



College Preparation

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Evaluate

■ *Your Courses*

- *If appropriate, make arrangements for college courses or supplemental learning opportunities.*
- *Make sure you have met all graduation requirements.*
- *Focus on a FEW of the activities you enjoy the most and work to assume a leadership role.*

Tests to Take

Take the test that is required by the college(s) that you are considering, and practice with old tests and study guides

- *PSAT – Linked w/ National Merit status*
- *ACT - Michigan scholarships*
- *SAT (check to see if your choice colleges require SAT I or II or both).*
- *AP Exams for any AP courses you take or have taken this year.*

Plan a great summer

- *Increase your learning beyond high school offerings or develop an interest more fully.*
- *Consider working with a mentor this summer or next year.*
- *Don't forget to ask for letters of recommendation.*

Think about what you want in a college

- *Size - big/ small*
- *Setting - Urban/Rural*
- *Admissions - Competitive/Open*
- *Private/Public*
- *Personal Growth Opportunities –
Social/Cultural/Athletics*
- *Career Goals*
 - *Do the colleges you have in mind have programs in your field?*
 - *Do they offer Career Development opportunities?*

Research

- *Read college catalogs/mailings.*
- *Use the internet.*
- *Visit campuses.*
 - *Call ahead to arrange an admissions interview, tour, and overnight stay.*
 - *Try to visit as many as you can during the school year.*
- *Talk to college students & alumni.*

Make a list of colleges

- *Long list*
- *Short list (3-5 of your top choices after you complete your research)*
 - *Your Favorite*
 - *Your Number Two*
 - *Sure Thing*

Application Process

- *Request college admissions & financial aid applications.*
- *If you feel especially strong about one college, identify Early Decision requirements that apply.*
- *Put the deadline dates for applications on your calendar.*
- *Ask for recommendation letters early.*

Finances

- *What are the real costs?*
- *Financial Aid*
 - *Scholarship*
 - *Grants*
 - *Loans*
- *FASFA*
 - *Family Contribution*

Tips

- *Continue to work hard. Don't succumb to senioritis. Colleges may rescind an offer of admissions if your grades drop.*
- *Read and follow directions. Observe deadlines.*
- *KEEP COPIES.*
- *Get help with essays and written information.*
- *Give people time to write recommendation letters*

Web Sites

- *College Visits Online*
- www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- www.collegeboard.com
- www.fastweb.com