Welcome to the *SENIOR COUNSELING MEETING*

College Application Process

Class of 2027

Agenda for today

- Step by step explanation for applications
- Visiting Colleges
- Community Colleges
- Timeline
- NCAA considerations
- GAP Year
- Warnings: Financing College & Debt

College Application Process

Overview

- Explore schools by doing *Visits* and using Naviance (try SuperMatch). Save interesting schools to *"Colleges I'm Thinking About"*
- In Naviance on "Colleges" tab you can match your ***Common App*** account and request "Letters of Recommendation" (*only request letter **if** needed*)
- Apply to colleges online

Overview

College Application Process (continued)

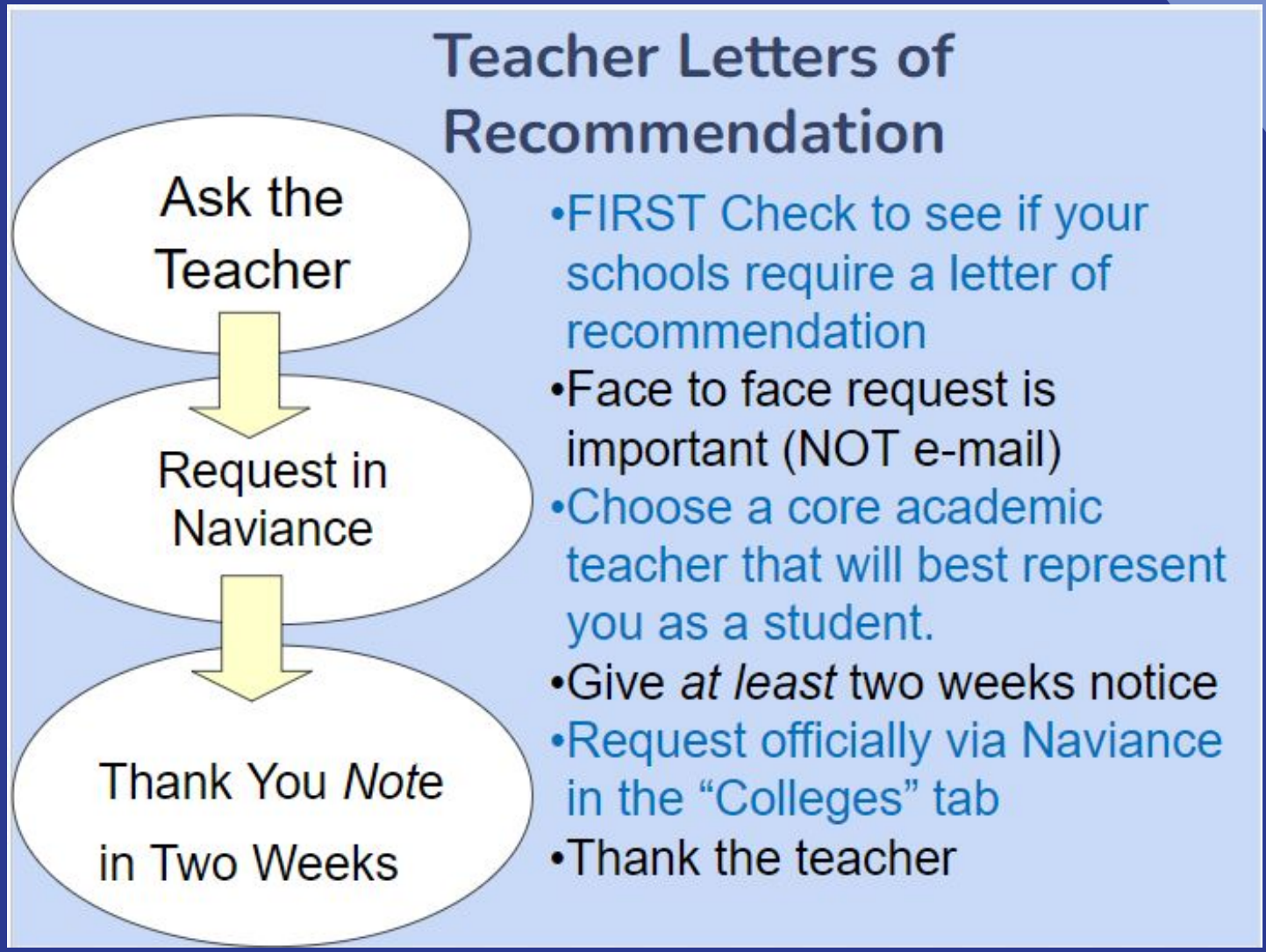
- If you have an ACT/SAT score and chose to use it then you will order test scores to be sent from testing company
- Complete "College Application Notification" form online
- Check back to Naviance when you hear a decision from the schools

