

SECTION I:

PLANNING AND APPLYING FOR COLLEGE

College Planning Checklist

High School Freshmen

- ☐ Take challenging classes in core academic areas.
- ☐ Update your Educational Development Plan (EDP) and create a four-year plan for meeting graduation requirements.
- ☐ Obtain information about taking AP, honors, and dual/concurrent enrollment courses.
- ☐ Get involved with community-based and leadership-oriented activities.
- ☐ Explore and identify career fields of interest through online research and by attending career fairs and other events.
- ☐ Keep a running list of accomplishments, awards, and recognitions to use in preparing a resume and college applications.

High School Sophomore

- ☐ Attend college and career information events and presentations.
- ☐ Research funding for college; including scholarships, grants, loans, etc.
- ☐ Continue exploring college and career options.
- ☐ Prepare for the PSAT by taking practice tests and using resources available through CollegeBoard and Khan Academy.

High School Junior

Fall

- ☐ Take the PSAT to prep for the SAT.
- ☐ Attend college fairs, college nights, and college-prep presentations. Be prepared to ask questions.
- ☐ Continue exploring college and career options and make a list of your top college choices.

Spring

- ☐ Prep for college admissions exams (SAT) by taking practice tests and using resources available through CollegeBoard and Khan Academy.
- ☐ Take the SAT and WorkKeys assessments currently required as part of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME).
- ☐ Identify scholarship opportunities to pursue; note deadlines on a calendar.
- ☐ Schedule college campus visits and contact colleges to request information.

High School Senior

Summer Before Senior Year

- ☐ Plan and schedule college visits.
- ☐ Narrow down your list of colleges being considered.

Fall

- ☐ Register for and take (or retake) the SAT, if not already done.
- ☐ Meet with a counselor to verify that graduation requirements will be met on schedule.
- ☐ Complete and submit college applications prior to deadlines.
- ☐ Complete and submit scholarship applications prior to deadlines.
- ☐ Request transcripts and letters of recommendation.
- ☐ Register for a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID).
- ☐ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after October 1.
- ☐ Review and make any necessary changes/corrections to the Student Aid Report (SAR).

Winter

- ☐ Finish submitting scholarship applications.

Spring

- ☐ Consider college acceptances; compare financial aid packages offered.
- ☐ Call college financial aid representatives with any questions.
- ☐ Decide on the college to attend and contact their offices.
- ☐ Make informed decisions about student loans.