 CHECKLIST for COLLEGE-BOUND SOPHOMORES 

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|  | Start a file or folder – save EVERYTHING pertaining to college admissions. All colleges are different. Compare entrance requirements, cost, size, unique programs, facilities, and your intended field of study, athletics and extracurricular activities. You can attend up to three (3) college visits in the fall. See the posters outside of the cafeteria, counseling office or main office for specific dates and times, they will go up in early September. |
|  | Explore colleges, careers and update interest and career inventories on Naviance/Family Connection at [www.naviance.com](http://www.naviance.com). Take the time to check out the College Planning Timeline. |
|  | Meet with up to three college representatives at Utica High. Look at the posters and register online at [www.naviance.com](http://www.naviance.com). Use your computer login as your email/password. Click on the College tab. View upcoming College Visits and “sign up” for no more than three college presentations. |
|  | Visit the Counseling Website at <http://uhs.uticak12.org>. Information on careers, colleges/universities, scholarships & financial aid, monthly counseling notes and other website links are available. |
|  | Research colleges by going online to their websites. Check to make sure they have your desired program of study as well as their admission requirements. Websites can be found at Utica High’s Counseling website. |
|  | Discuss colleges with parents, counselors, teachers, college alumni and friends currently enrolled. |
|  | Sign up for courses which will make up a challenging college preparatory schedule for your junior and senior year. Remember that colleges look for 4 years of English, Math, Science AND Social Studies, plus two years of a World Language on your transcript. College base decisions on your sophomore/junior year curriculum and grades. |
|  | Take the PSAT in the fall. This is a practice SAT. Check with the admissions office of the college you plan to attend to inquire which college entrance exam (ACT or SAT) they would prefer. |
|  | C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Media\CntCD1\ClipArt6\j0291930.wmfBegin or continue your involvement in volunteer and extracurricular activities. |
|  | Visit colleges when possible during your vacation. Or, go visit older siblings or relatives currently attending a college/university. Call at least two weeks in advance to make arrangements for a campus visit. Ask if you can sit in on a class. |
|  | Talk about college finances.  Discuss family finances with your parents.  C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Media\CntCD1\ClipArt2\j0217282.wmfHave parents check employers, church and organizations to which they belong.  Check with the financial aid office at college(s) you are planning to attend.  File a FAFSA application online in early January or February of your **senior year**.  Books, computer software, etc. are available at the local library.  Complete the Financial Aid Selector in Career Cruising. |
|  | Attend College Fairs –held at Macomb County Community College in the fall or the UCS fair in the spring. The UCS College Fair is scheduled for April 13, 2016 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Henry Ford II High School. |
|  | Attend the Career Expo – taking place mid-March from 7-9 pm at Eisenhower High School. |
|  | Potential college student athletes must comply with **NCAA Requirements**. See your coach then your counselor and visit [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) for details. |

What Do Colleges Want?

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| --- | --- |
| Michigan Graduation Requirements | College Preparatory Curriculum  *Information from University of Michigan and Michigan State College Prep Guides* |
| * 4 years English * 4 years Math (Geometry, Algebra 1 & 2 and a Senior Math) * 3 years Science (Biology and Chemistry or Physics) * 3 years Social Studies (World History, US History, US Government and Economics) * 1 Physical Education and Health credit * 1 Visual, Performing and Applied Arts credit * Online Learning Experience * 2 years of a World Language for students graduating in 2016 and beyond | * 4 years English * 4 years Math (Geometry, Algebra 1 & 2, Precalculus/Calculus or Statistics) * 4 years Science * 4 years Social Studies *preferred* * 2-3 years of a World Language *recommended* (*some schools may require this*) * 1-2 Visual, Performing and Applied Arts Credits preferred * AP & Honors classes * 1 year Computer Literacy *recommended* |

* Student GPA (Grade Point Average) begins in 9th grade. Most colleges prefer at least a 3.0 GPA and a 1050/SAT or 22/ACT.
* Study hard and challenge yourself academically. Take AP and Honors classes in classes that interest you – this adds “rigor” to your schedule. But remember to take AP classes that match your strengths.
* Strong SAT or ACT score. Consider taking the SAT *and/or* ACT as a sophomore and learn what your strengths and weaknesses are so you can be better prepared for the March state-wide test. Colleges like to see more than one score for the students, this shows initiative and the willingness to try again to improve your score.
* Discuss the costs of college with your family. Create a financial plan for your post-secondary education.