1. Where do I want to apply?

- Use Naviance - **SuperMatch**
- Explore other resources
- Rep Visits (**80** so far)
- College Fairs
- Online Visits
- Live On-Campus Visits

Research Schools

2. Do selected schools need a Letter of Recommendation?



How to request LoR in Naviance:

Go to Naviance.

Select: *Colleges* > *Apply to College* > *Letters of Recommendation.*

When adding a request:

- select a teacher to write the recommendation
- select *General Request* to include all colleges
- add any notes to share with your teacher

Rec Letter Brag Sheet – necessary for counselors to write letters of recommendation. Find it on Naviance or click HERE for paper version

Rec Letter "Brag Sheet"

Counselors' goal with the Letter of Rec is to write the most supportive and convincing document possible to help with your admission. Please complete this form with as much info and detail as po
Counselors MUST have this completed survey to write letter of rec.

What 6 words would you use to describe yourself?

Complete this statement in any way you choose, but please do not mention a college name in your answer. A perfect college for me would include:

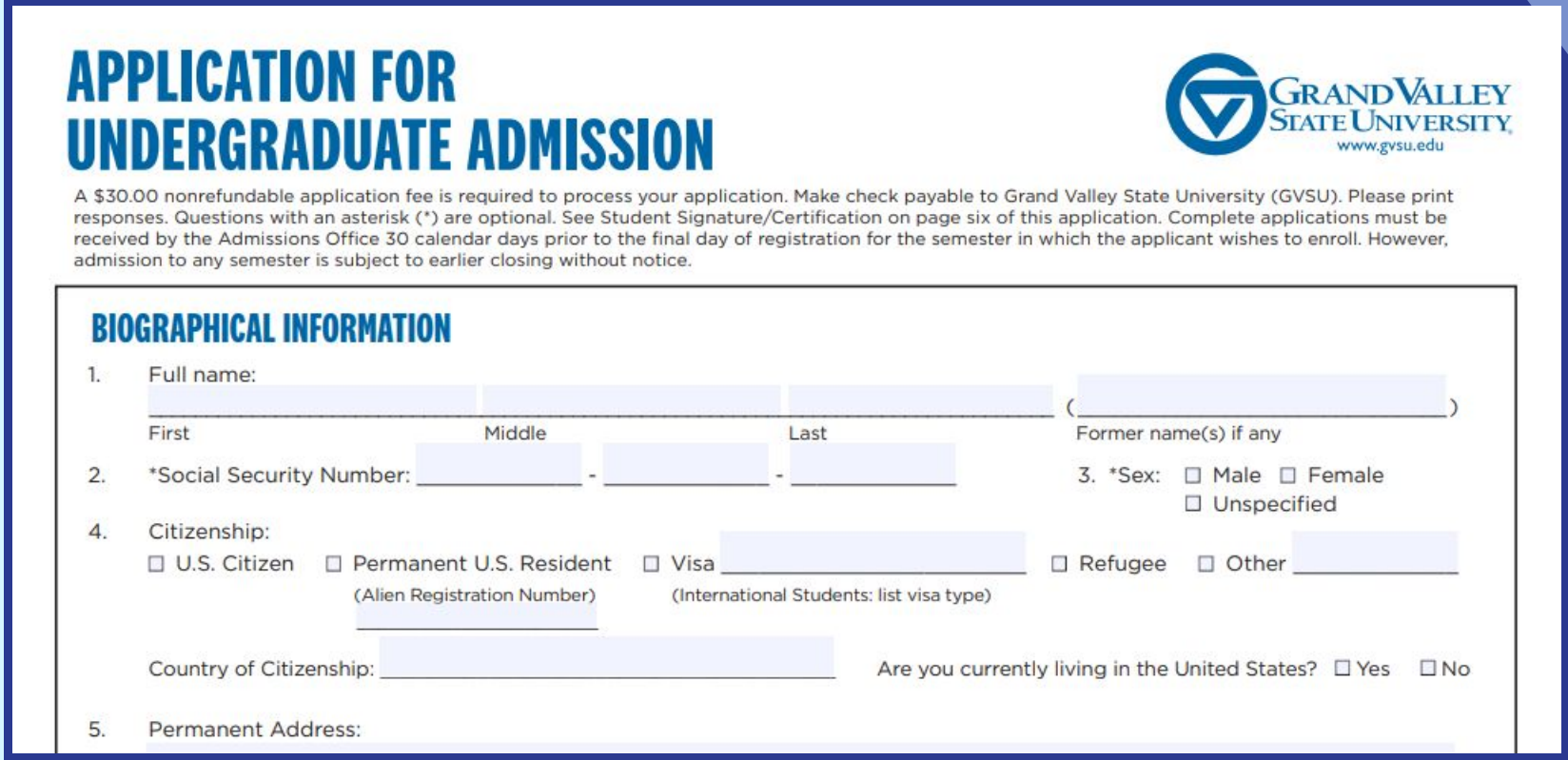
Are there any alternatives to a traditional college path that you would like to consider (i.e. work, travel, interim programs, military, volunteer/service programs, etc)?

