

Designing Your College Plan

Date: _____ -Seek the help of your counselor, college advisor or parents when completing this form-
Name: _____ School: _____ Grade: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____
Counselor's Name: _____
Junior Advanced Placement Classes: _____. Senior Advanced Placement Classes: _____

- Updated Resume.** Be sure to describe 2-3 passions in detail (4-5 lines each). Save. Print multiple copies (10+). Give a copy to your counselor. Bring copies on each college visit. Include one with each college application.
- Standardized Test Results and Schedule:** Dates you plan to take/retake the ACT _____; SAT _____
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: _____
- Choosing a Major/Career.**
Current Career Preference: (check only if you have a strong passion for and plan to start the program immediately).
Accounting __; Architecture __; Arts __; Computers __; Engineering __; Nursing/Allied Health __; Skilled Trade __
Or Favorite Core Subject: Eng. __; For.Lang. __; Math. __; Sci. __; Soc. St. __. Favorite Elective or Activity _____
Suggested College Major or Program: _____
Resource: "College Majors and Careers", by Paul Phifer (Ferguson Publ.). Connects favorite subject with majors-careers.
Resource: www.a2zcolleges.com/majors/. Connects majors and programs with colleges and other training institutions.
- Quality of Education.** The extent to which a college actively supports and engages all students, **including freshmen.**
Are the following three factors, often used to evaluate a college's quality of education, readily available to freshmen?:
Academic Opportunities -- Early contact with professors, research, internships and study abroad.
Life Skills Taught in Classrooms -- Communication (speaking, writing), critical thinking and problem-solving.
Lifestyle -- Positive campus environment, strong extracurricular program, positive off-campus environment.
- 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 fill-out the College Comparison Chart (over). You and parents should visit.
For U.S. colleges offering your program, admissions info. and scholarships, see www.cappex.com/colleges/majors
Michigan Colleges - Big Ten (Public) –
MAC (Public) –
GLIAC (Public and Private) –
MIAA (Private) –
Community College (Public)–
Out-of-State Colleges -
- 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 _____ (see #3) Bring copies of your most recent **resume**.
Prepare questions in advance from several of the following topics: Quality of education (#4), college's diversity goals, college's strengths and limitations, honors & residential college programs, admission criteria, application steps, advising, % of applicants admitted, % of freshmen who return, student complaints, housing, facilities, total cost/year, avg. debt at graduation, scholarships, financial aid, recent graduates' success (% in jobs, % in grad school), your other interests, other colleges your interviewer(s) recommends you visit. *Send thank-you notes to your admissions rep & interviewer(s).*
Overnight Visit to Your Top Choice College(s). Dorm sleepover, attend class, student activities, see local community.
- Applying to Colleges.** After your visits, apply to your top 2-4 college choices by **October 15**. Include all requirements. You should apply to both public and private colleges for "leverage" purposes. Keep a folder for each college you apply to. Note: Some colleges require the Common Application (see www.commonapp.org).
- Scholarship Searches.**
Student's Responsibility -- College Funded Merit/Talent Scholarships, and Private Donor Scholarships.
Parents' Responsibility -- Federal, State and College Need-based Scholarships (via FAFSA and CSS Profile).
- 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 College
- College Honors Programs. Recommendations. Essays. Personal Statements. Summer Activities.**
- High School to College Transition.** Orientation, scheduling classes, credit hours, common adjustment issues.

