

GRAB

College Prep!



Telephone numbers and Websites for information about specific schools:**Public Universities**

	Website	Information	Financial Aid	Admissions
Central Michigan University	www.cmich.edu	989.774.3076	989.774.3674	989.774.3076
Eastern Michigan University	www.emich.edu	800.GO.TO.EMU	734.487.6694	734.487.0193
Ferris State University	www.ferris.edu	800.433.7747	800.433.7747	800.433.7747
Grand Valley State University	www.gvsu.edu	800.748.0246	616.331.3234	616.331.2025
Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State	www.kcad.edu	800.676.2787	616.451.82787	616.451.8787
Lake Superior State University	www.lssu.edu	888.800.LSSU	906.635.2678	906.635.2231
Michigan State University	www.msu.edu	517.355.8332	517.353.5940	517.355.8332
Michigan Technological University	www.mtu.edu	888.MTU.1885	906.487.2622	906.487.2335
Northern Michigan University	www.nmu.edu	800.682.9797	906.227.1575	906.227.2650
Oakland University	www.oakland.edu	248.370.3360	248.370.2550	248.370.3360
Saginaw Valley State University	www.svsu.edu	800.968.9500	989.964.4103	989.964.4200
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	www.umich.edu	734.764.7433	734.763.6600	734.764.7433
University of Michigan - Dearborn	www.umd.umich.edu	313.593.5000	313.593.5300	734.764.1400
University of Michigan - Flint	www.umflint.edu	810.762.3300	810.762.3444	810.762.3300
Wayne State University	www.wayne.edu	877.WSU.INFO	313.577.3378	313.577.3577
Western Michigan University	www.wmich.edu	269.387.2000	269.387.6000	269.387.2000

Community Colleges

	Website	Information	Financial Aid	Admissions
Alpena Community College	www.alpenacc.edu	888.468.6222	989.358.7200	989.358.7339
Bay de Noc Community College	www.baycollege.edu	906.786.5802	906.786.5802, ext. 1177	906.786.5802, ext. 1276
Bay Mills Community College	www.bmcc.edu	800.844.2622	800.844.2622, ext. 4224	800.844.2622, ext. 4222
Delta College	www.delta.edu	989.686.9449	989.686.9302	989.686.9449
Glen Oaks Community College	www.glenoaks.edu	888.994.7818	269.467.9945, ext. 322	269.467.9945, ext. 320
Gogebic Community College	www.gogebic.edu	88.682.5910	906.932.4231, ext. 206	906.932.4231, ext. 306
Grand Rapids Community College	www.grcc.edu	616.234.3567	616.234.4030	616.234.3567
Henry Ford Community College	www.hfcc.edu	800.585.4322	313.845.9616	800.585.4322
Jackson Community College	www.jccmi.edu	517.796.8499	517.796.8414	517.796.8499
Kalamazoo Valley Community College	www.kvcc.edu	269.488.4207	269.488.4257	269.488.4207
Kellogg Community College	www.kellogg.edu	269.965.4153	269.965.4123	269.965.4153
Kirtland Community College	www.kirtland.edu	989.275.5000	989.275.5000, ext. 310	989.275.5000, ext. 259
Lake Michigan College	www.lakemichigancollege.edu	800.252.1562	269.927.8117	269.927.8614
Lansing Community College	www.lcc.edu	800.644.4522	517.483.1075	517.483.1261
Macomb Community College	www.macomb.edu	866.MACOMB1	866.Macomb1 586.445.7999	866.Macomb1
Michigan Career and Technical Institute	www.michigan.gov/mcti	269.664.9248	269.664.9235	269.664.9248
Mid Michigan Community College	www.midmich.edu	877.YES.MCCC	989.386.6663	989.386.6661
Monroe County Community College	www.monroeccc.edu	734.242.7300	734.242.7300	734.242.7300
Montcalm Community College	www.montcalm.edu	877.328.2111	989.328.1228	989.328.1276
Mott Community College	www.mcc.edu	800.852.8614	810.762.0476	810.762.0315
Muskegon Community College	www.muskegoncc.edu	866.711.4622	231.777.0657	231.777.0364
North Central Michigan College	www.ncmich.edu	888.298.6605	231.348.6698	231.439.6511
Northwestern Michigan College	www.nmc.edu	800.748.0566	231.995.1052	231.995.1034
Oakland Community College	www.oaklandcc.edu	248.341.2197	248.341.2182	248.341.2197
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College	www.sagchip.org/tribalcollege	989.775.4123	989.775.4123	989.775.4123
Schoolcraft College	www.schoolcraft.edu	734.462.4426	734.462.4433	734.462.4426
Southwestern Michigan College	www.swmich.edu	800.456.8675	800.456.8675, ext. 1316	800.456.8675
St. Clair County Community College	www.sc4.edu	800.553.2427	810.989.5530	810.989.5500
Washtenaw Community College	www.wccnet.edu	734.973.3543	734.973.3523	734.973.3543
Wayne County Community College	www.wcccd.edu	313.496.2596	313.496.2595	313.496.2596
West Shore Community College	www.westshore.edu	800.848.9722	231.845.6211	231.845.6211

Private Colleges & Universities

	Website	Information	Financial Aid	Admissions
Adrian College	www.adrian.edu	800.877.2246	800.877.2246	800.877.2246
Albion College	www.albion.edu	800.858.6770	517.629.0440	517.629.0321
Alma College	www.alma.edu	800.321.ALMA	989.463.7347	800.321.ALMA
Andrews University	www.andrews.edu	800.253.2874	269.471.6040	269.471.6346
Aquinas College	www.aquinas.edu	616.632.2852	616.632.2895	616.632.2852
Ave Maria Law School	www.avemaria.edu	877.283.8648	734.337.4652	577.283.8648
Baker College Center for Graduate Studies	www.bakercollegeonline.com	800.469.3165	810.766.4390	810.766.4390

(Continued on Inside Back Cover)



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

Dear Student:

It's never too early to start to prepare for college. Graduation will be here before you know it! When that time comes, you will be so excited and proud of your accomplishments. You and your family will also want to know that you are well-prepared for the next big step – college. *GRAB College Prep!* will help you start planning *now* for a successful future, both academically and financially.

To succeed in today's knowledge-based economy, your education cannot end at high school. More than 85 percent of good-paying jobs right here in Michigan will require postsecondary education and a college degree. To help better prepare you for college, I've signed into law more rigorous high school graduation requirements. These higher curriculum standards (listed in this publication) will give you the strong academic foundation you need to succeed in college and earn a degree.

Investing in a college education is an investment in YOU that will pay for itself many times over. College graduates earn an average of \$1 million more during their careers than high school graduates. That's quite a return on investment that will continue to grow during your lifetime!

If you didn't think you could afford college, now you can. We've made college more affordable and accessible for *every* high school senior in Michigan. Now *every* student who scores well on the high school assessment will receive a \$4,000 Michigan Promise scholarship to attend any two- or four-year school in Michigan, public or private. In addition, the Michigan Department of Treasury's Bureau of Student Financial Services offers a variety of programs listed in this publication to help every Michigan family afford college. I encourage you to take full advantage of all the financial resources available.

You are a big part of Michigan's bright future and the upcoming leaders of our great state. Get ready for tomorrow starting today! You deserve every opportunity to pursue your dreams of a college education and become anything you want to be. I wish you the very best.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor



Let's Talk About the Future—YOURS!



So what are you doing after high school? Even if you have plenty of time before you graduate, you can get a head start on your future by doing some planning now. One of the best things you can do for yourself is to continue your education.

In the 21st century, more and more careers require education after high school. The more education you have, the higher your salary and traditionally the lower the unemployment rate among people with that level of education. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, during the latter part of 2006, full-time workers age 25 and over, earned these wages:

Education Attained	Median weekly earnings	Unemployment Rate
Professional degree	\$1,474.00	1.1 percent
Doctorate degree	\$1,441.00	1.4 percent
Master's degree	\$1,140.00	1.7 percent
Bachelor's degree	\$962.00	2.3 percent
Associate's degree	\$721.00	3.0 percent
Some college, no degree	\$674.00	3.9 percent
High school graduate	\$595.00	4.3 percent
Less than high school diploma	\$419.00	6.8 percent

A college education can help you get what you want out of life. According to recent studies, college graduates make more money. They're healthier and live longer. They're also more likely to be employed and enjoy their work, and they can change careers more easily.

The sooner you start planning for college, the better your chances are of getting into college and having the money to pay for it. This booklet was written to help you take the first step — let's get started!



Discover Yourself

Who are you and what do you want? Where would you like to be 10 years from now? If you don't know, you're not alone! A lot of high school students don't know exactly what career they want to get into. One way to get started is to think about your likes and dislikes and how these interests can help you find a career direction.

Talk to your parents, other family members, family friends, trusted adults, teachers or your school guidance counselor about your interest and abilities. Here are a few things you'll want to consider as you work on discovering yourself.

What are you interested in? How do you like to spend your free time? Do you like spending time with other people, or working alone? Do you like solving problems with numbers? Are you good at teaching people how to do things? Do you like writing stories or keeping a journal? What you like to do can be the key to a career you'll enjoy.

