

COLLEGE and CAREER PLANNING GUIDE -- Grades 9-12

Admission Factors

Academic

1. GPA
2. ACT/SAT
3. Rigor

Nonacademic

4. Activities' Leadership (Resume)
5. Recommendations
6. Interest in the College
7. Special Talent
8. Diversity

MINIMUM SUGGESTED COLLEGE PREP SUBJECTS

"Core" Subject	English	4 credits (English, language arts)
"Core" Subject	Math	4 credits (alg.1, geom., alg.2, one senior year)
"Core" Subject	Foreign Lang.	2 credits (one language)
"Core" Subject	Science	3 credits (biol., chem. or phys., one addnl.credit)
"Core" Subject	Social Studies	3 credits (govt/econ., geog/US and world history)
	Perform/Fine Arts	1 credit
	Technology	1 experience
	Phys.Educ/Health	1 credit
	Electives	See your counselor

RIGOR OF CLASSES: Selective colleges expect you to take the most advanced classes offered by your high school, in one or more of the five "core" subjects listed above. The number expected depends on how selective the college is.

ONLINE CLASSES via Michigan Virtual High School. www.michiganvirtual.org

EARNING COLLEGE CREDITS IN HIGH SCHOOL: Can reduce college costs & college class loads.

AP (Advanced Placement). www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html

CLEP (College-Level Exam Program). www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html

Dual-enrollment class taken at a college. This is a semester class taken in any subject, with high school's approval.

SAT II subject exams are generally not for college credit or admission, but for scheduling classes at selective colleges.

"GAP YEAR". Deferring college entry for a year to develop greater focus, maturity and self-confidence. Paid or voluntary.

COPING WITH TEST ANXIETY. www.ets.org/Media/Tests/PRAXIS/pdf/01361anxiety.pdf. Self-help coping strategies.

9th Grade. *Goals: Do your best academically. Participate in a variety of activities.*

- ___ Complete and save **Student Resume**.
- ___ Take the freshman level standardized test(s) offered by your school.
- ___ Develop a four-year plan for classes. Earn good grades.
- ___ Develop a daily time management plan (schedule) for all in-school and out-of-school activities.
- ___ Extra-curricular activities -- Go wide! Sample a variety of school-based and community-based activities.
- ___ **Parents**. Browse key college financial planning links (www.finaid.org/sitemap).

10th Grade. *Goals: Do your best academically. Narrow your activities to those you like the most and could lead.*

- ___ Update your **Student Resume**.
- ___ Take the sophomore level standardized test(s) offered by your school.
- ___ Continue to refine and implement your time management plan. Earn good grades.
- ___ Extra-curricular activities – Narrow to those you like the most and have leadership opportunities.

11th Grade. *Goals: Do your best academically. Take standardized tests. Develop leadership skills. Visit colleges.*

- ___ Update your **Student Resume**. Complete College Matching Questionnaire, College Readiness Survey and the survey's Results and Guidance.
- ___ Extra-curricular activities -- Build depth! Narrow your activities to things you like, will excel in, and lead.
- ___ Continue to refine and implement your time management plan. Do not let your grades slip.
- ___ Know how admissions works, and develop strategies to find your "best fit" public and private college(s).
- ___ **Visit** 4 or more colleges (public and private). Ask carefully prepared questions.
- ___ **Junior & senior years**. Search for college-based Merit/Talent scholarships and private donor scholarships.
- ___ Take the practice and "real" ACT, SAT, and PSAT. Take SAT II's if necessary.
- ___ Carefully identify people to write college letters of recommendation for you.

12th Grade. *Goals: Maintain your GPA. Apply to colleges. Scholarship search. Strengthen your leadership skills.*

Select a college. Parents – submit financial aid application(s).

- ___ Update your **Student Resume**.
- ___ Continue to refine and implement your time management plan
- ___ Extra-curricular activities - Continue to build depth. Colleges value commitment, excellence & leadership.
- ___ Don't get *senioritis*. Your senior courses and grades do make a difference with colleges.
- ___ Pay strict attention to application deadlines for admissions, recommendations and financial aid.
- ___ Apply, preferably on-line, to your top 2-4 college choices (public and private) by **October 15**.
- ___ **Parents**: Financial aid applications: Submit FAFSA from 10/1 to 3/1 (www.fafsa.ed.gov) or (www.nitrocollege.com/fafsa-guide). If required, submit CSS Profile after 10/1 (<https://profileonline.collegeboard.com>). Use estimated figures initially for both applications.
- ___ Make your college decision by **May 1**.

