

# Understanding the College Application Process



**OH NO, IT'S TIME TO  
FIGURE OUT WHAT COMES  
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL!!!**

# Which classes do I need to take in High School?

## Michigan Graduation Requirements

- 4 English Language Arts credits
- 4 Mathematics credits
  - Must include Algebra I, II and Geometry
- 3 Science credits
  - Must include Biology and Chemistry or Physics
- 3 Social Studies credits
- 1 Physical Education and Health credit
- 1 Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts credit
- 2 World Languages credits (begins with class of 2016)
- Online Learning Experience

## College Admission Requirements

- 4 English Language Arts credits strongly recommended
- 4 Mathematics credits strongly recommended
- 4 Biological and Physical Science credits strongly recommended
- 3-4 History and Social Sciences credits strongly recommended
- Performing & Fine Arts
- 2 World Language credits strongly recommended
- Computer courses
- Internships/work/community service experiences

# The Goal



- Identify your interests and passions.
- Remember, you are a work in progress – growing and changing!
- You don't have to know your major, you only have to know what you like.

***YOUR COLLEGE/SCHOOL IS A  
MATCH TO BE MADE, NOT A PRIZE  
TO BE WON.***

# U - University



Unlike restaurants in a fast food chain, colleges are all **DIFFERENT** from one another.

Western, Eastern, Central, Northern are not the same school in different locations. Not all schools have the same majors.

Try to discover each school's uniqueness. Then determine which one is the best fit for you.

# College Admission Decisions



## All schools

- GPA (from **9-11<sup>th</sup>** grade)
- ACT/SAT score (some colleges require the writing portion)
  - Check which is required for your schools of choice.
- Strength of your schedule – finish **STRONG** (AP, Honors classes are important)
- Grade trends
  - Have your grades improved since freshman year?

## Some additional requirements

- May require two years of a foreign language
- May require a college essay
- May require letters of recommendation
- May look at leadership/volunteer or extracurricular activities

# How College Admission Works



## ROLLING ADMISSIONS

- Applications are processed as they are received.
- Virtually all state institutions use rolling admissions.
- Apply September through mid-November of the senior year. *We recommend before Halloween.*
- Applications are processed until the new freshman class is filled.

## REGULAR ADMISSIONS

- Used by private and highly selective schools.
- Usually requires essays and recommendations.
- Apply before January 1 of the senior year.
- College will “assemble” its class by April 1.
- Early Decision - binding commitment
- Early Action – non-binding

# What Should I Be Doing Now?



## Freshman / Sophomore Year



- Sharpen your organizational skills – keep track of tests, assignments, events, deadlines.
- Review your four-year academic plan
  - Meet with counselor/teachers to discuss plans
  - Take accelerated, honors or advanced classes in areas that interest you and subjects you excel in.
- Research colleges/universities
- Attend local college fairs – UCS Fair May 1, 2013
  - <http://www.macrao.org/calendar/CDNCalendar.asp?CalType=CDN&Y=2011&M=3> - local college fairs
    - Start a folder and save everything related to college admissions
- Take the PLAN test (pre-ACT) Sophomore year
- Get involved! Activities will help you branch out. Consider a sport, music/drama or community volunteer activity. *Keep track of your activities.*
- Search out information on careers using [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)
- Discuss how to pay for college
- Start searching for scholarships



# Gathering Information



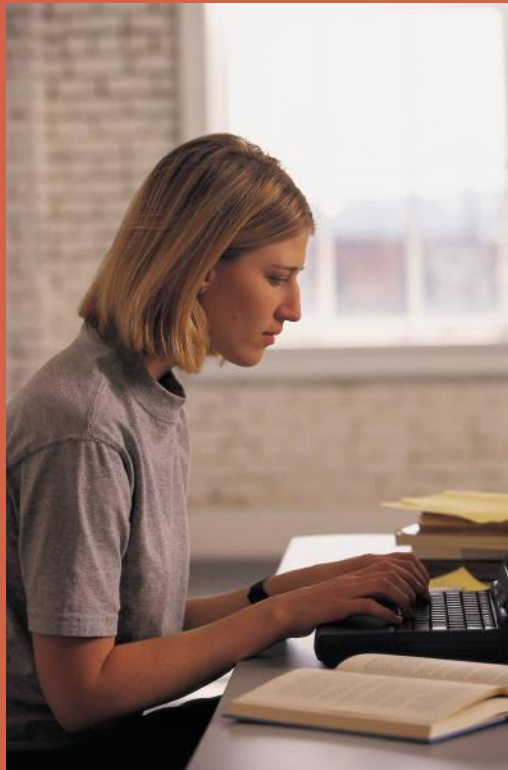
- College Fairs - UCS College Fair – May 1, 2013
  - 6:30-8:00 pm at Henry Ford II
- Internet / College websites
- Teachers / Coaches / Counselors
- College guides – given to all juniors at UHS
- Classroom presentations
  - Mrs. Wynn and a college admission advisor meet with ALL sophomore and junior English classes at UHS in the Spring
- Look through Career Cruising website
  - [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)
    - ✦ USERNAME: uticahs
    - ✦ PASSWORD: chieftains





