

EduGuide

YOUR ROADMAP TO STUDENT SUCCESS

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Are you on the right path?



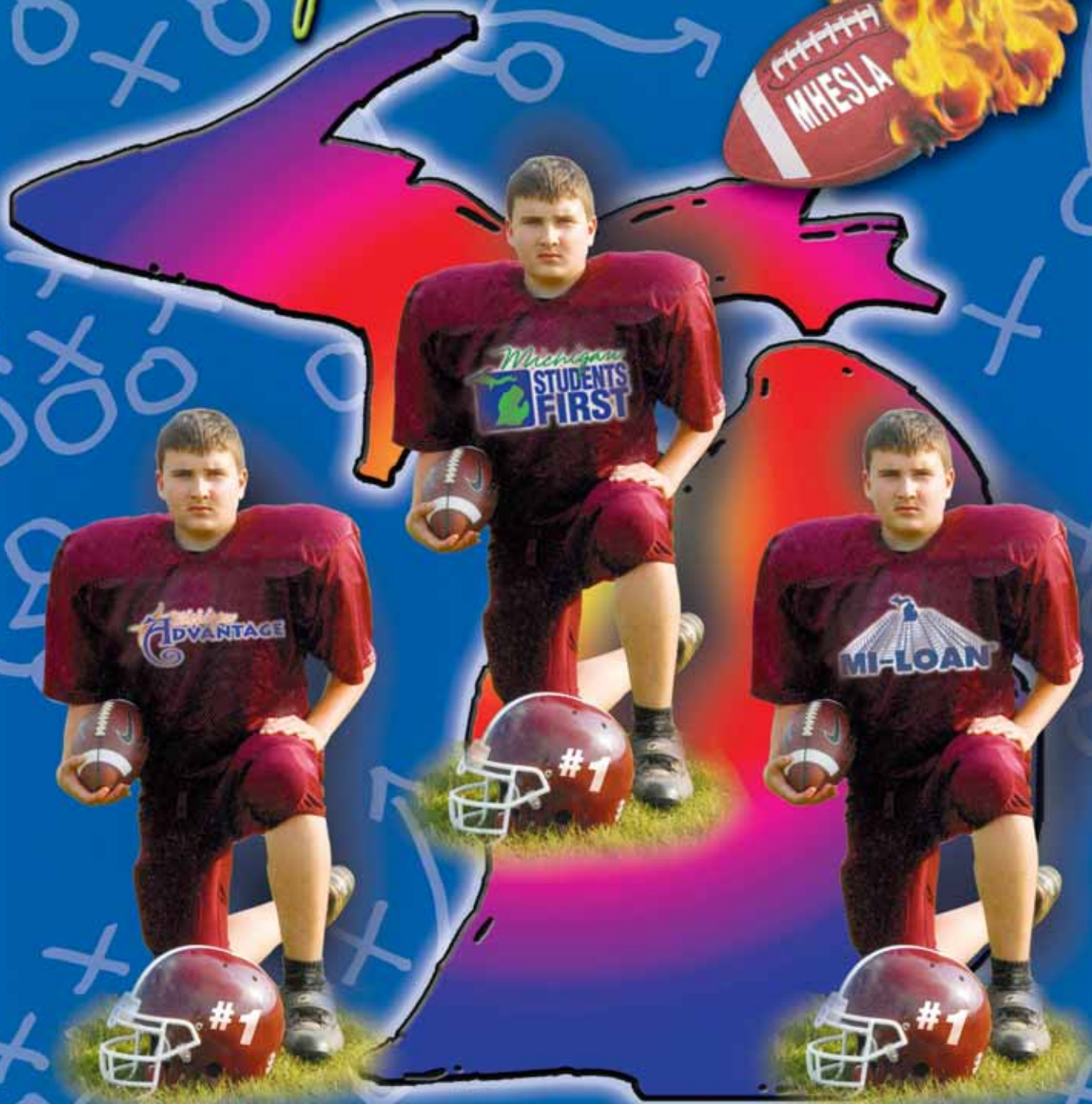
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How to beat the odds

It's one of the saddest statistics I know. More than 9-in-10 students entering high school say they want to get a college degree of some kind. Everyone has told them that it means an extra million dollars in lifetime earnings. But fewer than half make it.

Why don't more students reach their dreams? We've asked dozens of students, parents and experts that question. Students like Kevin Collins, who after two years of trying to make up for deadlines he missed in high school told me "I wish I could start over. It would save me a lot of trouble."

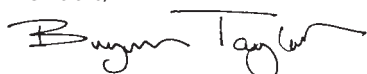
The bottom line — most families think it will just take care of itself. But it doesn't. Good intentions aren't enough. There are several key turns on the road to a good degree and job. Miss one of those turns, and it's easy to get lost. Schools will help, but they count on families to tell them where they need help. So if your education has been on auto-pilot, it's time to take the controls.

That's why our non-profit works with parents and students to create their own personalized roadmap. You can get yours free at our website. That's also why we've packed this EduGuide with directions to help you make the most of your high school years. Tips that 4-in-5 readers have told us they haven't heard anywhere else. Here's a few:

- **Get a life.** School is more than schoolwork. Students who join a sport, club or other school related activity are more likely to stay in school and succeed. They're also less likely to get into trouble during the after school hours when most teen sex, drug use and crime occur. But don't overdo it. Two or three activities will give you time to grow your interests. Five or six may lead to more busyness than growth.
- **Work it.** Internships, part-time work, informational interviews and career exploration took me around the world, including a stint in the British Parliament. It sometimes took days of research and asking around to find each new gig. But such experiences taught me as much as my classes and gave me a launch pad for my career. Don't overdo this either, though. Students who work more than 10 hours a week during school start to fall behind.
- **Start college in high school.** College may seem far away but a growing number of students are finding ways to get a head start. Plan it right and you can not only be far better prepared for success, you can also save a year or more on tuition. See how Jim Levasseur did just that on page 30. Advanced Placement courses are the most popular way to do this, but you'll find seven more ways that may suit you better on our website.

This is your road to success. It all starts here. Keep reading.

Cheers,



Bryan Taylor, Publisher



Bryan Taylor's pathway took him from St. Clair Community College to the University of Paris to his first executive position by the age of 21. A popular speaker, Bryan founded EduGuide to equip each student to pursue a personalized path to their full potential.

My favorite stuff at EduGuide.org/h8

- ▶ **Personal Roadmap Quiz**
The personal plan I wish I had had in high school.
- ▶ **Informational Interview Instigator**
I created this tool to share the strategies that opened up my career path.
- ▶ **Warning signs on your career path**
Avoid the most common roadblocks.



EduGuide YOUR ROADMAP TO STUDENT SUCCESS

EduGuide: Partnership for Learning is a national award-winning non-profit committed to helping you create your personalized roadmap to student success.

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Carol Crowe

Freshman, Business & Sports Marketing
Lansing Community College

"My mom was like you need to go to college, blah, blah, blah — but toward the end she said just do whatever you want. So I said fine, if it doesn't matter that much to you, I won't go.

I went into construction, but I was just living paycheck to paycheck. Then my mom went back to college to get a nursing degree. I started looking at my life and decided if she could do it, then so could I.

I wish I wouldn't have lost those two years out of school. I could be a junior by now. High school students should definitely take their classes more seriously. I wish I would have. I took stupid classes just to get credit. My mom wanted me to take Physics, but to me it was just useless knowledge. If I had taken it today, I would be more confident and wouldn't be ignorant, like a slacker mentality.