What's most important to you? Do you want to save the environment from pollution? Do you want to earn a lot of money? Do you want a lot of adventure in your work, or do you want to be safe and comfortable? Do you want to serve your community as a leader? Do you want to find a cure for cancer? If there's something that's really important to you, that's a clue to your future career.

What kind of work environment do you want?

Do you want to work outdoors year-round, or would you rather work in an air-conditioned and heated building? Do you like to work as a team member, or do you like to work alone? Do you like a quiet workplace, or do you enjoy a lot of activity around you? Think about it!

What are you good at? What special talents and abilities do you have? What are you good at, and which of these skills or abilities do you want to focus on in the future? If you have a physical, mental or learning disability, there are accommodations and services available in Michigan that can help you plan your future with a focus on your abilities; call toll-free to Michigan Rehabilitation Services at 1-800-605-6722 (voice) or 1-888-605-6722 (TTY), or the Michigan Commission for the Blind at 1-800-292-4200 (voice) or 1-888-864-1212 (TTY).

How much money do you want to make? Do you want to buy a house? Do you want to support just yourself, or will you have a family? It's hard to predict the future, but it's important to have some idea of how much money you'll need for a place to live, a car, gas, monthly bills, food, clothing and other expenses that you don't have now.

How much time do you want to spend in school?

Some careers require years of training, but others take a year or two. When you look at possible career choices, find out how much time you'll need to spend in school.

Translate Your Interests Into Careers

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are more than 12,000 career options to consider! How do you choose a career? One way to get started is with an interest inventory. An interest inventory looks like a test, but it's just a list of questions about what you like to do and don't like to do. Your answers show what kinds of careers match your interests. Free interest inventory questionnaires on the Internet can help you explore your interests and abilities and how they match up with careers. Remember—interest inventories only provide suggestions, so take time to research each career or job that interests you, not just those suggested by your interest inventory. These free interest inventory questionnaires are available on the Internet:

Michigan Career Portal, www.michigan.gov/careers

My Road: The College Board's College and Career Planning Website, www.myroad.com

The Princeton Review, Career Page, www.review.com/career



Explore Possible Careers

The next step in finding a career that you'll love is matching the information about you with different careers.

C A R E E R

What Are the Six Career Pathways?

Arts and Communication



Careers in this path are related to the humanities and performing, visual, literary, and media arts. These include architecture; graphic, interior, and fashion design; writing; film; fine arts; journalism; languages; media; advertising; and public relations.

Is This Career Path for You?

Are you a creative thinker? Are you imaginative, innovative, and original? Do you like to communicate ideas? Do you like making crafts, drawing, playing a musical instrument, taking photos, or writing stories? This may be the career path for you!

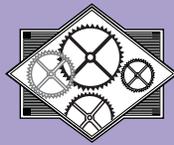
Business, Management, Marketing, and Technology



Careers in this path are related to the business environment. These include entrepreneur, sales, marketing, computer/information systems, finance, accounting, personnel, economics, and management.

Do you enjoy being a leader, organizing people, planning activities, and talking? Do you like to work with numbers or ideas? Do you enjoy carrying through with an idea and seeing the end product? Do you like things neat and orderly? Would you enjoy balancing a checkbook, following the stock market, holding an office in a club, or surfing the Internet? This may be your career path!

Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology



Careers in this path are related to technologies necessary to design, develop, install, and maintain physical systems. These include engineering, manufacturing, construction, service, and related technologies.

Are you mechanically inclined and practical? Do you like reading diagrams and blueprints, and drawing building structures? Are you curious about how things work? Would you enjoy painting a house, repairing cars, wiring electrical circuits, or woodworking? This may be the career path for you!

Health Sciences



Careers in this path are related to the promotion of health and treatment of disease. These include research, prevention, treatment, and related health technologies.

Do you like to care for people or animals who are sick or help them stay well? Are you interested in diseases and in how the body works? Do you enjoy reading about science and medicine? Would it be fun to learn first aid or volunteer at a hospital or veterinary clinic? This may be your career path!

Human Services



Careers in this path are related to economic, political, and social systems. These include education, government, law and law enforcement, leisure and recreation, military, religion, child care, social services, and personal services.

Are you friendly, open, understanding, and cooperative? Do you like to work with people to solve problems? Is it important to you to do something that makes things better for other people? Do you like to help friends with family problems? Do you like reading, storytelling, traveling, or tutoring young children? This could be your career path!

Natural Resources and Agriscience



Careers in this path are related to agriculture, the environment, and natural resources. These include agricultural sciences, earth sciences, environmental sciences, fisheries, forestry, horticulture, and wildlife.

Are you a nature lover? Are you practical, curious about the physical world, and interested in plants and animals? Do you enjoy hunting or fishing? Do you like to garden or mow the lawn? Are you interested in protecting the environment? This could be your career path!

There are several Internet sources for information on careers and what employment opportunities will be available in the future. If you don't have Internet access, many public libraries and school counselors have hard copies of this information:

P A T H W A Y S

Career Categories

Arts and Communication

Advertising and Public Relations
Creative Writing
Film Production
Foreign Languages
Journalism
Radio and TV Broadcasting

Sample Careers with Post-High School Education

Public Relations Executive
Dancer
Film Producer
Fashion Designer
Journalist
Radio and TV Broadcaster

Business, Management, Marketing, and Technology

Accounting Marketing
Office Administration Sales
Business Ownership Finance
Economics
Personnel
Hospitality/Tourism Management
Computer/Information Systems

Loan Officer Salesperson
Economist Travel Agent
Legal Secretary
Hotel Manager
Office Manager
Computer Programmer

Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology

Architecture Drafting
Precision Production Construction
Mechanics and Repair
Manufacturing Technology
Engineering and
Related Technologies

Architect Drafting Technician
Plumber Surveyor
Electrician Geographer
Air Traffic Controller
Auto Mechanic
Chemical Engineer

Health Sciences

Dentistry
Hygiene
Medicine
Nursing
Nutrition and Fitness
Therapy and Rehabilitation

Dentist
Dental Hygienist
Doctor
Veterinary Technician
Respiratory Therapist
Physical Therapist
Forensic Scientist

Human Services

Education
Child and Family Services
Food and Beverage Service
Law and Legal Studies
Law Enforcement
Cosmetologist
Social Services

Chef Librarian
Teacher Firefighter
Lawyer
Police Detective
Cosmetologist
Social Worker

Natural Resources and Agriscience

Agriculture Horticulture
Animal Health Care Forestry
Earth Sciences Life Sciences
Environmental Science
Fisheries Management
Wildlife Management

Farmer Chemist
Oceanographer Forester
Physicist
Landscape
Marine Biologist
Conservation Agent



- ❖ Michigan Career Portal, <http://www.michigan.gov/careers>
- ❖ Occupational Outlook Handbook, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>
- ❖ Career Guide to Industries, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/cg/home.htm>
- ❖ Use the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan, class recommendations and check with your school counselor.

How to Get Ready for College

You can get into college if you plan ahead. When most four-year colleges look at your application form, they'll look at:

- ❖ College prep classes
- ❖ Grade-point average (GPA)
- ❖ College admissions test scores (SAT, ACT)
- ❖ Community service, extracurricular activities, awards and honors
- ❖ College application essays
- ❖ Letters of recommendation

There's more information about these topics below.

College Prep Classes

It's up to you to take ownership and choose classes that challenge you and help you prepare for your academic and career goals. In high school, some people call college prep classes "the hard classes." Think of them as "the premium classes." One of the key questions on a college application is "What classes did you take in high school?" When you take college prep classes in high school and get good grades, you improve your chances of getting into college. Taking college prep classes in high school also improves your chances of doing well in college because these classes give you practice in advanced-level subjects.

Get started right now. Let your high school counselor know that you want college prep classes. When you have a choice between two classes, pick the one that's more challenging.

