

# DESIGNING YOUR COLLEGE PLAN - Template

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. **“Designing Your College Plan”**. Template for your college planning game plan
2. **Leverage and Leadership**. Their importance in determining college admission, scholarships and college success.
3. **College Admission Requirements and Costs**. <http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org> . **Honors Program Requirements**.
4. **Student Resume**. Describe 1-2 passions in detail (4-5 lines each). Save. Print multiple copies (10+).  
Give a copy to your counselor. Bring copies to each college visit. Include one with each college application.
5. **College Planning Guide – Grades 9-12**. Goals and activities for each grade. **College Planning Mistakes to Avoid**.
6. **Standardized Tests- Preparation and Results**: Dates you plan to take/retake the ACT \_\_\_\_\_; SAT \_\_\_\_\_  
Test Preparation: ACT Workshop or [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). SAT Workshop or [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) , [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)  
Practice ACT Score: \_\_\_\_\_; GPA: \_\_\_\_\_; Predicted “Real” ACT Score: \_\_\_\_\_; Range: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Best “Real” ACT Score: Composite \_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_; M \_\_\_\_; R \_\_\_\_; Sci. \_\_\_\_; W \_\_\_\_.  
Best “Real” SAT Score: Total \_\_\_\_\_. CR \_\_\_\_; M \_\_\_\_; W \_\_\_\_\_. PSAT Selectivity Index (Score) \_\_\_\_\_  
SAT 2 Subject Tests and Scores: \_\_\_\_\_  
Colleges not requiring the ACT or SAT for admission: [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)
7. **Choosing a Major/Career**.  
**Your Career Preference**: (check only if you have developed a strong passion for the activity over a period of time).  
Arts (Performing or Visual) \_\_\_\_; Business \_\_\_\_; Computers \_\_\_\_; Engineering \_\_\_\_; Healthcare \_\_\_\_; Human Services \_\_\_\_;  
Natural Resources \_\_\_\_; Skilled Trade \_\_\_\_; Military \_\_\_\_; Other \_\_\_\_\_.  
**OR Favorite Core Subject**: Eng. \_\_\_\_; For.Lang. \_\_\_\_; Math. \_\_\_\_; Sci. \_\_\_\_; Soc. St. \_\_\_\_; Tech. \_\_\_\_ . Favorite Elect. or Activity \_\_\_\_\_  
**Suggested College Major or Program**: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Resources**: “O\*Net”. [www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org) . Top career and training search tool based on your background and interests.  
“Occupational Outlook Handbook”. <http://www.bls.gov>. Click: **Occupation Finder**. Job descriptions, pay, outlook, etc.  
“College Majors and Careers”, by Paul Phifer (Ferguson Publ.). Connects favorite subject with majors-careers.
8. **Quality of Education**. The extent to which a college actively supports and engages all students, **including freshmen**.  
Academic Opportunities -- Early contact with professors and advisors, research and internships.  
Life Skills Taught in All Classrooms -- Communication, critical analysis, problem-solving and collaboration.  
Lifestyle -- Positive campus environment, strong extracurricular program, positive off-campus environment.
9. **Colleges to Visit**. Well-planned campus visits are crucial in helping you determine your “best match” college(s).  
Complete all visits by end of summer and complete the “Guide for Comparing Colleges”. You and parents should visit.  
To find and compare colleges: <http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org> or <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator> or [www.ctcl.org](http://www.ctcl.org)  
Michigan Colleges - Big Ten (Public) –  
MAC (Public) –  
GLIAC (Public and Private) –  
MIAA (Private) –  
Community College (Public)–  
Out-of-State Colleges –
10. **How to Visit**. Call the visit scheduler in each admissions office. Ask for a **tour** and an **information interview** with a faculty or staff member who understands your program (see #7): \_\_\_\_\_ Bring copies of your **resume**.  
*Be prepared to ask questions. Sample topics:* college’s mission, admissions, advising, cost, deadlines, diversity, financial aid, honors, housing, internships, job placement, merit scholarships, research opportunities, security,  
other colleges your interviewer(s) recommends you visit. *Send thank-you notes to your admissions rep & interviewer(s).*
11. **Applying to Colleges**. After your visits, apply to your top 2-4 college choices by **October 15**. [www.collegedata.com/chances](http://www.collegedata.com/chances)  
You should apply to both public and private colleges for leverage purposes. Admission options: early action, early decision, regular action, other. Note: Many colleges require the Common Application [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).  
**After Admission, Schedule an Overnight Visit to Your Top Choice College(s)**. Dorm, classes, activities, community.
12. **Earning College Credits in Advance**. May help reduce college costs and number of required college classes.  
AP, CLEP, Dual-Enrollment (high school student taking a class at a college), Virtual School ([www.mivhs.org](http://www.mivhs.org))
13. **Recommendations. Essays. Personal Statements. Summer Activities**.
14. **Scholarship Searches, Financial Aid and Affordability Strategies**. [www.finaid.org/sitemap](http://www.finaid.org/sitemap) [www.meritaid.com](http://www.meritaid.com)  
Student’s Responsibility -- College Funded Merit/Talent Scholarships, and Private Donor Scholarships.  
Parents’ Responsibility – Use personal assets, plus apply for need-based scholarships, grants, work-study and loans.
15. **High School to College Transition**. Tips for Students. Tips for Parents. Scheduling college classes.