"High school students should definitely take their classes more seriously. I wish I would have. I took stupid classes just to get credit."

But how do you get through to a 16-year-old? Every family is different, but I think what would have worked for me is if I had been given a positive picture of what I could get out of college. To help me understand what it's like living paycheck to paycheck. To help me want it for myself, instead of just saying I had to do it. For people who are low- and middle-income it also helps when adults set an example, like my mom did."


Myth

I can get a good paying job out of high school.

Fact

Probably not.

Or if you do, don't count on it lasting. This is the main reason for Michigan's new graduation requirements. The fastest growing jobs require education beyond high school. Adults with just a high school diploma are twice as likely to be unemployed as those with a bachelor's degree.

 Learn more at [EduGuide.org/h8](https://www.EduGuide.org/h8)

► Top five reasons why college is a good investment

New @ the U



Student Residence Hall

The first student residence hall is opening in Fall 2008 and will house 310 lucky students. Each suite will feature 2 or 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a living space, and kitchenette. Check out the virtual tours of the suites at www.umflint.edu/housing.

Genesee Early College

Offered by the Genesee Intermediate School District, this program prepares high school students for academic and professional careers in healthcare. Students can earn up to 60 transferable college credits towards their undergraduate degree at no cost to the families. www.GeneseeEarlyCollege.org for more info.

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► **Jacob Osminski**
Sophomore, Carpentry
Lansing Community College

"Parents need to **push their kids** to succeed in class because in high school all we thought about was 'where's the next party.'"

"**Don't slack off.** I had to take a reading class (to make up for what I missed in high school) when I got here. It was a pain in the butt. Actually do your homework, because once you get past high school you'll need it.

Parents need to push their kids to succeed in class because in high school all we thought about was 'where's the next party.'

I don't know how many times my parents asked me what I wanted to do in life, but it helped. My dad's an engineer and he asked me about working on a survey crew. Later, that led to a job with the road commission in Bad Axe and then he told me about a construction crew. That's what led me to decide on carpentry; I can get an associate's (degree) here or transfer and go for a bachelor's or even a master's."

Myth

My senior year doesn't count.

Fact

It may count against you if you don't stay on track.

If you don't master what you need to in high school, count on repeating it in college — this time at your own expense. And with more competition for college seats, some colleges are rejecting students if their course load and grades decline. High school senior Katherine White of Kalamazoo told us that she was surprised to find that she lost a spot at Grand Valley State University. The reason: skipping too many classes. She said I wish my dad had been "more nosy; he gave me my space, but it would have been better if he would have been asking more questions."



Learn more at [EduGuide.org/h8](https://www.EduGuide.org/h8)

- Get more tips from Katherine, including how she got scholarship referrals in *Letter from the Future*

If you talk to anyone who's been to the **University of Michigan**, all you'll hear is how great this place is.

Why do people love U-M so much?

Maybe it's because of the friends they make here—the smartest, most talented, most energetic students from all over the U.S. and the world.

Maybe it's because of all the fantastic things they can do here—from playing in the famous Michigan Marching Band to doing research on cancer to spending a semester sailing around the world.

Maybe it's their teachers, who are among the very best in their fields.

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U N I V E R S I T Y O F M I C H I G A N

What I wish I had done in high school



explored
colleges
earlier

→ SherAaron Hurt

Junior
Michigan Technological University

"I didn't start thinking about which college I wanted to attend until I was in eleventh grade. At that point, I asked several of my mentors for advice, and they all had different ideas of where I should go. It was an overwhelming decision, and one I wish I'd started making earlier in high school. The president of Michigan Tech came to speak at my high school and I was sold. But since I had started so late — I didn't take advantage of any college tour experiences early in high school — the day that I drove my things up to Houghton to move in for freshman year was the first time I'd ever stepped foot on campus. It's a good thing I liked what I saw!"

I'd recommend that ninth graders start earlier than I did in their search for the perfect college. They should begin by thinking about whether they'd do better at a big school or a small one. They should also think about the city and its surrounding area."

Even before I knew where I'd be going, I was laying the groundwork for college. I took a lot of AP classes. When I got to Michigan Tech as a business major, I only had to take two math classes, and both were a breeze because of the classes I chose to take in high school.

Tip: Go as far in math as you can. It's a key factor in who succeeds in college and in which careers will be open to you.



explored
career
options
earlier

→ Sarah Kawaguchi

Senior
McGill University

"As a grade nine student, I remember people asking me what I wanted to go into later on and I would reply that I really had no idea. The questioner would then inevitably respond that I still had a lot of time to figure it out. To be honest, grade nine seems like last week. And I realize now that some small decisions that I made back then actually ended up shaping not only my decision to apply to science programs, but ultimately my decision to go to medical school.

These small decisions included taking biology instead of American history in grade 10, dropping economics because I didn't have the space in my schedule — things that wouldn't seem to be so formative at face value. You should really start exploring career options at an early age. Shadow a professional, like a parent or their friends. Talk to people in various fields and ask them about what they do, why they like it or don't like it. Gathering this type of information may seem premature but in my opinion it is anything but."

Tip: You can plan your career pathway, and complete Michigan's requirement for online learning at the same time, by taking CareerForward from the Michigan Virtual University at mivhs.org.



taken
college track
courses
earlier

→ Phillip Rutherford

Graduate
University of Michigan

"When I was a freshman in high school, I saw my senior year as nothing more than the end of homework. The classes I chose were not on any type of college track — and that got me into trouble senior year.

My counselor and I had a heart-to-heart one day, and he asked me: 'Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?' Although I don't remember exactly what I said to him, I do remember it involved me having a college degree. So, after high school, instead of taking a year off to hang out like I had initially wanted to, I checked out the classes at a local community college. There, I found out about the M-Ties program, which puts students on track to transfer to the University of Michigan after two years. I hadn't realized that someone like myself — a terrible student in high school — could reasonably expect to attend a great college.

Now, I tell students this: even if you don't know what you want to do with your life, start exploring what different colleges offer now. Your freshman year is a great time because it's early enough to start doing the types of things you might have to do to get into certain schools. Playing catch-up at the last minute is one of the most stressful things a student can do."

Tip: Students who build a relationship with a counselor, teacher or principal often report that it's been a turning point in their success.



Jennifer

Where do you like to study?

When recent biology grad Jennifer Watson worked on zebra mussel research, her classrooms were Michigan lakes and rivers. Her undergraduate research was so impressive that it helped her get into her graduate school of choice.

Art student Paolo Pedini loves learning and being creative in a community classroom. He led an arts project that placed murals in a local grade school, a veterans hospital and a regional medical center.

Sociology major Reggie Blockett thinks that the best way to learn leadership skills is get involved and make a difference — and so Reggie is almost always engaged in a volunteer program, like a recent grade school beautification project.

For sure, lots of learning goes on in the state-of-the-art classrooms and labs at Saginaw Valley State University. But it also happens in some amazing places, and in amazing ways.



Paolo



Reggie

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Something Better.*



For a campus tour, call (800) 968-9500,
or take a virtual tour at www.svsu.edu



How strong is your team?

High school is challenging. The truth is we all fall behind sooner or later. But some people fall harder, faster, farther — while others rebound. What's the difference? How well you flex the muscle of your team.

How strong are you at using your team?

Take our quiz to find out.