 **COLLEGE VISITS**

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| The best way to gain information about a school is to visit the campus and talk with students as well as admissions personnel, financial aid personnel, students and faculty. |
| The next best way to learn about a school is to talk to college representatives when they visit Utica High in the fall or attend the UCS College Fair in the spring. Beginning in mid-September, a number of college admission representatives visit the Career Center. Some recruiters just come to talk about their college, while other recruiters may accept your application on-site with a quick decision to follow. All Utica students are encouraged to register for up to three college presentations each school year. This is done online at [www.naviance.com](http://www.naviance.com), using your computer login as your email/password. Click on the College tab. View upcoming College Visits and “sign up” for no more than three college presentations. Mark the date and time in your planner – no reminder passes are provided. |
| When visiting a college campus, arrange your college visit with the college Admissions Department in advance. This can be done online or through a phone conversation.   * Notify the attendance office and your teachers of the date you will be gone. * Have questions ready for the campus visit. |
| Colleges are happy to have you visit, but you must prepare before you visit in order to make it worthwhile. Here are some suggestions.   1. The best visit includes seeing the campus while college is in session (September through April), but not during holiday breaks. This allows high school students to observe classes in session, possibly spend a night in a dorm, and talk with students, admissions and financial aid officers and faculty members in their area of interest. Students can register for a tour online or by contacting the Admissions office. If students want to talk with faculty, this may require students to register a few weeks in advance. 2. If your application is not on file at the college (or you are a sophomore or junior), obtain a copy of your unofficial transcript to take with you. 3. Research the college before you visit. Use Naviance/Family Connection, listen to the recruiters when they come to UHS in the fall, or view the college website for information. 4. Visit the city/neighborhood in which the college is located. Look for transportation facilities (buses/ train) and banking institutions. If possible, gather information about housing near campus for later years. 5. Check out the food service and student union. While there, talk with students about why they chose the school. Also read the campus newspaper to learn about campus issues. |
| Make sure you understand the admission requirements and deadlines.   * GPA * SAT or ACT score – is the writing portion needed? * Letters of recommendation * Essay |
| Check out the opportunities for financial aid and scholarships and note the deadlines. |

MC900088594[1] **COLLEGE COMPARISON WORKSHEET **

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School Attributes** | **School #1** | **School #2** | **School #3** | **School #4** |
| Affiliation: Public; private; religious-affiliated; single sex, ethnically affiliated |  |  |  |  |
| Student population: Very small (< 1,000); small (1,000-3,999); medium (4,000-8,999); large (9,000-19,999); very large (20,000+) |  |  |  |  |
| Distance from home: < 1-hr. drive, 1-4 hr drive, 4-8 hr drive, plane ride or train trip |  |  |  |  |
| Type of campus: residential or commuter |  |  |  |  |
| Community: urban, suburban or rural |  |  |  |  |
| General Curriculum: liberal arts, technical, vocational, professional |  |  |  |  |
| Campus activities in which I plan to participate: sports, music, theatre, clubs, student government, Greek life, etc. |  |  |  |  |
| Specialized programs: honors, special-needs services, study abroad, graduate and professional, distance learning, online learning. |  |  |  |  |
| Computers: wireless access, computer labs, school distribution of individual laptops |  |  |  |  |
| Will research facilities (libraries, labs, equipment) support my course of study? Available to undergraduates? |  |  |  |  |
| Do professors teach courses? Grad Assistants? |  |  |  |  |
| Are my majors of interest offered? |  |  |  |  |
| Am I required to live on campus? If so, for how many years? |  |  |  |  |
| Housing: single dorms, shared rooms, off-campus, married housing, fraternities/sororities, smoke-free, special-need accessible |  |  |  |  |
| Can I have a car on campus? Yes - annual cost? |  |  |  |  |
| How much will this school cost per year (tuition, room/board, books, supplies, transportation)? |  |  |  |  |
| Are work-study, grants, scholarships or loans available to bridge the gap? |  |  |  |  |

**Register for the SAT®**

**Remember to use the FREE “*Prep Me”* Resource, available on the home page of your Naviance/Family Connection account to prepare for this test. Sign in at** [**www.naviance.com**](http://www.naviance.com) **and use your computer login as your email / password.**

