naviance, so that everything is processed through Naviance on our end.
- All college applications at CHS must go through Naviance.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COLLEGES

- Colleges will only communicate directly with seniors.
- Due to privacy laws, they will not disclose information to parents or counselors.
- Please remind your senior to open and read carefully all the emails they receive from their colleges.
- After the student decides which college they will attend, they need to follow the to-do lists that the college emails them: send a deposit for housing, attend orientation, sign up for classes

HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Money that does not need to be paid back: **grants** - for those who have financial need; **scholarships**; **work study** programs

Money that has to be paid back: federal loans, private loans, parent loans

Sources of financial aid:

1. The college itself
2. The Federal Government
3. The State of Michigan
4. Private scholarships

If cost is the primary concern, a good option is to consider a community college for the first 2 years, then transfer to a 4-year university to complete the Bachelor's degree. New:

- The Community College Guarantee helps recent high school graduates earn a skill certificate or associate degree at their local community college **tuition-free!**
- **All recent Michigan high school graduates** are eligible—regardless of family income.

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- Everyone should fill out a FAFSA, even if you think your family will not qualify for financial aid:
 - The FAFSA isn't just for people who want or need federal student loans. Its purpose is also to determine aid you won't have to pay back, like college scholarships (merit scholarships), grants, and even work-study funding.
 - Some private scholarships require a FAFSA as part of their application process. That's why completing one is so important!
- Opens on **October 1st**; preferred deadline **March 1st** (for State Aid)
- Financial Aid Night at CHS - more in depth information about affording college
- Help with filling out the FAFSA at CHS

SCHOLARSHIPS - search engines for national scholarships

National scholarships - your senior can start looking now!

<https://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships>

<https://www.scholarships.com/>

<https://www.cappex.com/>

<https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/>

<http://www.gocollege.com/financial-aid/scholarships/>

<https://www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx>

<https://www.unigo.com/>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/bigfuture-scholarships>

<https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Training/financial-scholarships.aspx>

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/scholarships>

<https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/college-scholarships/>

Michigan Scholarships:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid/students-families/mi-scholarship-search>

SCHOLARSHIPS - State of Michigan

<https://www.michigan.gov/ogm/commissions/hlcom/scholarships>

- Children of Veterans Tuition Grant
- Fostering Futures Scholarship
- Michigan Achievement Scholarship (eligible if the Student Aid Index is 30,000 or less)
- Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant
- Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)

SCHOLARSHIPS - Local

These applications will become available in January, February, March and April.

Mr. Mann will run a senior meeting in January to talk about local scholarships.

We advertise them from the counseling office, through announcements and during lunches. Mrs. Kay also creates a scholarship opportunity wall that your students can consult outside of our office.

All the information is on our website - go to the CHS website, click on Counseling Office on the right, then click on “Senior Class Information, College Application, Financial Aid & Scholarships”

Questions about Local Scholarships? Reach out to Mr. Mann

First Year

<i>University</i>	<i>First-Year Class Size</i>	<i>First-Year Class Average GPA</i>	<i>First-Year Class Average Test Scores</i>	<i>Tuition</i>
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	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

First Year

<i>University</i>	<i>First-Year Class Size</i>	<i>First-Year Class Average GPA</i>	<i>First-Year Class Average Test Scores</i>	<i>Tuition</i>
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

First Year

<i>University</i>	<i>First-Year Class Size</i>	<i>First-Year Class Average GPA</i>	<i>First-Year Class Average Test Scores</i>	<i>Tuition</i>
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

CHS COUNSELORS and alphabetical assignments

Seniors with last name beginning **A-G, please contact Mr. Tim Mann**

734 433 2201 ext. 1013 tmann@chelseaschools.org

Seniors with last name beginning **H-O, please contact Mrs. Daniela Bickel**

734 433 2201 ext. 1016 dbickel@chelseaschools.org

Seniors with last name beginning **P-Z, please contact Mrs. Dorvia Hill**

734 433 2201 ext. 1014 dthomas-hill@chelseaschools.org