- | Yes | No | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | I avoid raising questions about things I don't know. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | I don't like to ask for help. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | When I'm stuck on a paper or a problem I would rather not show other people my work. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | When I'm behind in class, I don't want to talk about it with other people. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | I'm not sure whom I would ask for help on school work besides my parents or my teacher. |


Any of these sound like you? Most of us feel this way. But these feelings are also the weak point in our defenses. That's because they separate us from the people we need to succeed. Look at any celebrity, sports star or business exec, and you'll find they've gotten where they are by building a team to support them. Learn to do the same thing with your school work, and there's no telling how far you could go.

Want to succeed? Before you fall behind, get the contact info for at least one tutoring source that you can use to get help when you fall behind.

9 ways to get help when you fall behind

Choose one source of tutoring and check it out now so you're ready when you need it. Ask your school counselor for more ideas about local programs. And if you can't find a tutor you can afford consider what you could trade for tutoring such as babysitting or running errands.

- Libraries.** Many libraries have free drop-in tutoring either on-site or on-line. If your library doesn't, check the town next door.
- Teachers.** Teachers are often overworked. But they will sometimes provide extra academic help if you ask. And who better to know exactly what help you need. If that doesn't work, ask the teacher if they know of an older or more advanced student who could help.
- Family & friends.** Parents can be a good tutor if they know the subject and both parties have the patience to make it work. If not, consider another family member or friend of the family.
- Chuches, community and volunteer centers.** Many have programs to serve students. Though some may only provide mentoring, ask if they have anyone who can also help a student who's struggling with school work. They're there to help.
- Colleges.** Ask professors to recommend students, especially students who are studying to become future teachers. They may charge a small fee.
- Private tutors.** Some people specialize in tutoring. You can find them by asking around or looking on-line. Costs range a lot: from \$10-\$70 per hour.
- On-line tutors.** Search on-line, and you'll find some free homework help sites and a number of companies that provide tutoring on a pay as you go or subscription basis.
- Tutoring centers.** Specializing in a systematic approach to bringing students up to speed, centers offer an easy to use service. Styles and quality vary. Costs do too.
- No Child Left Behind.** Some students at some schools are eligible to have their choice of tutoring agency paid-in-full by this federal program. Ask your school if you qualify early in the year because some programs request that you register in advance.

 **Learn more at [EduGuide.org/h8](https://www.EduGuide.org/h8)**

► Guide to finding the right tutor, including questions to ask and ways to compare



3 smart moves for parents

By Jay Mathews

— Our three children are all grown, the youngest being a college sophomore. But the memories my wife and I have of their, and our, introduction to high school are still fresh. Three issues — course selection, extracurricular activities and college pressure — seemed to cause the most trouble, and now that I think about it, they were all, in a way, the same problem.

What makes high school different is that what happens there counts for college. If a child struggles with reading in the third grade, that is a cause for concern, but the solutions are obvious and there is time to fix things. If middle school peer pressures result in a decline in the quality of schoolwork, no one is going to notice and new rules can be set.

But once high school starts, a parent or child cannot help but think how every decision will affect the rest of their lives. That is because most American families think that getting into college, the right college, is the most important thing that a high school student will do. There is some truth to that, but if you break down the difficulties of high school one by one, the whole ordeal becomes easier to manage.

1. Getting what you need

One issue likely to be overlooked is the courses that your child takes. Are they challenging enough? Often, they're not.

I have learned over the years as an education reporter, and as a parent, that most schools will actively try to keep your student out of the Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) classes, which introduce students to college level work and the chance to earn early college credit, if they think your child does not have a high enough grade point average.

Kerry Constable, a student at Mamaroneck High School in suburban New York, was told by the chairman of the social studies department that she would not be permitted to take AP American History, a course she had her heart set on. Her freshman and sophomore grades were not good enough, he said. Constable solved the problem in an unusual way: she prepared on her own for the AP American History test, given each May to anyone who can pay the \$82 fee. She borrowed homework assignments from friends who were allowed in the AP course, and received a passing grade on the exam.

It would have been better if she and her parents had been able to persuade the school that its placement policies were


wrong. Two major studies show that even students who struggle in an AP course and FAIL the exam are more likely to graduate from college than those who are kept out of the course and the exam altogether. So it is important to impress on the school how vital it is that your child have this chance.

And your gentle pushing may have to start even before your child gets to high school. When my daughter was in seventh grade, I discovered that she had been put in a math track that would not prepare her for AP calculus in her senior year. She was a good math student, but her advisor thought she was more interested in literature, and did not want to work that hard in math. We argued otherwise, her courses were changed, and today she is thinking of making math her college major.

2. When less is more

Choice of extra-curricular activities is a similarly overlooked danger spot. The student's instinct is often to try to do many things, in hopes that a long resume of activities will impress colleges. Actually, that is a formula for disaster, both in the college's impression of your child and your child's own enjoyment of his or her life outside of class.

"Two major studies show that even students who struggle in an AP course and FAIL the exam are more likely to graduate from college than those who are kept out of the course..."

 [Learn more at EduGuide.org/h8](https://www.EduGuide.org/h8)

► 7 steps for parents to stay ahead
in high school

Our eldest child, for instance, was a very enthusiastic athlete but did not join any high school teams until the last semester of his senior year, far too late to put on his college applications. Instead, he spent every spring doing what he had done since he was 13 years old — coaching a Little League baseball team. That activity, and his work on the student newspaper, took up most of his extra time. Some parents and students might think that would not be enough to catch the college's eyes.

They would be wrong. He got into his first choice school precisely because he had focused on just two activities. His choices showed that he was following his deepest interests, showing the passion that selective colleges look for. The Little League coaching was even the subject of his successful application essay.

What impresses colleges is not the number of activities on a student's list, but their depth, and it does not hurt if the activities are sometimes outside the mainstream. Two students at South Pasadena High School in California told me about an underground newspaper they had created to show their dislike of the regular student paper. I asked them why they had not mentioned this on their college applications. They said they thought it was

too undignified, too rebellious, and might make them look bad. The opposite was true, the colleges told me.

3. Pressure point

So what do we do to avoid being burned out by the push for college? It is fine to worry about college. That provides a motive for diligent study in high school, which is what teenagers should be doing at that age.

But parents will learn, as we did, that they don't need to worry so much about WHICH college their child attends. There are so many bright students and young professors being rejected by the Ivy League schools that hundreds of colleges now boast student bodies and faculties just as good as the famous ones. When you start high school, ask the right questions, pay attention, and it will all work out for the best.

Jay Mathews, the parent of three children, writes the education column for the Washington Post.

Jay's Do's and Don'ts

- **Do focus on just a few extracurricular activities.**
Two is fine. The idea is to take their interests to the next level. So if your child writes poetry, help her get it published in a local journal. If he bakes pies, make sure he enters the county fair.
- **Do save time for fun.** The demands of high school can drive both parents and students crazy. Have a regular weekly family movie, miniature golf game or fast food night out.
- **Do focus on improvement, not grade point average.** Kids have different academic motivations and skills. The idea is to show them that if they keep working on something, they will get better.
- **Do take the most difficult courses.**
Colleges prefer to see average grades in hard courses, rather than top grades in easy ones.
- **Don't worry about whether the teacher likes your child.** Some of the best teachers come on strong, and appear to be ogres. Those are the ones you'll probably bless later when your child learns how to handle a college workload.
- **Don't be a grade grubber.** Grades are important, to be sure, but good academic work, even if not given full credit, will mean better SAT or ACT scores and better lifelong skills.
- **Don't spend a lot of money to prepare for the SAT or ACT.** Those tests are important, but a prep course is not going to help as much as you think. Going over the sample test books works just as well. If only you can persuade your child of this. If not, you may have to pay just to preserve her peace of mind.
- **Don't do your child's homework for him.** Discussing assignments is fine. Making suggestions is okay. But a good rule is, never touch the actual paper.



