

Bloomfield Hills High School

COLLEGE PLANNING and POSTSECONDARY GUIDE



Class of 2028

Revised September 2026

The Bloomfield Hills High School College Planning and Postsecondary 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 families and students some insight into and a clearer understanding of the college application process and other postsecondary options. Topics range from BHHS graduation requirements, choosing a college, and completing college applications to requesting letters of recommendation, 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). [Bhhs.bloomfield.org/counseling](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.

Bloomfield Hills High School Counselors

Melanie Brooks mebrooks@bloomfield.org

Brian Fitzgerald bfitzgerald@bloomfield.org

James Fogle jfogle@bloomfield.org

Shayna Klein sklein@bloomfield.org

Scott Merchant smerchant@bloomfield.org

Tony Midea amidea@bloomfield.org

Support Staff

Bloomfield Hills High School Counseling Office

Marianne Litz, Counseling Secretary – 248.341.5631

Elizabeth Allen, Records Secretary – 248.341.5632

Lou Ann Frantz, CRC Coordinator – 248.341.5737

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NAVIGATING THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS.....	4
BHHS Graduation Requirements	
TYPES OF TESTS.....	7
Test Dates, Test Tutoring, SAT vs. ACT	
XELLO STUDENT.....	11
COMMON APPLICATION.....	12
Common Black College Application	
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.....	14
Making the Right College Choice, Campus Visit Checklist, Michigan Public Universities Guide to Admissions	
CRITERIA FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS.....	23
Definitions of Admission Options	
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.....	25
YOUR HIGH SCHOOL RESUME.....	26
Sample Resume	
COLLEGE ESSAY ADVICE FOR SENIORS.....	28
College Essay Roadmap, Writing a college essay that sound like you	
NCAA INFORMATION.....	31
Division I & II	
NAIA INFORMATION.....	34
Requirements	
ADDITIONAL POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS	36
Benefits of Community College, OCC Program Degrees & Certificates, Job Opportunities/Apprenticeships, Armed Services, Gap Year	
HELPFUL WEBSITES.....	42
PREPARING FOR COLLEGE IN A NUTSHELL.....	43

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, you must request it through the Common Application or Parchment.

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. 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. 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 you understand some of your dreams, plans, and expectations.

☑ **Study for Standardized Tests**

A successful way to increase your SAT scores is with [Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org).

Link your College Board and [Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org) 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 : ACT website – www.actstudent.org; SAT website – www.collegeboard.org ; Khan Academy—[khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.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 2028 and beyond

CONTENT AREA	CREDITS NEEDED	EXPLANATION OF CREDITS
English	4	4 credits
Math	4	Students must complete Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. A math course must be taken during the senior year.
Science	3	1 credit of Biology 1 credit of Chemistry of Earth's Systems or General Physical Science 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 (successful completion of a 200-level course)
Personal Financial Literacy	0.5	0.5 credit course (embedded in economics or personal finance)
Additional Credits	9 to 13	Note: "Additional" will specify content areas (e.g., communications, arts, etc)
Online Learning Experience	Students engage in online learning experiences throughout their high school coursework.	
Community Service	Minimum one Service As Action experience per year	
State of Michigan Assessment	All students are required to take the state-required assessments before graduation.	
Middle Years Program Personal Project	All students are required to complete a Personal Project.	
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED	28.5	

Approved by the Bloomfield Hills Schools Board of Education on April 28, 2025.

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 to which they have applied. We recommend that all students consider both the SAT and ACT at the beginning of their college application process 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 test is designed to measure English/Reading and mathematical reasoning ability. Students may take the SAT as many times they choose and most colleges will accept your highest score.

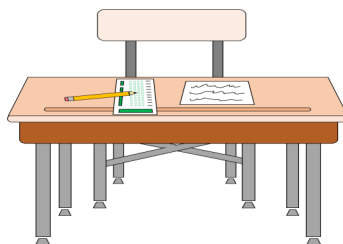
ACT (ACTstudent.org): Four 35-60 minute tests in the areas of English, math, reading and science reasoning (optional) are given. There is also an optional writing section. Students need to check with the particular college to see if it is required.

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

International Baccalaureate Tests (IB) (ibo.org):

Before early November of each year, students may sign up to take IB for April/May testing. Tests are offered in all IB courses available at Bloomfield Hills High School. Students *must* be enrolled in an IB course in order to test. 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



Students are 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 counseling 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. 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 2026-2027 will be May 3-14, 2027



Diploma Programme testing for 2026-2027 will be April 26—May 18, 2027



SAT Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
October 3, 2026	September 18, 2026	September 22, 2026
November 7, 2026	October 23, 2026	October 27, 2026
December 5, 2026	November 20, 2026	November 24, 2026
March 6, 2027	February 19, 2027	February 23, 2027
May 1, 2027	April 16, 2027	April 20, 2027
June 5, 2027	May 21, 2027	May 25, 2027

[Register here for the SAT.](#)



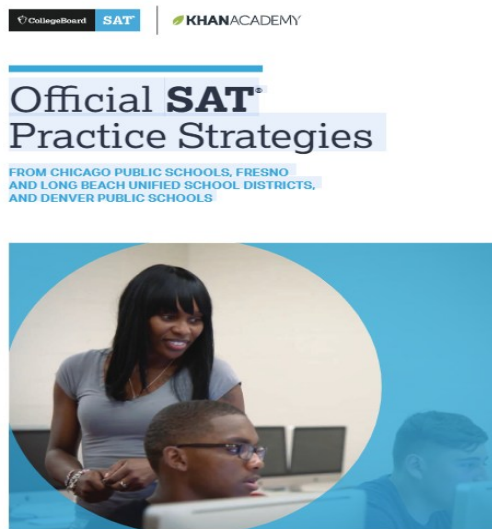
ACT Date	Regular Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
October 17, 2026	September 11, 2026	September 29, 2026
December 12, 2026	November 6, 2026	November 29, 2026
February 27, 2027	January 22, 2027	February 9, 2027
April 10, 2027	March 5, 2027	March 23, 2027
June 12, 2027	May 7, 2027	May 25, 2027
July 10, 2027	June 6, 2027	July 22, 2027

