COLLEGE INFORMATION

WHAT IS COLLEGE?

- The definition of college now includes any postsecondary training you complete after earning your high school diploma. This includes Certificate Programs, Trade Schools, Associate Degrees (2yr), and Bachelor's Degrees (4yr). Explore all of your options to find what works best for your future plans!

DO YOUR RESEARCH

- Attend Rep Visits and Onsite Admissions – sign up **online** at zebracounseling.net
- Contact your Admissions Officers
- A FULL VERSION OF THIS PACKET IS ON THE WEBSITE with working links! IT IS FULL OF HELPFUL INFORMATION YOU'LL NEED!
- Meet with your counselor to talk about plans after high school

MATCH/FIT

- Visit colleges on your own and compare the schools you have visited – *not a school related absence*
- Look for schools that "fit" academically, personally and financially
- You should apply to at least **4 schools**: 1 safety (a college you know you can get into), 2 fits (colleges you're sure you can get into), 1 reach (a college you have a chance of getting into)
- ASVAB: December (sign-up will be on zebracounseling.net)

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Free/reduced lunch = application fee waiver
- Register for ACT/SAT retakes (if needed) at actstudent.org and collegeboard.org. Use fee waivers when applicable, **School Code is 233715**
- Be aware of **priority admission deadlines**
- ALL TRANSCRIPTS ARE SENT ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH PARCHMENT. Set up an account at parchment.com to send transcripts *(step-by-step guide in this packet)*
- Get letters of recommendation – provide resume or Brag Sheet *(at the end of packet)*
- Use a **professional** email address on apps, and be sure to check your email regularly!

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Scholarships are based on academics or other talents (sports, music, art, etc.)
- Check the College Corner under Paying for College for Scholarships
- Colleges automatically award money based on FAFSA, GPA/ACT or by testing
- Watch out for money-making scams regarding scholarship searches
- **Local Scholarship application will be available in January**.
- Use a calendar to keep track of deadlines!

FINANCIAL AID

- The FAFSA opens on October 1st. Fill it out as soon as you can! **Some schools send out packages on a first come, first serve basis.**
- FAFSA = **Free** Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA uses household financial information to award you with grants, loans, work-study and scholarships for college!
- Create an FSA ID before filling out the FAFSA to sign in electronically – FSA ID (You and your parent(s) will both need to create FSA IDs, be sure to save your FSA ID and password in a safe place!)

WHAT'S NEXT?

- **What if I want to transfer?** That's okay! Many students start at a community college and take their prerequisites before transferring to a 4-year school.
- **What if I'm undecided?** Talk with your counselor/college adviser, figure out what interests you, what changes you want to make in the world, things you are passionate about, and figure out a plan for after graduation!
- **Why should I go to college?** By 2031, 70% of jobs in Michigan will require a formal education. Also, adults with a degree make on average $1 MILLION more over the course of their lifetime.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

You must have earned all 22 credits **and** pass all required classes to participate in graduation ceremony.
GPA is always career and only changes at the end of each semester. It's important to keep your grades up in your senior year.
Co-Op/Work Experience – find job shadowing experience or volunteer experience. These experiences should be authentic and something that interests you!
NCAA Clearinghouse: www.ncaaclearinghouse.net, (application fee required – waiver when applicable). Fill out during senior year. NAIA (no application through Athletic Dept. and coaches), and MIAA.
YOU MUST ORDER A CAP AND GOWN, IT IS NOT PROVIDED FOR YOU
YOUR WWCSD EMAIL EXPIRES IN AUGUST. Please make sure you forward all of your emails, and do not use your WWCSD email for anything after you graduate! Save anything you will need off of your Google Drive!

Visit the WMHS Counseling Website:

zebracounseling.net

Request to see a counselor, parking permits, college rep visits/onsites/tours, scholarship information, Parchment and more!

