



# Post- Secondary Planning

10 things to start prepping  
and planning for college  
application success.

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# 1. Finish junior year strong!

- Colleges make admissions decisions based on your grades in 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade
- Junior year grades are the final grades reported at the time of application
- Work during junior year for an upward trend in grades. Higher grades during junior year can sometimes outweigh a slip up earlier in high school.



## 2. Choose Challenging Classes Senior Year.

- Rigor of classes is one of the key things college admissions counselors consider.
- Choose a solid academic schedule: 3-4 classes in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Language (4-5 for the most selective colleges)
- Take AP (Advanced Placement) or Dual Enrollment classes if appropriate.



### 3. Get to know your Counselor, Teachers, and Career Facilitator.

- Letters of Recommendation: the better someone knows you the more personal the letter.
- Counselors are a great resource – talk to us about colleges and college admission.
- Not sure of your career path? Meet with the career facilitator to help narrow things down.



## 4. Continue Preparing for the SAT/ACT

### **SAT: April 2019**

- Students will take the SAT plus Writing, ACT WorkKeys, and M-Step.
- No cost
- No need to register
- Valid scores on all days of testing is required for graduation

### **ACT**

- Not required
- Register at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- Cost involved
- You will take at a National Test Sight
- Dates are in your packet



## 5. Get Organized

- Make sure you have an appropriate email address and check it regularly.
- Start a folder to keep items together.
  - SAT/ACT scores
  - Transcripts
  - Letters of recommendation
  - College information
  - Essays
  - Scholarships
  - Financial Aid



## 6. Start or Update Your Resume, Activities List, or Brag Sheet.

- Include a description and dates for all:
  - Extracurricular Activities
  - Volunteer Work
  - Job Experience
  - Sport Involvement
  - Awards you have received







## 8. Connect With Colleges

- Learn everything you can about the colleges you are considering.
- Join their mailing lists.
- Follow them on social media to learn about upcoming events.



## 9. Visit Colleges: Even if they aren't your top choice.

- College visits let you experience the community.
- Register to visit online or through the Admissions Office.
- See if they have a specific Junior Visit Day.
- Visit during the school year if possible so you can see campus with students on it.



## 10. Start Planning Summer Activities

- Summer Programs
- Internship Opportunities
- Volunteer Work
- Employment Opportunities



Activities may be the thing that sets you apart from students with similar academic profiles.



# So When Do I Apply?

- Community Colleges – flexible timelines – any time senior year
- 4 year Universities and Colleges
  - Most applications open August 1st
  - Applications are completed and submitted online
  - Due dates vary by school \*the college must receive **all** required materials by the due date (transcript, test scores, etc)

# Three Main Applications:

- College/University's own application
- Common Application
- Coalition Application



THE COMMON  
APPLICATION



# Common Application: Michigan Members



Albion College	Alma College	Calvin College
Hillsdale College	Hope College	Kalamazoo College
Kettering University	Lawrence Tech University	Michigan State University
Northwood University	Olivet College	Spring Arbor University
University of Detroit Mercy	University of Michigan – AA	University of Michigan – Flint
Wayne State University	Western Michigan University	

# Coalition Application: Michigan Members

- Michigan State University
- University of Michigan – Ann Arbor



# Application Checklist



- Complete application on the college/university website, Common App, or Coalition App
- Send transcripts through Parchment (instructions included in information packet)
- Send official test scores through College Board (SAT) or ACT
- File for financial aid through the FAFSA beginning October of the senior year



Name of School	Application Deadline	Teacher Recommendation (if required)			Transcript sent through Parchment		SAT/ACT Scores Sent	Essay(s) (if required)		Application Completed and Submitted	Financial Aid and Scholarships		
		#	Asked Teachers	Forms shared	Account created	Requested		Written and Edited	Sent		FAFSA *NOT before Oct. 1	CSS Profile if required	School Specific Forms

**Apply:** Applications can be found on the colleges' website. You will be required to create an account. Applications do not need to be completed in one sitting. Make sure you double check everything before hitting the submit button!

**Send Transcript:** Create an account at [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com). Sending transcripts to in state schools is free until you graduate. There may be a fee to send to schools out of state.

**Send SAT/ACT Scores:** Check your SAT/ACT score report for the schools who have already received your scores. If the school to which you are applying has not been sent your scores you will need to order scores sent from [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) (SAT) or [www.ACTstudent.org](http://www.ACTstudent.org) (ACT). There is a fee to send scores after the original testing date.



# College Board Opportunity Scholarships

Class of 2020 and beyond

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# College Board Opportunity Scholarships



To participate, go to [cb.org/opportunity](https://www.cb.org/opportunity) to learn more and join the program.

1. Build Your College List: \$500
2. Practice for the SAT: \$1000
3. Improve Your Score: \$2000
4. Strengthen Your College List: \$500
5. Complete the FAFSA: \$1000
6. Apply to Colleges: \$1000

\*Complete all six steps to be eligible for the  
**Complete Your Journey Scholarship: \$40,000**

# Notes:



- Scholarships are awarded – through monthly drawings – to students who complete each step.
- The more effort put in, the more chances to earn a scholarship ranging from \$500 to \$2000.
- The program is open to class of 2020 high school students.
- This program is open to students regardless of their family income. At least half of all the scholarships (over \$2 million) will be designated for students whose families earn less than \$60,000 per year.

Class of

**2020**



**Time for  
Questions**