PREPARING FOR COLLEGE
Your future - thinking ahead in order to succeed

College is officially on the horizon. Whether you’re a high school freshman just learning the ropes of the college search process, or an upperclassman who’s already been scouting favorite campuses, it’s important to stay organized and focused.

We’ve put together some key information you’ll find handy as you continue mapping out your future, and we encourage you to contact us with any questions or information you might need.

Because at Michigan, we want you to succeed.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
First things first: What are you looking for?

Thinking about the energy of an urban campus? Have your heart set on a private school? Or are you looking for a particular academic environment? When it comes to colleges, there’s nearly no end to the choices available. It’s all about personal fit.
Set priorities:
Create a list of all the things that matter to you in terms of a college education. Be specific. Do you want to stay close to home? Are you set on studying abroad? Do you want to live on campus? Your list will serve as a valuable tool when you begin looking at colleges and studying the different programs and services they offer.

Know your resources:
Visit different school websites. Read their publications. Attend college fairs and talk to admissions representatives. Go to information sessions. Visit the campuses of schools you’re interested in. There’s no substitute for first-hand research. Learn as much as you can about the top schools on your list and size them up based on your list of priorities.

Talk to trusted advisors:
Parents, brothers, sisters, friends, teachers, school counselors…these are all people who want the best for you. Make sure to include them in your search.
The Value of a U-M Degree

By 2020, 65% of job openings will require workers with at least some college education.

Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce Recovery 2020 Report

U-M Students Graduate

92%  
6-Year U-M Average

60%  
6-Year National Average

National Center for Education Statistics (2017)

U-M Grads Earn More

$61,099  
Average earnings of U-M Bachelor’s Degree grads after 5 years

$85,000  
Average earnings of U-M Bachelor’s Degree grads after 10 years

Department of Education (2019)
**Four-Year High School Course Planning Guide**

To enter Michigan in the **College of Literature, Science, and the Arts**∗, you’ll need to meet the following course requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class or Course Area</th>
<th>State of Michigan Required</th>
<th>U-M Required</th>
<th>9th Grade</th>
<th>10th Grade</th>
<th>11th Grade</th>
<th>12th Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
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<td>3–4</td>
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<td>Social Science or History</td>
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<td>2 (in the same language)</td>
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<td>Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts</td>
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<td>0***</td>
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*LSA enrolls the majority of U-M’s freshman class. Other University of Michigan colleges and schools, such as the College of Engineering, have different requirements but expect the same type of rigorous academic preparation. Please see the admissions website for further information.

**Although not required, this coursework is recommended.
Sharpen your organizational skills by developing a system to keep track of assignments, tests, events, and appointments. Time management and organization are key to succeeding in college.

Meet with your school counselor early and determine the courses that will best prepare you for college. Map out a core curriculum that will allow you to meet college entrance requirements.

Take as much rigor as you can with accelerated, honors, or advanced classes.

Volunteer and get involved with clubs that develop leadership skills. Colleges look for students with more than tests scores - they want to admit well-rounded individuals who show character.
Keep a log of your activities, awards, and accomplishments. The Coalition Application includes a cloud-based “Locker” which gives you private, unlimited space to upload important items such as papers, videos, and photos. When it’s time to apply, you’ll have all of this information in one place.

Start talking with your family about financing your college costs and create a financial plan together. Begin researching scholarships and grants.

Check online with ACT and College Board (SAT) to find additional resources and practice tests. Khan Academy (khanacademy.org) also offers practice tests.

The 11th Grade

Continue challenging yourself with advanced placement, IB, or honors classes whenever applicable. Top schools like the University of Michigan often look at this as part of your overall application.

Start putting together your list of preferred schools. Research their websites, check out their publications, and see if they’re in line with your list of priorities.
Attend a college fair and find out from your school counselor when representatives from the universities you’re interested in will be visiting your school.

Find out which standardized tests are required by the schools you’re interested in. In the spring semester (or sooner), take the SAT, ACT, or both. Send the results to schools you are interested in.

In the spring and summer before your senior year, start visiting the colleges and universities that are of the most interest to you.

If you are considering a career in design, start organizing a portfolio of your creative work, if you haven’t already.
The 12th Grade

Keep those grades up.

Ensure that your SAT and/or ACT results are sent to your chosen schools.

Apply to several schools. Categorize your schools of choice: apply to your “dream” schools, but also apply to a few other schools that meet your qualifications.

Send in your applications as early as possible. Include all the materials that are requested. (Application fee waivers are available for those students who are unable to pay. Contact the U-M Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 734-764-7433 for more information.)

If you’re applying for financial aid, submit your application early for best consideration. Submit the FAFSA (available October 1) for consideration for all federal grants, loans, and Work-Study. Submit the CSS Profile (available October 1) for consideration of all grants (money that does not have to be repaid) from the University of Michigan.