What are Rep Visits? Admissions reps from different schools across the Midwest will be visiting WMHS throughout the school year to meet with you and to talk about their schools: the admissions process, financial aid, important dates, and what makes their school unique. Some will even be hosting onsite admissions where you can bring in a completed application and meet with an Admissions Rep to find out if you're admitted into that school on the spot!

To attend a Rep Visit, you MUST register online at zebracounseling.net. You can find the most up-to-date calendar there and the links to all of the sign-up sheets.

All information about onsite requirements and info about upcoming field trips/college tours is also online at **zebracounseling.net**

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

APPLY TO 4 OR MORE. *You should apply to at least 4 colleges:* ***1 safety*** *(a college you know you can get into),* ***2 match/fit*** *(a college that you know you have a good chance of getting into. These are colleges that are a good "match," academically, personally, and financially),* ***1 reach****, a college that you have a chance of getting into, but it might be a stretch.*

Make a list of the colleges you're interested in applying to!	SAFETY College: ______________	MATCH/FIT College: ______________	MATCH/FIT College: ______________	REACH College: ______________
Make a note of the regular application deadline. Use your calendar/planner/phone to keep track of all deadlines!	Deadline:	Deadline:	Deadline:	Deadline:
Send transcripts with Parchment.				
Send test scores via College Board.				
If you retake the SAT, send the new scores **through Collegeboard. You can use fee waivers to register for the SAT and to send your scores.**				
Request recommendation letters (use the BRAG SHEET), make sure you talk to your recommenders early to give them enough time to write you a great letter.				
Send thank-you notes to recommendation writers.				
Make a draft/outline for your college essays.				
Proofread essay for spelling and grammar **and have someone read over your essay.**				
Revise and submit your essay.				
Make a note of the deadline for scholarships **(most colleges award scholarships for completing the application based on your GPA/scores), other scholarships require separate applications.**				
Submit college applications.				
Pay application fee or send application fee waiver**. You can pick up fee waivers in the Counseling Office or see if a waiver code is available.**				
Create a place (google drive folder) to keep all college acceptances				

Confirm receipt of application materials. Colleges should send you a confirmation email, or you should be able to check the status of your application online.				
Send additional materials, if needed. Colleges will be reaching out if they need more information. CHECK YOUR EMAIL!				
Check in with your school counselor. Tell them where you've applied and plan out the next steps.				
Receive letter/email from Office of Admission.				
If you've been accepted – **congratulations**! Turn in your acceptance letters to counseling!				
Submit FAFSA (Opens Oct. 1). Make sure that you are sending your FAFSA to the colleges you're applying to.				
Review your FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS). The FSS is a summary of the info reported on your FAFSA. The FSS will tell you if there are any issues that need to be addressed with your FAFSA.				
Submit CSS PROFILE, if required by your school.				
Receive financial aid award letter.				
If you do **not** receive your financial aid award letter, you might have to make corrections on your FAFSA or provide additional information (verification). Follow-up with Financial Aid.				
Turn in award letters/scholarships to counseling to be recognized at Honors Convocation!				
Compare all award letters from your schools to help make your decision.				
Visit campus, if you can!				
Accept admission and submit enrollment deposit (if required). This commits you to the college and holds your spot. You must accept admission by May 1.				
Accept financial aid offers. This is usually done online through your college's student portal. BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR EMAIL!				
Notify the other colleges you will not attend.				
Sign up for orientation/registration at the college you will be attending in the Fall!				
Send final transcripts with Parchment.				

FINDING YOUR COLLEGE MATCH

What is your Ideal College?
There are many types of college!
It's all about finding the best college FOR YOU!

Circle all the aspects you are considering in a college:

Big Campus	**Small Campus**	**Rural Location**	**Urban Location**
In-State	**Out of State**	**Close to Home**	**Commuter Campus**
Public College	**Private College**	**Community College**	**Transferability**
Arts College	**HBCU** (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) **HIS** (Hispanic-Serving Institutions)	**Large Class Sizes**	**Small Class Sizes**
Vocational/Trade School	**Certificate Program**	**Associate Degree**	**Bachelor's Degree**
Diversity of Campus	**Co-Ed Campus**	**Single Gender Campus**	**Religious Affiliation**
NCAA Sports	**Intramural Sports**	**Clubs & Organizations**	**Greek Life**
Campus Resources	**Residence Life**	**Science/Math Programs**	**Major/Area of Study**

What are your top three considerations for choosing a college? *Rank the aspects you have circled.*

What's next?