**Register Online at https://sat.collegeboard.org**

**The quickest and easiest way to register!**

Choose your test date and test center in real time; get immediate registration confirmation; get 24-hour access to registration for printing or correcting your Admission Ticket

**You must provide a photo with your registration, which will become part of your Admission Ticket.** By providing your photograph, you help us to ensure the integrity of the test administration for all students. [**Learn more about how we may use your photo.**](https://sat.collegeboard.org/register/test-security-and-fairness) **Note**: You are responsible for ensuring your photo meets the requirements below. Successful upload of your photo only indicates that it meets the technical requirements (correct file type and size). It **does not** indicate that your photo is acceptable for test day (e.g., recognizable as you, no sunglasses, no other people, etc.)

Photos must be properly focused with a full-face view, be clearly identifiable as you, and match your appearance on test day. You will have the opportunity to crop and reposition your photo after uploading it. **If you are not easily recognizable in your photo, you will not be admitted to the test center.**

**Register by Mail**

Certain situations require that you register by mail. You should use mail registration if you:

* Paying by check or money order (payable to "The College Board")
* [Registering for Sunday](http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/special-circumstances#sundayTestingDetails) testing for the first time due to a religious observance
* [Requesting that we open a test center nearer to your home](http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/special-circumstances#closeToHomeDetails)
* Unable to upload a digital photo of yourself as part of the online registration process.

To register by mail, you'll need an *SAT Paper Registration Guide*, which is available at your school counselor's office. A registration form and return envelope are included with the *SAT Paper Registration Guide*. When completing the application, you may need a College Board code number for college majors, college and scholarship programs, test centers, high schools or countries. To find these numbers, use our [Code Search](http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-code-search) tool or the code list in your counselor's office. The SAT is offered seven times each year in the U.S. and six times internationally.

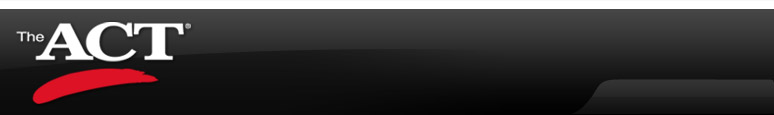
***It is offered in October, November, December, January, March (U.S. only; SAT only), May and June.  Dates have yet to be published.***

School Year Ending 2016 (i.e. 2015-2016)

This year's test dates, normal registration deadlines, late registration deadlines, and score availability are posted below.  *The dates below are based on our highly reliable institutional sources* (e.g. official schools, testing centers) who are in direct official communication with College Board, *even though the dates may not yet be posted on the Official College Board site.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Test Date** | **Normal Deadline** | **Late Registration** | **Online Score Release** |
| October 3, 2015 | September 2, 2015 | September 18, 2015 | October 22, 2015 |
| November 7, 2015 | October 1, 2015 | October 23, 2015 | November 26, 2015 |
| December 5, 2015 | November 6, 2015 | November 20, 2015 | December 24, 2015 |
| January 23, 2016 | December 25, 2015 | January 8, 2016 | February 11, 2016 |
| March 5, 2016 \* | January 29, 2016 | February 12, 2016 | March 24, 2016 |
| May 7, 2016 \* | April 8, 2016 | April 22, 2016 | May 26, 2016 |
| June 4, 2016 \* | May 6, 2016 | May 20, 2016 | June 23, 2016 |

Copied on May 15, 2015 from: <http://blog.prepscholar.com/sat-test-dates-2015-2016>



**How do you sign up for the ACT? YES, you can still take it. Most schools accept both. Just check to see which test is tied to their scholarships.**

[**Online registration**](http://www.actstudent.org/account/) **is the fastest method.** You will know immediately if your preferred test center has space for you to test and can print your admission ticket. How you sign up depends on where and how you plan to test: please see below for how to register.