[Register here for the ACT.](#)

Consider looking into **SAT/ACT test strategies**. Visit 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

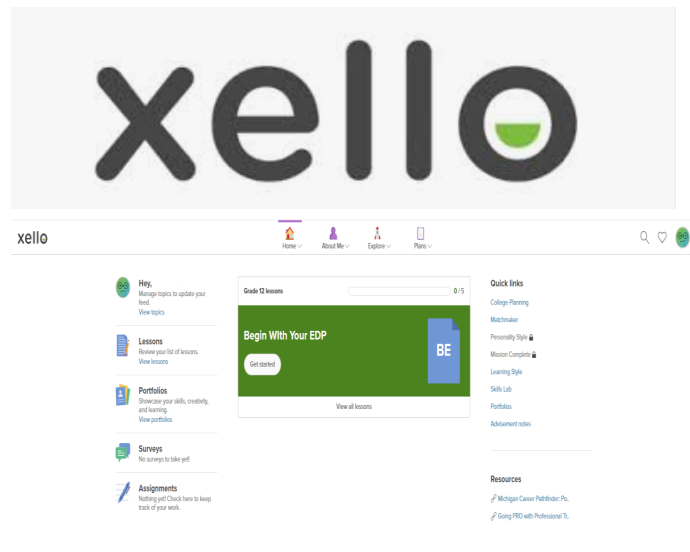
Overview

- **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 asked 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.

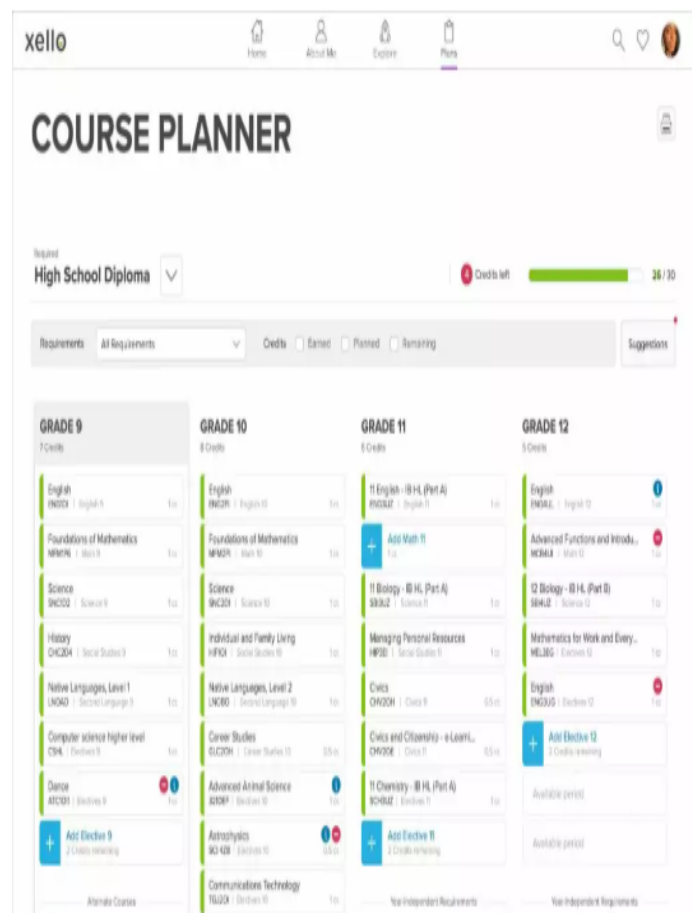


The Counseling Department utilizes XELLO, a web-based service for students and families to support decision-making regarding courses, colleges, and careers. The portal provides information on scholarship opportunities and college/career resources. Students access XELLO through their Bloomfield High School Clever portal.

CREATE A PLAN

Interactive planning tools

Students translate their newfound knowledge into an actionable roadmap by piecing together their saved career and academic options to create a personalized plan. Plus, with integrated course planning, they'll have a clear path to their future goals.



COMMON APPLICATION

What is the Common Application?

It's an online application used by over 900 colleges and universities across all 50 U.S. states and 20 countries.

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, you only have to go through those steps once on the Common App. The application saves you time and energy by not having to duplicate your efforts. You enter your information 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.