1. Talk to your counselor/college adviser about the things you circled.
2. Do your research! Start researching schools that meet those criteria Look at the schools online, take a tour, or attend a rep visit.
3. Visit your College Adviser for more help with applications!
4. Complete the applications for the schools! (Take note of deadlines)

Michigan College Average Requirements: GPA & SAT/ACT Tiers

Open Admissions (No minimum)	Avg. GPA Avg. SAT Avg. ACT	2.5-2.8 860-1010 16-19	2.8-3.2 940-1120 18-22	3.3-3.5 1060-1230 21-25	3.5-3.8 1130-1380 23-29	3.8-4.0 1350-1600 29-36
Alpena CC Baker College Bay College Delta College Glen Oaks CC Gogebic CC Grand Rapids CC Henry Ford CC Jackson CC Kalamazoo Valley CC Kellogg CC Kirkland CC Lake MI College Lansing CC Macomb CC Mid-MI CC Monroe County CC Mott CC Muskegon CC North Central MI College Northwestern MI College Oakland CC Schoolcraft College Southwestern MI College St. Clair County CC Washtenaw CC Wayne County CC West Shore CC *Community Colleges have Open Admission, which means **there are no GPA or SAT requirements!***		University of Detroit Mercy Madonna University Davenport University Flint	Eastern Michigan University Ferris State University Northern Michigan Wildcats KCAD CCS Concordia University Ann Arbor Lakers Northwood University Cornerstone University Siena Heights University Andrews University Seek. Affirm. Change.	Wayne State CMU Central Michigan University Lawrence Tech Possible is everything. Oakland University Western Michigan SVSU Saginaw Valley State University Grand Valley State University Olivet College Aquinas College Alma College Adrian College Spring Arbor University Albion College	Michigan State Hope College Dearborn Kettering University Michigan Tech Calvin College	Hillsdale College Kalamazoo College University of Michigan

These numbers are **averages**, meaning there are students with scores and GPAs that are higher and lower attending each of these schools. Don't let these numbers discourage you – instead, get motivated to keep your grades up, retake the SAT to improve your score, and finish the school year strong! **You ARE college ready**!

*While there are no minimum GPA & ACT/SAT requirements for enrollment into community colleges, students must take placement tests. Low scores on these tests may place students in remedial courses, for which **NO COLLEGE CREDIT IS AWARDED**. Students are advised to follow a college prep curriculum to avoid remedial placement, as well as, for scholarship considerations.

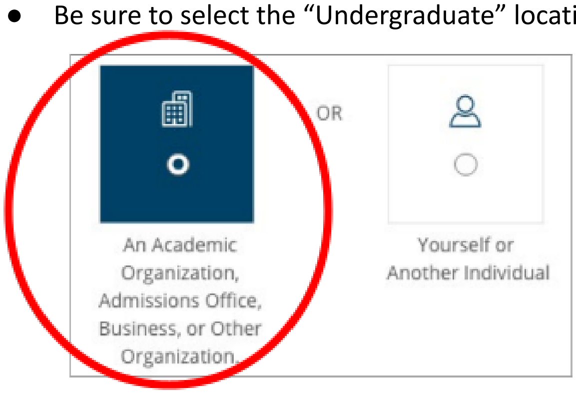
CREATE A PARCHMENT ACCOUNT & SEND YOUR TRANSCRIPTS:

1. **Go to** parchment.com and search for WMHS (this is the school you attend that you are *requesting your transcript from*):

2. **Create a "New Learner Account."** (If you already have a Parchment account, you can log in as an "Existing User." You can also reset your password if you've forgotten it.)
   - When creating your account, you will be asked to verify your email, make sure you're logged into your email account so you can type in the confirmation number.
   - You can fill out your profile for "College Tools" later. This service will look at your grades and match you with schools!
   - Double check to make sure all of your information (address, birthday, graduation date) is accurate!