Do you have a specific career goal or college major in mind? Are you doing any work to support these goals?

Parent Input is *Welcome!*

- Click here for a nice list of questions you could answer to help us write a great letter
- Or here is another version of parent input
- We are not asking you to write your child's letter of recommendation. This just offers more dimension and support

3. Ready to apply to schools



APPLICATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION

Grand Valley State University
www.gvsu.edu

A $30.00 nonrefundable application fee is required to process your application. Make check payable to Grand Valley State University (GVSU). Please print responses. Questions with an asterisk (*) are optional. See Student Signature/Certification on page six of this application. Complete applications must be received by the Admissions Office 30 calendar days prior to the final day of registration for the semester in which the applicant wishes to enroll. However, admission to any semester is subject to earlier closing without notice.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Full name: _____ _____ _____ (_____)
   First Middle Last Former name(s) if any

2. *Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

3. *Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Unspecified

4. Citizenship:
   ☐ U.S. Citizen ☐ Permanent U.S. Resident (Alien Registration Number) _____ ☐ Visa _____ (International Students: list visa type) ☐ Refugee ☐ Other _____

   Country of Citizenship: _____ Are you currently living in the United States? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Permanent Address:

October is College Application Month

MICHIGAN COLLEGE MONTH 2026

Colleges With No Application Fees:

Adrian College
Albion College*
Alma College*
Alpena Community College
Andrews University
Baker College*
Bay College*
Cleary University*
College for Creative Studies
Cornerstone University
Davenport University*
Delta College
Ferris State University
Glen Oaks Community College
Gogebic Community College
Grace Christian University
Grand Rapids Community College*
Grand Valley State University*
Great Lakes Christian College*
Henry Ford College
Hillsdale College
Hope College
Jackson College
Kalamazoo College*
Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Kellogg Community College
Kettering University
Kirtland Community College
Kuyper College
Lake Michigan College*
Lake Superior State University
Lansing Community College
Macomb Community College
Madonna University
Michigan Technological University
Mid Michigan College
Monroe County Community College*
Montcalm Community College*
Mott Community College*
Muskegon Community College
North Central Michigan College*
Northern Michigan University
Northwestern Michigan College
Northwood University
Oakland Community College
Oakland University*
Rochester Christian University
Saginaw Valley State University
Schoolcraft College*
Southwestern Michigan College
Spring Arbor University*
St. Clair County Community College
The University of Olivet*
University of Detroit Mercy*
University of Michigan-Dearborn*
University of Michigan-Flint*
Washtenaw Community College
Wayne County Community College
West Shore Community College

Colleges Waiving Application Fees:

Institution	Dates	Waiver code (if needed)
Calvin University*		Waiver automatically applied in October, waiver code 1876 needed after Nov. 1
Central Michigan University	Oct. 1-31	None for CMU app, Central27 on Common App
Eastern Michigan University	Oct. 1-31	MCAN26
Lawrence Technological University*		LTU1932
Michigan State University	Oct. 1-15	Spartan1855
Wayne State University	Oct. 1-31	WSU2027
Western Michigan University	Sept. 9-Dec. 1	No code needed

YOU ARE COLLEGE MATERIAL!