**Reminder: You need to** [**register by mail**](http://www.actstudent.org/forms/stud_req.html) **only if you are** [**younger than 13**](http://www.actstudent.org/regist/jrhigh.html) **or cannot pay by credit card.**

* If you plan to test at a [national or international test center](http://www.actstudent.org/regist/centers.html), sign up online by creating or logging in to your [student Web account](http://www.actstudent.org/account/)
* If you are requesting [extended time](http://www.act.org/aap/disab/opt2.html) or [other accommodations](http://www.act.org/aap/disab/opt1.html) for the first time, sign up online by creating or logging in to your [student Web account](http://www.actstudent.org/account/) or [register by mail](http://www.actstudent.org/forms/stud_req.html) **in addition to** completing the application request and submitting required documentation.
* If you missed the late registration deadline, you may [request standby testing](http://www.actstudent.org/regist/standbytest.html) by creating a Web account and completing a downloadable request form.
* If you are [homebound or confined](http://www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/confined.html), cannot find a test center within 50 miles of your home (U.S. and Canada) or in your country (other locations), or you need a [Non-Saturday test center](http://www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/nonsat.html) and one is not established within 50 miles of your home (or in your country if outside the U.S. or Canada), on **all test dates**, check the requirements for [Arranged Testing](http://www.act.org/aap/pdf/arranged.pdf)
* Uploaded Photo requirements: Your photo must be a clear image of you (not blurry, grainy, or fuzzy) against a plain, light-colored background. The photo must be a head and shoulders shot of you—and only you. If your photo shows more than your head and shoulders, it will be rejected. You must use a portrait, not landscape, photo that is correctly oriented. You must be facing the camera. You cannot wear dark glasses. If you wear a head covering daily for religious reasons, adjust it to provide a full-face view.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | **Test Date** | **Registration Deadline** | **(Late Fee Required)** | | --- | --- | --- | | September 12, 2015 | August 7, 2015 | August 8–21, 2015 | | October 24, 2015 | September 18, 2015 | September 19–October 2, 2015 | | December 12, 2015 | November 6, 2015 | November 7–20, 2015 | | February 6, 2016\* | January 8, 2016 | January 9–15, 2016 | | April 9, 2016 | March 4, 2016 | March 5–18, 2016 | | June 11, 2016\*\* | May 6, 2016 | May 7–20, 2016 |   \*\*See Non-Saturday testing for information related to this test date. |

Information taken from [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) on May 5, 2015.



***UTICA HIGH COLLEGE PRESENTATIONS – 2015***

***All UHS students are invited to attend***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **College** | **Date** | **Day** | **Hour** | **Location** |
| Michigan State University | Sep 23 | Wed | 3rd | ECC |
| Lake Superior State | Sep 24 | Thu | 2nd | Counseling Conference Room |
| University of Michigan – Dearborn | Sep 24 | Thu | 6th | Counseling Conference Room |
| Bowling Green State University | Sep 28 | Mon | 1st | Counseling Conference Room |
| Albion College | Sep 28 | Mon | 3rd | Counseling Conference Room |
| Central Michigan University | Sep 29 | Tue | 4th A/B | ECC |
| Michigan Technological University | Sep 29 | Tue | 6th | Counseling Conference Room |
| Western Michigan University | Sep 30 | Wed | 3rd | ECC |
| Northern Michigan University | Oct 01 | Thu | 3rd | Counseling Conference Room |
| Wayne State University | Oct 01 | Thu | 4th A/B | ECC |
| University of Michigan - Flint | Oct 05 | Mon | 5th | Counseling Conference Room |
| Grand Valley State University | Oct 06 | Tue | 2nd | ECC |
| Oakland University | Oct 06 | Tue | 6th | ECC |
| Macomb Community College | Oct 08 | Thu | 6th | ECC |
| University of Toledo | Oct 12 | Mon | 1st | Counseling Conference Room |
| University of Detroit Mercy | Oct 12 | Mon | 4th A/B | Counseling Conference Room |
| Davenport University | Oct 16 | Fri | 2nd | Counseling Conference Room |
| Madonna University | Oct 19 | Mon | 1st | Counseling Conference Room |
| Baker College | Oct 20 | Tue | 2nd | Counseling Conference Room |
| University of Michigan – Ann Arbor | Oct 22 | Thu | 4th A/B | ECC |
| College for Creative Studies | Oct 23 | Fri | 5th | Counseling Conference Room |
| Lawrence Technological University | Oct 29 | Thu | 6th | Counseling Conference Room |

*DATES and LOCATIONS are subject to change* - Please listen to morning announcements.

You need to register at least 24 hours before the visit. To register, go to <http://naviance.com> to your Naviance/Family Connection account, using your computer login as your Email/password.

Click on the College Tab and view all Upcoming College Visits. Click on SIGN ME UP.

Students may register for no more than three (3) college presentations yearly. If you don’t register, you can’t attend!

***PLEASE NOTE the date, time and place in your planner – reminder passes are not provided.***