"With Michigan's economic future on the line the time for piecemeal change in education in our state is over. From setting high standards in our K-12 schools to giving every young person the opportunity to earn a college degree we are now committed to enacting fundamental change in our education system. And whether we are focused on the needs of our own sons and daughters or the health of our state's economy, this moment in time demands no less."

—Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of Michigan

Studies show students who take college level courses while in high school rarely drop out of school; require fewer remedial and entry level college courses; have a greater chance of graduating; and could earn over \$1 million more in their lifetime

The economy is changing and Michigan schools are changing with it!

As children move through school, chances are what they learn will be different from when you attended school. In fact, it seems change is all around us. Today, we live in a digital age and compete for jobs on a global basis. We know that for our students to remain competitive, they will need to be fluent in more than one language; use technology; acquire advanced knowledge and skills; and attend college or complete a post-secondary program to get a good paying job.

Clear learning goals are key

To better prepare students for college and the workplace, teachers and parents need to have a clear and common understanding of what students at all grade levels need to know and be able to do throughout school.

Over the past four years, the Michigan Department of Education with the help of parents, educators, state and national educational experts, and the business community have worked together to develop clear education learning goals for students. These goals, called content expectations, were developed in two formats, by grade for elementary and middle school students and by course or credit for high schoolers.

These expectations serve as the foundation for what is taught and tested to ensure students are learning what they need to move successfully into the next grade or subject.



High School Course/Credit Content Expectations outline what high school students should know and be able to do for credit in certain high school level subjects.

For example, Algebra I high school course content expectations build upon a number of key algebraic topics like calculations or measurements covered in 7th and 8th Grade Level Content Expectations for math.

Algebra I Expectation Example: Explain the meaning and uses of weighted averages like the consumer price index or grade point average.

To view these expectations, visit the Michigan Department of Education High School web site at mi.gov/highschool.

New Michigan Merit graduation requirements provide students with world class education

Just as world-class athletes continue to challenge themselves to break records once thought unbeatable, studies have shown high school students are more likely to pass high-level than low-level courses.

Today, 40 percent of high school graduates say they were not adequately prepared for employment or postsecondary education, and that if they could repeat their high school experience, they would work harder, especially in math and science.

To ensure high school graduates have the educational foundation needed for success in college, job training programs or our 21st century workplace, Michigan has implemented new world class graduation requirements. These requirements called the Michigan Merit Curriculum were signed into law by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm on April 20, 2006, and build on the Grade Level Content Expectations for elementary and middle school students.

The Michigan Merit Curriculum is effective beginning with the Class of 2011, and requires students to complete 16 credits plus an online learning experience for graduation.

Students can acquire these credits through subject and/or integrated (mixed subject) classes, as well as, career and technical education programs.

Beginning with the Class of 2016, students will also need to complete two world language credits in grades 9–12; OR an equivalent learning experience for credit in grades K–12.

For many students who already plan on taking similar credits, things will change very little. For others, it may introduce new subjects like Economics, which includes personal finance.

These new requirements should still allow students ample flexibility to incorporate electives like additional art and music courses or career training into their high school schedule.

While all school districts in the past had district graduation requirements, the number and type of credits varied widely throughout the state. The Michigan Merit Curriculum provides students with a common set of requirements and educators with a common understanding of what students should know and be able to do for credit. Previously, the only state requirement was one semester of Civics.

New Michigan Merit Exam

In the spring of 2007, Michigan high school students said goodbye to the MEAP and hello to the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). Unlike the MEAP, the MME combines several tests into one and provides students with both a free ACT college entrance exam and ACT job readiness assessment called ACT WorkKeys.

The MME provides a way for the state to measure all students in the same way, at the same time. It offers parents and students with valuable information on student academic progress. The exam also helps teachers identify students in need of academic support and serves as a reference to ensure their curriculum is aligned to the state course/credit content expectations which are the basis for most of the exam.

Good News! Students who take the MME qualify for a \$4,000 Michigan Promise Scholarship to help pay state university, community college or technical and trade school tuition and costs.

Increasing College and Career Training Opportunities

While a decade or two ago, education or training for students beyond high school was an option, in today's global workplace, it is a necessity. To make college and post secondary job training opportunities more affordable, Michigan high school students have more opportunities than ever before to earn college credits at their high school or even on a college campus at little or no cost.

College credit and career training opportunities for high school students include:

► **Career Technical Education** programs provide students with a great way to explore a variety of careers and potentially earn college credit while in high school. Students usually begin a two-year program in their junior year,

(continued on next page)

Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements

Effective Beginning with Students Entering 8th Grade in 2006 (Class of 2011)

MATHEMATICS - 4 Credits

Algebra I
Algebra II
Geometry
One math course in final year of high school

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS - 4 Credits

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

SCIENCE - 3 Credits

Biology
Physics or Chemistry
One additional science credit

SOCIAL STUDIES - 3 Credits

.5 credit in Civics
U.S. History and Geography
.5 credit in Economics
World History and Geography

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH - 1 Credit

VISUAL, PERFORMING AND APPLIED ARTS - 1 Credit

ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE
Course, Learning Experience or Integrated Learning Experience

WORLD LANGUAGE - 2 Credits

In grades 9–12; OR an equivalent learning experience in grades K–12
Effective Beginning with Students Entering 3rd Grade in 2011 (Class of 2016)

however the length of the program can vary. Most CTE students split their time between high school and either a career in a technical education center or a community college.

- **Qualifications:** Approval of high school counselor.
- **Course Costs:** Most or all costs are covered by district.
- **Course Location:** Split time between high school, career center, or community college.
- **Transportation:** May be provided by the district.

► **Advanced Placement (AP)** courses provide students with the opportunity to take college level courses right at high school that are taught by high school teachers.

- **Qualifications:** All students are eligible to take AP courses, however, schools may require students to complete a lower level course in the same subject.
- **Credit:** Courses can count as high school credit and college credit. To earn college credit in an AP course, students will need to earn a minimum score of three (out of 5) on an AP college credit test.
- **Course Costs:** Costs for these programs may vary from district to district. AP tuition costs are generally covered by districts. However, if students wish to take the AP test for college credit, there usually is a cost, except for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.
- **Course Location:** High School.

► **Dual Enrollment Courses** allow juniors and seniors to take classes in high school and one or more college level classes at a college campus or online. These generally are courses not offered at high school or that can not fit into a student's schedule.

- **Qualifications:** To be eligible to take a dual enrollment course, students must have a qualifying score on the ACT Plan,

PSAT, ACT or Michigan Merit Exam to show the student is ready for college level work.

- **Credit:** Courses can count for high school credit, college credit, or both — it's up to each student.
- **Course Costs:** Most or all costs are covered by district.
- **Course Location:** Usually on a college campus or online. However, some schools have, or are beginning to explore, the possibility of colleges having a satellite campus at the high school.
- **Transportation:** Provided by student.

► **Direct College Credit** courses provide students with the opportunity to take college level courses at high school and generally are taught by college faculty.

- **Qualifications:** Most high schools may require students to apply for, and test into, college level courses.
- **Credit:** Courses can count for high school credit and college credit.
- **Course Costs:** Direct College Credit courses are really college courses offered at the high school. Therefore, students may need to pay either a full or reduced credit fee.
- **Course Location:** High School.

