

A GUIDE TO COLLEGE PLANNING



A timeline, tips,
and resources
for high school
seniors.



This guide provided as a service of the Genesee Intermediate School District
and the Genesee County Career and College Access Network.

Preparing for College

REMINDER

Career research and applying for scholarships are two important steps that will continue through your entire senior year.

THE SENIOR TIMELINE

Preparing for college or trade school can seem overwhelming. That's why the Genesee County Career and College Access Network (GCCCCAN) created this College Planning Guide and timeline. It provides information and resources you will need and guides you step by step through the process of preparing to attend college or trade school after high school graduation.

Keep in mind that career research and applying for scholarships are two important parts of career and college planning that will continue through your entire senior year and even while in college/trade school.



1

APPLY FOR COLLEGE

APPLY EARLY AND TO MULTIPLE COLLEGES

Applying early maximizes your opportunities for scholarships, financial aid, and admission. Applying to more than one college keeps your options open. You can make your final decision later in the year once you know how much financial aid you will receive from each college.

Applying for college early also streamlines the financial aid process, so colleges can determine your financial aid offer once your FAFSA is submitted.

Links to Colleges and Applications

Michigan Institutions

This Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) resource provides a list of all public and private, 2-year and 4-year colleges in Michigan. You can find institution-specific information regarding admissions and financial aid.

<https://sites.google.com/micollegeaccess.org/cavacollegeguide/?pli=1>

Common Application

The Common Application is an undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to over 1,000 member colleges and universities. <https://www.commonapp.org/>

Local Colleges

- Mott Community College
Application: <https://appsprod.mcc.edu/ui/admissions.html#/>
Admissions: <https://www.mcc.edu/admissions/index.shtml>
- University of Michigan - Flint
Application: <https://www.umflint.edu/admissions/first-year-students/>
Admissions: <https://www.umflint.edu/admissions/>
- Kettering University
Application: <https://www.kettering.edu/apply>
Admissions: <https://www.kettering.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions>





Skilled Trades

- GST Michigan Works!
<https://gstmiworks.org/job-seekers/registered-apprenticeship/>
- ICATT Apprenticeship Program
<https://icattapprenticeships.com>
- Mott Community College Apprenticeship Programs
<https://www.mcc.edu/apprentice/index.shtml>
- Mott Community College Degree and Certificate Programs
<https://catalog.mcc.edu/content.php?catoid=15&navoid=459>

Resources for Career and College Planning

Michigan Career Pathfinder

Online career planning tool to help connect Michigan residents with high-quality, in-demand degrees and credentials.
<https://pathfinder.mitalent.org/>

Post-Graduation Opportunities Informational Packet

Michigan Career Pathfinder - Resources
<https://pathfinder.mitalent.org/resources>

Michigan's Hot 50 Job Outlook through 2032

<https://www.michigan.gov/mcda/reports/michigan-hot-50>

Big Future - College Board

Explore Careers: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers>
College Planning: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/plan-for-college>

QUICK TIP

Visit the colleges you are considering attending. This is a great way to get more information and see if it is a good fit for you.

2

COMPLETE THE FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

The FAFSA provides access to money for college and career training. This includes grants, scholarships, and work study opportunities. The FAFSA has been revamped for a more streamlined process and will be available on October 1.

Complete the FAFSA for:

- Eligibility for grants, scholarships, loans, and work study
- Federal, state, and institutional aid
- Access to the largest source of funding for college and career training
- Eligibility for the Michigan Achievement Scholarship and the Community College Guarantee

High school seniors can plan by visiting the FAFSA website now to learn more about what information is needed and how to fill out and submit the FAFSA Form. Learn more at www.fafsa.gov.

Start by creating your student aid account at www.fafsa.gov. Your parents will need to create their own account as well. The FSA ID is a username and password required to log in and access the FAFSA. It also serves as a legal signature when you submit your FAFSA. Go to www.fafsa.gov and click "create account" in the upper right-hand corner.

Money for Michigan Students

Michigan Achievement Scholarship

www.michigan.gov/achievement

- **Community College Guarantee:** Tuition-free skills certificate or associate degree regardless of family income!
- **Public or Private University:** Up to \$27,500 to earn a bachelor's degree - that's \$5,500 per year for up to five years.
- **Career Training:** Up to \$4,000 to earn a skills certificate at a career training program.

Other Michigan Programs - MI Student Aid

<https://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid>

MI Student Aid - Resources for Students and Families

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

QUICK TIP

Apply now to maximize your opportunity for free money!





REMINDER

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Money for Genesee County Students

Genesee Opportunity (GO)

The Genesee Opportunity (GO) stipend provides Genesee County high school graduates with money for college, career training, or certification licensing fees. It is not based on income or grades and is funded through a millage approved by Genesee County voters. <https://www.geneseego.org>

Flint Promise

The Flint Promise is for graduates of high schools located in the City of Flint. Visit the website for eligibility requirements and to access the application. <https://educateflintandgenesee.org/flint-promise/>

Community Foundation of Greater Flint Scholarship Program

The Foundation's online scholarship portal allows you to submit one application for several scholarships. Visit the website to find the list of scholarships offered and how to apply. <https://www.cfgf.org/>

Local Scholarships

These scholarships have less competition because they are limited to students from a specific region or school. Check with your high school about local scholarship opportunities!

Scholarship Search Sites

Big Future - College Board

Earn entries in monthly drawings for \$500 and \$40,000 scholarships by completing steps on Big Future. There are scholarship drawings starting in December of your sophomore year until February of your senior year. <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search>
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/bigfuture-scholarships>

MI Scholarship Search

This scholarship database has information about Michigan place-based scholarships. Visit the website and enter your county to see what is available. <https://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid/students-families/mi-scholarship-search>

Fastweb

A free scholarship search platform. <https://www.fastweb.com/>



3

REVIEW YOUR OFFERS

Considering and Comparing Financial Aid Offers

A college/school financial aid offer (sometimes called an award letter) tells you what financial aid you are eligible for at a particular college or career school. If you have applied to several schools, be sure to compare aid offers.

The following resources may be helpful as you review financial aid offers.

Federal Student Aid - U.S. Department of Education

Comparing School Financial Aid Offers

<https://studentaid.gov/complete-aid-process/comparing-aid-offers>

Michigan Student Aid

Understanding Your Financial Aid Offer

- Types of Aid
- What do my awards mean?

<https://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid/students-families/understanding-your-financial-aid-offer>

College Board - Big Future

How to Review and Compare Your Financial Aid Awards

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-awards/how-review-compare-financial-aid-awards>

QUICK TIP

Compare all offers to be sure you are making the best academic and financial decision for you.



4

SELECT AND COMMIT

MAKING YOUR DECISION OFFICIAL

Once you have received your college acceptance letters/notifications and decided which college or university you are going to attend, you must tell your school of choice.

Typically, this is done by submitting an enrollment form and/or deposit. Once that is completed, you will receive information about orientation and housing (if applicable).

Pay attention to college deadlines! May 1st is National College Decision Day. This is typically the deadline to accept offers of admission and submit an enrollment deposit. However, this may vary depending on the college. Make sure to check the deadlines for your institution.

QUICK TIP

Check the deadline for each college to be sure you commit on time!



Find more career and college planning information and resources on the Beyond Graduation website.

WWW.BEYONDGRAD.ORG