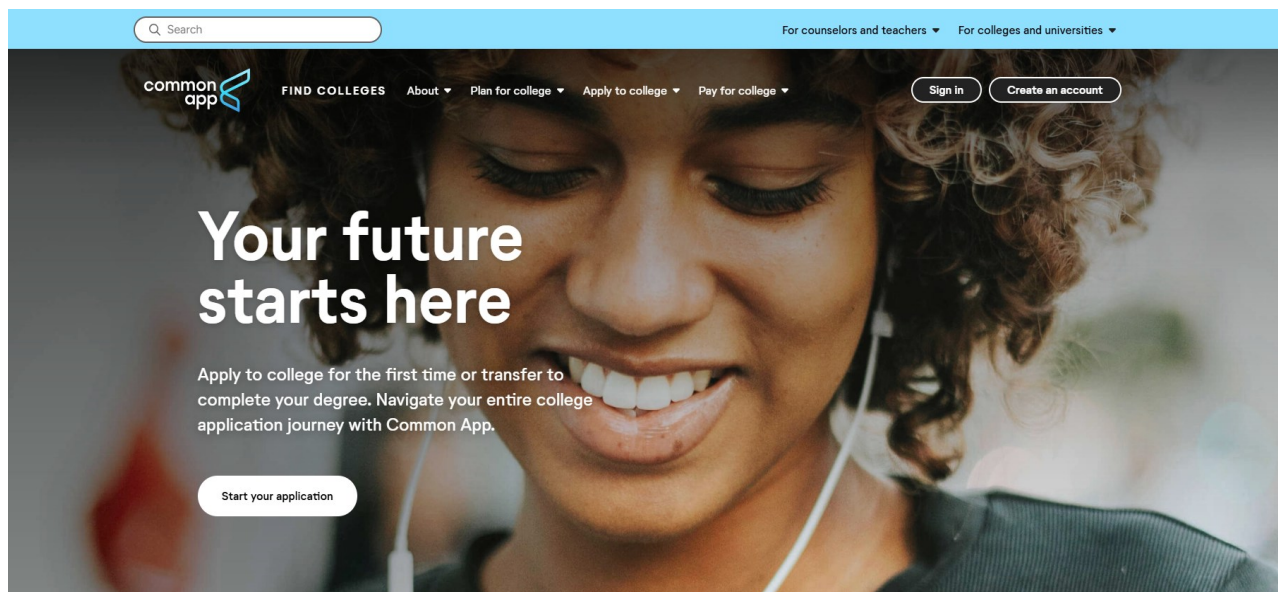
Supplemental Information

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 *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 substantial supplement.

How much does it cost to use the Common Application?

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 are ready to submit your application, many schools require payment that can range anywhere from \$20 to over \$100. Some schools do not have an application fee. 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 for this!)



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/>

Postsecondary 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 two-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. 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.

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
 - Sign up for college representative visits in the 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 the 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***
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.*

Campus Visit Checklist

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college — and life at that college — is like. This can help you decide whether the college is right for you.

GATHER INFORMATION

Find out what you need to do to apply, and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want:

- ☐ Take part in a group information session at the admission office.
- ☐ Interview with an admission officer.
- ☐ Pick up financial aid forms.
- ☐ Sit in on a class that interests you. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classrooms are like.
- ☐ Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you.
- ☐ Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors.
- ☐ Get the names and business cards of the people you meet so you can contact them later if you have questions.

EXPLORE THE CAMPUS

Get a feel for student life, and see if this college is a place where you will do well:

- ☐ Take a campus tour.
- ☐ Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore, and other campus facilities.
- ☐ Talk to current students about the college and life on campus.
- ☐ Check out the freshman dorms, and stay overnight with a student, if possible.
- ☐ Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play.
- ☐ Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

CHECK OUT CAMPUS MEDIA

Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds:

- ☐ Listen to the college radio station.
- ☐ Read the student newspaper.
- ☐ Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.
- ☐ Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.
- ☐ Browse the school's website and any campus blogs.
- ☐ Read other student publications, such as department newsletters, alternative newspapers, and literary reviews.



GET THE MOST OUT OF A CAMPUS VISIT IN **6 STEPS**

1 DECIDE WHERE AND HOW

See if your school arranges group trips to colleges or if you could get a group of friends together and visit the campus. A family trip is another option and allows you to involve your family in the process.

2 PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT

Before you set out, get a map of the college campus and pick out places of interest. Call the college's admission office to schedule a guided tour of the campus.

3 TAKE YOUR OWN TOUR

Just wandering around the campus on your own or with friends can be the best way to get a feel for what a college is like.

4 EXPLORE THE FACILITIES

Find the spots on campus where students gather or ask a student where the best place to eat is to get a feel for the character of the college. Visit the library and check out the gym or theater. Ask an admission officer if you can tour a dorm and a classroom.

5 MAKE CONNECTIONS

Talk to current students. Ask the students at the next table or sitting nearby what they like best about the college.

6 TAKE NOTES

During your visit, write down some notes about your experience. What did you see that excited you? Are there aspects of the college that you don't like? If so, what are they?

Questions to Ask During Your Visit:

ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What's it like to go from high school to college?
- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do you wish you could change about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to live here?
- What does the college do to promote student involvement in campus groups, extracurricular activities, or volunteerism?

ASK PROFESSORS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- Can a student be mentored by professors, graduate students, or upperclassmen?
- How are professors rated by the college? Does the college think mentoring and meetings for project guidance are important?
- How does the college help students have access to professors outside class? Do professors join students for lunch, help with community service groups, or guide student organizations?
- How many students do research or other kinds of projects for a semester or more?

ASK THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

- How much has your total college cost for each student risen in the past year?
- How much do your students usually end up owing when they graduate?
- What is the average income of graduates who had the same major that interests me?
- Will my costs go up when your tuition goes up, or can we use the same tuition rate I started with so I'll know the costs for four years?
- How many students usually graduate in the major that interests me? How long do these students usually take to get their degree? In what ways does the college help students graduate in four years?

MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Guide to Admissions

2026 2027



First Year

<i>Data as of July 2026</i>					
	<i>Class Size</i>	<i>Average GPA</i>	<i>Average Test Scores</i>	<i>Test Optional + Official Transcripts (Unless Noted)</i>	<i>Housing and Food</i>
Central Michigan University	1986	3.48	ACT: 24 SAT: 1091	Yes, unofficial transcripts allowed	\$13,360
Eastern Michigan University	1311	3.35	ACT: 21 SAT: 1040	Yes	\$15,670
Ferris State University	1500	3.35	ACT: 22 SAT: 1012	Yes	\$12,638
Grand Valley State University	4500	3.41	ACT: 25 SAT: 1049	Yes	\$12,738
Lake Superior State University	350	3.21	N/A	Yes, self-reported	Housing: \$6,000 Food: \$7,100
Michigan State University	9500	3.72	ACT: 28 SAT: 1260	Yes, self-reported	\$13,574
Michigan Technological University	1344	3.84	ACT: 28 SAT: 1228	Yes with 3.0 GPA	\$14,291
Northern Michigan University	1533	3.36	N/A	Yes	\$14,216
Oakland University	2330	3.5	ACT: 24 SAT: 1030	Yes	\$11,970
Saginaw Valley State University	1336	3.55	ACT: 22 SAT: 1042	Yes	\$13,000
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	8250	3.92	ACT: 32-35 SAT: 1400-1540	Yes, self-reported	\$17,220
University of Michigan-Dearborn	1138	3.70	N/A	Yes	N/A
University of Michigan-Flint	574	3.54	N/A	Yes	\$11,374
Wayne State University	3100	3.47	ACT: 26 SAT: 1172	Yes	\$12,268
Western Michigan University	2276	3.55	N/A	Yes	\$13,104

Early/Middle College programs offer students a unique opportunity to earn college credit while in high school. These students are considered entering first-year students, even if an associates degree is earned prior to high school graduation. We welcome students in **Early/Middle College** programs to apply and enroll.

First Year

First Year			
	<i>Tuition</i>	<i>Financial Aid and Scholarships (FAFSA Required)</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Central Michigan University	\$15,570 (same for out-of-state)	Automatic consideration and competitive awards cmich.edu/scholarships	cmich.edu/undergraduate/cost-aid-scholarships
Eastern Michigan University	\$17,550 (same for out-of-state)	Automatic consideration and competitive awards emich.edu/scholarships	emich.edu/finaid/understanding/costs
Ferris State University	\$16,070 (same for out-of-state)	Automatic consideration: ferris.edu/wnf ; TIP Phase 1 & 2	ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/costofattendance.htm
Grand Valley State University	In-state: \$16,886 Out-of-state: \$23,848	Automatic consideration and competitive awards gvsu.edu/scholarships	gvsu.edu/tuition
Lake Superior State University	\$15,700	Automatic consideration and competitive awards TIP Phase 1 & 2	lssu.edu/financial-aid
Michigan State University	In-state: \$17,656 Out-of-state: \$45,040	Automatic consideration	admissions.msu.edu/cost-aid
Michigan Technological University	In-state: \$20,396 Out-of-state: \$46,294	Automatic consideration and competitive awards TIP Phase 1 & 2 mtu.edu/admissions/scholarships	mtu.edu/admissions/tuition
Northern Michigan University	In-state: \$15,144 Out-of-state: \$20,744	Automatic consideration and competitive awards TIP Phase 1 & 2; nmu.edu/scholarships	nmu.edu/tuition
Oakland University	In-state: \$16,772 Out-of-state: \$23,867 No fees	Automatic consideration; March 1, 2027 priority deadline; oakland.edu/scholarships	oakland.edu/tuition
Saginaw Valley State University	In-state: \$14,280 Out-of-state: \$14,280 with automatic admitted student scholarship. No fees.	Automatic consideration and competitive awards svsu.edu/go/scholarships	svsu.edu/tuition
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	In-state: \$18,896 Out-of-state: \$67,096	Nov. 15: financial aid deadline for ED applicants only; Dec. 15: suggested filing date for EA/Regular Decision applicants; March 1: financial aid deadline for EA/Regular Decision applicants	finaid.umich.edu/getting-started/estimating-costs
University of Michigan-Dearborn	In-state: \$16,464 Out-of-state: \$35,112	Automatic consideration umdearborn.edu/admissions-aid/paying-college/first-year-state-scholarships	umdearborn.edu/one-stop/tuition-and-fees
University of Michigan-Flint	In-state: \$15,622 Out-of-state: \$28,492	Automatic consideration	umflint.edu/studentaccounts/tuition-fees
Wayne State University	In-state: \$16,080 Out-of-state: \$34,214	Automatic consideration wayne.edu/scholarships	wayne.edu/tuition
Western Michigan University	In-state: \$16,452 Out-of-state: \$20,954	wmich.edu/finaid/aid-types/institutional-offers/first-year-scholarships	wmich.edu/finaid/cost-of-attendance

First Year

	<i>App Deadline</i>	<i>Decision Release Dates</i>	<i>App Fee (Fee Waivers Available)</i>
Central Michigan University	Rolling, Centralis Honors Scholarship deadline Nov. 2	Rolling	\$40, free Aug. 1-Oct. 31
Eastern Michigan University	Rolling	Rolling	\$35
Ferris State University	Rolling	Rolling	Free
Grand Valley State University	Rolling, March 1 for merit scholarships	Rolling	Free
Lake Superior State University	Rolling	Rolling	Free
Michigan State University	EA: Nov. 1 Regular: Feb. 1	EA: by Jan. 25 Regular: by March 31	\$75
Michigan Technological University	EA: Nov. 1 Regular: by Feb. 1	EA: by Jan. 15 Regular: by March 1	Free
Northern Michigan University	Rolling, Oct. 19, 26, and Nov. 2 for Presidential Scholars Competition	Rolling	Free
Oakland University	Rolling, recommended Fall: Aug. 1; Winter: Dec. 1; Summer: July 1	Rolling	Free
Saginaw Valley State University	Rolling, Dec. 1 for President's Scholarship consideration	Rolling	Free
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	ED: Nov. 1 EA: Nov. 1 Regular: Feb. 1	ED: End of December EA: End of January Regular: Early April	\$75
University of Michigan-Dearborn	Rolling. Recommended Application & FAFSA Submission: Dec. 1 Preferred Application Deadline: April 1 Final Application Deadline: Aug. 15	Oct. 15, then Rolling	Free
University of Michigan-Flint	Rolling, March 1 for True Blue full tuition scholarship; Final deadline: Aug. 9	Rolling	Free
Wayne State University	Rolling, Priority Deadline: Dec. 1 Scholarship Deadline: April 1 Final Deadline: Aug. 1	Rolling	\$25
Western Michigan University	Fall EA: Dec. 1, Rolling admission: June 1; Spring: Jan. 1; Summer I: May 1; Summer II: June 15	Rolling, variable by program	\$40