► **The International Baccalaureate (IB)** diploma program is offered to students aged 16 to 19 who attend an IB-designated school. IB programs offer students a demanding two-year curriculum measured by international assessments and widely accepted as college credit by colleges and universities.

- **Qualifications:** All students in an IB school qualify.
- **Course Costs:** While course costs are generally covered by the school district, the costs associated with required assessments may or may not be covered.

However, if students wish to take the AP test for college credit, there usually is a cost, except for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

- **Course Location:** High School. For a list of IB schools in Michigan, visit ibo.org.

► **Middle or Early College High Schools** are designed for students who may do better in a non-traditional high school setting OR are interested in being challenged. These programs provide students with both a high school diploma and up to 60 college credits, which are transferable to most state colleges and universities.

Enrollment in these schools can begin as early as ninth grade with college classes beginning as early as tenth grade. Early/Middle College High Schools have several locations in Michigan.

Because early college credit opportunities differ from district to district, check with the high school guidance counselor to see which options your school offers.

Just the Facts

Information and reports you should receive about your child's and school's academic progress

1. ACT test results should be mailed to students in late Spring of their junior year.
2. Michigan Merit Exam results will be mailed by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) during summer break.
3. The Michigan School Report Card is compiled annually by MDE and is released in late summer or early fall. The Report Card provides a great deal of information on high schools. The report includes two components:
 - **Education YES!** which provides your high school's accreditation status and assigns a letter grades for academic achievement and various indicators of school performance.



- **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)**, required under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 includes year-to-year student achievement on the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). Other indicators, such as the number of students who participate in the MME and high school graduation rate are also a consideration in determining a school's or district's AYP status.

Schools that have not made AYP for two or more consecutive years are in a phase of school improvement and are considered High Priority Schools. These schools receive support from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and acquire new responsibilities related to their phase of improvement.

Under NCLB, the type of consequences and support for High Priority Schools depends on if the school or district receives Title I funding. Schools receiving these funds are referred to as Title I High Priority Schools.

For more information on the status of a public school visit mi.gov/ayp

How schools are keeping up with change

Each year, schools and districts establish a team to review policies and practices and develop a blueprint called a School Improvement Plan to improve and enhance student achievement. This plan establishes long and short term goals and objectives that will guide teaching, resource allocation, staff development, data management and assessment. It also can be used to measure a school's or district's ability to meet the goals and objectives established in the plan.

School Improvement Plans are developed usually by building educators, administrators, community members and parents. To assist schools in their improvement efforts, the Michigan Department of Education developed a School Improvement Framework that can be individualized and used in multiple ways to develop, support, and enhance school district and building improvement plans and measure success. In addition, schools report on

how they are doing in developing and implementing their improvement plan and goals as part of annual state accreditation Education Yes! report.

Each school is working to improve in these five general areas of focus:

1. Teaching for Learning
2. Leadership
3. Personnel and Professional Learning
4. School/Community Relations
5. Data and Information Management.

Be part of the team — parent input is critical to a school's improvement efforts. When schools know what parents want and expect they're better able to meet the needs of parents and students.

Helping Students Succeed

All parents want their children to succeed. But how do you help your teen succeed in school, while he or she is growing more independent each day?

While your teen is continually testing his or her independence, the high school years are actually a time when they need you more than ever.

Things you can do to stay connected and help them succeed:

- Expect your child to achieve and succeed. The more you expect, the more they will learn.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences and become an active partner with each teacher. While finding the time to communicate with your child's teachers may be challenging, it is worth your effort. When parents are actively involved, kids do better in school, attend school and graduate, and have fewer instances of violence and drug/alcohol problems.
- Help your teen learn how to study by establishing a study routine in a quiet area at home.
- If you see a problem or your child needs help — SPEAK UP immediately!
- Stay informed by reading all school information or visiting the school web site.
- Volunteer. There are many ways to provide support both during and after school hours. It shows your child that he or she is important and that you value education.
- Most importantly, be supportive.

| AYP PHASE | TITLE I HIGH PRIORITY SCHOOL CONSEQUENCES |
|--|---|
| 1) Did not make AYP for two consecutive years | Notify Parents Offer School Choice and Transportation Write and implement a new School Improvement Plan Must use 10% of Title I funds for Teacher Training |
| 2) Did not make AYP for three consecutive years | Notify Parents Offer School Choice and Transportation Implement 2nd year of School Improvement Plan Must use 10% of Title I funds for Teacher Training |
| 3) Did not make AYP for four consecutive years | Notify Parents Offer School Choice and Transportation Offer Supplemental Educational Services Write and implement Corrective Action Plan |
| 4) Did not make AYP for five consecutive years | Notify Parents Offer School Choice and Transportation Offer Supplemental Educational Services Develop a Restructuring Plan |
| 5+) Did not make AYP for six or more consecutive years | Notify Parents Offer School Choice and Transportation Offer Supplemental Educational Services Implement the Restructuring Plan |

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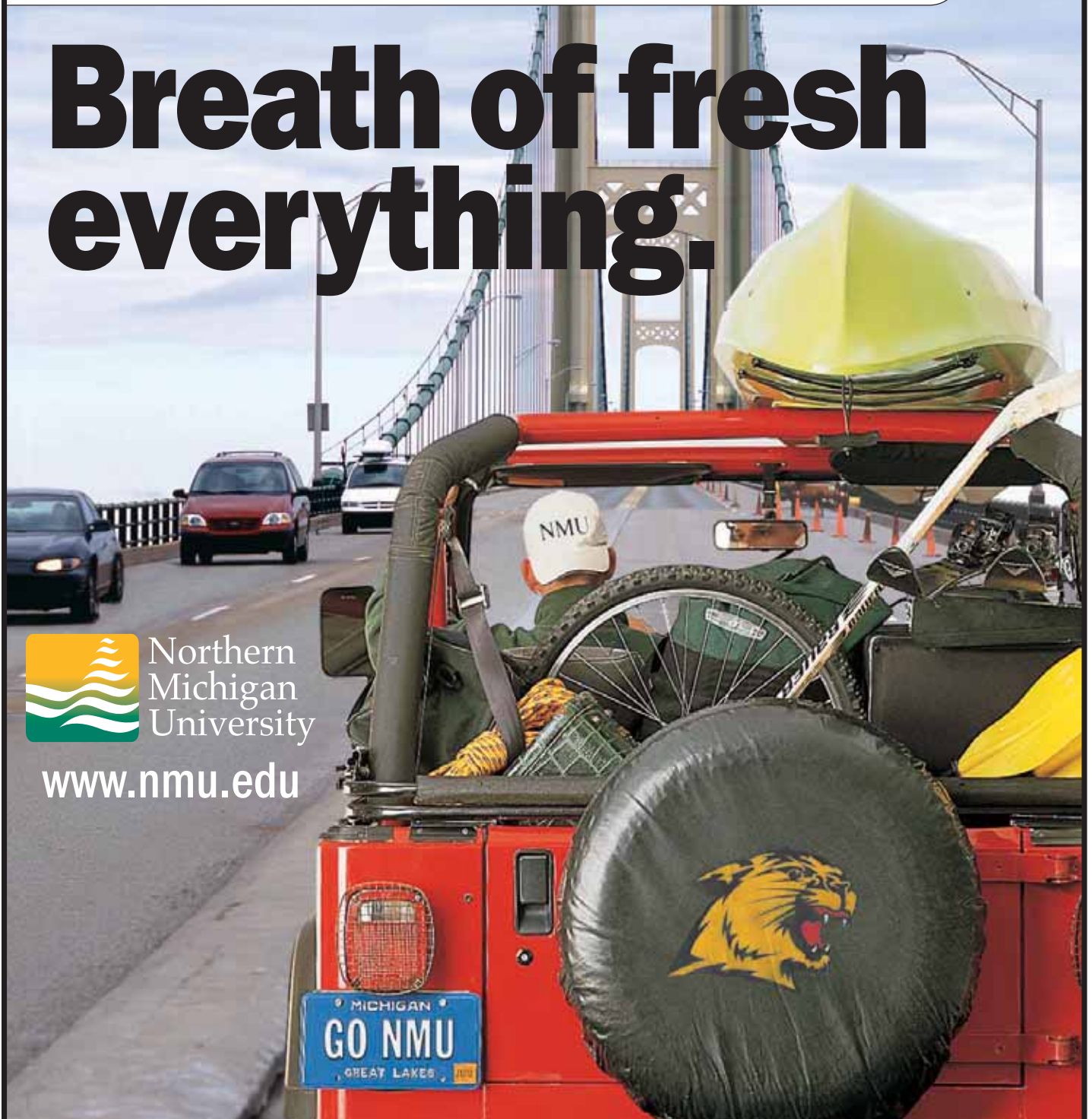
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College Prep Checklist