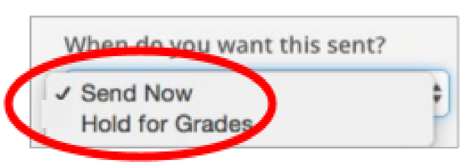
3. On the home-page, click **Order** under "Your Transcript"

4. Select the option on the *left* to send the transcript to a school. **Search** for the school you are applying to and click **select**. You can also send your transcript to more than one school at a time.
   - Be sure to select the "Undergraduate" location when selecting a school



You can also send a copy of a transcript to yourself!

5. Select **Send Now**.



*(You are responsible for sending your final senior transcripts! When you send your Final Transcript, you will **select Hold for Grades**)*

6. Click **Save and Continue**. Make sure everything is correct. Click **Save and Continue** again.
7. Electronically **"sign"** with your mouse to give WMHS permission to send your transcripts
   - You'll be taken to a payment screen, but the price should be $0.00. *If you ever need to send your transcript again as after you graduate, you will have to pay a $3 fee!*

***Note:** You will need to send your SAT scores through Collegeboard for a fee.*

SAT TEST DATES				ACT TEST DATES		
TEST DATE	**REGISTRATION DEADLINE**	**LATE REGISTRATION** (you will have to pay a late fee)		**TEST DATE**	**REGISTRATION DEADLINE**	**LATE REGISTRATION** (you will have to pay a late fee)
Oct. 4	Sept. 19	Sept. 23		Oct. 18	Sept. 12	Sept. 30
Nov. 8	Oct. 24	Oct. 28		Dec. 13	Nov. 7	Nov. 24
Dec. 6	Nov. 21	Nov. 25		Feb. 14	Jan. 9	Jan. 23
Mar. 14	Feb. 27	Mar. 3		Apr. 11	Mar. 6	Mar. 24
May 2	Apr. 17	Apr. 21		Jun. 13	May 8	May 29
Jun. 6	May 22	May 26		Jul. 11	Jun. 5	Jun. 24
Register online at collegeboard.org				**Register online at act.org**		

If you're on f/r lunch, you are eligible for fee waivers to register for the SAT and to send your scores.
Talk to your counselor/college adviser!

If you re-take the SAT/ACT, you can send your new scores to the schools that you're applying to – it's recommended! Your higher score will replace your lowest one and can be used to qualify you for admission and additional scholarships!

If you plan on re-taking the SAT/ACT, make sure that you find out when your school's deadline is for accepting new scores.

Use Khan Academy to prepare for the SAT!

Get personalized SAT practice by linking your Collegeboard account to Khan Academy. Your personalized SAT practice will be based on PSAT/SAT scores (and it's FREE!)

1. Log on to satpractice.org
2. Create a Khan Academy account ***
3. You will be prompted to link your Khan Academy and College Board accounts
4. You will then be asked if you want to send your scores to Khan Academy

Khan Academy also has a Daily Practice app you can download to your phone, test questions of the day, and specific practice questions.

*** To link your accounts, you **must use the email address you used to register with College Board**. If you are having a problem linking your College Board and Khan Academy accounts, or viewing your test scores, call **866-756-7346**

FUNDING YOUR FUTURE

What are the different types of Financial Aid?

The basic types of financial aid include money that is given to you, money that is loaned to you, and money that you work for.