Pre-College Programs

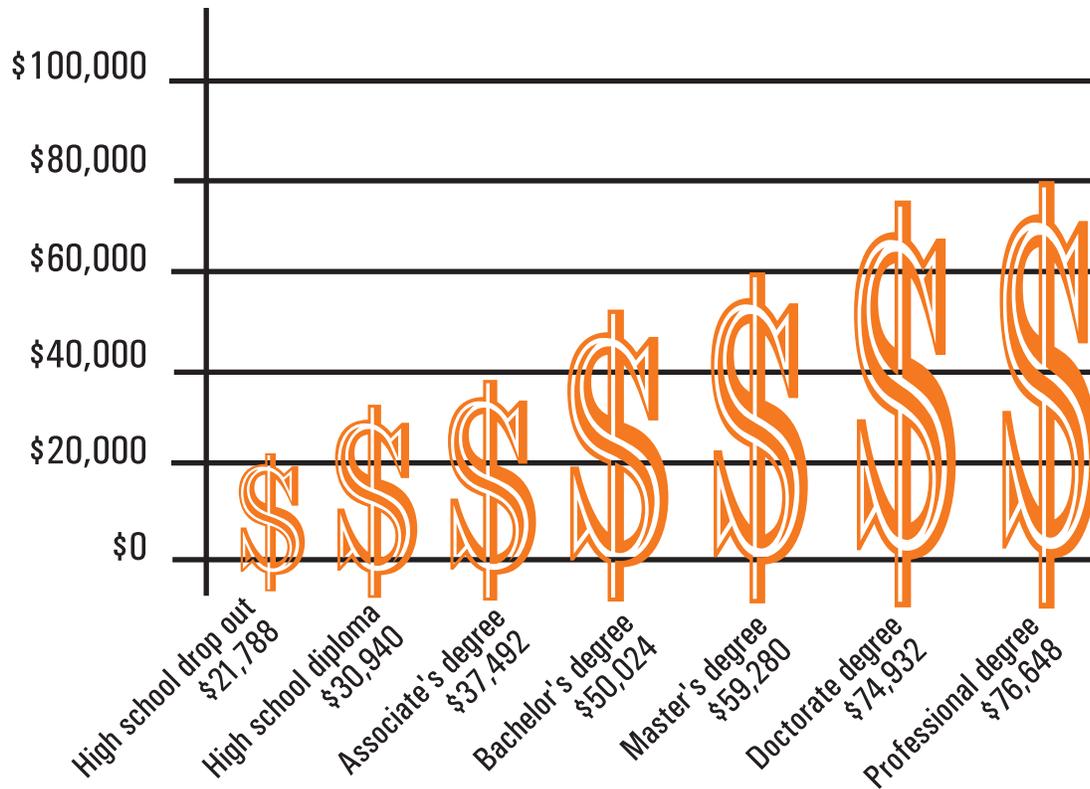
Many programs exist that can prepare and expose you to college. Check at your high school, community colleges, universities, and community agencies in your area for available pre-college programs. Some programs even provide tutoring, mentoring, money and college visitations while participating in their program. Becoming involved in pre-college and summer enrichment programs is an excellent way to give you a "heads up" before you enter college. To locate pre-college and summer enrichment program opportunities, ask your counselor or contact the college you are interested in.

Michigan's King-Chavez-Parks Initiative is also a resource for pre-college programs. For more information visit www.michigan.gov/mdcd, click on Career Education then click Postsecondary Services and follow the links to the King-Chavez-Parks Initiative.



Learn More; Earn More!

Average Annual Earnings for Full Time Workers by Level of Education
or see: <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0883617.html>



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Note: Full-time wage and salary workers age 25 and older, 2006.

Think About It — College Pays Off!

- ❖ In 2006, the average full-time year-round worker in the U.S. with a four-year college degree earned 62% more than a full-time year-round worker with only a high school diploma.
- ❖ With each year of college you complete you can increase your annual pay by an average of 10%.
- ❖ Typically, if you have a bachelor's degree, you can expect to earn about 73% more over your 40-year working life than what a high school graduate will earn over the same time.
- ❖ Average lifetime earnings for individuals with associate's degrees are almost 21% higher than average lifetime earnings for high school graduates.

Taking the

Michigan Merit Curriculum

Michigan's NEW High School Graduation Requirements*

Effective Beginning with Students Entering 8th Grade in 2006

English Language Arts — 4 Credits

English Language Arts 9
English Language Arts 10
English Language Arts 11
English Language Arts 12

Mathematics — 4 Credits

Geometry
Algebra I
Algebra II
One Math or Math-Related course in the final year of high school

Science — 3 Credits

Biology
Chemistry or Physics
One additional science credit

Social Studies — 3 Credits

World History and Geography
U.S. History and Geography
Civics (0.5 credit)
Economics (0.5 credit)

Physical Education and Health — 1 Credit

Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts — 1 Credit

Online Learning Experience

Foreign Language — 2 Credits

Language other than English
In grades 9-12; OR an equivalent learning experience in grades K-12 (beginning with students entering 3rd grade in 2006).

In addition to the credit requirements, the Merit Curriculum:

- Allows a student to earn credit in a subject area by achieving a sufficient score on the subject area assessment for the credit, this may include advanced placement, dual enrollment, career and technical education programs, summer school and other local elective options.
- Requires that all high school students participate in an online course or learning experience.
- Allows a student's parent or legal guardian to request a personal curriculum or Educational Development Plan (EDP) for the student, to be developed by the student's counselor or other designee, that may modify certain math, social science, and other requirements of the Michigan Merit Standard (other than the English and science requirements).
- Allows a school district or public school academy (PSA) to meet the curriculum requirements using alternative delivery methods, including alternative course work, humanities sequences, or career and technical education.
- Allows local school districts to specify additional graduation requirements, including completion of subject area assessments, the Michigan Merit Examination, or the MI-Access assessments.

*Please go to the Michigan Department of Education for detailed information on the new Michigan Merit Curriculum, www.michigan.gov/mde.

Use the courses provided in the chart on the opposite page and your school's course catalog to complete your four-year plan. Each year when you register for classes, take your completed course plan to your school counselor to make sure you're on the right track for graduation and beyond. If you're not taking these classes, it is not too late. You can ask your counselor to help you plan your next schedule.

Advanced Placement (AP) Classes

AP classes are college-level courses taken during high school that will provide students the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most colleges and universities. According to The College Board, AP classes help students:

- Gain the edge in college preparation
- Stand out in the college admissions process
- Broaden your intellectual horizons

For more information on how to register and the benefits of scheduling AP courses, talk to your high school counselor, an AP instructor or go to <http://www.CollegeBoard.com>.

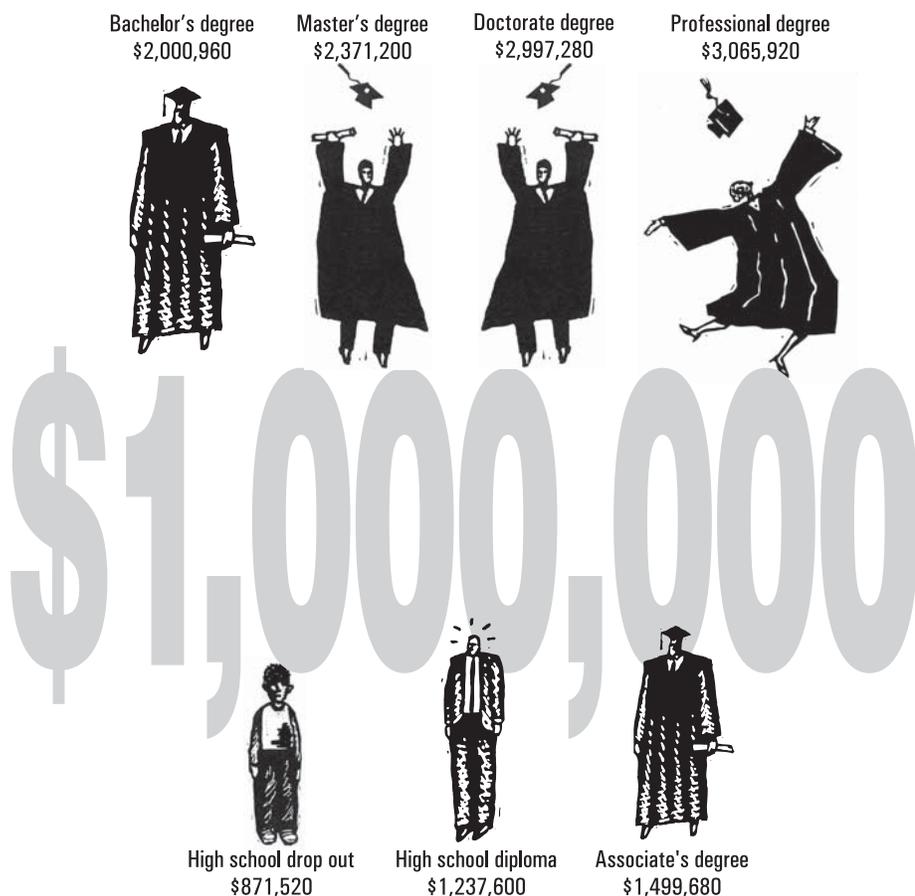
If your high school doesn't have all of these classes, colleges and universities will consider this fact. Also, many colleges and universities have special admissions procedures for students

who have high academic potential but need help to reach that potential because of educational or other disadvantages. Here are some things you can do now related to college prep classes:

- Plan your high school college prep program with your parents or another adult.
- Make an appointment with your school counselor or trusted teacher to discuss your plan and to learn about college prep classes at your school.
- Schedule a visit to a college campus and ask to talk with some students. Ask them what high school classes prepared them for college. Take those classes and work hard in them.
- Ask the college(s) you're most interested in to send you information on their admissions requirements. Plan your high school schedule so you'll meet these requirements.

More than a Million!

More than a million dollars more is what you'll earn in YOUR lifetime—when you have a college degree! You're worth it!



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
 Note: Figures based on a 40-year work life, from age 25 to age 64, for all workers.