## Junior Year

Critical year for colleges



- Review four year academic plan
  - Take challenging (APcourses and work hard)
- Meet with counselor/teachers
- Create a personal information sheet – *GPA, class rank, activities, awards, etc.*
- Testing:

PSAT	October
ACT	March, June
SAT	May, June
AP	May
- Continue gathering information
  - Create a filing system to organize college materials
- Design “List of preferred schools”
- Make college campus visits
- Review applications
- Practice essays
- Continue searching for scholarships

## ***Sample Personal Information Sheet***

Susie Smith  
356 Hickory  
Shelby Twp, MI 48317  
586.798.0000

Senior, Utica High School – Shelby Twp. , Michigan

### Academics:

GPA: 3.791 (4.00 scale)

Class rank: 43 / 431

Test scores: ACT 28, SAT 1270, PSAT Selection index: 189: PLAN 29

Coursework: College preparatory, Honors English, Honors Chemistry, A.P. Physics

### Extra Curricular activities:

Student Council 9, 10, 11

Varsity Track Team 10, 11

400 record holder: 49.3, State finalist 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Varsity Swim Team 11

HOSA

### Awards:

Top English student 10

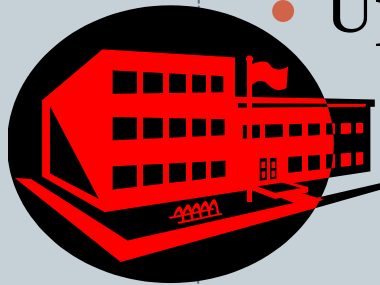
Citizen of the month: October, 2010

### Work experience:

Beaumont Hospital, Co-op in the laboratory

# Considerations for your “preferred schools”

- Academic environment
- Admissibility
- Available majors
- Ambience
- Career placement services
- Cost / Scholarships / Aid
- Geography
- Physical environment
- Public / Private
- Retention / Graduation rates
- Selectivity / Diversity
- Size, total student population
- Up-to-date technology



## Senior Year



- Maintain academic rigor – ***NO SENIORITIS***
- Update personal information sheet
- Consider retaking your ACT
- Solicit letters of recommendation. Give teachers at least 3 weeks & send a thank you note
- Craft your essays – send to the correct schools
- Make final college visits
- Submit applications – September-October
- Continue Scholarship search – check deadlines
- Review all college mailings – check deadlines
- File FAFSA – January – February
- Pay deposits to each college strongly considered
- **Decide**
- Take AP tests in May
- Choose orientation date, housing
- Thank your teachers!

# How to Choose Your College



# How to Choose Your College



- Not sure what you want to study?
  - Make sure the college has several majors that interest you – students often change their major 3-5 times. REMEMBER, **NOT ALL SCHOOLS OFFER ALL MAJORS!**
- **Don't follow your friends**
- **Make sure it is “the right fit” for you**
  - Campus visit is crucial – schedule one at each school you are considering. Can you see yourself there for 4 years?
- Narrow down your choice and talk with admission counselors
- Sign up for Fall College visits at your high school
- Check out College Navigator @ <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- Look at [www.michigancollegeguide.com](http://www.michigancollegeguide.com)
- Look through Career Cruising @ [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)



# The Campus Visit



- Be familiar with basic information about the college.
- Call ahead for an appointment, or register online.
- Confer with an admissions official, a representative from your academic area of interest, and a financial aid officer.
- Tour the campus including classrooms, labs, library and residence halls.
- Try to visit when students are on campus.
- Attend a class and stay overnight if possible.
- Take a copy of your transcript, school profile and your resume.
- Ask tough questions.
- Keep notes.
- Revisit schools to confirm or reject.





# How Do I Apply?



- **APPLY online.** All four year college websites are available at [www.uticahigh.org /counseling](http://www.uticahigh.org/counseling), [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)
  - Go to the admissions page
  - Apply to 3-5 colleges
- Expect a 6+ week turn around.
- It may take up to 12 weeks to receive a response from the more competitive schools.
- Register with Docufide by Parchment to send your transcripts electronically at [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com)



# Community College vs. University



- Community College is a great start
  - Chance to improve your GPA
  - Save time, money
  - HAVE A PLAN IF YOU WANT A BACHELOR DEGREE
    - ✦ **Know which college or university you plan to transfer to after MCC to make sure everything transfers. Talk with advisors at both schools.**
- College
  - An educational institution offering a Bachelor Degree and possibly a few graduate degrees.
- University
  - An educational institution offering Bachelor, Master and/or Doctorate Degrees.

