

COLLEGE BOUND MICHIGAN

12th Grade Checklist

September

- ☐ **Make a post high school plan**
 - or education (including program or major) you will need.
 - ☐ Strengthen your college list in [BigFuture™](#) so that it has a minimum of one (1) “safety,” two (2) “match,” and three (3) “reach” colleges
 - ☐ Review your transcript and your senior year class schedule with your counselor or college advisor to make sure you have the classes you need to graduate and apply to college.
- ☐ **Review your graduation plan**
 - ☐ Ask questions you have about the college application process
 - ☐ Create a professional email account.
 - ☐ Set privacy settings on social media accounts.
- ☐ **Prepare for college Applications**
 - ☐ Sign up for scholarships on [GoingMerry!](#)
 - ☐ Create your Federal Student Aid ([FSA](#)) ID
 - ☐ Research financial aid/scholarship options at your list of colleges
- ☐ **Explore how to pay for college**
 - ☐ Sign up for the ACT or SAT if you haven’t taken it or need to
 - ☐ Take or retake the SAT
- ☐ **Sign up for the SAT or ACT**
- ☐ **Take the SAT**

October

- ☐ **Take the SAT**
- ☐ **Prepare for college applications**
 - ☐ Make a list of awards you have received and extra-curriculars you participated in
 - ☐ Write a rough draft of application and/or scholarship essays. Check out [Story2](#) for support telling your story
 - ☐ Request letters of recommendation if required for applications or scholarships
 - ☐ Check application due dates and develop a plan for submission
 - ☐ Complete at least 2 applications before October 31st.
 - ☐ Send your transcripts to the schools you applied to using [Parchment](#)
 - ☐ Send your SAT scores (if applicable) through [College Board](#)
 - ☐ Request and follow up on letters of recommendation (if applicable)
- ☐ **Participate in Michigan College Month activities**
- ☐ **Continue completing college applications**
 - ☐ Continue working on and submitting college applications and following up on transcripts, letters of recommendation and sending test scores.
 - ☐ Create your [FSA ID](#)
 - ☐ Gather the documents needed to file the FAFSA including tax
- ☐ **Complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
- ☐ **Explore how to pay for college**

December

- ☐ **Finish applying for colleges**
 - ☐ Continue working on and submitting college applications
 - ☐ Send your transcripts to your schools using [Parchment](#)
 - ☐ Send your SAT scores (if applicable) through [College Board](#)
 - ☐ Request and follow up on letters of recommendation (if applicable)
 - ☐ [Apply for Financial Aid](#)
 - ☐ Continue searching for and applying for scholarships
- ☐ **Explore how to pay for college**

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January

- ☐ Explore how to pay for college
- ☐ [Apply for Financial Aid](#)
- ☐ Continue searching for and applying for scholarships

February

- ☐ Explore how to pay for college
- ☐ [Apply for Financial Aid](#)
- ☐ Continue searching for and applying for scholarships
 - ☐ Check your email regularly to stay on top of communication from colleges
 - ☐ Compare acceptance offers and scholarship amounts
 - ☐ Make sure your semester 2 schedule gets you the classes you need.
 - ☐ Ask any questions you have about college decision making and paying for college
- ☐ Check for news on college acceptances
- ☐ Meet with your counselor to review your graduation plan
- ☐ Visit a Campus
 - ☐ If you haven't already, visit the campus of some schools you applied for.
- ☐ Talk to current students about their experience.

March

- ☐ Last chance to submit the FAFSA
- ☐ Complete the FAFSA
- ☐ Check for news on college acceptances
 - ☐ Check your email regularly to stay on top of communication from colleges
 - ☐ Compare acceptance offers and scholarship amounts

April

- ☐ Tax Filing Deadline: April 15th
- ☐ Make sure taxes are filed!
- ☐ Check for news on college acceptances
 - ☐ Check your email regularly to stay on top of communication from colleges
 - ☐ Compare acceptance offers and scholarship amounts
- ☐ Decision time!
 - ☐ Think carefully and critically about where to attend for college. Compare cost, opportunities, size, academics, and more. Seek out wisdom from family, friends, and school staff

May

- ☐ Decision Day Events
 - ☐ Participate in your institution's Decision Day Events on or around May 1st.
- ☐ Finish strong and start thinking ahead
 - ☐ Complete required graduation courses
 - ☐ Take AP exams or college placement tests
 - ☐ Complete required college forms (housing, financial aid, etc)