



*Welcome to the*  
***SENIOR COUNSELING MEETING***  
*College Application Process*

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# Agenda for today

- General overview of the college application process
- Detailed step by step explanation
- Visiting Colleges
- Community Colleges
- Timeline
- NCAA considerations
- GAP Year
- Warnings: Financing College & Debt

# College Application Process

## OVERVIEW

- Explore schools by doing *Visits* and using Naviance (try SuperMatch). Save interesting schools to “*Colleges I’m Thinking About*”
- In Naviance on “Colleges” tab you can match your Common App Account and request “Letters of Recommendation” (only request letter if needed)
- Apply to colleges online

# College Application Process

(continued)

- If you have an ACT/SAT score and chose to use it then you will order test scores to be sent from testing company
- Complete [“College Application Notification”](#) form online
- Check back to Naviance when you hear a decision from the schools

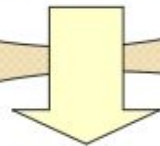
# 1. Where do I want to apply?

- Use Naviance - SuperMatch
- Explore other resources
- South Virtual Visit Guide
  - RepVisits via Naviance
  - NACAC Virtual College Fair
  - Exploring College Options
    - Duke
    - Georgetown
    - Harvard
    - Penn
    - Stanford
  - NWHE
    - Emory
    - Johns Hopkins
    - Notre Dame
    - Wash U
- Coast to Coast tour
- 'Six Colleges'
  - Amherst
  - Bowdoin
  - Carleton
  - Pomona
  - Swarthmore
  - Williams

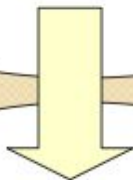
## 2. Do selected schools need a Letter of Recommendation?

### Teacher Letters of Recommendation

Ask the Teacher



Request in Naviance



Thank You *Note*  
in Two Weeks

- FIRST Check to see if your schools require a letter of recommendation
- Typically face to face request is important but these days e-mail
- Choose a core academic teacher that will best represent you as a student.
- Give *at least* two weeks notice
- Request officially via Naviance in the “Colleges” tab
- Thank the teacher

# How to request LoR in Naviance

Go to Naviance.

<https://student.naviance.com/gpshs>

Colleges > Apply to College > Letters of Recommendation.

When adding a request:

- select a teacher to write the recommendation
- select *General Request* to include all colleges
- add any notes to share with your teacher



Student Input Form - necessary for counselors to write letters of recommendation. Find it on [Naviance](#) or click [HERE](#) for paper version

**Junior Conference Information Form**

What Six Words would you use to describe yourself:

--	--	--

What colleges/armed services/ vocational/technical jobs are you considering after you graduate?

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Do you have a specific career goal or college major in mind? Are you doing any work that supports these goals?

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# Parent Input is Welcome!

- [Click here](#) for a nice list of questions you could answer to help us write a great letter
- Or [here](#) is another version of parent input
- We are not asking you to write your child's letter of recommendation. This just offers more dimension and support

# 3. Ready to apply to schools



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Application for Undergraduate Admission

\$40 nonrefundable application fee required.

Read the application instructions before completing this form. Please type or print in ink.

1 Name (Last, First, Middle, Suffix) 2 Former Last Name

3 Home Address City State Zip + 4

4 Mailing Address (if different from Home Address) City State Zip + 4

5 Home Phone 6 Cell Phone 7 E-Mail Address

8 Sex  Male  Female

Federal guidelines mandate that we collect data on the legal sex listed on your birth certificate.

9 Are you a U.S. Citizen?  Yes  No If no, do you have a Permanent Resident Card (I-551/Green Card) or documentation of asylum or refugee status?  Yes  No

**Please enclose a copy of your Permanent Resident Card, asylee or refugee documentation with this application.** If you responded **no** to both questions, please provide the following:

Country of Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_ Visa Type \_\_\_\_\_

# Common Application

[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

- Standard uniform college application
- Used by over 900 member schools
- May be used exclusively or optionally by schools
- Includes: UM, MSU, Kalamazoo College, University of Miami, Albion...

What do I need to know?

- Must match to Naviance
- Must use Naviance for Letter of Rec/transcript requests
- GPS Class size: 360
- GPS does not rank students
- GPS uses 4.0 GPA scale
- If you took AP classes your GPA is *weighted*

[\(CLICK HERE\)](#)

match



If you use this you need to  
**MATCH** your  
Common App Account with  
your Naviance account

## The Coalition Application

- This is a newer type of universal application that some colleges are offering. We recommend avoiding it since it is not integrated with Naviance. However, we can accommodate it.

# Standardized Test Scores

- Most schools are test optional for this year. Check [here](#) to see Michigan schools test requirements. Check [here](#) to see schools nationally that are test optional
- If you have a test score and choose to use it for admission consideration then you must send *official* test scores to the colleges where you apply to have a complete file.
- Send from the test website if you have not already sent your score when you registered.  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) or [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)



## College Application Notification

Please fill in the information below as completely as possible and submit

For each school do the following:

1. Once you submit your college application and pay the application fee, go to Naviance and add it to "Colleges I'm applying to." Click on "request transcripts" and follow the directions.
2. Check to see if your college requires letters of recommendations. Do not exceed the college's number of recommendations. You must speak to the teacher before requesting in Naviance. Follow up with a thank-you note.
3. If applying with standardized tests scores, students are responsible for sending to the college via the test sites: ACT: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or SAT: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
4. If you have applied through the Common Application you must match your Common App with Naviance.

