

Junior Information

Get Ready for Your Life
Beyond High School

Graduation Requirements

- Review the **graduation chart** on your Course Planner.
- Make sure you have met all of the graduation requirements.
- Select courses you still need for your senior year. Watch for listserv announcements regarding deadline to submit Course Planner.

Senior Schedule

- Your Career Cruising EDP/Course Planner should include a minimum of 8 core academic classes (Math, Science, English, Social Studies, and Foreign Language).
- Colleges consider your senior schedule as part of their admission decision – any changes can result in admission being revoked.
- You will have to request a final transcript through Docufide to be sent to your college or university.

Michigan Merit Exam (MME)

- * MANDATORY TESTING FOR JUNIORS
- Tuesday, March 6 – ACT + Writing
- Wednesday, March 7 – ACT WorkKeys
- Thursday, March 8 – Michigan Math, Science, and Social Studies

ACT Score Reporting

- Wednesday, 2/15 is MME Pre-grid. Attendance is mandatory! You will complete the demographic information on the answer documents.
- You're encouraged to **report your social security number** on the ACT answer document to be eligible for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship
- You can report your score for FREE to up to four schools when you pre-grid.
- If you wait until the Fall to send scores, it will cost \$10-\$13 per school.

GET SET for College



ACT[®]

Options after high school

- Work
- Military
- Trades
- Apprenticeship programs
- Proprietary schools
- College



Let's focus on college

Remember, decision making is
a **PROCESS**,
not an event.

You can organize the college
planning process
in 6 **SIMPLE STEPS**



STEP 1

Know yourself and your reasons for attending college

- Recognize your strengths and weaknesses
- Analyze your interests and values
- Achieve a personal goal
- Increase your earning power
- Prepare for a career and expand learning
- Participate in extracurricular activities and social life
- Consider the influence of family and friends

ACT test preparation

THE BEST PREPARATION IS A SOLID HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

- Become familiar with the ACT[®] test content and format
- Review your PLAN[®] results to identify academic weaknesses
- Learn appropriate test-taking strategies
- Use ACT Online Prep[™] —ACT's test preparation program
- Review *The Real ACT Prep Guide*—the official test prep book
- Take ACT's free practice test
- See your counselor for other test preparation materials
- Visit the ACT website at www.actstudent.org

Additional FREE ACT Test Prep Sites:

www.number2.com

www.mel.org

www.princetonreview.com

www.kaptest.com

www.4tests.com

www.march2success.com

Remember—Test scores are only
ONE factor used for college
admission and scholarship decisions.

STEP 2

Consider college characteristics

- Majors & educational programs
- Type of school & degrees offered
- Admission policy
- Location & size
- Costs & financial aid
- College affiliation & accreditation
- Campus activities
- Support services



Every campus has a personality.

STEP 3

List, compare, and visit colleges

- Compile information from several resources:
 - Internet/Websites
 - College catalogs, viewbooks, videos, and computer-based services (DISCOVER[®])
 - College representatives and college fairs
 - Counselors and teachers
 - Parents, students, and alumni
 - Directories and ACT score report

List, compare, and visit colleges

- Prepare a college comparison checklist
- Weigh advantages & disadvantages
- Contact the office of admission
- Schedule appointments for your campus visits



Best Times for College Visits

- Martin Luther King's Birthday
- February Break
- Spring Break
- Summer Vacation
- College/University Summer Programs

CHECKLIST FOR A CAMPUS VISIT

- ✓ Meet with an admission counselor
- ✓ Verify admission requirements
- ✓ Determine actual college costs
- ✓ Ask about financial aid opportunities
- ✓ Take a campus tour
- ✓ Investigate your academic program(s)
- ✓ Attend a class
- ✓ Talk with students and faculty

STEP 4

Apply for admission and observe deadlines

- Narrow your choices
- Review college admission test requirements (including the optional Writing Test)
- Know application fees and deadlines
- Submit application materials (paper/electronic)
 - Application for admission
 - High school transcript using Docufide
 - Recommendations
 - Admission test results
- Know scholarship requirements

STEP 5

Develop a plan to pay for your education

- Determine college costs
- Investigate ALL possible resources
 - Parents
 - Savings
 - Summer earnings
 - Financial aid: scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study. Utilize your Career Cruising EDP.
 - Other internet sources
- Secure necessary forms and note deadlines
- Apply for financial aid as early as possible

Don't eliminate any college because of costs before receiving financial assistance information!

REMEMBER...

**CHECK WITH COLLEGE OFFICIALS
FOR ACCURATE COSTS.**

Estimated Expenses for a Year of College

Budget Item	Average Annual Range
Tuition and fees	\$5,000 – 21,000*
Room and board	\$5,000 – 8,000*
Books and supplies	\$ 800 – 1,700*
Transportation	\$ 400 – 1,500*
Miscellaneous (laundry, entertainment, and recreation)	\$1,200 – 2,700*
Total	\$12,400 – 34,900*

*These figures represent average tuition and fee costs for Midwestern states. Some schools will be lower in costs, while other schools will have higher costs. These figures should be used as a guide only. Students should check with the institution(s) in which they are interested to determine more specific costs.

Costs at Your College Choices

Budget Item	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Name of College	_____	_____	_____
Direct Costs			
Tuition and fees	_____	_____	_____
Room and board	_____	_____	_____
Indirect Costs			
Books and supplies	_____	_____	_____
Transportation (including car expenses)	_____	_____	_____
Miscellaneous	_____	_____	_____
Totals	_____	_____	_____

Scholarship Information

- Check monthly Scholarship Bulletin in Counseling Office
- Free Scholarship Databases
 - FastWeb www.fastweb.com
 - Career Cruising www.farmington.k12.mi.us/edp
 - Michigan Scholarships and Grants www.Michigan.gov/osg
 - Federal Website www.studentaid.ed.gov
 - Merit Scholarships www.MeritAid.com
 - Scholarship matching www.cappex.com
 - Financial aid website www.finaid.org
- Check with the Office of Scholarships and Grants upon acceptance to a college/university
- Counselor section of scholarship applications must be processed and mailed by Counseling Office – allow at least 2 weeks

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- Apply for a Personal Identification Number (PIN) at www.pin.ed.gov so that you can sign your FAFSA electronically
- Submit your completed FAFSA between Jan. 1- March 1 of your senior year
- Attend College Goal Sunday mid-February during your senior year at locations around the State if you need help completing the FAFSA (more information at www.MICollegeGoal.org)

NCAA Clearinghouse

- All prospective student-athletes should register by the end of their junior year
- Please visit: www.eligibilitycenter.org to register and read the rules
- All ACT and SAT scores must be sent directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency

Letters of Recommendation

- Check college/university websites to see if letters of recommendation are required
- Provide the evaluator with a stamped and addressed envelope to the Admissions Office of each college/university to which you'll apply
- Common Application allows letters of recommendation to be done electronically by entering the email address of the person who will provide the recommendation

Early Graduation

- Students may qualify to graduate one term early if they take additional course work (summer school, correspondence courses, co-op)
- Applications are available in the Counseling Office
- Turn in completed applications before the end of junior year to make sure all graduation requirements can be scheduled into first two terms

STEP 6

Review and finalize your plans

- Show initiative and be assertive
- Talk with your parents and counselor
- Select a college that meets your needs and preferences
- Follow up with colleges to which you have applied

Additional success factors

- Study habits
- Motivation
- Course selection
- Placement
- Interests
- Commitment

Keep in mind...making sound **DECISIONS** will lead to satisfying and successful **EXPERIENCES**.