1. **Grants:** A grant is money that is given to you to help pay for college. A grant does not have to be paid back. Grants are often awarded on the basis of financial need, which is how much help a family needs to pay for college.
   - **Example:** the Pell Grant ($7395) awarded based on financial need.
2. **Loans:** A student loan is money loaned to you to help pay for college, EXCEPT you will have to pay the money back. Federal subsidized and unsubsidized student loans have lower interest rates than private loans. You also don't have to start paying the money back until after you finish college.
   - **Federal Subsidized Loans**: Interest does not accrue while you are enrolled in school
   - **Federal Unsubsidized Loans:** Interest begins to accrue immediately
3. **Work-Study:** Work Study requires you to work part time — about 10–20 hours per week — on or close to campus. You will receive a bi-weekly check/direct-deposit. Examples of on-campus jobs include working in the college library, dining halls, or computer lab.
4. **Scholarships**: Scholarships are money earned based on achievement or some type of characteristic. You do not have to pay the money back.
   - **Private Scholarships:** Scholarships offered by businesses, companies, and organizations. These often require an application. There are many places to search for scholarships! Start looking early and talk to your counselor/college adviser.
     - For an updated list of local scholarships, visit the College Corner on zebracounseling.net!
   - **Merit/Institutional Scholarships:** Other scholarships are awarded by schools based on GPA and SAT/ACT scores, and these are typically awarded after you submit your application.
   - **Community College Guarantee through Michigan Achievement Scholarship:** Free community college for Michigan residents who finish high school (no income requirements).

How can I Fund my Future?? The first step is to fill out the FAFSA!

What is the FAFSA? FAFSA stands for "Free Application for Federal Student Aid." It is the application you fill out to qualify for federal and state financial aid awards for college. The FAFSA opens October 1.

Over 85% of students that complete the FAFSA get some form of financial aid!!

Financial aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The amount of aid you can earn depends on how early you complete the FAFSA! The only way to receive federal and state aid is by completing the FAFSA! Most universities also require a completed FAFSA before considering you for their scholarships.

Got a half hour? You can do the FAFSA! The FAFSA is designed to be simple to fill out. Tips throughout the application help you understand the questions. It takes less than 30 minutes to fill out the FAFSA. That's one episode of a TV show!

FAFSA is a part of the college application process. Some schools won't consider you for other scholarships until you've submitted the FAFSA. Even if you think you won't qualify for aid, complete the FAFSA!

HOW TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA

1. **Create an FSA ID** (See FSA ID Worksheet!)
    - You and your parent(s) must create separate FSA IDs.
    - You must file your FAFSA every year! Save your FSA IDs in a safe place.
2. **Collect the information needed to apply:**
    - ☐ **Your Social Security Number**
    - ☐ **Parent(s) Information**
        - ☐ Name
        - ☐ Email
        - ☐ Date of Birth
        - ☐ Social Security Number
    - ☐ **Current Total Balance of Bank Account(s)** (if any)
    - ☐ **2024 Tax Forms** (if you worked in 2024)
    - ☐ **List of schools** you have applied to and/or plan to apply to
        - ☐ Each school you add will send you an award offer letter (if you are accepted)
    - ☐ *You might also need*: *Driver's license (if any), Alien Registration or Permanent Resident Card (if not a US citizen), W-2 tax forms and other records of money earned, Foreign tax return (if any), Untaxed income records (such as child support received, SNAP benefits, and untaxed pensions), Bank Statements (if requested), Other investment records*
3. **Start the Free Application for Federal Student Aid** at studentaid.gov!
4. **Input parent's information** *(see step 2)* to invite them to fill out their portion of the form.
    - You will not be able to complete the form without inputting this information
5. **Sign and submit the FAFSA** with the student's FSA ID.
6. **Review your FAFSA Submission Summary**, which will be sent to you via email within 3 days after completing the FAFSA. It is a summary of the information reported on the FAFSA. It will tell you if you have been selected for verification!
    - o You can log back into the FAFSA and review your summary at any time.
7. **Be prepared if selected for verification**. Verification is the process a school uses to confirm that the data reported on your FAFSA is accurate. If you are selected for verification, provide the documentation your school asks for by the specified deadline, or you will not be able to receive aid.
    - o Your school may require you to submit a tax transcript as part of the verification process. You and/or your parent(s) can view your tax transcript online through the IRS using this website, or you can request your transcript be mailed to you.
    - o Make sure to stay in contact with the school's Financial Aid office and ask questions! Talk to your College Adviser if you need help with the verification process.