By Michelle Schira Hagerman

8th Grade



- **Visit a local college campus.** Attend a public open house, go to a sports event, visit the library or campus museum for fun. Once you've seen a college, you'll really know what you're aiming for.
- **Tell your parents that you want to go to college** and that you need their support. Students are more likely to graduate from college when their parents consistently communicate that they support that goal at every step.
- **If you can, take Algebra I and a foreign language this year.** Students who succeed in high school math are more likely to graduate from college. And, if you can get high school credit for these courses in 8th grade, you'll free up some space in your high school timetable for college credits.
- **Get involved** in one extra-curricular activity that enriches your life.

9th Grade



- **Decide what you want to study in college.** You can change your mind later, but having one or two ideas to focus on will help you figure out your final plan later.
- **Make a deep commitment to learning.** Students who get ahead study. They do their homework and then, they routinely spend time making sense of what they learned in class that day. They think about new concepts and make connections between classroom learning and life. Seriously — your GPA and ACT scores will thank you.
- **Make community service a habit.** Pick a cause you love and start volunteering your time. Every college hopeful talks about their "good works" but admissions officers are most impressed by a serious commitment of time (think 200+ hours) over many years.

10th Grade



- **Be sure you're taking the most challenging courses** at the highest level offered by your school. This means a core of English, Sciences, Math, Social Sciences and Foreign Languages plus challenging options like music and computer science. Other subjects are important for balance, but colleges really want to know how well you did in the toughest ones.
- **Visit three different kinds of college campuses this year.** Compare urban and rural, 2-year and 4-year, public and private. You wouldn't buy a car without test-driving your options would you? It's the same for college.
- **Bring the team together.** Schedule a college planning meeting with your counselor and your parents. Together, lay out the plan — courses, finances and extra activities — that will get you to college.

Experts say students should start planning for college in 8th grade. But how? We asked *College is Yours* author Dr. Patrick O'Connor, past president of the National Association for College Admissions Counseling, to help answer that question. The result: our checklist of key college prep steps that are often overlooked. Use it to stay focused on the things that will matter most. Check the items you've completed so far.

To do:

11th Grade



- **Reach out.** Challenge yourself in a new way. Do an internship at a local business, take a course at a local college for credit, or participate in an exchange program. Do anything that helps you push your limits and explore the world outside your high school. Do it now. You'll have less freedom to pursue these life-changing experiences when life gets busy in senior year.
- **Go to a college fair.** Kick some tires. Figure out how the college fair works so when it comes time to "buy" you'll know how to get the most from this event. Talk to a couple of admissions representatives about why you should consider their schools. If admissions officers visit your school, be sure to attend at least two of these college info meetings. You'll have an edge next year if you get comfortable with the process now.
- **In the spring of Junior year, ask two academic teachers for letters of recommendation.** Give them a specific date by which you'll need those letters next fall.

12th Grade



- **Get organized.** Put all of your application deadlines on a calendar. Remember, these deadlines are real. You won't get extensions or second chances.
- **Lead like The Donald.** Your success depends on your team, and you're their leader. You have to manage them. Let your counselor and your academic references know about deadlines at least six weeks in advance. As deadlines approach, send reminders. Don't be afraid to ask for confirmation. You need to know when letters are submitted.
- **Complete the FAFSA** in February. Even if you figure you won't qualify for financial aid, complete it anyway. The FAFSA is often required for scholarship, loan and work/study eligibility too. Go to fafsa.ed.gov or collegegoalsundayusa.org for more info.
- **Thank people** who help you get into college. Write them a note of thanks that includes your college plans.

Michelle Schira Hagerman is EduGuide's Director of Training.

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Stephen Huseby, 22 Film Production Certificate Compass Film Academy

Stephen Huseby describes himself as “pretty much a born actor,” but it took four months working for a charity in Mozambique and South Africa to make him decide to finally pursue his passion for film.

“I was completely by myself with just my camera and computer,” Huseby recalled. “It changed my life.

Confident he has “very unique stories to tell,” the aspiring director and producer enrolled in Compass Film Academy’s one-year film production certificate program in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In 2003, Huseby graduated from Grand Rapids Baptist High School, where he was active in theater. But he didn’t receive much encouragement from his guidance counselor or family members who thought it “was such a far-fetched dream.”

So Huseby attended Frontier School of the Bible in Wyoming before transferring to Grand Rapids Community College. But when he enrolled in Compass at the urging of his friends, Huseby knew he’d made the right move.

“I like that it’s a one-year program and how intense it is, how hands-on,” he said. “The teachers all have to be working in the industry.”



Military Training

Opportunities for career certificates, academy degrees or money for college.

Teresa Vigmostad, 19 Sonar Technician U.S. Navy

Teresa Vigmostad was sitting in a class her senior year in high school while students tried to one-up each other over who was going to the best college.

“I said I was going into the Navy,” Vigmostad recalled, “and the teacher looked at me and said, ‘But aren’t you smart?’”

With a high grade-point average and killer ACT scores, Vigmostad was used to that reaction at Brighton High School, located in an affluent Detroit suburb. But after considering colleges, she realized she was searching for a different challenge after high school.

“I knew I wanted to get out of Michigan,” Vigmostad said. “It was good job training and I’d get to see the world and do it for free.”

After completing boot camp in Illinois and sonar training in San Diego, Vigmostad started a new career in November as a sonar technician. “It’s like *The Hunt for Red October*, she explained about what she’ll be doing once she’s aboard her ship, the USS *McFaul*, which sails to European ports. Vigmostad plans to get advanced degrees using Navy tuition assistance.

“A lot of people don’t understand what the military is really like,” Vigmostad said. “It’s definitely made me more independent.”



Associate's Degree

2-year degrees for many careers that can also be transferred to start a bachelor’s degree.

Tara Sweet, 20 Practical Nursing Major Lansing Community College

When Tara Sweet walks into a room, she knows exactly what color to slap on the walls and what corner to lean the bookshelf against. She’s the one her grandmother calls when she needs to redo her kitchen.

Sweet started out in the interior design program two years ago at Lansing Community College, a logical choice only a half-hour from her job and home. This fall, she switched to nursing after talking it over with her mom.

“There are a lot more job opportunities,” she explained. “With interior design, you’re self-employed and it can be hard to find clients.”

Sweet spent most of her time at Danville High School in Danville, Michigan “taking every art class they had,” but now wishes she had spent more time in the science lab. She’s set a goal of finishing her nursing degree in two more years.

“I wish I would have started out in it — I would have been done faster,” Sweet said. “But I’ve really enjoyed college. It’s way better than high school.”



Bachelor's Degree

Four to five year programs available for hundreds of professions.

Shaina Losey, 19 Graphic Design Major Saginaw Valley State Univ.

Colored pencils and paintbrushes found their way into Shaina Losey’s grip from the time she was 6. Her parents always stocked up on sketchbooks, but they made sure she also brought home A’s and B’s across the board.

Dad Randy Losey works as a car salesman and mom Michel is a church secretary. Neither went to college, so they scrimped and saved to give their daughter that chance.

“I can’t ever remember really ever thinking I wasn’t going to college,” said Shaina Losey, a graduate of Corunna High School, “just like I can’t remember not wanting to be an artist.”

Losey’s school counselor tried to steer her into education, advising her it would be more practical. But with the support of her parents, Losey settled on nearby Saginaw Valley State University, which sports a solid art department and low tuition.

A graphic art major, Losey said her SVSU adviser is guiding her toward internships to prime her for jobs with magazines post-graduation.

“My parents aren’t concerned that I’ll get a good job,” she said. “They think it’s a good idea that I do something I love.”



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Brianne Lunn,
fisheries and wildlife management major.

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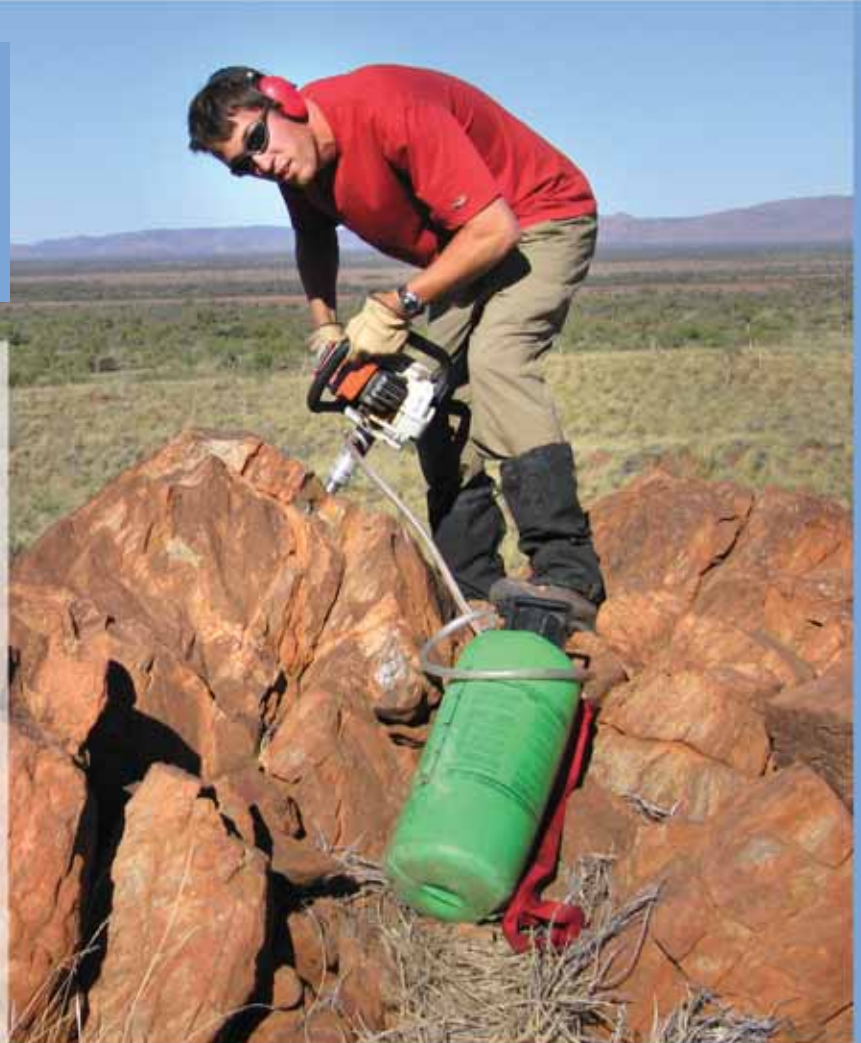
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Russell White, geology major,
doing field work in Australia.

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How I found my college

By Jason Hagerman



For me high school was more of a social time than anything else — planning ahead was not my strongest suit. But in retrospect, spending a little more time to bump up my grades and choose a college would have saved me a lot of stress and a car full of money. Here's what I learned the hard way about selecting colleges — three times.

➤ First choice

A few months before high school graduation, a friend of mine mentioned an outdoor recreation program at Sir Sanford Fleming College. We jumped into it together without much thought. Big mistake. As a result, I spent a year of purgatory in a program that simply wasn't for me. But at least it was better than doing nothing. Most students who take time off after high school to decide what to do never make it to college at all. That wasn't what I wanted for my life.

➤ Second choice

This time I studied my options and made a list of my priorities. My choices were limited by my poor grades. But I was drawn to a communications program at Laurentian University, a relatively small college of about six-thousand students. It had a really good "articulation program." This meant that I could do three years of communications, followed by a condensed single year program from a list of affiliated colleges and get two diplomas out of it. It was like I was given a second chance at choosing a path which would lead to a real career.

➤ Third choice

I worked hard at Laurentian for three years learning all about public relations, advertising and journalism. There it was — journalism, of course! I had always liked writing; my best marks in high school were always in heavy writing courses. But back then I simply had not put the thought into it. I found a good journalism school, Cambrian College, toured the campus and signed on. This time around my grades got me in. Within a year I was the recipient of an honors degree and a college diploma.

Do yourself a favor, take time now to start planning what you want to do and where you want to do it. The sooner you start exploring your path, the less time you'll spend feeling lost.

Jason Hagerman is a journalism grad writing for EduGuide and others.



Learn more at [EduGuide.org/h8](https://www.EduGuide.org/h8)

► Jason Hagerman's tips on "How to get the inside scoop on college tours."

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Finding your dream school

You'll find the right school faster if you've thought about the alternatives. Start by underlining the phrases below that sound good to you. Then prioritize your list based on which factors are most important to you now. You can always change your mind as you learn more, but starting here will put you on the path to discover your dream.

- **School Quality.** Look not only at the school's overall rank, but the quality of the specific programs you're interested in and what educators and employers think about it.
- **School Size.** Big schools offer a broader range of academic programs and extra-curricular activities. Small schools offer a more intimate environment where you are more likely to receive personalized attention from professors.
- **Program Size.** School size doesn't equal program size. Some large schools offer smaller residential colleges and learning communities. Some smaller schools focus on certain majors where they may have large class sizes.
- **Distance from Home.** Do you want to get as far away from your parents as possible? Would you prefer instead to be close enough to sneak back for your favorite lasagna? Or do you like your room at home just fine?
- **Urban or Rural.** A large city will mean a melting pot of cultures. A small town might feel more intimate and comfortable. Larger cities offer more cultural life; smaller towns offer the great outdoors.
- **In-state or Not.** Remote destinations offer something different. But consider that you'll save thousands of dollars on tuition and travel by staying in your home state. Plus many scholarships only work at in-state schools. A cheaper way to see the world may be a study abroad program at an in-state college.
- **Recreation.** You won't be studying all the time, and it's important to have ways that you can get plugged into campus life. Consider clubs and sports you might join and the quality of the recreation center.
- **Facilities.** What are the classrooms like? And where do students hang out after class? Consider libraries, computer labs, on-campus dining and study lounges.
- **Private or Public.** Private institutions have higher price tags than public, but some offer more aid. Private schools tend to offer a smaller community environment.
- **The Ratio.** Schools track the male to female student ratio, so which would you rather be surrounded by?