Sample Course Planner

Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Session
9th Grade		
English 9	English 9	
Algebra I	Algebra I	
Biology	Biology	
Spanish I	Spanish I	
Michigan History	Michigan History	
Volleyball	Track and Field	
Choir	Choir	
10th Grade		
English 10	English 10	
Geometry	Geometry	
Chemistry	Chemistry	
Spanish II	Spanish II	
World History	World History	
Volleyball	Track and Field	
Advanced Choir	Advanced Choir	
11th Grade		
English 11	English 11	
Algebra II	Trigonometry	
Geology	Geology	
Spanish III	Spanish III	
U.S. History	U.S. History	
Volleyball	Track and Field	
Keyboarding	Keyboarding	
12th Grade		
English 12	English 12	
Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus	
Spanish IV	Spanish IV	
Desktop Publishing	Job Co-Op	
Senior Project	Economics	
Volleyball	Track and Field	
A.P. Government & Politics	Study Hall	

Check one box for each year of classes in your plan:

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Language Arts/English . . .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mathematics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Science	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
World Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Computer Literacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Studies/History . . .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Physical Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arts or Academic Elective .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Work-Related Education .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Electives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Student Name _____

School Name _____

Here's a blank course planner for you to photocopy and fill in with your own classes

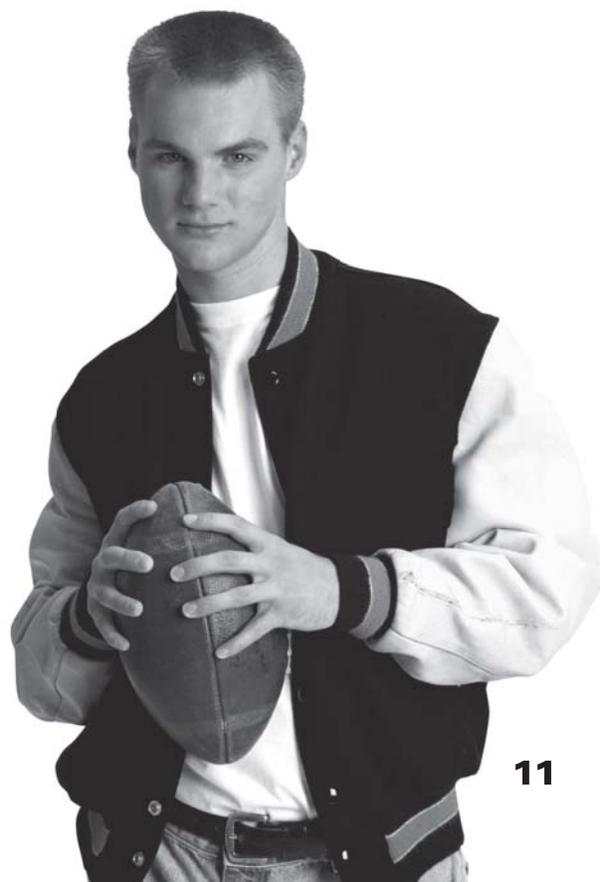
Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Session
9th Grade		
10th Grade		
11th Grade		
12th Grade		

Check one box for each year of classes in your plan:

- | | 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Language Arts/English | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mathematics | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Science | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| World Language | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Computer Literacy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Social Studies/History | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Physical Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arts or Academic Elective | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Work-Related Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Electives | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community Service | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Student Name _____

School Name _____



Grade-Point Average (GPA)

GPA stands for “grade point average.” Your GPA is the overall grade for the classes you’ve taken in a period of time, such as a semester, academic year or your entire four years of high school. College admissions offices consider your GPA in college prep classes and your test scores on college admissions tests to be the best predictors of your ability to succeed in college. At least a 3.0 high school GPA is recommended for admission to most four-year colleges and universities that do not have open enrollment policies. Many programs of study (also known as what you major in) require much higher high school GPAs for admittance. In general, in the college admittance process, college admissions offices do not include the grades from your high school elective courses when they calculate your high school GPA.

To find your grade-point average, use these points for your letter grades:

A = 4.0
B = 3.0
C = 2.0
D = 1.0

A- or B+ = 3.5
B- or C+ = 2.5
C- or D+ = 1.5
E or F = 0.0

To find your GPA, add up the number of points, and divide this total by the number of classes. In the example for one semester, add $4.0+2.0+3.0+3.0+3.0=15.0$. Divide the total points (15.0) by the number of classes (5), and the GPA for this example is 3.0 for this semester. You can list your classes and grades and then calculate your own grade-point average in the space provided below.

Example			Fill in		
Subject	Grade	Points	Subject	Grade	Points
English	A	4.0			
World History	C	2.0			
Algebra I	B	3.0			
Spanish	B	3.0			
Biology	B	3.0			

15.0 total

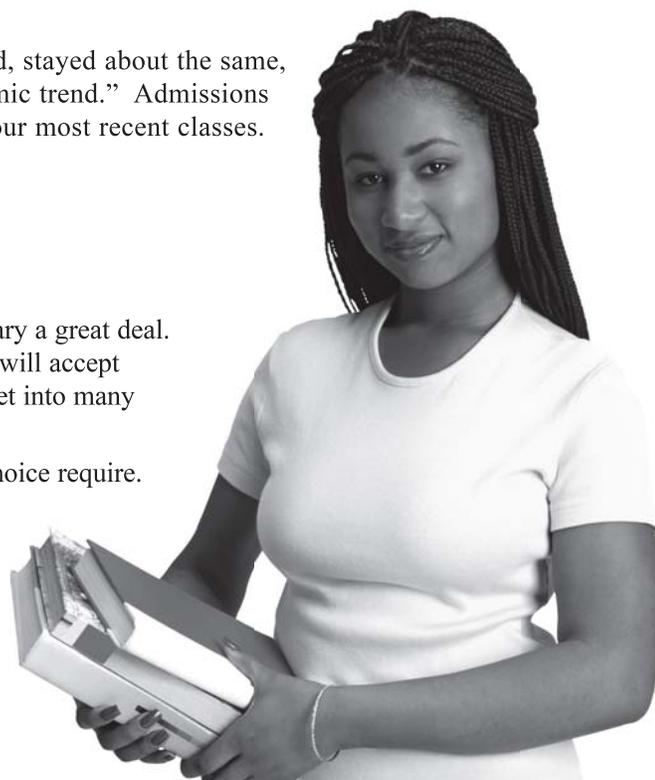
15 points divided by 5 classes = GPA of 3.0

___ points divided by ___ classes = GPA of ____.

Colleges will look at your grades to see if they have steadily improved, stayed about the same, gone up and down, or gone steadily down. This is called your “academic trend.” Admissions counselors want to see good and/or improving grades, especially in your most recent classes.

Here are some things you can do now related to your GPA:

- ❖ Calculate your GPA for the last two years.
- ❖ Chart your academic trend for the last two years.
- ❖ Find out what GPA the colleges of your choice prefer. This can vary a great deal. Some colleges want students with a very high GPA, while others will accept a lower GPA. A high school GPA of 3.0 or higher will help you get into many Michigan colleges.
- ❖ Set a GPA goal for yourself based on what the colleges of your choice require.
- ❖ Use the “Checklist for Success” at the back of this booklet as a guide to improving your grades.



College Admissions

HAVING DREAMS OF GOING TO COLLEGE is not enough. For some higher education programs, you have to take the right courses to prepare yourself, so you'll be eligible. Then you have to apply — this is true for admission to any higher education program or institution.

Community and technical colleges (Michigan proprietary schools) have open enrollment and admissions policies that allow anyone with a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) high school equivalency diploma to enroll and take classes. Four-year colleges and universities are more competitive, and therefore do not accept everyone who applies for admission.

College Admissions Tests

Most four-year colleges and universities require you to take at least one college admissions test as a part of your college application process. These tests are prepared by national organizations and are given several times each year at many locations. The two most common tests are the ACT® and the SAT®. ACT scores determine your eligibility for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship Program. For more information on the program, see page 19.

The ACT is made up of four separate tests, including English, mathematics, reading and science. When you take the ACT, you'll get a score from 1 (low) to 36 (high) for each of the four tests. The final score — your composite score — is the average of your four test scores rounded to the next whole number.

The SAT has two parts, verbal and math. Your score on each test will be somewhere between 200 and 800 points, for a total possible score of 1600 points.

Many students take the ACT or SAT in their senior year, because some of the subjects on the test are things usually studied toward the end of high school. However, if you want to improve your score, you should take the ACT or SAT at least once during your junior year (to practice) and then once during your senior year. You can also take the test as early as sixth grade for practice or for placement in special summer programs.

You have to register in advance for these tests and pay the test fee or get a fee waiver. See your high school counselor at the beginning of your junior year to find out the test dates and to get a test registration packet. Tell your counselor if you need help paying for a test or if you'll need any special accommodations (due to a disability) such as extra time to complete the test.



There are also practice tests for the SAT and ACT.

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)® is a practice test for the SAT and the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program and other scholarship and recognition programs. You can take it in the 10th or 11th grade.

Here are some of the things you can do now related to college admissions tests:

- ❖ Make sure you're taking college prep classes. On the average, Michigan students who take recommended college prep classes score three points higher on the ACT than students who don't take these classes.
- ❖ Read the information booklet that comes with the ACT and SAT registration packets. Do the practice questions included in these booklets to prepare for the test. You can also find practice questions for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com and for the ACT at www.act.org.
- ❖ With the help of your family, teachers and counselors, develop good test-taking skills.

It all adds up!

Community Service, Extracurricular Activities, Awards and Honors

Although your classes, grades and exam scores are important, most colleges and universities also want to know how you spend your time outside class. Listing community volunteer work, extracurricular activities, and awards and honors on your college application gives a college or university more information about you.

Besides looking good on your college application, community service can help you learn about a possible future career, get work experience, meet interesting people, and even get academic credit. If you want to explore opportunities to volunteer in your community, talk with your school counselor, your parents or other adults you know who work with nonprofit or community organizations.

College Application Essays

As part of the application packet, some colleges and universities ask you to write about yourself or another topic. This essay will show them how well you express yourself in writing. The best way to prepare for this application essay is to take college prep English classes in high school and do well in these classes.

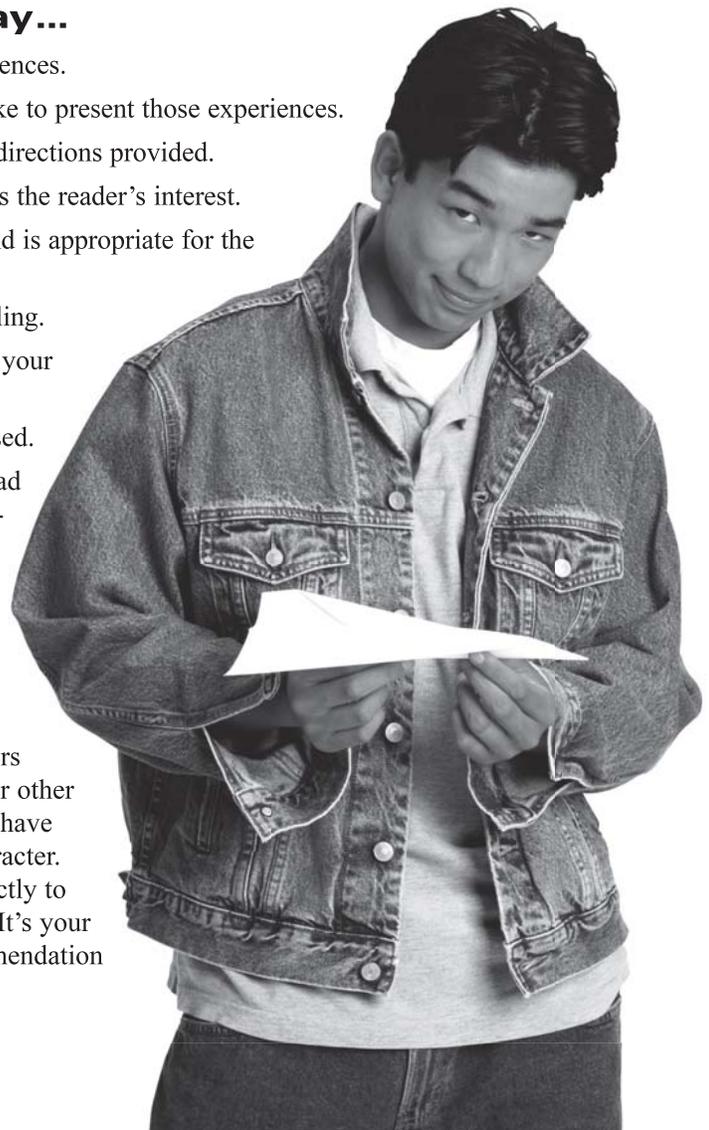
The college application process is an extremely competitive and selective process. Students from around the country and the world compete against each other for a small number of freshman admissions openings. It's very difficult for admissions officers to choose from among the many students who have high grade point averages and high admissions test scores. The college essay is a way for you to showcase your abilities and stand out from the crowd.

A Well-Written College Essay...

- ❖ Provides extensive details about your experiences.
- ❖ Demonstrates the style and approach you take to present those experiences.
- ❖ Answers the essay question and follows all directions provided.
- ❖ Has a strong opening paragraph that captures the reader's interest.
- ❖ Uses a style that feels comfortable to you and is appropriate for the subject matter.
- ❖ Uses correct grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- ❖ Makes a point and sticks to it, and develops your argument or narrative to its conclusion.
- ❖ Is correct, including any facts or statistics used.
- ❖ Should be proofread, proofread, and proofread again before you mail your college application packet.

Letters of Recommendation

Many colleges and universities ask for one to three letters of recommendation, and some schools have special forms for these letters. When you apply for college, you'll need to ask people to write these letters for you. These people may be teachers, employers, or other adults (but not family members) who know you and have positive things to say about your work and your character. Usually letters of recommendation must be sent directly to the higher education program, college or university. It's your responsibility to make sure that the letters of recommendation arrive at the college before the deadline date.



Choosing a College

Michigan has 115 colleges and universities, including 15 public universities, 29 community colleges, and 51 private colleges and universities. How do you choose a college? It depends on your goals and needs.

Questions to Ask

These are some basic questions to think about. The right answers depend on you and your needs.

- ❖ Which colleges can help you meet your career goals? Do they have the academic program (major) and type of degree (associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctoral, professional) that you need to qualify for the career you want?
- ❖ What kinds of support services do they have, such as tutoring, computer labs, counseling, and job placement services? Do these meet your needs?
- ❖ What kinds of financial aid are available, and how much?
- ❖ What kinds of extracurricular activities are available on campus and off campus, such as athletics, clubs, religious organizations, cultural life, etc.?
- ❖ What size school do you want — large or small? Do you want to be in big classes or small classes?
- ❖ Do you want to live in a rural or urban area?
- ❖ Do you want to live on campus or off campus?
- ❖ How accessible is the school? If you have a disability, you should know that state and federal laws require equal-opportunity accommodations to make it possible for you to achieve your maximum academic potential. Call the colleges you're interested in for more information.
- ❖ If possible, visit college campuses prior to applying for admission. Many colleges also offer virtual tours and other information on their Websites.

Types of Certificates and Degrees

The next page shows the basic types of certificates and degrees and the time it usually takes to earn them if you attend full time. Some students may take longer to complete their degree programs.

The number of years you need to spend in college depends on the career you're preparing for, the certificate or degree required for that career, and whether or not you're in college full time. Different careers have different minimum certificate or degree requirements. Some people who earn more than one certificate or degree have breaks or interruptions in their studies. Some people take time out to work, raise a family, get work experience, or earn and save money to complete their education.

The information on certificate and degree programs will give you an idea of the level of education required for certain jobs and professions.

Education is essential in getting a high-paying job.

In fact, for all but 1 of the 50 highest-paying occupations, a college degree or higher is the most significant source of education or training.

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;
Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2005-06 Edition; Tomorrow's Jobs.

Certificate programs prepare you for entry-level jobs in a professional environment. Certificates provide training and/or education beyond high school to prepare for a specific occupation. Completion time depends upon the requirements of the specific program. Jobs/professions:

Medical/Dental Assistant Clerk	Physical Therapist Data Processor	Pharmacy Technician Paralegal/Legal Assistant	Truck Driver Bookkeeper
Day Care Worker Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	Instructional Aide	Library Technician	School Secretary

Apprenticeship programs give you hands-on job training and classroom study to help prepare you for a job. Students in these programs are called apprentices or trainees. Completion time depends on the requirements of the program, but it's usually two to three years after graduation from high school. Jobs/professions:

Dispensing Optician Clerk	Stone Mason Data Processor	Electrician Paralegal/Legal Assistant	Plumber Bookkeeper
Day Care Worker Photo Processing Technician	Instructional Aide Printing Press Operator	Library Technician	School Secretary

Associate's degrees include associate of arts (A.A.) and associate of science (A.S.). An associate's degree provides education and training for a specific career. Courses taken for an associate's degree can be transferred to a four-year university if you plan ahead with the help of your college counselor. Completion time is usually two to four years after receiving a high school diploma or GED. Jobs/professions:

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Home Health Aide Specialist Case Worker	Radio Technician Drafter Administrative Assistant Announcer	Paramedic Engineering Technician Court Reporter Production Assistant	Medical Transcriptionist Human Resources Specialist Preschool Teacher Sound Technician
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Bachelor's degrees include bachelor of arts (B.A.), bachelor of science (B.S.) and bachelor of fine arts (B.F.A.) degrees. Bachelor's degrees are composed of general and specific courses to prepare you for a career. In these programs, you'll take the courses that are more focused on a specific career after a year or so of general classes. Completion time is usually four to six years after receiving a high school diploma or GED. Jobs/professions:

Registered Nurse (RN) Engineer Stockbroker Script Writer	Science Teacher Land Surveyor Computer Programmer Dance Instructor	Laboratory Assistant Financial Planner Teacher (K-12) Cartoonist	Architect Loan Officer Case Manager/Social Worker Photographer
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Master's degrees include master of arts (M.A.), master of science (M.S.), and master of fine arts (M.F.A.). Master's degrees add to the information you received during your undergraduate education and are more directed toward specific career options or fields of study. Completion time is usually one to two years after receiving a bachelor's degree. Jobs/professions:

Physician Assistant (PA) Marketing Analyst Senior Administrator Speech Pathologist	Researcher Counselor Managing Director Community College Instructor	Hospital Administrator Principal Physical Therapist	Marriage/Family Counselor Clinical Social Worker Museum Curator
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Professional degrees include juris doctor (J.D.), doctor of medicine (M.D.), and doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.). Professional degrees require students to acquire advanced study in a chosen profession, for example, as a dentist, physician or lawyer. After receiving a professional degree, individuals usually must take and pass a state or national exam before beginning a specific career. Completion time is usually three to four years after receiving a bachelor's degree. Jobs/professions:

Doctor Psychiatrist Podiatrist	Veterinarian Pharmacist Optometrist	Lawyer Priest or Minister	Dentist Chiropractor
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Doctorate degrees include doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) and doctor of education (Ed.D.) Completion time is usually five to seven years after receiving a bachelor's or master's degree. Jobs/professions:

Anthropologist Psychiatrist	Research Scientist Psychologist	Economist Physicist	Superintendent Astronomer
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Beyond

High School Choices

Each school, college or university has different admissions requirements, so you need to check the policy for each one. Check during your high school freshman year for admissions criteria for each program, college or university you're interested in attending. Make sure you're prepared and eligible to get into the school of your choice. There are several different types of schools:

Career Schools

- ❖ Provide certificates of completion, or diplomas, not degrees.
- ❖ Provide training in a specific trade, occupation or vocation.
- ❖ Usually serve individuals who have graduated from high school or have a GED.
- ❖ Offer short programs and must be licensed by the state.

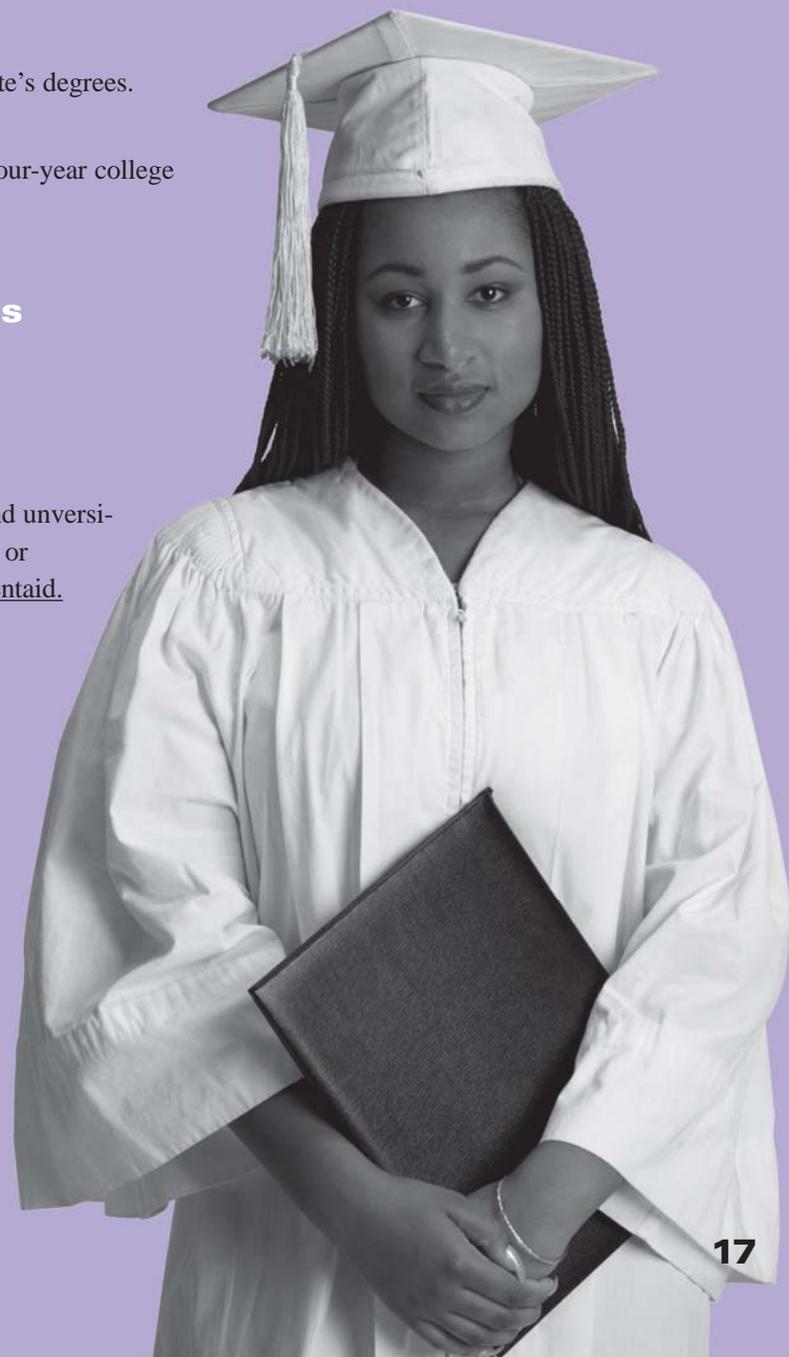
Community Colleges

- ❖ Are two-year colleges that offer certificates and associate's degrees.
- ❖ Offer apprentice and journeyman programs.
- ❖ Prepare you for technical careers or for transfer into a four-year college or university.
- ❖ Usually cost less than four-year colleges or universities.

Four-Year Colleges and Universities

- ❖ Offer a wider variety of degrees.
- ❖ May cost more than a community college.
- ❖ Usually have specific admissions requirements.

To search for more information about career schools, colleges and universities, visit: Michigan Proprietary Schools at www.michiganps.net or Michigan Postsecondary Handbook at: www.michigan.gov/studentaid.



Paying for College



You can go to college! Lack of money shouldn't stop you. The cost of going to college depends on the college and whether you live in or out of the state where it's located. Generally, the costs include tuition, fees, room and board, transportation, supplies and personal items. Financial aid is available to help you pay for the cost of college. The fact is most students get some type of financial aid.

Types of Financial Aid

You can use financial aid money for direct educational costs (books, tuition and fees) and for living expenses (food, housing and transportation). There are four basic kinds of financial aid:

Scholarships

Based on academic achievement or outstanding skills (merit-based) or a combination of merit and financial need. Scholarships may come from community organizations, colleges and universities or government sources. These awards do not have to be repaid.

Grants

Awards based on financial need. These awards may come from the federal government, state government or the college you plan to attend. Grants do not have to be repaid.

Loans

Must be repaid with interest. These funds come from the federal government or private financial institutions.

Work-Study

Students earn money while attending college. Colleges usually assist students in locating jobs.

Applying for Financial Aid

The amount of financial aid a student receives is based on this financial formula:

$$\text{Cost of Education} - \text{Expected Family Contribution} = \text{Financial Need}$$

You and your parents should complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** after January 1st of your senior year of high school. You can get a FAFSA form and information online at www.fafsa.ed.gov and due dates from your school counselor or a college financial aid office. The information you provide to the federal government will determine how much money your family will be expected to contribute toward college expenses. This information also goes to the colleges you have applied to for admission. Based on this information, the colleges and universities help you meet school costs by creating a "financial aid package" tailored to meet your needs. Your financial aid package can include a combination of grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study.

Once the amount your family can contribute is determined, it will remain the same for any college you select. What will change is the cost of each college. All college costs are not the same. The cost for two year colleges are generally less than those for a four year institution and attending state supported schools often cost less than attending private colleges. These cost differentials affect the way each college combines or "packages" grants, scholarships, work-study jobs and loans to meet your financial needs. Colleges vary the amount of gift aid they provide based on their available resources.

The three main sources of financial aid are the federal government, the state government and the college or university. For further information regarding other sources for scholarships contact local service organizations; ask your guidance counselor; or try a free online scholarship search service. The following are state and federal programs that assist families to pay for college:

State Aid	Students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in order to be considered eligible for financial aid. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov or www.michigan.gov/studentaid .
Michigan Competitive Scholarship	This award is based on both need and merit according to your ACT score. It's available for use at Michigan public and private colleges and universities. You must take the ACT by December of your senior year in high school for priority consideration.
Michigan Tuition Grant*	This award is based on financial need and can be used at private, nonprofit, degree-granting colleges and universities in Michigan.
Michigan Promise Scholarship	The Michigan Promise Scholarship provides up to \$4,000 to high school graduates who successfully complete two years of postsecondary education and meet all eligibility requirements. Students must take the complete Michigan Merit Exam prior to high school graduation.
Michigan Campus-Based Programs	Campus-based programs provide grant and work-study opportunities to eligible students attending Michigan degree-granting colleges & universities. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for these need-based funds.
MI-LOAN	The Michigan Alternative Student Loan (MI-LOAN) Program provides loans to credit-worthy students and their parents to help pay for college.
Tuition Incentive Program	For identified students, this program offers to pay tuition and mandatory fees for the first two years of college and beyond if a student graduates from high school or completes a GED.
Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver	The Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver (MITW) provides tuition assistance to eligible American Indian students attending public colleges and universities in Michigan. Contact your college financial aid office directly for more information.
Michigan Nursing Scholarship	This is a non-need based award available to Michigan residents enrolled at least half time at an eligible institution in a program leading to a Licensed Practical certification, Associate Degree in Nursing, or Bachelor of Science in Nursing or a Master's of Science in Nursing.
Children of Veterans Tuition Grant	This program provides undergraduate tuition assistance to certain children who are the natural or adopted child of a Michigan veteran who has been killed in action or has become totally and permanently disabled as a result of military service.

*At the time of printing this program was inactive. Check with your college financial aid office as to it's availability.

Federal Aid	To review all federal student financial aid programs go to www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov .
Federal Pell Grants*	These are grants and do not have to be repaid. They are available to undergraduate students. The grants are renewable as long as the student demonstrates financial need and remains in good academic standing according to the college or university.
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)*	These are grants and do not have to be repaid. They are for undergraduates with exceptional financial need. Priority is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients. Funds depend on availability at the specific school.
Federal Work-Study*	Work-study is a job. Money is earned while attending school. Federal Work-Study is for undergraduate and graduate students. Jobs can be on campus or off campus. Students are paid at least minimum wage. The financial aid office determines the number of hours a student is eligible for.
Federal Perkins Loans*	These are loans and must be repaid. The interest rate for these loans is five percent for both undergraduate and graduate students. Payment is owed to the school that made the loan.
Subsidized FFEL or Direct Stafford Loans*	These are loans and must be repaid. These are subsidized, which means the federal government pays the interest while the borrower is in school and during the grace and deferment periods. Students begin repaying the loans six months after graduating or leaving school.
Unsubsidized FFEL or Direct Stafford Loans*	These are loans and must be repaid. The federal government does not pay the interest on unsubsidized loans. Students begin repaying the loans six months after graduating or leaving school.
AmeriCorps, Corporation for National & Community Service	AmeriCorps volunteers work in their communities helping others while gaining valuable experience and earning federal work-study money for college. Check out the AmeriCorps website (www.americorps.org) for more information.
U.S. Military	The U.S. Military (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard) provides an opportunity to choose from job training in more than 4,100 different jobs. The military also offers a sign-on bonus and money for college. For more information, see www.todaysmilitary.com .

(*From The Student Guide 2007-2008, U.S. Department of Education, www.ed.gov.)



Financial Aid

Resource Information

State Aid

Michigan Postsecondary Handbook

www.michigan.gov/studentaid — click on Postsecondary Handbook link.

Paying for College in Michigan

www.michigan.gov/studentaid — click on Quick List, Forms/Documents.

Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver

www.itcmi.org ♦ phone (906) 632-6896 or (800)562-4957 ♦ fax (906) 632-1810

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (specializing in services for people with disabilities)

www.michigan.gov/mrs ♦ 1-800-605-6722 (voice, toll-free)

1-888-605-6722 (TTY, toll-free)

Michigan Commission for the Blind (for individuals who are legally blind)

www.michigan.gov/mcb ♦ 1-800-292-4200 (voice, toll-free)

1-888-864-1212 (TTY, toll-free)

Federal Aid

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Online: www.fafsa.ed.gov

The state of Michigan recommends completion of the FAFSA no later than March 1st of the year you plan to enter higher education.

Federal Student Aid (FSA)

www.studentaid.ed.gov

1-800-4-FED-AID

AmeriCorps

www.americorps.org

U.S. Military

www.todaysmilitary.com

Scholarship Search Alert

Beware of any service that asks you to pay for scholarship searches or wants to charge you for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can get free information about most scholarships on the Internet or at your local library.

Michigan Programs That Can Help You Save for College

Another resource to help pay for college is to develop good savings plans. If you start saving money now, you can reduce the amount of money you need to find for college later. Saving any amount of money is a bonus. Start your financial planning and investing now. Two Michigan programs can help:

Michigan Education Trust (MET)

www.MET4Kid.com

1-800-MET-4-KID

Michigan Education Savings Program (MESP)

www.misaves.com

1-877-861-MESP

A College Prep Timeline

In 6th and 7th grade:

- ❖ Attend all your classes regularly.
- ❖ Let your counselor and family know you want to prepare for college.
- ❖ Develop good skills in reading, math, and language arts.
- ❖ Develop good study habits.
- ❖ Keep your grades up.
- ❖ Get involved in school and community activities.
- ❖ Start exploring different careers.
- ❖ Visit local colleges and universities.

In 8th grade:

- ❖ Attend all your classes regularly.
- ❖ Continue to develop good study habits.
- ❖ Make sure your family, teachers and counselors know your plan to attend college.
- ❖ Work with your family and school counselor to establish your four-year high school college prep plan based on the Michigan 4 year high school curriculum.
- ❖ Take advantage of opportunities to take practice college entrance or other assessment tests. This will help you find out what you know about your school subjects and where you need some help.
- ❖ Identify things you find interesting.
- ❖ Consider volunteer work and/or paid part-time work that provides opportunities for you to experience different careers.
- ❖ Get involved in extracurricular activities and community service.
- ❖ Visit local colleges and universities.
- ❖ Talk to your parents to find if they have developed a college savings plan for you.

In 9th and 10th grade:

- ❖ Every year, review and update your four-year high school course plan. Review the Michigan graduation requirements and make sure you're taking classes that prepare you for college.
- ❖ Attend all your classes regularly.
- ❖ Add electives to your course plan that develop your special interests and talents.
- ❖ Take the most challenging classes available.
- ❖ Continue to focus on learning. Monitor your GPA (grade point average) and remember that your grades are part of your permanent school record that colleges will want to see.
- ❖ Take the practice SAT test, known as the "Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test," in 10th grade. Sample questions are available through your counselor or on the Internet at www.collegeboard.com.
- ❖ Seek tutoring or extra assistance for difficult subjects. Don't let pride stand in your way. Everyone needs help at some point to reach their goals!
- ❖ Strengthen your study habits.
- ❖ Continue your involvement with extracurricular and community activities. These are important to college admissions committees.

- ❖ Consider volunteer work and/or paid part-time work that provide opportunities for you to experience different careers.
- ❖ Continue to analyze your abilities and interests as they relate to possible careers.
- ❖ Ask family and relatives, college students and graduates for advice on how to prepare for college.
- ❖ Attend a college fair or visit a college Web site and begin researching colleges that interest you and ask yourself why they interest you.
- ❖ Begin to research college majors.
- ❖ Begin to research information on scholarships through the web and your counselor.
- ❖ If you haven't already, start saving for college.
- ❖ Continue to attend activities and programs being held on local college campuses.

In 11th grade:

- ❖ Take time to set future goals and visualize yourself working through the steps to achieve your goals.
- ❖ Review and update your high school course plan. Review the Michigan and your school's graduation requirements and make sure you take classes that prepare you for college. Are there any changes needed because of your changing interests or college's admissions requirements?
- ❖ Focus on learning. Monitor your GPA.
- ❖ Continue taking the most challenging classes you can handle. Consider taking advanced placement courses that provide experience with college-level course work in high school. You can even earn college credit.
- ❖ Take college admissions tests as early as possible: ACT, SAT, and state-mandated tests.
- ❖ Continue strengthening your study habits. Pay close attention to strategies for organizing and completing large projects, research papers, etc., that are completed over a long period of time.
- ❖ Continue exploring & analyzing your interests and abilities as they relate to possible careers.
- ❖ Search for job shadowing or internship programs that place you in actual work settings that provide hands-on experience in careers of interest.
- ❖ Continue your involvement with extracurricular and community activities.
- ❖ Research colleges and universities that match your interests and academic needs.
- ❖ Meet with your counselor to become familiar with how to apply for college and financial aid.
- ❖ **Apply for college early.** Many colleges have early decision opportunities.
- ❖ Continue researching information on scholarships.
- ❖ Contact local businesses, organizations such as your church and other community resources, for scholarships.
- ❖ Continue saving for college.
- ❖ Meet with your counselor in your junior year to finalize your high school course plan for graduation. A copy of your completed high school classes, known as your transcript, will be used as part of your college applications, so make sure the record is complete and accurate.

In 12th grade:

- ❖ During early fall of your senior year, meet with your counselor to review the process and deadlines for applying for college admission and financial aid. Get college application forms and complete them to apply for admission at your selected colleges. The standard financial aid form used nationally is called the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA) and is usually available in the fall.
- ❖ Continue to focus on learning. Monitor your GPA. (Senior-year grades are especially important.) Continue taking the most challenging classes you can handle. Consider taking advanced placement courses that provide experience with college-level work in high school. You can even earn college credit.
- ❖ Fall of your senior year, narrow down your final college choices to three to five and use the web to find out as much as you can about each institution.
- ❖ Create an organizational system for keeping information about individual college and university admissions and financial aid applications and deadlines. This is also a good place to keep copies of information about particular majors you are considering.
- ❖ Take or re-take college admissions tests (ACT, SAT and the state-mandated test) as early as possible.
- ❖ Continue exploring and analyzing your interests and abilities as they relate to possible careers. **DON'T PANIC** if you still are not sure what you want to study in college. Many people begin their degree by completing the general requirements as they continue to explore options that best fit ideas about a major area of study.
- ❖ Apply for financial aid (**complete the FAFSA form**) **prior to March 1.** The FAFSA uses your parents' prior year tax information so they must complete their taxes by March 1st.
- ❖ Visit as many of your final college choices as you can. During your visits, take time to meet with admissions and financial aid officers. This is also a good time to meet with a college counselor to get information about the specific requirements for admittance into your program of study and to become familiar with all the college courses you will be taking if you choose to complete that area of study for your college degree.
- ❖ Continue strengthening your study habits. Pay particular attention to your overall organizational strategies for maintaining assignments, completing larger projects and balancing work and play in a busy school schedule.
- ❖ Continue your involvement with extracurricular and community activities.
- ❖ Continue searching for scholarships.
- ❖ Continue adding to your college savings.
- ❖ Graduate from high school and step into college!

A Personal

Checklist for Success!

Look over this checklist of strategies for success. Check the things you're already doing. Note which strategies you need to use more.

At school...

- I go to class daily.
- I am never late for class.
- I study in a group with a few friends who also plan to go to college.
- I use a tutor when I need one.
- I use a calendar to keep track of my homework, tests, and other school activities.
- I turn homework in on time.
- I ask questions in class and after class.
- I do extra credit assignments.
- I get a reliable student to take notes or tape the class when I'm absent.
- I check with my teachers often to see how I'm doing.
- I ask for extra time or other accommodations needed due to my disability, if this applies to me.

At home...

- I set up a study area that's quiet and well-lighted.
- I turn off the radio, TV and telephone to study.
- I keep a wall calendar of all my deadlines, home work due dates and assignments.
- I keep regular study hours as a part of my daily schedule.
- I remember to take 15-minute breaks after every half hour of study time.
- I visit the library regularly.
- I go to bed early enough so that I get at least eight hours of rest.
- I read at least one non-assigned book every month.



Tips for Parents and Friends — Partners Along the Way

Students understand the connection between education and success in life. Family and friends can be role models and partners to help them succeed. Here are some ways that you can help a young person you care about:

- ❖ Make sure the student attends all classes regularly and gets to class on time.
- ❖ Make sure the student is taking college prep classes.
- ❖ Monitor the student's grades. Usually a 3.0 grade-point average (B) is needed for admission to most colleges and universities.
- ❖ Find out about standardized tests given in your student's high school that measure academic skills, such as Michigan's state-mandated test and other tests used nationally such as the SAT, ACT, Stanford, and CTBS tests. Make sure the student is in school and well rested when the tests are given. When the scores are reported, ask the student's counselor or teacher to explain the results.
- ❖ Have the student apply for and take the Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Students can take this test in the 10th or 11th grade. This is a practice test for the SAT college admissions test, and it also gives the student a chance to qualify for National Merit Scholarships. For more information, see www.collegeboard.com.
- ❖ Along with the state mandated test, the student will take the ACT in the 11th grade. Students wishing to take the SAT can get information at www.collegeboard.com. Students can take the ACT or SAT more than once to improve their scores. For more information on the ACT see www.act.org. Contact the high school guidance counselor for assistance.”
- ❖ Help the student fill out college applications in the fall and financial aid forms in January/February (but no later than March 1st) of his or her senior year in high school.
- ❖ If the student is having trouble with a class, meet with the teacher to determine the cause. Seek additional help through a tutor or extra assignments. Students, parents, teachers and administrators working together can resolve most difficulties students have.
- ❖ Be a role model. The school can help develop a student's talents, but it is parents and other interested adults who shape the student's attitudes and opinions about learning.



(Continued from Inside Front Cover)**[More] Private Colleges & Universities**

	Website	Information	Financial Aid	Admissions
Baker College of Allen Park	www.baker.edu	800.767.4120	313.425.3700	313.425.3700
Baker College of Auburn Hills	www.baker.edu	888.429.0410	248.276.8214	248.340.0600
Baker College of Cadillac	www.baker.edu	888.313.3463	231.876.3106	231.876.3100
Baker College of Clinton Township	www.baker.edu	888.272.2842	586.790.9589	586.790.9580
Baker College of Flint	www.baker.edu	800.964.4299	810.766.4202	810.766.4000
Baker College of Jackson	www.baker.edu	888.343.3683	517.788.7800	517.788.7800
Baker College of Muskegon	www.baker.edu	800.937.0337	231.777.5251	231.777.5200
Baker College of Owosso	www.baker.edu	800.879.3797	989.729.3350	989.729.3350
Baker College of Port Huron	www.baker.edu	888.262.2442	810.985.7000	810.985.7000
Baker College Online	www.baker.edu	800.469.3165	810.766.4390	810.766.4390
Calvin College	www.calvin.edu	800.688.0122	800.688.0122	800.688.0122
Calvin Theological Seminary	www.calvinseminary.edu	800.388.6034	616.957.6675	616.957.7035
Cleary University	www.cleary.edu	888.525.3279	800.686.1883	888.525.3279
College for Creative Studies	www.ccscad.edu	800.952.ARTS	313.664.7496	313.664.7431
Concordia University	www.cuaa.edu	888.734.4237	734.995.7408	734.995.7450
Cornerstone University	www.cornerstone.edu	800.697.1133	616.222.1424	616.222.1426
Cranbrook Academy of Art	www.cranbrookart.edu	248.645.3360	248.645.3360	248.645.3360
Davenport University	www.davenport.edu	866.383.3548	586.558.8700, ext. 259	616.732.1183
Ecumenical Theological Seminary	www.etseminary.edu	313.831.5200, ext. 208	313.831.5200, ext. 205	313.831.5200, ext. 207
Finlandia University	www.finlandia.edu	877.202.5491	906.487.7240 or 877.202.5491	877.202.5491
Grace Bible College	www.gbcol.edu	800.968.1887	616.538.2330	616.538.2330
Great Lakes Christian College	www.glcc.edu	800.YES.GLCC	517.321.0242, ext. 227	517.321.0242, ext. 233
Hillsdale College	www.hillsdale.edu	517.607.2327	517.607.2350	517.607.2327
Hope College	www.hope.edu	800.968.7850	888.439.8907	800.968.7850
Kalamazoo College	www.kzoo.edu	800.253.3602	800.632.5760	800.253.3602
Kettering University	www.admissions.kettering.edu	800.955.4464	810.762.7859	810.762.7865
Kuyper College	www.kuyper.edu	616.988.3631	616.988.3656	616.988.3631
Lawrence Technological University	www.ltu.edu	800.CALL.LTU	248.204.2280	248.204.3173
Lewis College of Business	www.lewiscollege.edu	313.862.6300	313-862.6300, ext. 237	313.862.6300, ext. 230
Madonna University	www.madonna.edu	800.852.4951	734.432.5662	734.432.5339
Marquette Gen Health Sys Sch of Radiography	www.mgh.org/education/radsch	800.562.9753	906.225.4916	906.225.4916
Marygrove College	www.marygrove.edu	866.313.1927	313.927.1245	313.927.1236
Michigan Jewish Institute	www.mji.edu	248.414.6900	248.414.6900, ext. 12	248.414.6900, ext. 16
Michigan School of Professional Psychology	www.mispp.edu	248.476.1122	248.476.1122, ext. 100	248.476.1122, ext. 117
Michigan State University School of Law	www.law.msu.edu	517.432.6800	517.432.6811	517.432.6800
Michigan Theological Seminary	www.mts.edu	888.MTS.2737	734.207.9581, ext. 301	734.207.9581, ext. 312
Northwood University	www.northwood.edu	989.837.4273	989.837.4230	989.837.4273
Olivet College	www.olivetcollege.edu	800.456.7189	800.456.7189	800.456.7189
Robert B. Miller College	www.millercollege.org	269.660.8021	269.660.8021, ext. 2926	269.660.8021, ext. 2933
Rochester College	www.rc.edu	800.521.6010	248.218.2029	248.218.2031
Sacred Heart Major Seminary	www.shmonline.org	313.883.8520	313.883.8771	313.883.8520
Siena Heights University	www.sienahts.edu	800.501.0009	517.264.7133	517.264.7184
Spring Arbor University	www.arbor.edu	800.968.0011	800.968.0011	800.968.0011
Thomas M. Cooley Law School	www.cooley.edu	517.371.5140, ext. 2241	517.371.5140, ext. 2210	517.371.5140, ext. 2241
University of Detroit Mercy	www.udmercy.edu	800.635.5020	313.993.3350	313.993.1245
Walsh College of Accountancy and Business	www.walshcollege.edu	800.WALSH.01	248.823.1665	248.823.1610
Western Theological Seminary	www.westernsem.edu	800.392.8554	616.392.8555	616.392.8555
Yeshiva Gedolah	None	248.968.3360	248.968.3360	248.968.3360

Specializing in Students With Disabilities**Website****Information/Financial Aid/Admissions**

Michigan Career and Technical Institute	www.michigan.gov/mcti	269.664.4461 (voice) 269.664.9294 (TTY) Toll-free 877.901.7360 (voice/TTY)
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(MCTI provides free tuition and room and board in the dormitory for students with disabilities.)

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