* Participating in MI College Match

MCAN
MICHIGAN COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

Common Application

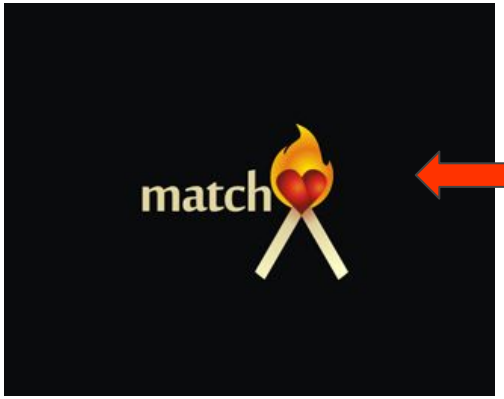
www.commonapp.org

- Standard uniform college application
- Used by over 1000 colleges
- May be used exclusively or optionally by schools
- Includes: UM, MSU, WSU, Kalamazoo College, Miami University, Albion…

What do I need to know?

- Must match to Naviance
- Must use Naviance for Letter of Rec requests
- GPS Class size: **275**
- GPS does not rank students
- GPS uses 4.0 GPA scale
- If you took AP classes your GPA is *weighted*

(CLICK HERE)



If you use Common App you need to **MATCH** your *CA* account with your *Naviance* account

Apply to Schools

The Coalition Application

- This is a another type of universal application that some colleges are offering. We recommend *avoiding* it since it is not integrated with Naviance. However, we can accommodate it.

Standardized Test scores

- Most schools are test optional for this year. Check here to see Michigan schools test requirements. Check here to see schools nationally that are test optional
- If you have a test score and choose to use it for admission consideration then you must send *official* test scores to the colleges where you apply to have a complete file.
- Send from the test website if you have not already sent your score when you registered. www.collegeboard.org or www.act.org



College Application Notification

Please fill in the information below as completely as possible and submit
For each school do the following:
1. Once you submit your college application and pay the application fee, go to Naviance and add it to "Colleges I'm applying to." Click on “request transcripts” and follow the directions.
2. Check to see if your college requires letters of recommendations. Do not exceed the college’s number of recommendations. You must speak to the teacher before requesting in Naviance. Follow up with a thank-you note.
3. If applying with standardized tests scores, students are responsible for sending to the college via the test sites: ACT: www.act.org or SAT: www.collegeboard.org
4. If you have applied through the Common Application you must match your Common App with Naviance.

Email *

Your email

Sending Transcripts

[Click here for link to College Application Notification]

The College Application Notification Google Form

Must be your *final step* in the college application process

- You will receive a receipt
- Should not take longer than 2 weeks to process.
- You can track this in Naviance.

And…*we wait*.



- Everything we do is documented with dates in Naviance
- Deferred? Waitlisted?
- Might need Mid-year Transcripts (keep working!)
- Definitely need final transcripts (senior survey)

Q: When Do Colleges Start Considering My Application?

A: Not until your application is *COMPLETE*

- College Application (and fee if required)
- Counselor Recommendation Form or Letter (if required)
- Official High School Transcript
- Official Test Scores (if required)
- Teacher Recommendation (if required)

Consider:



"**Likely**" likelihood of getting into that school seem *fairly certain:*

- GPA & SAT/ACT are at or above the the school's 75%ile for admitted students.

"**Target**" likelihood of getting into that school seem *probable:*

- GPA & SAT/ACT on par with the average admit rate for that school (Middle 50%ile)

"**Reach**" likelihood of getting into that school are *uncertain*:

- GPA & SAT/ACT are below the the school's 50%ile for admitted students.

- ANY school with admit rate below 20%

But WAIT!

What if you didn't have to APPLY to be accepted?

Mi Match lets you do just that!

- Request your transcript from your counselor
- Register at bit.ly/MICollegeMatch
  - Only takes 10-15 Minutes
  - Click here for step by step tutorial
- Receive Admission & Scholarship Offers in about 2 weeks





























When You Write Your Essay . . .

DO:

- Start early
- Read the directions carefully
- Tell the truth about yourself
- Focus on your best side
- Feel comfortable with your anxieties
- Tie yourself to the college
- Speak positively
- Write about your greatest assets and achievements
- Have someone else proofread before sending

When You Write Your Essay . . .

DON'T:

- Summarize your accomplishments
- Write on general, impersonal topics
- Use the personal statement to excuse your shortcomings
- Use clichés
- Go to extremes such as too witty, too opinionated or too intellectual
- Generally avoid topics of divorce, death, tragedy

When You Write Your Essay . . .

