

Senior Timeline

September

- Visit with your High School counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements. Keep working hard all year; second semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility and admission.
- The Common App is required for application to some Universities, If you are applying to one of these colleges start the Common App now!
- Begin your college essays.
- Review SAT test results and retest if necessary.
- Ask for personal references and letters of recommendation from teachers, school counselors, or employers if needed for your college applications (do this at least three weeks before application deadlines are due).
- If you are potentially going to be a college student athlete, make sure you have registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.ncaa.org
- Visit with college admissions representatives who come to your high school.
- Start applying to your top college choices.
- Create a Parchment Account to send colleges your H.S. transcript (directions are in the Student Services office)
- You and one of your parents each need to create a FSA ID** at www.fafsa.gov before October 1st. This FSA ID will be used when you complete your FAFSA. Make sure you do not use your high school student email when creating your FSA ID, this is because you will need to access your FAFSA every year you are in college, your high school email is gone once you graduate. You and your parents need to use separate emails when creating an FSA ID.

October

- You and your parents need to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at www.fafsa.gov starting October 1st. (You will use information from your 2016 tax returns) Regardless of your parents income, most colleges and universities require the FAFSA for you to be eligible for any academic scholarships or financial aid... the FAFSA IS VERY IMPORTANT.
- Make sure when completing the FAFSA, you add ALL colleges you may be applying to, so they will receive your FAFSA information.
- The average cost for a full time student at a Michigan Public Four Year University is approximately \$25,000.00 per year for freshman (this is tuition, room & board & books).
- The average cost for a local Community College in Michigan for a full time student is approximately \$9,000.000 per year (tuition & books) Student lives at home. (cost of commuting is not included).
- College is expensive**, you will most likely need to obtain student loans, you and your parents should discuss this NOW!! There are scholarships and aid out there to help reduce the cost of college but it is **very unlikely** that you will receive a "full ride" scholarship to college that will cover all costs. You need to prepare and chose a college you and your parents can afford.
- Finalize your college essay(s) and be sure to have someone proof read and edit!
- College Application Week at your high school is in October....Make sure you attend!! You will receive assistance applying to college and sending in your transcript!! If you participate in Applied Week...☺ **YOU WILL ALSO GET A COOL FREE SHIRT from TCAN!! ☺**

November

- Make sure all your college applications are complete by November 1st to your top choice schools!
- Watch your email for your Student Aid Report (SAR). It should arrive within two weeks after the FAFSA is filled out. Login to your FAFSA this month to make sure that it says that your FAFSA was successfully processed. If not, make corrections!!!! You will see something called an EFC (Expected Family Contribution) on your FAFSA this number indicates what your family is expected to contribute to your education per year.
- If you receive any emails from FAFSA indicating that you have errors on your application, make sure that you and your parents correct them!
- After you receive your Student Aid Report (SAR), you and your parents will see if you are qualified for any federal financial aid (Pell Grant) and it will also indicate which type of loans you a qualified to apply for.
- If it appears you will need to obtain student loans, you need to start checking on those and also find out the application process (don't wait for the last minute to do this). Applying for loans is a separate process from completing the FAFSA. You and your parents need to have a financial plan figured out now!
- Check the specific college websites you applied to and see if you qualify for any scholarships, and find out when those applications are due.
- "Login" to College Board and send your SAT scores (this will cost you \$12.00 per school unless you listed them on your SAT when you took it)
- Schedule College visits if you haven't already, it is important to check out the college campus to see if it is a good fit for you!

December

- If you did not do this earlier, check your top the college websites that you applied to and find out if you qualify for any scholarships at each of those colleges, if so...Apply!!! Some of these scholarship applications are due as early as December 31st

January

- Be aware that colleges may ask for high school transcripts again in January/February, colleges will check your progress!
- Apply for scholarships through your local community foundation. These scholarship applications are due March 1st (visit www.qhacf.org)

February to May

- Make your final decision on which college to attend and notify the school of your decision.
- Keep track of and observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork.
- Notify the schools you will NOT be attending of your decision within the specified timeline so your admissions deposit fee will be refunded.
- Keep track of important financial aid and scholarship deadlines.

June through August

- Make sure your final transcript is submitted to the school you will be attending.**
- Sign up and attend orientation.
- Take all necessary placement tests.
- Make an appointment to meet with your academic advisor to figure out which classes you should take.
- Meet with your college financial aid department to make sure you have all scholarships and loans in place.
- Sign up for classes EARLY!
- Get a summer job can help pay some of your college expenses.