Michigan Assured Admission Pact (MAAP): Admitting all Michigan high school graduates who earn a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 or above (4.0 scale). Visit MAAP.org.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

cmich.edu
cmuadmissions@cmich.edu
989-774-3076

Campus Visits:

cmich.edu/visit

CMU and You Day: Sept. 19

ACT Code: 1972 SAT Code: 1106

Common App

MAAP: Yes

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

msu.edu
admissions.msu.edu
517-355-8332

Campus Visits:

admissions.msu.edu/visit

ACT Code: 2032 SAT Code: 1465

Common App

Coalition App Member

MAAP: No

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-ANN ARBOR

umich.edu
admissions.umich.edu
734-764-7433

Campus Visits:

admissions.umich.edu/visit

ACT Code: 2062 SAT Code: 1839

Common App

MAAP: No

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

emich.edu
undergraduate_admissions@emich.edu
734-487-6453

Campus Visits:

emich.edu/visit-emu

Explore Eastern: Oct. 10

ACT Code: 1990 SAT Code: 1201

Common App

MAAP: Yes

MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

mtu.edu/admissions
mtu4u@mtu.edu
888-688-1885

Campus Visits:

mtu.edu/admissions/visit/plan

ACT Code: 2030 SAT Code: 1464

Common App

MAAP: No

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN

umdearborn.edu
umd-admissions@umich.edu
313-593-5390

Campus Visits:

umdearborn.edu/visit

Sept. 26

ACT Code: 2074 SAT Code: 1861

Common App

MAAP: Yes

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

ferris.edu
admissions@ferris.edu
800-433-7747

Campus Visits:

ferris.edu/visit

Dawg Days: Oct. 10, Nov. 7, and

March 20, 2027

ACT Code: 1994 SAT Code: 1222

Common App

MAAP: Yes

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

nmu.edu/admissions
admissions@nmu.edu
906-227-2650

Campus Visits:

nmu.edu/visit

Oct. 9-10, March 19-20, 2027

ACT Code: 2038 SAT Code: 1560

Common App

MAAP: Yes

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

umflint.edu/admissions
admissions.flint@umich.edu
810-762-3300

Campus Visits:

go.umflint.edu/visit

Oct. 17, March 20, 2027

ACT Code: 2063 SAT Code: 1853

Common App

MAAP: Yes

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

gvsu.edu
admissions@gvsu.edu
800-748-0246

Campus Visits:

gvsu.edu/admissions/visit

Laker Open House: Oct. 3 and Nov. 7

ACT Code: 2005 SAT Code: 1258

Common App

MAAP: Yes

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

oakland.edu/futuresstudents
visit@oakland.edu
248-370-3360

Campus Visits:

oakland.edu/visit

Oct. 3, March 13, 2027

ACT Code: 2033 SAT Code: 1497

Common App

MAAP: Yes

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

wayne.edu/admissions
admissions@wayne.edu
313-577-2100

Campus Visits:

wayne.edu/visit

Oct. 3, March 6, 2027

ACT Code: 2064 SAT Code: 1898

Common App

MAAP: Yes

LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY

lssu.edu
admissions@lssu.edu
ph: 906-635-2231 txt: 906-934-8131

Campus Visits:

lssu.edu/visit

Laker Preview Day: Oct. 3

ACT Code: 2031 SAT Code: 1421

Common App

MAAP: Yes

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

svsu.edu/admissions
admissions@svsu.edu
Call/text: 889-842-1033

Campus Visits:

svsu.edu/visit

Oct. 24

ACT Code: 2057 SAT Code: 1766

Common App

MAAP: Yes

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

wmich.edu/admissions
admissions-info@wmich.edu
269-387-2000

Campus Visits:

wmich.edu/visit

Oct. 9, 17, 30, Nov. 7

ACT Code: 2066 SAT Code: 1902

Common App

MAAP: No

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 available 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.

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.
- Some colleges are test optional and do not require a test score for admission.

3. Extra-curricular Activities

- These can include involvement in clubs, organizations, athletics, and employment.
- 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.).

DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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

Regular Decision	Rolling Admission	Early Action (EA)	Early Decision (ED)	Restrictive Early Action (REA)
DEFINITION: Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.	DEFINITION: Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.	DEFINITION: Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.	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.	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	COMMITMENT: NON-BINDING	COMMITMENT: NON-BINDING	COMMITMENT: BINDING	COMMITMENT: NON-BINDING
Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.			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*** before 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.). Make sure you notify your recommender of the application deadline.
- **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.



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.

Sample Resume

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

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.

Your college essay roadmap

Eight steps for juniors to find a topic, tell the truth, and write an essay that sounds like you.

1

Start early and read the prompts

Begin the summer before senior year if you can. Read every prompt closely so you know what each one asks before you pick.

2

Brainstorm freely

Jot down anything: people, places, moments, hobbies, challenges, things you could talk about for an hour. No idea is too small or silly yet.

3

Choose the topic you care about

Pick the idea that looks like the most fun to write. If you're excited, your reader will be too. One focused theme beats a list of everything you've done.

4

Write about you, not what they want to hear

Skip the "impressive" topic you think admissions officers prefer. An essay written to please is boring to write and boring to read. Show your real voice and what you notice, value, and wonder about.

5

Be honest

Officers read thousands of essays and can spot borrowed or purchased writing. Use your own words and your own story. Don't risk your college career on a shortcut.