# College 101 – Undergraduate Degree



- What are the different types of degrees? Which is required for the career that you want?
  - **Certificate** – Not a full degree, but a select group of courses that may allow you to join the workforce at the entry level.
  - **Associate's Degree** – A degree that can be obtained at the Community College – usually 62-65 credits. (AS, AA)
  - **Bachelor's Degree** – A degree that can be obtained at the College or University Level – usually 124-128 credits. (BS, BA)

# College 101 – Graduate Degree



## What are the different types of graduate degrees?

- **Master's Degree** – An additional degree obtained after a Bachelor's Degree. Usually an additional two years. (MSN, MBA, MSW)



- **Doctorate/Professional Degree** – A professional degree obtained after three - four additional years of college. (MD, DDS, DVM, PhD)

# Just because you are accepted...



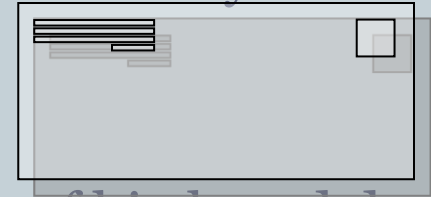
- Final transcripts will be requested – so keep your grades up.
  - Universities can, and do, rescind/revoke offers of acceptance
- After you've decided which school you'll be attending, notify in writing the other schools that have accepted you of your final decision.



# Letters of Recommendation



- Letters of recommendation
  - If the college does not require it, do not let it delay completing your application.
  - More letters are coming in via email.
  - Have the person put your full name, date of birth and date of enrollment. **NEVER** put your social security # on any electronic correspondence.
  - The best teachers to ask for recommendations letters are your junior teachers. They know you.
    - Allow at least three weeks for them to write a letter and provide them with a list of your academic achievement and your volunteer/extracurricular activities. Include an addressed stamped envelop if mailing. *Send your teacher a thank you note.*



# Essays



- Essays
  - Required vs. Recommended
    - Most of your English teachers are willing to read through your essay and make suggestions.
    - Spell check is fine, but there's a difference between "Knight" and "night".
    - You are NOT texting. "You" is not "u".
    - This could be your opportunity to explain a bad turn in your grades, your personal goals and more. This is your **"voice"** on the application.



# Admission Decisions



- **Accepted** – Congratulations!
- **Denied** - This is why we recommend applying to at least 3 schools. Always have a back-up plan
- **Deferred** – A college may want to see your seventh semester (first semester senior year) grades to determine if you meet admission requirements
- **Wait Listed** - You will only be accepted for enrollment from a waitlist if a significant number of students who are admitted choose not to enroll. Put a deposit at your second choice school.



# When Do I Decide?



- Wait to see what your financial aid package contains. If you file in January, you will be notified in late February or early March.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to make a non-refundable deposit to hold your spot –***don't wait that late.***
  - Once you send in a deposit you can select your housing and arrange for your orientation. The earlier the better!
  - Notify the other schools of your decision.



# Paying for College



500 BIZZILLION DOLLARS IN  
SCHOLARSHIPS GO  
UNCLAIMED EACH YEAR



# Paying for College



- **FAFSA** = Free Application for Federal Student Aid
  - Complete the form online in January-February of your **senior year**. And every year before March 1<sup>st</sup> while you are in college.
  - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  - [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov) – to estimate your eligibility for federal student aid.



# Scholarships/Financial Aid



- Need-based / Merit-based
- Never pay for scholarship opportunities
- Be thorough and persistent
- Clarify financial assets / need
- Resources: Counselor/Career Center, internet, businesses, service clubs, publications, place of employment



# Paying for College



- Scholarships = your time and effort
  - Set up a separate email account @ yahoo or hotmail
- [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org) – Check the scholarship listing monthly
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [www.findtuition.com](http://www.findtuition.com)
- [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com) – Financial Aid Selector
- [www.going2college.org](http://www.going2college.org)
- [www.careersandcolleges.com](http://www.careersandcolleges.com)
- [www.finaid.com](http://www.finaid.com)
- [www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com)



# College “Lingo”



## WHAT IS A CREDIT HOUR?

Math class = 4 credits (Meet 4 hours each week)

**For every hour in class add two-three hours for homework.**

4 credit class = 4 hours in class + 8-12 hours of homework weekly or 12-16 hours each week for one class.