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There's a smarter way to save

Act now to save 25% or more on future college costs

By Christine MacDonald

▶ **Cutting down the rising cost of college isn't as easy as clipping coupons** or waiting for an "everything must go" sale. But there are smart ways to save, starting as early as the freshman year of high school.

By taking a tough high school course load, you'll avoid paying for no-credit remedial college classes later. You'll also be more likely to end up in Advanced Placement courses in high school that could land you college credit before you ever move into the dorms.

I missed that lesson during my high school senior year 11 years ago when I skipped a fourth year of math for what I thought were more interesting creative writing classes. For my choice, I spent my first semester of college in a refresher math class and still feel the sting whenever I get my monthly college loan bill.

Emily Sole shares my pain.

The 18-year-old from Traverse City, Michigan, handed over more than \$600 this fall to Wayne State University for a no-credit remedial math class. She blames her high school sophomore year when she had an Algebra II class full of her best friends. "I goofed off," she admits.

She took Geometry her junior year but passed on math her senior year because she wanted to take more classes that matched her interests, primarily business.

Now as a college freshman, studying business administration, she regrets the move. She spends five hours a week in a computer lab going over basics she should have mastered already.

"High school counts, and you don't really think about that all the time," she said.

Colleges now routinely test all students upon arrival to gauge how prepared they are for college level work. More

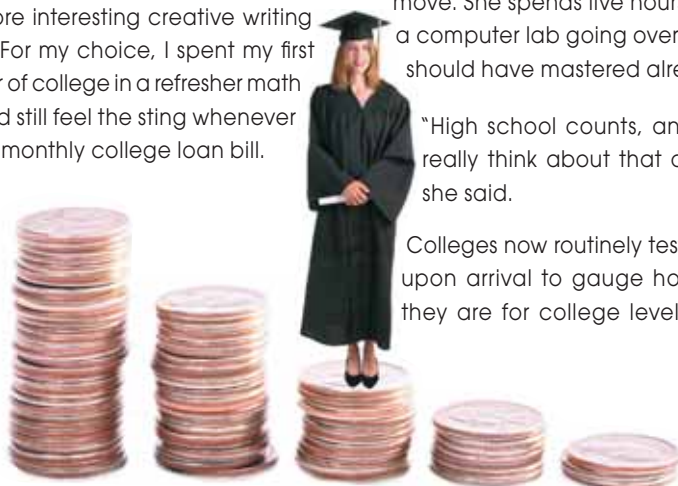
than half of the students are required to take at least one remedial English or math class, according to the American Diploma Project. And it's not just the slow kids who are taking them. One study found that the average high school grade of students taking remedial classes was a "B."

But planning ahead to maximize your course schedule in high school does pay off.

Jim Levasseur, an 18-year-old from Mount Carmel, Illinois, knows that for a fact. His six Advanced Placement classes got him into Bowling Green University this fall as a sophomore with 33 credits.

His freshman year would have cost an estimated \$21,700 in out-of-state tuition and room and board at the school.

The savings didn't really affect Levasseur though. As it turns out, students who take more challenging courses also improve their test scores on college entrance exams by an average of seven percent. So because of his high scores on the PSAT, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation is paying his way through school.



By taking a tough high school course load, you'll avoid paying for no-credit remedial college classes later.

But Levasseur said the financial savings isn't the most important benefit of earning college credit early. Having the work behind him lets him take classes he is more interested in earlier, including more in his major of computer animation. It also gave him a first crack at registering for courses as a sophomore honors student, practically guaranteeing he wouldn't get shut out of any classes.

Most importantly, it calmed his nerves about making the transition to college.

"It's sort of like a big head start," Levasseur said. "You are confident in your ability to do work at the college level."

His advice to high schoolers today: "Work as hard as you can without running yourself into the ground," Levasseur said. "You always have to be thinking about where you are headed."

—Christine MacDonald recently paid off her college loan bill after nearly ten years of working as a reporter

Add up the savings

Here's one formula for saving more than 25% off the cost of college — one full year's tuition based on the national average for public universities. Want to keep more cash in your pocket? Plan your own formula today.


| | |
|--|----------------|
| 3 Three-credit AP courses taken in high school | \$1,856 |
| 2 Three-credit dual enrollment or direct credit courses taken in high school | \$1,237 |
| 1 Michigan Promise scholarship for high test scores | \$4,000 |
| No need for the average one remedial course in college | <u>\$ 619</u> |
| Total Savings | \$7,712 |

Actual costs are less than the price tag

2006-07 National average annual tuition and fees, not including room and board, from College Board Survey.

| College Type | Price tag | Cost to family |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| 2-Year Public | \$2,361 | \$321 |
| 4-Year Public | \$6,185 | \$2,600 |
| 4-Year Private | \$23,712 | \$14,400 |

That college price tag may not be as bad as it looks. On surveys, parents routinely guess that tuition at community colleges and public universities is as much as twice what it really is. And as the above chart shows, with all of the need-based and other scholarships out there, families rarely pay the full price anyway. You can always borrow for the rest or get the military to pick up the costs while you serve. In fact, some of the most expensively priced schools cost the least because they have heaps of money set aside for scholarships. For example, Harvard provides free tuition for all admitted students with a family income of \$60,000 or less.

 **Learn more at EduGuide.org/h8**

- Compare five tax free college savings tools
- 8 ways to earn college credit in high school and one way to lose it





The high school years are full of choices and challenges and kids with pimples — but that’s another matter. Here’s a quick way to find out how your family measures up on five factors critical to success. Give your family one point for each step you’ve taken so far, then add up your score to see where you stand and which issues need extra attention.

The top 5 factors for high school success

| 1. Courses | |
|--|--|
| Planned a four-year college/career prep schedule. | |
| Planned at least one course in those four years where college credit can be earned. | |
| Have contact info for a couple sources you can call for tutoring. | |
| 2. Calendars | |
| Signed up for at least one school related activity. | |
| Kept a student calendar to plan homework projects, deadlines and events. | |
| Scheduled a regular supervised time after school to do homework each day and a way to verify that it’s done. | |
| 3. Connections | |
| Met someone at the school who can help you stay informed and solve any problems. | |
| Family has talked with school counselor about their goals and how best to achieve them. | |
| Asked an active parent or successful student what to watch out for. | |
| 4. Careers | |
| Written a career preparation plan signed by the family and school. | |
| Spent a couple hours job shadowing and interviewing someone to explore one career. | |
| Taken responsibility for a regular paid job, volunteer gig or family chore. | |
| 5. Colleges | |
| Spent time on a campus for an event or tour. | |
| Parent and student have saved a few dollars for college on a regular schedule. | |
| Signed up for a college-based class, summer program or online activity. | |
| Total Score | |

You’ve got to start somewhere. 0–5
 You’re setting yourself up for success. 6–10
 You’re on track — but what could you do better? 11–15

Want better results?

- ▶ Go to [EduGuide.org/h8](https://www.EduGuide.org/h8) and take the full High School Success quiz.
- + You’ll get:
 - a free personalized roadmap
 - ongoing support from our non-profit network to reach your dreams

