

## *Senior Checklist for College*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Arrange for visits to college campuses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Take challenging courses in your senior year in preparation for college. Take at least 4 academic courses, such as English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language, per semester.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain and improve academic grades. Colleges look unfavorably on failing grades, especially in your senior year. Many schools review final grades and may rescind an offer of admission if senior year grades slip.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If you have not already, take the ACT or SAT. The sooner, the better, since most colleges and universities require a test score in order to make an admission decision. Check scores needed because you may still have time to retake the test if needed for more scholarship money. Use appropriate school code numbers on the form.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Register for the SAT if you plan to attend any out-of-state colleges or if you are applying for scholarships that require SAT. The Michigan Competitive Scholarship, which is a financial based scholarship, requires SAT scores.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Apply on-line to colleges or universities. A helpful site for Michigan colleges: <http://macrao.org>  
You need to apply to 3 to 5 colleges or universities that interest you by November 1 of your senior year. Check websites and brochures for specific application deadlines.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Go to <http://parchment.com> to request your transcripts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Early Decision: If you apply early decision, once accepted, *you must attend* the college or university. You *must withdraw applications* sent to other schools and you will not be able to compare financial offers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Early Action: If you apply early action and are accepted, you may compare admission and financial aid offers and wait to commit to the college until later in the year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with college representatives when they visit your school in the fall. You are allowed 5 visits. You also are allowed 2 off-sight college visit days, with a note to the guidance counselor one week in advance. If you are a special needs student, inquire if special needs support is available.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Check all available materials for scholarships. Information is available in the guidance office. Use the internet sites, *fastweb.com* and the app “Scholly” are some, but there are more out there. You may want to create a new email address just for scholarship information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attend financial aid seminars.
- \_\_\_\_\_ You and your parents need to create a new FSA ID for the Federal Student Aid online application.  
<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, online starting October 1 to apply for need-based financial aid for the following academic year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ When you receive admissions offers, send in any required deposits. Deposits are normally refundable until May 1 of your senior year.  
  
Please give the office a copy of all scholarships offered whether they were accepted or not.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Notify the guidance office regarding which colleges should receive your 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> semester grades.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Notify the guidance office of your final choice of college. Request a final transcript to prove graduation through [parchment.com](http://parchment.com).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Potential college student athletes must comply with NCAA or NAIA requirements. See your counselor for details and visit their website at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) or <http://naia.org/>