6

Show, don't just tell

Don't say "I'm determined." Put the reader in the moment with specific details they can see, hear, smell, or taste. Instead of "cooking is my passion," try "flour on my sleeves at 6 a.m., Grandma's recipe card gone soft at the corners." One real scene and a few sensory details do more than a list of adjectives.

7

Draft messy, then rewrite

Write down whatever comes to mind in the first draft. Let it rest a few hours or days, then cut details that don't fit and add examples where you need them. Share it with a trusted reader who knows writing, and keep an open mind. You don't have to take every suggestion.

8

Proofread, then let it go

Read it aloud or backward, last sentence first, to catch small errors. Use formal writing: no texting shorthand. Then remember

Questions to spark ideas

- What do you love to talk about?
- Who has shaped how you see things?
- What's a small moment you still remember?
- What did you get wrong, and what did you learn?
- What would a friend say makes you, you?

Do and don't

Do choose one clear theme and use specific details.

Do let your personality show.

Don't list every achievement. Other parts of the application cover that.

Don't have anyone else write it for you.

Keep it in perspective

Your grades, activities, and test scores count too. Write the best essay you can without letting it overshadow the rest.

Writing a college essay that sounds like you

Ten tips for a stronger admissions essay and a calmer process.

1 Start early

More time means less stress and plenty of room to give the essay your best effort.

2 Be yourself

Write about something you care about, not what you think others want to hear. Help officials get to know you as a person.

3 Be honest

Admission officers have read thousands of essays and spot plagiarism fast. Never buy an essay or have someone else write it.

4 Stay focused

Read the prompt closely, jot down ideas, and pick the most fun one. Stick to one theme; your achievements go elsewhere in the application.

5 Put your best foot forward

An online application isn't an email. Skip texting shorthand and fix capitalization. This is a formal document.

6 Write and rewrite

Draft freely, let it rest a few hours or days, then refocus. Cut details that don't fit and add examples where needed.

7 Get a second opinion

Ask a respected reader who knows writing what they like best and what to improve.

8 Keep an open mind

Criticism is tough, but listen. You don't have to take every suggestion, though each deserves serious thought. It's your essay.

9 Proofread, proofread, proofread

Read it aloud, have someone read it to you, or read it backward from the last sentence to catch errors your eye skips.

10 Don't expect too much

The essay matters, but officials weigh the whole package: grades, activities, and test scores. Don't let the pressure overshadow the rest.

The short version: start early, tell the truth about what you care about, revise, get feedback, and proofread. Then trust the rest of your application.

What Is the NCAA?



The National Collegiate Athletic Association is an organization dedicated to providing a pathway to opportunity for college athletes. Over 1,000 colleges and universities are members of the NCAA. These schools work together with the NCAA national office and athletics conferences across the country to support more than 500,000 college athletes who make up over 20,000 teams competing in NCAA sports.

The NCAA's diverse members include schools ranging in size from hundreds of students to tens of thousands. The NCAA's current three-division structure was adopted in 1973 to create a fair playing field for teams from similar schools and provide college athletes more opportunities to participate in national championships.

Among the three NCAA divisions, Division I schools generally compete at the highest level of NCAA competition, have the largest athletics budgets and offer the highest number of athletics scholarships. The Division II approach provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning through high-level athletics competition, the best access to NCAA Championships® and a focus on service to the community. With nearly 40% of the NCAA's total membership, Division III offers participation in a competitive athletics environment that pushes college athletes to excel on the field and build upon their potential by tackling new challenges across campus.

To learn more about the pathway that's right for you, visit ncaa.org/playcollegesports.

The NCAA membership and national office work together to help the more than 500,000 student-athletes pursue higher education goals and develop leadership, confidence, discipline and teamwork through college sports.

NCAA Sports

The NCAA conducts 94 national championships in 26 sports across Divisions I, II and III, with 49 championships for women, 43 for men and two coed national championships.

The NCAA also supports emerging sports to expand athletics opportunities and help these sports achieve NCAA championship status. If you plan to participate in an emerging sport, you must still register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

From March Madness® to rowing, rifle and skiing, the NCAA is dedicated to delivering championships that provide a first-class experience for student-athletes, coaches, fans and broadcast audiences worldwide.

Beyond the game, the NCAA emphasizes community impact – hosting youth clinics and fan events that turn each championship into a celebration for everyone involved.

FALL SPORTS		WINTER SPORTS		SPRING SPORTS		EMERGING SPORTS
MEN:	WOMEN:	MEN:	WOMEN:	MEN:	WOMEN:	WOMEN:
Cross Country Football Soccer Tennis (Singles/ Doubles) Water Polo	Cross Country Field Hockey Soccer Tennis (Singles/ Doubles) Volleyball	Basketball Fencing Gymnastics Ice Hockey Indoor Track and Field Rifle Skiing Swimming and Diving Wrestling	Basketball Bowling Fencing Gymnastics Ice Hockey Indoor Track and Field Rifle Skiing Swimming and Diving Wrestling	Baseball Golf Lacrosse Outdoor Track and Field Tennis (Team) Volleyball	Acrobatics and Tumbling Beach Volleyball Golf Lacrosse Outdoor Track and Field Rowing Softball Stunt Tennis (Team) Water Polo	Equestrian (Divisions I and II only) Flag Football Rugby Triathlon

