

Final College List

Once senior year begins, it is time to submit college applications. College options fall into three categories—reach, target and safety schools.

- **Reach:** Schools with features important to the student but admission criteria are above the student's current status.
- **Target:** Schools of great interest to the student where admission is likely. These are realistic choices.
- **Safety:** Schools that appeal to the student where admission is highly likely and affordable.

Information about average ACT and GPA scores for accepted students can be found on college websites. Also, information about scholarships awarded for certain ACT/GPA scores can be found on the websites.

College Application Process

For college admissions and scholarship opportunities, it is best to submit college applications in September, before mid-October or earlier, if the application is due earlier. Colleges and universities have individual deadlines.

To save time, it is best to obtain teacher and counselor recommendation letters in spring of junior year, before summer vacation. Be sure to ask for the letters as a Word document, so the letter can be used for multiple applications or at scholarship application time. Students should send thank you notes to anyone who provides a letter of reference.

Waiver Form

If a student receives free or reduced lunch counselors can prepare a simple waiver form, upon request, which allows college applications to be submitted for free. A waiver form for the ACT test is available, too.

College Applications

There are two kinds of college applications. The application provided by a college just for their school and the Common Application, which is used to submit an application to several schools at the same time. With just a few exceptions, college applications are now submitted online. The deadlines vary from school to school. It is the student's responsibility to know the deadlines for each college or university and apply at least a week or two before the actual deadline in case additional information is requested by the college.

All applications can be intimidating, but usually ask for information such as:

- Name (legal)
- Any former names, if name changed at any point.
- Address
- Gender
- Date of Birth
- U. S. Social Security Number
- Cell Phone Number
- Email Address
- Are you a U.S. Citizen?
- If not U.S. Citizen, are you a resident alien?
- Parent or Guardian Name

- Parent or Guardian Address
- Parent or Guardian Phone Number
- Parent or Guardian Email
- Did the Parent or Guardian attend this college?
- Are you the first person in your family to attend college/university?
- Are you a veteran, child of veteran or qualify for veteran's benefits?
- When are you planning to attend college? e.g. Fall 2014
- Intended major/area of study. If still deciding, it's okay to use undeclared or undecided.
- Intended program. Baccalaureate is typically a four year degree. Associate is typically two years.
- When will you graduate from high school?
- When did you take the ACT/SAT? Has the score been forwarded to the college?
- List all the high schools, with addresses and dates, you attended.
- Classes currently enrolled in that may not appear on transcript.
- List awards received during high school.
- List volunteer work completed during high school.
- List any leadership positions at or outside of high school.
- List activities, sports and club involvement during high school.
- Have you ever been expelled, suspended, or placed on probation by any secondary school?
- Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense other than minor traffic violation?
- Are any legal charges currently pending against you at this time?
- May ask counselor to submit/verify information about GPA, graduation or input about student.
- Will need transcript either in printed form from counseling office or by Parchment.com.

Transcripts and Test Scores

Colleges and some scholarship organizations may require a transcript. A transcript is a listing of all high school courses completed and the grades. Paper transcripts are available by request in the counseling offices for a small fee. However, most colleges prefer transcripts be sent online using www.parchment.com. Counseling offices are available to help students with either form of transcript request.

Test scores for the ACT and /or SAT must be sent directly from the testing agency and can be ordered online. The ACT website is www.actstudent.org and the SAT website is www.collegeboard.org. Most colleges and universities in Michigan request the ACT.

Common Application

Over 400 colleges and universities subscribe to **The Common Application**. The Common Application is a standardized format and distribution method of applying to multiple colleges and universities which participate in the Common Application. For a list of members and application, go to www.commonapp.org.

Application Terminology

Early Decision requires students to make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll.

Early Action offers students earlier admission decisions but is not binding.

Regular Decision adheres to published application deadlines posted by individual colleges.

Rolling Admission colleges notify students of their acceptance or rejection soon after the application is received rather than waiting for a specific reply date. It is to the student's advantage to apply early, preferably before the end of September unless the college states otherwise.

On-Site Admission occurs when a special time is set up at Kettering or Mott specifically for seniors to meet one-on-one with admissions representatives. Admission representatives will review the student's transcript, submitted application and provide valuable feedback to a student regarding admissions and scholarship opportunities. Students must have already submitted an application to the college or university to participate in on-site admissions.

Rolling Admission colleges notify students of their acceptance or rejection soon after the application is received rather than waiting for a specific reply date. It is to the student's advantage to apply early.

The early decision/action/decision dates may be different than a regular decision date.

Essay

Some schools may ask student to submit an essay. It is a chance for the colleges to hear the student's voice and learn about what motivates the student or what the student has learned about life while in high school. Essays are usually limited to 500 words. If so, don't go over the limit. It is important to have someone proofread the essay. Here are some common college essay questions. It would be a good idea to create at least an outline of essay answers.

Describe a person who has impacted your life. Who has influenced your life the most and why?

A common mistake in answering this type of question involves spending too much time talking about the person who created the influence versus the impact he/she made on the student's life. A student should pick someone who had a positive, not negative influence on their life.

What career do you plan to pursue? What do you intend to do in this career?

Students should show passion for the career and how they want to use their knowledge to make a difference in their community or the world. Students should explore the "why" of their intended careers beyond the money aspect.

What problem did you overcome in life? How did you deal with it?

Students should avoid blaming others for their mistakes or negative experiences when answering this question. It is a good idea to answer with ways a student took responsibility, learned from a situation or will help others going through a similar situation.

How would you contribute positively to our college/university if we were to admit you?

Research the needs of the college and see where you would fit in. How would you help any issues a school has faced in recent years? What are some needs of this generation that could be helped on the college level?

Other Forms Related to Application

The college may ask for additional forms to be completed. These forms could be financial forms for scholarships, financial aid related forms, honors college applications. Be sure to register with an Eligibility Center (NCAA/NAIA/NJCAA) if planning to participate in college sports.