For step-by-step instructions on completing the FAFSA, go to: zebracounseling.net!

CREATING A FSA ID

How to create your FSA ID account to log in and fill out the FAFSA:

What is an FSA ID? An FSA ID is an account that gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems. You use it to complete and electronically sign your FAFSA. Both the **student and parent** need an FSA ID. Your FSA ID will stay the same every time that you complete the FAFSA (every year you attend college).

How do I create my FSA ID?

1. **Go to studentaid.gov**

2. **Click "Create an Account" in the top right-hand corner**

3. **Click "Get Started"**

4. **Input your name, email and social security number to create an account**

When creating a password for your FSA ID it must contain 8-30 characters and include the following:

- ❑ number
- ❑ uppercase letter
- ❑ lowercase letter

You are only assigned ONE FSA ID, and you can only have ONE FSA ID attached to a social security number. If you are a parent that has applied for FAFSA before, you will need to access that same account in order to complete the parent portion of your student's FAFSA.

***DO NOT** use your WMHS email to create the FAFSA! Your WMHS email expires after you graduate, and you will need access to this information every year that you fill out the FAFSA. When you enter your email on this page, you will receive ALL communication about your FAFSA electronically through this email, NOT through the mail. It is very important to continuously check your email!*

5. **To finish setting up your FSA ID, you have to create 5 challenge questions.**

NOTE: If you get locked out of your account, you can enter your email address or phone number to receive a code to log back in **<u>OR</u>** you can answer your challenge questions. **Use your email address to recover your FSA ID.** If you choose to answer with your challenge questions, you will have to wait 30 minutes to reset your FSA ID.

****MAKE SURE YOU SAVE YOUR FSA ID & PASSWORD IN A SAFE PLACE****

You will need it to log in each time you work on your FAFSA, and your FSA ID stays the same for EVERY YEAR you complete the FAFSA.

AFTER THE FAFSA

Congratulations! Submitting your FAFSA is an important step in the financial aid process. But there could be a few more steps to complete to ensure you can receive your aid! Here is a list of next steps in the process. Remember, if you have questions please reach out to your counselor/college adviser or the financial aid departments of the colleges you are applying to!

- ❑ **Review and Update your FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)**
  - The FSS is a summary of information you reported on your FAFSA and will include your family's **Student Aid Index (SAI**). It will be available to view online at www.fafsa.gov within a few days of submitting the FAFSA. The FSS will also indicate if there are any issues that need to be addressed with your FAFSA. It is extremely important that you review your FSS with your counselor to make sure all the information is accurate!
- ❑ **Complete Additional Forms (if needed)**
  - CSS/PROFILE: This form is required by some private colleges. To see the list of colleges and to complete the form, visit http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile.
  - Institutional Financial Aid forms: Some colleges will require you to fill out their own financial aid forms. These forms will either be sent to you or found online and they are to be sent directly back to the colleges. If you are unsure whether your college(s) requires additional forms, you should visit the school's website, or contact the Financial Aid Office.
- ❑ **Complete Verification (if selected)**
  - Colleges may require additional documents to confirm the information you reported on your financial aid forms. Your financial aid award will be pending until you submit all requested documentation by the college's deadline. Complete verification ASAP!
  - We also suggest that you request copies of your family's 2024 IRS Tax Return Transcript, as some colleges will require this as part of the verification process. You can request a free IRS Tax Return Transcript at http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Order-a-Transcript or by calling 1-800-908-9946.
  - Some private schools that require the CSS/PROFILE may also require verification called IDOC. For more information, check http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile.
- ❑ **Compare Financial Aid Award Letters BEFORE Making a Decision:**
  - Once you have been accepted to a college, and completed all the steps above, the college will then send you a financial aid award letter, either in the mail or through the student portal. The award letter will inform you of the amount of financial aid you will receive if you choose to attend that college. You should review and compare all award letters before sending off a tuition deposit (typically May 1st) – talk to your counselor/college adviser to review and compare award letters to make the best financial decision for you!