Write a *serious* essay, from the bottom of your *heart*, in the most *mature* manner possible.

Five good reasons to consider Community Colleges

1. **MONEY** – CCs are now **FREE** with the Community College Guarantee
2. **LOWER GRADES or TEST SCORES** – if you can't get in to your top school you may well be able to transfer in after a couple of semesters at a CC
3. **WORK or FAMILY OBLIGATIONS** – CCs allow flexible scheduling with weekends and evenings so you can juggle your family and work life.
4. **YOUR CAREER CHOICE DOESN'T REQUIRE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE** – Many service and technological careers do not require a four year degree.
5. **YOU ARE NOT SURE ABOUT GOING TO COLLEGE** - A lot of high school students have a sense that they should go to college, but they aren't sure why and aren't really fond of school. If this describes you, CC can be a good option. You can try out some college-level courses without committing years of your life and tens of thousands of dollars

Timeline Considerations

- It's all about the letters.
  - Timeline is longer for student's first app
  - Subsequent apps go quickly
  - Counselor letter guaranteed when necessary
  - Teacher letter(s) at discretion of staff
  - All can be tracked via Naviance
- Early Action vs. Early Decision
- October 15 significance
- November 1 significance
- Jan 1 considerations

NCAA Divisions I & II

- Consult the NCAA Freshman Eligibility Standards Quick Reference Sheet on the website
- https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/
- ACT and SAT scores must be sent directly to the Clearinghouse from the testing agency
- NCAA's SAT/ACT code is 9999
- (note about *Film Lit*)

GAP Year

- Spend a year abroad in a foreign country's high school/internship program
- Work for a year before college/trade school.
- Volunteer
- Travel

…It is *NOT this*



Financial Aid

Click here for "Financing Education Beyond High School" Presentation

Click here for Presentation Outline and Supplemental Resources



Start your FAFSA in Oct

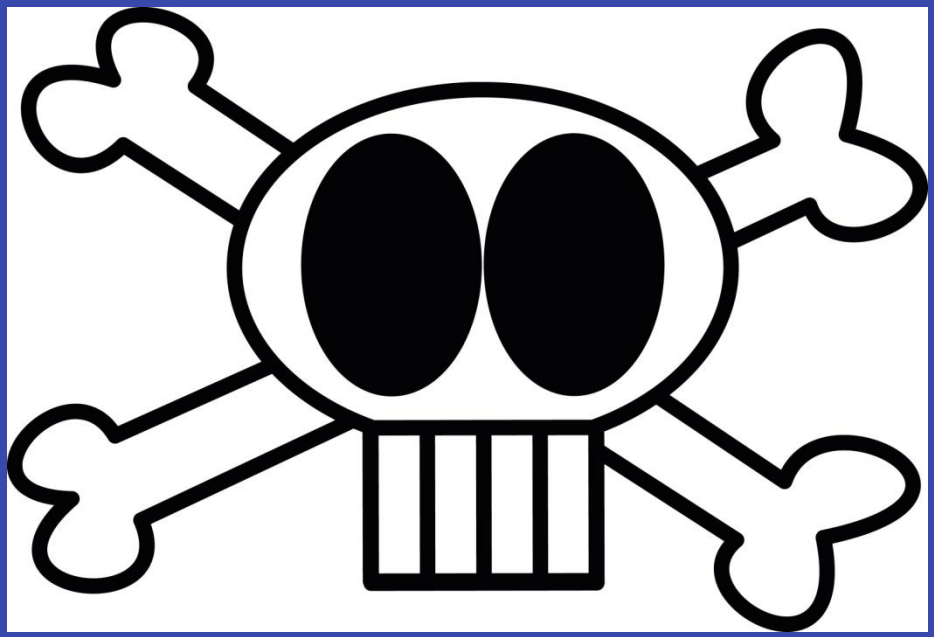
- First do FSA ID
- Peek at the FAFSA Worksheet

...and $cholarships

Financial Aid and Scholarships

- Financial Aid and Scholarship information is available. Now is the time to start researching options for next year.
- Register with online scholarship search engine. Click here to see my annotated list of suggestions
- Check Naviance
- Research scholarships affiliated with your parents' business, religious organizations, vocational interests, community non-profits and the like

Warning!



Never Pay Money to Get Money

Beware of Unreasonable Debt
(credit cards and student loans)