Email \*

Your email

[Click here for link to College Application Notification](#)

the  
College Application Notification  
Google Form

**Must be your final  
step in the college  
application  
process**

You will receive a receipt  
Should not take longer than 2 weeks  
to process - can track this



# And...we wait.



- Everything we do is documented with dates in Naviance
- Deferred? Waitlisted?
- Might need Mid-year Transcripts (keep working!)
- Definitely need final transcripts (senior survey)



**Q** ■ When Do Colleges Start  
■ Considering *My* Application?

**A:** Not until your application is  
*COMPLETE*

- College Application (and fee if required)
- Counselor Recommendation Form or Letter (if required)
- Official High School Transcript
- Official Test Scores (if required)
- Teacher Recommendation (if required)

# When You Write Your Essay . . .

- DO:
  1. Start early
  2. Read the directions carefully
  3. Tell the truth about yourself
  4. Focus on your best side
  5. Feel comfortable with your anxieties
  6. Tie yourself to the college
  7. Speak positively
  8. Write about your greatest assets and achievements
  9. Have someone else proofread before sending

# When you write your essay

## DON'T:

- Summarize your accomplishments
- Write on general, impersonal topics
- Use the personal statement to excuse your shortcomings
- Use clichés
- Go to extremes such as too witty, too opinionated or too intellectual
- Generally avoid topics of divorce, death, tragedy

Write a serious essay, from the bottom of your heart, in the most mature manner possible.

# Five good reasons to choose Community Colleges

1. **MONEY** – CCs cost a fraction of a four year college and can be a great way to get the basics out of the way
2. **WEAK GRADES or TEST SCORES** – if you can't get in to your top school you may well be able to transfer in after a couple of semesters at a CC
3. **WORK or FAMILY OBLIGATIONS** – CCs allow flexible scheduling with weekends and evenings so you can juggle your family and work life.
4. **YOUR CAREER CHOICE DOESN'T REQUIRE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE** – Many service and technological careers do not require a four year degree.
5. **YOU ARE NOT SURE ABOUT GOING TO COLLEGE** - A lot of high school students have a sense that they should go to college, but they aren't sure why and aren't really fond of school. If this describes you, CC can be a good option. You can try out some college-level courses without committing years of your life and tens of thousands of dollars to the experiment.

# Timeline Considerations

- It's all about the letters.
  - Timeline is longer for student's first app
  - Subsequent apps go quickly
  - Counselor letter guaranteed when necessary
  - Teacher letter(s) at discretion of staff
  - All can be tracked via Naviance
- Early Action vs. Early Decision
- October 15 significance
- November 1 significance (UM)
- Jan 1 considerations

# NCAA Divisions I & II

- Consult the NCAA Freshman Eligibility Standards Quick Reference Sheet on the website
- <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>
- ACT and SAT scores must be sent directly to the Clearinghouse from the testing agency
- NCAA's SAT/ACT code is 9999
- (note about \*Film Lit\*)

# Financial Aid

[Click here for  
“Financing Education  
Beyond High School”  
Presentation](#)

[Click here for Presentation  
Outline and Supplemental  
Resources](#)

[Start your FAFSA 10/1](#)

- [First do FSA ID](#)
- [Peek at the FAFSA  
Worksheet](#)



and Scholarships



# Financial Aid and Scholarships

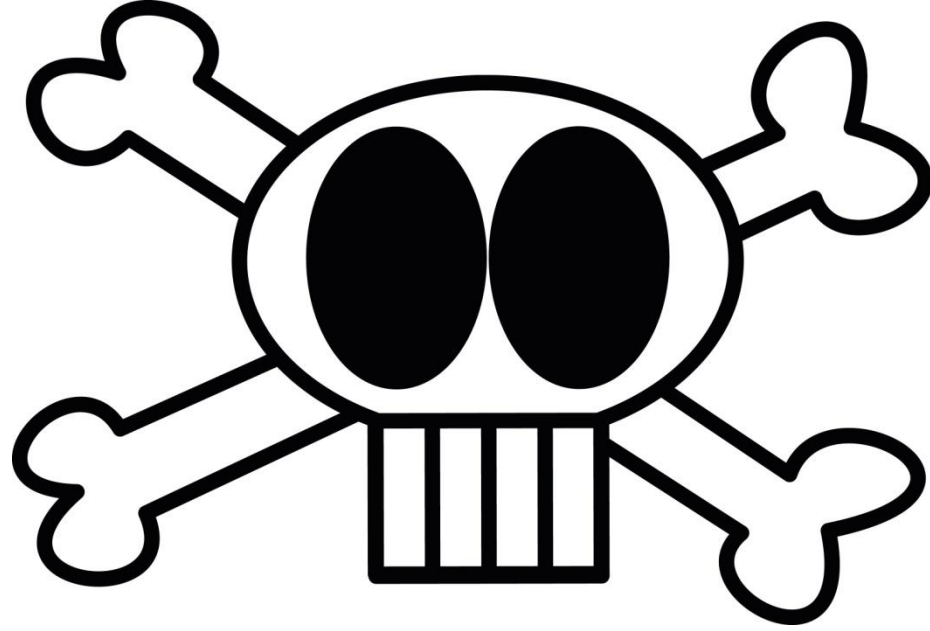
- [Financial Aid and Scholarship information](#) is available. Now is the time to start researching options for next year.
- Register with online scholarship search engine. [Click here](#) to see my annotated list of suggestions
- Check Naviance
- Research scholarships affiliated with your parents' business, religious organizations, vocational interests, community non-profits and the like

# GAP Year



- Spend a year abroad in a foreign country's high school
- Work for a year before college/trade school.
- Volunteer
- Travel
- Resource:  
<https://usagapyearfairs.org/programs/>

**Warning!**



Never Pay Money to Get Money

Beware of Unreasonable Debt  
(credit cards and student loans)