More Tips for Success:

- The FAFSA will only ask for income and tax info from the previous year. You DO NOT need to update your FAFSA with this year's tax info. If you or your family believe that there has been a significant financial change in your household since then, you must reach out and explain this to each college.
- There are multiple steps in the financial aid process. Regularly check your email and college web portal(s) and respond to all missing information requests ASAP! Missing one of these steps can put your financial aid on hold!
- If you have any further questions, contact your financial aid office(s) to ensure that your financial aid file is complete.

AWARD LETTER ANALYZER

COLLEGE NAME				
DIRECT COSTS				
Tuition & Fees	*Tuition and fees are the price you pay for taking classes at your college. This amount can change based on your academic program, the number of credit hours you take and whether you're an in-state or out-of-state student. Some colleges charge "comprehensive fees" — the total for tuition, fees, and room and board combined.*			
On/Off Campus	*Will you be living on campus or at home? Some things to consider: commute, distance from home, and parking fees.*			
Room & Board	*Colleges usually offer a variety of dorm-room options and meal plans to students who live on campus. The charges vary depending on what plan you choose. If you decide to live off-campus, you may have your own rent and meal costs to consider in your college costs.*			
Meal Plan (if living on campus)				
Additional Fees	*These can include placement exams, registration fees, lab fees, etc. (Some schools will already include these costs in "Tuition & Fees," you can find more info about fees on each school's website)*			
Direct Cost Per Year				
GIFT AID: Money that does NOT need to be repaid				
Institutional Grants/Scholarships				
Other Grants/Scholarships (List total amount earned)				
Pell Grant				
State Grant(s)				
Total Gift Aid				
LOANS: Borrowed money that does need to be repaid with interest				
Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan	*Available to students who demonstrate financial need. Generally, no interest is charged when the student is enrolled at least half-time*			
Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan	*Students do not need to demonstrate financial need. Interest begins accruing immediately. After you leave school, your payments will include the amount you borrowed plus interest.*			
Perkins Loan	*Available to undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree students who demonstrate financial need. Low interest rates are offered. Schools are the lenders.*			
Other Loans				
Total Loans				
ESTIMATED BILL				
Direct Costs – Gift Aid – Loans = **Estimated Bill** (Amount You Pay)				

SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

1. Get Organized and Ready to Work

- Finding scholarships will feel like a job sometimes- Make the time to do it right: schedule 2-3 hours each week to research and write!
- Stay organized! Make a file folder for each scholarship and organize it by deadline

2. Beware of Scams

- Legitimate scholarship providers DO NOT charge an application fee, and you should never pay any person or company to research scholarships for you! (Scholarships are FREE money; you don't have to pay to find it!)
- DO NOT respond to emails requesting your social security number

3. Research

- Sign up for online scholarship search tools to be matched with scholarships and to receive free email alerts
- Scholarships aren't just for academics or athletics, there are ALL kinds of scholarships: scholarships for race, religion, ethnicity; military scholarships, scholarships for unique situations, scholarships for making prom outfits out of duct tape, scholarships for left-handers and many more!!!
- Find out if any of your family's employers offer scholarships
- Check with local businesses in your neighborhood
- Look through the scholarship page on the College Corner website
- After you apply to college, ask an Admissions Rep about institutional scholarships.

4. Renewable/Non-Renewable

- Know if the scholarship is renewable - is there criteria and/or a process for renewing each year? Find out all of the requirements and keep related paperwork!

5. Essays

- Some scholarships will also require a personal statement or essay(s). Allow plenty of time for drafts and ask English teachers/counselors/friends to offer feedback
- Make sure you proofread and stay within the word count/length!
- Make sure that you are paying close attention to the instructions and requirements for the applications, follow them carefully!