**LEARN TO MANAGE YOUR TIME EFFECTIVELY!**

# Major vs. Minor?



- **What is a Major? (required)**

- A subject (biology) or field of study (business) chosen by a student to represent his or her principal interest
- On average a major requires 30-39 credits

*About 80% change their major at least once. On average, college students change their major three times over the course of their college career. The most popular major today is “undecided.”*



- **What is a Minor?**

- A subject or field of study chosen by a student that directly correlates to their Major selection, or it could be something in a completely different study or subject
- On average, a minor requires 20-25 credits
- Additional credits are taken in general education and electives to meet the graduation requirements

# How To Be Successful in College



## ○ Organization

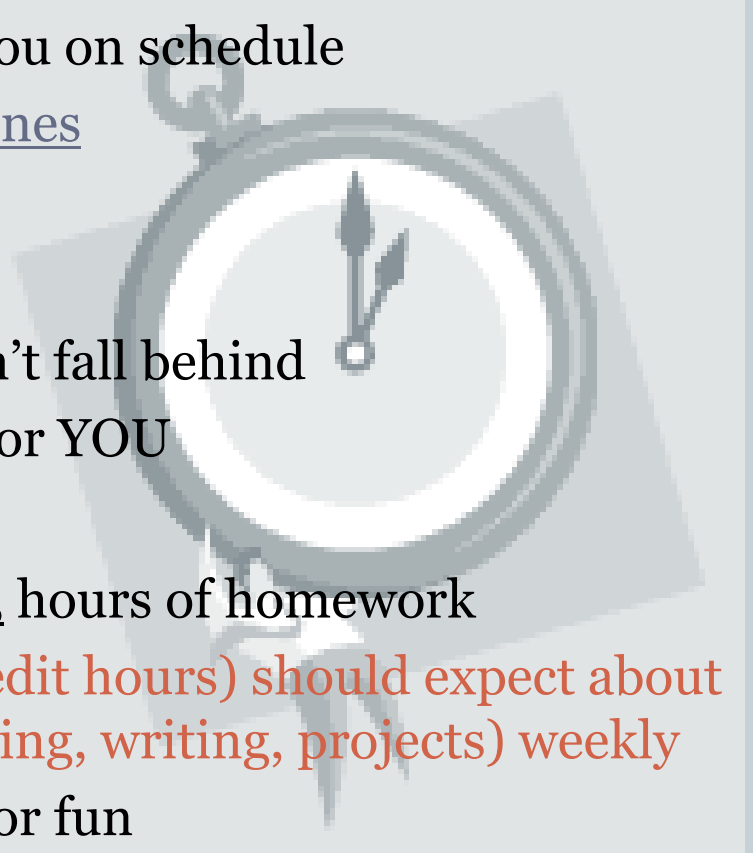
- ✦ A planner/white board will keep you on schedule
  - Note all assignments and deadlines
- ✦ A designated place to study

## ○ Be your own Advocate

- ✦ ASK FOR HELP if you need it, don't fall behind
- ✦ Remember, YOU are responsible for YOU

## ○ Good Time Management

- ✦ For every hour in class, expect **2-3** hours of homework
  - Full time student (at least 12 credit hours) should expect about 24-36 hours of homework (reading, writing, projects) weekly
- ✦ Balance - time for studying/time for fun
- ✦ Get involved





# Have Questions? Need Help?



- Ask your counselor
  - ✦ Mrs. Marcy Peterson – A-Gol
  - ✦ Dr. Lorne Perry – Gom-Og
  - ✦ Mrs. Annemarie Carabelli – Oh-Z
- Ask your Career Development Facilitator
  - ✦ Mrs. Wynn at Utica
  - ✦ Mrs. Pugliese at Eisenhower
  - ✦ Mrs. Gow at Stevenson
  - ✦ Mrs. Fletemier at Ford
- Talk with your parents or family members
- Talk with your teachers

# Tips from a college admission advisor



1. ESPN's football/basketball rankings should **not** be used when choosing a college—your admission has no bearing on the team's performance.
2. The longer you wait to apply, the longer it takes to hear back.
3. Don't ask Admissions Counselors about getting on the (insert sport) team—we do not work for them.

Only 3% of all high school athletes in the U.S. get any form of athletic scholarship to a division II school or higher.
4. **You are responsible for **YOU****—Make all the calls, ask the questions---not Mom and Dad.
5. Your application essays are important, they may be used for scholarship purposes, so invest some time in them. Be Honest!
6. Do not buy into “College Rankings”—There are just as many good schools as there are good students—it's about the “fit” of the school.
7. There is a misperception that plagues Community Colleges; how you get to college will be different, but everyone graduates the same way.
8. Have your own reasons for choosing a college—your parents, brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles all had their own—so should you.

# Education Pays



## Education pays:

