

The Best Preparation.



It really doesn't get any more exciting than this.



College. It's officially on the horizon. And whether you're a high school freshman just learning the ropes of the college search process, or an upperclassman who's been around the block, it's important to be organized and on top of your game.

That's where we come in. We've put together some key information that you'll need as you move ahead with mapping out your future, and we encourage you to contact us with any other questions or information you might need.

Remember, we're Michigan. We've been on top of our game since 1817.

www.admissions.umich.edu/Start-Here



Things to Know About the College Search

Big or small? City or suburb? Public or private? Big time sports or an environment fit for the arts? When it comes to the kind of school you're looking for, there's a lot to consider. All schools have different admissions criteria, specialized programs, types of housing, and campus culture. Remember, it's all about personal fit. How we fit with you, and how you fit with us.

Know What You Want

Create a prioritized list of all the things that matter the most to you in terms of college. We mean literally write these things out and keep it close. This will serve as a valuable tool when you begin looking at colleges and the different strengths they offer.

Know Your Resources

Visit different school websites. Read their publications. Attend college fairs and talk to admissions representatives. Go to information sessions. Hit the road and visit the campuses that you're really interested in. There's no substitute for information, and there's a mountain of it out there for you. Learn as much as you can about the top schools on your list and size them up based on your list of priorities.

Know Who You Can Trust

Parents, brothers, sisters, friends, guidance counselors... these are all people who want the best for you. So make sure to include them in your search. Counselors are great resources when it comes to knowing the particular strengths of different schools. And family members who attend the campus visit with you will give you their honest opinions of what you saw and experienced together.



Year-by-Year Planning Guide

The 9th and 10th Grades

You might think college is way off in the distance, but take it from us — it'll sneak up on you faster than you can imagine. So it's best to be ready and ahead of the game.

- Sharpen your organizational skills by developing a system to keep track of assignments, tests, events, appointments, and other things. Time management and organization are key to succeeding in college.
- Meet with your guidance counselor early and figure out which courses will best prepare you for college and what kind of curriculum will help you meet college entrance requirements.
- Take as many accelerated, honors, or advanced classes as you can in areas that are of interest to you.
- Start thinking about what kind of majors, and ultimately careers, interest you most. Then research information about them online, and even try talking to professionals in those fields.
- Spend time volunteering and get involved with clubs that develop leadership skills. Colleges are looking for more than test scores — they're looking for leaders with character.

- Keep a log of your activities, awards, and accomplishments. You'll want to have this information in one place when it's time to start filling out college applications.
- Start talking with your parents about financing your college tuition and create a financial plan together. Also, start researching what scholarships and grants are out there that are realistic for you.
- In 10th grade, register for the PLAN, a pre-ACT test, which will help identify areas for improvement.

The 11th Grade

You're coming down the home stretch, and it's time to get serious. Sure, getting ready for your senior year is fun. But don't lose sight of what will come next.

- Take challenging courses, and work hard. From this point on, the grades you receive will be a crucial element of your application.
- Take AP or IB classes if they're offered. Top schools, like Michigan, will be looking for this.
- In October, take the PSAT/NMSQT. This is good practice and could help lead to scholarships.
- Start putting together your list of preferred schools, research their publications and websites, and size them up based on your interests and goals.



- Attend a college fair, and find out from your guidance counselor when representatives from the universities you're interested in will be visiting your school.
- Find out which tests the universities you're interested in require, and then in the spring semester take the SAT, ACT with the writing component, or both.
- Keep looking for scholarships and grants for which you may qualify.
- In the spring and summer before your senior year, start visiting the colleges and universities that are of the most interest to you.
- Create a filing system to organize all of your college materials.



The 12th Grade

You've made it. But don't get too wrapped up in ruling the school. It's crunch time for your college search and the application and admission process.

- Keep those grades up.
- Once you've done the best you know you can do on the SAT and/or ACT, have your results sent to your schools of choice.
- Apply to several schools you would want to attend. Remember to categorize your schools of choice: apply to your "dream" schools, but also apply to "safety" schools, just in case.
- Send in your applications as early as possible, and remember to include all the materials for which they're asking.
- If you're applying for financial aid, have your application submitted by mid-February at the latest for best consideration. Send in the required forms (FAFSA and CSS Profile for Michigan).
- After you've decided which school you'll be attending, notify in writing the other schools that have accepted you of your decision.





Helpful Websites

Without question, there's a lot to keep straight when it comes to getting ready for college. So here's your one-stop shop of useful websites with information you'll need throughout the college search and application process.

College Search & Preparation

www.ACT.org

www.collegeboard.com

www2.ed.gov/students

www.nacacnet.org

www.usnews.com

Financial Aid & Scholarships

www.finaid.umich.edu

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.fastweb.com

www.finaid.org

<https://profileonline.collegeboard.com>



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Four-Year Course Planning Guide

If you enter Michigan in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, you'll need to meet the following course requirements.

Class or Course Area	State Required	U-M Required	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English	4	4				
Math	3	3-4				
Science	2	3-4				
Social Science or History	3	3				
Foreign Language	2	2 (in the same language)				

Additional Coursework Recommended by the State of Michigan and the University of Michigan

Computer Programming	1-2				
Performing & Fine Arts	2				

Other University of Michigan colleges and schools, such as the College of Engineering, have different requirements, but expect the same type of rigorous academic preparation. Please see the admissions website for further information.



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