6. Recommendations

- Ask the recommender ASAP; waiting until the last minute may not guarantee you a well-written letter
- Fill out a Brag Sheet to make the letter-writing process easier
- Provide your recommender with information on how to send their letter (snail mail, email, online portal, etc.)
- Send a thank-you note after they complete the recommendation letter

7. Scholarship Deadlines

- Double check the deadline - missing a deadline is the easiest way to disqualify your application and all of your hard work!
- Use your planner/calendar to keep track of all scholarship/admission deadlines, or use the calendar app on your phone to set reminders for deadlines and due dates
- If you have to send the application by mail, make sure that you send it BEFORE the due date to arrive on time!

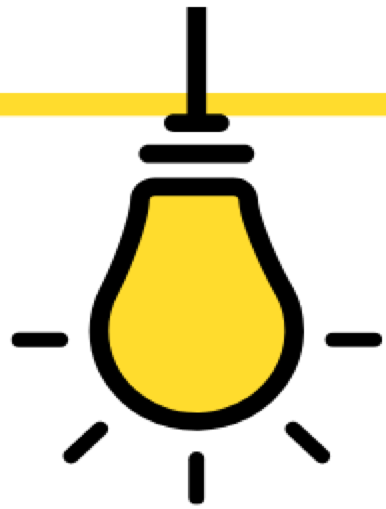
8. Tracking

- Follow-up to confirm that your application was received and find out when the winner(s) will be announced
- Make copies of every application you submit
- Write down all passwords/login information for each of your applications and scholarship sites
- Be sure to check your email regularly, and **use a professional email** when filling out all applications!

COLLEGE PASSWORD LOG

Student FSA ID (for FAFSA)	Verified Email:	Username:	Password:
Parent FSA ID (for FAFSA)	Verified Email:	Username:	Password:
Parchment	Email/Username:	Password:	
Collegeboard	Email/Username:	Password:	**Use for Khan Academy!**
SAT	ID:	Username:	Password:
ACT	ID:	Username:	Password:
School #1:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
School #2:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
School #3:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
School #4:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
School #5:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
School #6:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
Common App:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
Other:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
Other:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
Scholarship #1:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
Scholarship #2:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
Scholarship #3:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
Scholarship #4:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
Scholarship #5:	Email used:	Username:	Password:
Scholarship #6:	Email used:	Username:	Password:

***KEEP THIS IN A SAFE PLACE!!!!



SOME COMMUNITY COLLEGES HAVE ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Jackson College
Lake Michigan College
Southwestern Michigan College
North Central Community College
St. Clair County Community College
Northwestern Michigan College
Glen Oaks Community College
Gogebic Community College
Alpena Community College
Bay College

NOTES

Student Brag Sheet

The information you provide here will enable your counselor to provide colleges with a comprehensive report. Please answer each question as honestly as you can and with as much detail as possible. Use specific examples to support your claims. The more details you include, the better the counselor statement we can write for you.

Name:

Career GPA: **ACT/SAT Score(s):**

College Plans/Post-Graduation Plans:

To whom should this letter be addressed?

What is the purpose of this letter? To gain admission to college? To earn a scholarship?:

Awards or Honors:

Community Service Projects:

School Activities:

Leadership Activities:

Outside of School Activities: (church group, youth group, sports, dance…)

Proudest Accomplishments:

List four adjectives that describe you:

Are there any outside circumstances that have interfered with your academic performance? Is there anything on your transcript you feel warrants clarification?

Describe an academic experience that has been a highlight in your WMHS years (a teacher, class, paper, project or book).

How have you spent your last two summers? Include any jobs you have held.

At this time, what personal, educational, or vocational goals do you have in mind? What areas of study might you like to pursue in college? Do you have any clear idea about what you hope to do after graduation from college? Where do you see yourself in ten years? (Have fun with this one!)