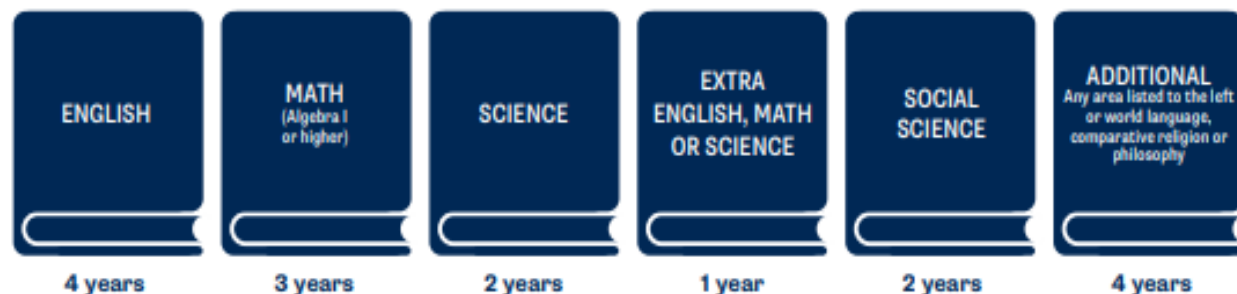
Division I Academic Standards

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:

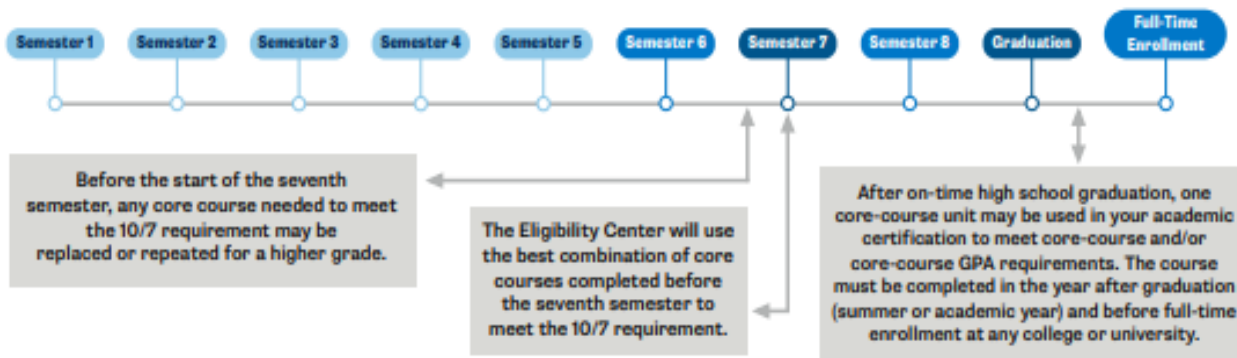


DIVISION I

1. Register for an Academic and Athletics Certification account.
2. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:



3. Complete 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in four consecutive academic years (eight semesters) from your initial start of ninth grade. If you graduate from high school early, you still must meet core-course requirements.
4. Meet the 10/7 requirement by completing 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math and science, before the start of the seventh semester.



» Students with solely international academic credentials are not required to meet the 10/7 requirement.

5. Earn a minimum 2.3 core-course GPA.
6. Ask your high school counselor to upload your final official high school transcript with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.
7. Receive academic and athletics certifications from the Eligibility Center.

Example Schedule

How To Plan High School Courses
To Meet the 16 Core-Course Requirements

$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

9th GRADE

(1) English
(1) Math
(1) Science
(1) Social science
and/or additional

4 CORE COURSES

10th GRADE

(1) English
(1) Math
(1) Science
(1) Social science
and/or additional

4 CORE COURSES

11th GRADE

(1) English
(1) Math
(1) Science
(1) Social science
and/or additional

4 CORE COURSES

12th GRADE

(1) English
(1) Math
(1) Science
(1) Social science
and/or additional

4 CORE COURSES

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. [Register](#) for an Academic and Athletics Certification account.
2. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE	EXTRA ENGLISH, MATH OR SCIENCE	SOCIAL SCIENCE	ADDITIONAL Any area listed to the left or world language, comparative religion or philosophy
3 years	2 years	2 years	3 years	2 years	4 years

3. Earn a minimum 2.2 core-course GPA.
4. Ask your high school counselor to upload your final official high school transcript with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.
5. Receive academic and athletics certifications from the Eligibility Center.

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION DECISIONS

Academic certifications are required for all college-bound student-athletes planning to compete at an NCAA Division II school. Listed below are possible academic certification decisions for students planning to enroll at Division II schools:

Early Academic Qualifier

If you meet **specific criteria** after three consecutive academic years (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.

What if You Don't Meet Division II Standards?

If you have not met all the Division II academic standards, you may not compete in your first year of full-time enrollment at a Division II school. However, you will be deemed a partial qualifier. All Division II partial qualifiers may practice and receive an athletics scholarship but may NOT compete during their first year of full-time enrollment.

Division II Worksheet

Use the [Division II Worksheet](#) to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The Eligibility Center will determine your academic status after you graduate. Remember to check your high school's list of [NCAA-approved core courses](#) for courses you have taken or plan to take.



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CHECKLIST

Complete this checklist to get in the game!

Start Early: College coaches value initiative, and securing an early eligibility decision helps student-athletes stand out.

The NAIA Eligibility Center accepts 3 types of high school transcripts: **Junior Year Complete**, **Senior Mid-Year**, and **Senior Year Final**. Requirements vary depending on where you are in your high school journey. Click [here](#) to check the eligibility requirements for your student type.



REGISTER TO PLAY

- ☐ Visit PlayNAIA.org and register your email address to create your eligibility profile.
- ☐ Go to your email inbox to confirm your account and register your password.
- ☐ Submit payment for the PlayNAIA registration fee or request a [fee waiver](#).



COMPLETE YOUR PROFILE

- ☐ Fill in your personal information, current address, high school graduation details, and full athletic history.
- ☐ Review all information on the overview page, to ensure everything entered is accurate before submitting your profile.



