

Junior Checklist for College

- _____ Visit college websites to obtain information about various colleges and universities. A helpful website for general information is www.petersons.com

- _____ Meet with at least five college representatives in the fall when they come to Lutheran North. You may schedule your visits in the counseling office. Sign up at least one day in advance.

- _____ Visit as many of the colleges and universities that interest you as you can. It is difficult to judge “the feel” of an institution unless you have been on campus. You can schedule those appointments using their website or call the admissions office and schedule the visit. You should do this at least 2 weeks ahead of time.

- _____ If visiting a college on a school day, please give your counselor a note at least one week before the visit. You are allowed 2 visits during the school year.

- _____ Start a comparison worksheet on the colleges and universities that you might want to attend.

- _____ Narrow down your search to three to five potential colleges or universities by the end of your junior year.

- _____ Establish an e-mail account that you plan to use only for purposes of college admissions and check it often. Most colleges and universities will want to send you periodic updates on your application status, scholarships, etc.

- _____ Maintain good grades. This year is especially important since it will be your grade point average from 9th through 11th grades that college admission officials will be reviewing.

- _____ Register either for the SAT or the ACT college entrance exam. The SAT, should be taken between March and June. Take the ACT test on either the February, April or June test date. Nearly all Michigan colleges and universities require one of these tests for admission purposes. Release ACT scores to the State of Michigan Scholarship Program by listing your school code on the registration form. Register early because testing centers fill up fast. www.actstudent.org or www.collegeboard.org

- _____ If you are not satisfied with your initial scores from the ACT or SAT, you can always take the test again in early fall of your senior year. The writing assessment is required by some colleges, keep your options open and take it.

- _____ Search for potential scholarships using free online search services:
(*Any company that asks for money to find money for you is probably a fraud.*)
 - a. Have parents check employers, churches and organizations to which they belong.
 - b. Check financial aid sections of college catalogs.
 - c. Check the scholarship box in the office and look in the daily bulletin for scholarships available.
Many scholarship applications must be completed as early as November of your senior year to apply for funds available for the following fall.

- _____ Use internet sites for scholarship searches, <http://www.fastweb.com>, <http://www.finaid.org/>, <http://scholarshipopportunity.org/schoolsoup/> are some, but there are more out there. You may want to have a separate email designated for the scholarship search process.

- _____ Attend a college fair. Many of them will begin in September. Check the calendar at <http://macrao.org/> under Day/Nights Calendar. The College Fair at Macomb Community College and for the Lutheran colleges are usually in October. Watch for the National College Fair in the spring.

- _____ Potential college student athletes must comply with NCAA or NAIA requirements. See your counselor for details and visit their website at www.ncaa.org or <http://www.naia.org/>
(Yearbook is not considered an English class as far as NCAA is concerned.)

- _____ When enrolling in courses your senior year, choose at least four academic courses per semester. Continuing with Math, Foreign Language, and Lab Sciences your senior year greatly enhances your opportunity for academic success in college.

- _____ There will be a *Junior Parent Night* in November. It would be beneficial to have your parents attend.