DOCUMENTATION

- ☐ Ask your counselor to upload your official high school transcript through their [PlayNAIA High School Portal](#).
 - ☐ Click into the high school transcript task on your PlayNAIA **Current Task** list to see who has access to your school's PlayNAIA portal.
- ☐ Send [ACT](#) / [SAT](#) test score(s) directly through the testing service website to the NAIA Eligibility Center (**9876**).



REVIEW STAGE

- ☐ Once all necessary documents are submitted, you'll be placed in line awaiting review.
- ☐ Stay up to date on your PlayNAIA profile until your eligibility review has been completed. You'll be notified and have access to view your eligibility decision under the **Decision Details** tab.

Find more information at [PlayNAIA.org](#)

Do I meet the freshman eligibility requirements?

If you will graduate from a U.S. high school this spring and enroll in college this coming fall, the requirements are simple. An entering freshman must:

- Be a graduate of an accredited high school.
- Must graduate with a 2.3+ GPA or meet two of the three following requirements.

MUST MEET TWO OF THE THREE

1. TEST SCORE REQUIREMENT	2. HIGH SCHOOL GPA REQUIREMENT	3. CLASS RANK REQUIREMENT
Achieve a minimum of 18 on the ACT or 970 on the SAT	Achieve a minimum overall high school grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale	Graduate in the top half of your high school class
Tests must be taken on an international testing date prior to the start of the term in which you intend to participate in athletics and scores must be achieved on a single test date. The minimum SAT must be achieved on the Evidence-Based Reading & Writing and Math sections only; the Writing score cannot be used. Minimum score requirements for tests taken prior to May 1, 2019 varied. • For tests taken prior to March 1, 2016: 18 ACT, 860 SAT (reading, math) • For tests taken between March 1, 2016 and May 1, 2019: 16 ACT, 860 SAT (evidence-based reading & writing, math)	The NAIA accepts the grade point average determined by the high school, provided it is recorded and awarded in the same manner as for every other student at the school.	If a student's class rank does not appear on the transcript, a signed letter from the principal or headmaster, vice principal or guidance counselor written on the school's letterhead and with the school's official seal, stating the student's final class rank position or may be submitted. Exception: Completion of nine institutional credit hours prior to identification at any institution of higher education can be used if no class rank appears on the final official high school transcript. The credit hours must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

Mid-Year Eligibility Opportunity. If you do not meet requirements for an entering freshman, you can satisfy one of the initial requirements in addition to earning 12 institutional credits hours with a grade of "C" or better during your first term of attendance at your NAIA school to be eligible.

Learning disabilities. Students with diagnosed learning disabilities, who do not meet the freshman eligibility requirements, may have their academic profiles reviewed by the NAIA Learning Disability Advisory Committee at the request of an NAIA institution. The LDAC will then provide recommendations to the National Eligibility Committee to assist with a final decision.

ADDITIONAL POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS

COMMUNITY COLLEGES/VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS/EMPLOYMENT

A four-year college or university isn't the right choice for all our graduates. Some students may attend a two-year community college to explore interests, transfer credits to a four-year university, or earn certifications. Others may choose a technical school to learn a specific skill or occupation. Joining the armed services or the workforce 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 4-year 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 proximity to 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** (trade-schools.net/) lists technical schools in the United States and Michigan, as well as local career and job fairs.
- Only Trade Schools** (onlytradeschools.com/michigan/) site compiles information about 10 of the best trade schools in Michigan. Click on the page navigation on the website.
- Compare Top Schools** (comparetopschools.com) lists vocational and career schools in Michigan.
- Oakland Schools Technical Campuses** (ostconline.com/). When space allows, high school graduates may take additional coursework (tuition required)
- Universal Technical Institute** (uti.edu) offers technical and trade programs in Canton, MI.

CAREER SPECIFIC INSTITUTIONS

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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/APPRENTICESHIPS

The following websites provide information on current job opportunities:

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

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

- **Michigan Laborers Training and Apprenticeship Institute** (mi-laborers.org)
- **OCC Apprenticeships** (oaklandcc.edu/apprenticeship/)

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:

- [Militaryonesource.mil](https://militaryonesource.mil)
- military.com

For information on specific branches of the military:

[Airforce.com](https://airforce.com) [Goarmy.com](https://goarmy.com) [Marines.com](https://marines.com) [Navy.com](https://navy.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 when 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**/usagapyearfairs.org
- **Adventures Cross Country**/adventurescrosscountry.com



BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE

There are many advantages to attending a community college.

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. The State of Michigan offers graduating students free community college through the Community College Guarantee with the [Michigan Achievement Scholarship](#).

2. A Chance to Keep Improving

You might not have performed well in high school. Community colleges allow you to improve your overall profile 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 transferring their community college credit to a four-year university.

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 opportunity. 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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/APPRENTICESHIPS

The following websites provide information on current job opportunities:

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

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

- **Michigan Laborers Training and Apprenticeship Institute** (mi-laborers.org)
- **OCC Apprenticeships** (oaklandcc.edu/apprenticeship/)

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:

- [Militaryonesource.mil](https://militaryonesource.mil)
- military.com

For information on specific branches of the military:

Airforce.com Goarmy.com Marines.com Navy.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** usagapyearfairs.org
- **Adventures Cross Country** adventurescrosscountry.com



HELPFUL WEBSITES

College Search

Campus Tours	campustours.com
College Board	collegeboard.org
Big Future	bigfuture.collegeboard.org
Cappex	cappex.com
Go College	gocollege.com
Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (Michigan College Mall)	macrao.org
Niche	Niche.com
XELLO	xello.world/en/middle-and-high-school/
Peterson's	petersons.com
Princeton Review	princetonreview.com

ACT/SAT Test Prep

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

Career Exploration

XELLO	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

College Essay Guy	Collegeessayguy.com
Parenting for College	https://shorturl.at/5ugKl
Michigan Career Finder Resources	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.