

# College Prep Info.



FOR THE CLASS OF  
2011

# College Applications

- Apply before October 31
- Apply online – faster/more accurate
- Go to college website
  - Look for “Admissions” or “Future Students” or “Prospective Students” section

[www.wmich.edu](http://www.wmich.edu)

# Components of the Application

(Some-but not all may include these)

- Personal information
- Activities/honors
- Leadership
- Community service
- Work

Student Resume – samples

# Components of the Application

- Senior schedule – both semesters
- Intended major – “undecided” is a choice
- High school transcript
- ACT / SAT Scores  
MSU, U of M, etc. require “official” scores

# Components of the Application

## ■ Essay / Personal Statement \*

College Admission Essay

<http://careernetwork.msu.edu/advanceddegrees/writing-a-personal-statement>

<http://www.admissions.umich.edu/essay/>

Have English teacher or counselor proof all college essays

\*not required by all colleges

# Components of the Application

## ■ Counselor Recommendation \*

- Sometimes called the Secondary School Report or Counselor Certification (print off page from on-line application)

## ■ Teacher Recommendation \*

- Request 3 – 4 weeks in advance
- Provide student resume
- Follow up with teacher to ensure letter was sent or delivered to counseling

\* Not required by all colleges / universities

# College Applications

- The Common Application – 350 schools use

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

Some schools (U of M) may require application be in this format only

# What's Most Important to Colleges?

## ■ Rigor of High School Curriculum

- Did you challenge yourself?
- Most schools look at all four years, not recalculated
- Senior year counts!

## ■ Test Scores

- [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) / [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (SAT)

## ■ Grade Point Average (Recalculated)

- English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language
- Is there a trend in grades....upward or downward?

# Recalculating Your GPA

- Include only academic courses:
  - English, math, social studies, science and foreign language
- Grade equals:
  - A = 4 points
  - B = 3 points
  - C = 2 points
  - D = 1 point
- Add point values for each class and divide by number of classes to obtain recalculated GPA



# What Else Is Important to Colleges?

- Personal Statement / Essay (if part of application)
- High School Honors and Awards
- Involvement in Extracurricular Activities
  - School and Community
  - Leadership
  - Work Experience
- Unique Background / Experiences
  - Successful in spite of major obstacles
- Recommendations (if required)

# The Bottom Line?

- Colleges seek to admit student that will :
  - Eventually graduate from their institution
  - Expand and develop intellectually and personally while contributing to the campus community



# MI Colleges

## What They Look For

- Wayne State
  - 21 ACT and 2.75 GPA
  - 87% admit rate
- Oakland University
  - 2.5 recalculated GPA
  - 81% admit rate
- Western Michigan
  - 22 ACT and 3.25 GPA
  - 86% admit rate
- Central Michigan
  - 22 ACT and 3.3 GPA recalculated
  - 70% admit rate
- Grand Valley State
  - 3.5 GPA (3.1 GPA recalculated) and 24 ACT
  - 78% admit rate
- Michigan State
  - 3.44 – 3.85 (middle 50%) GPA recalculated and 25 ACT
  - 72.5% admit rate
- University of Michigan
  - 3.9 GPA for all four years and 28 - 32 ACT
  - 41% admit rate



[www.umich.edu](http://www.umich.edu)

- U of M Early Response Deadline
  - Postmarked by 11/1/10
  - Admission decision by 12/24/10
    - Admit, Deny, Defer
- 2010-11 Application
  - Available online 1<sup>st</sup> week of August 2010
- 2010-11 Short Answer Questions
  - Available online by June 2010 ?
- 2010-11 Teacher Recommendation
  - Available online by June 2010 ?

[CCS Financial Aid Profile](#)

<https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>



[www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu)

## ■ MSU Early Notification (by invitation only)

- Based on GPA and ACT score
- To become eligible, send ACT score
- Application Deadline - mid October
- Admission decision in December 2010
  - Admit, Deny, Hold for 7<sup>th</sup> Semester Grades

## ■ 2010-11 Application

- Available online 1<sup>st</sup> week of August

# Private Schools

- Don't rule out based on cost!
- Typically have more aid to give than public schools
  - More grants and scholarships
  - Some will meet 100% of need based aid

# Community College...A good option?

- Yes, if.....
  - You are not quite ready to leave home
  - You have below a 2.5 grade point average
  - You want to save money
  - Your career choice requires a certificate or associates degree
  
- Macomb Community College.....
  - Open-admission institution
  - More than 120 programs
  - Largest feeder school to MI colleges / universities
  
  - Transfer Equivalencies

# Guess whose college admission office this is?



# Random (Important) Thoughts.....

- You (the student) are responsible for completing college applications and knowing the deadlines...not your parents
- Create a professional email address
- Facebook and MySpace-be very careful what is posted
- Schedule changes 2<sup>nd</sup> semester could have adversely affect your acceptance: no changes after the first two weeks of the class





# NCAA Eligibility



# Thinking of Playing Sports in College?

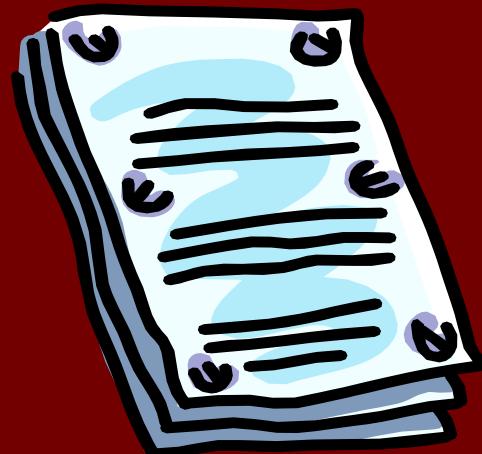
- Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at the end of junior year  
[https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/f3\\_main.jsp](https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/f3_main.jsp)
- Submit transcript requests to counselor
- Talk to your coach
- Keep track of your statistics throughout the year (swimming, track, cross country, etc.)
- Let college coaches know you are interested in playing sports (college website)

# Financial Aid



# Types of Financial Aid

- Grants (do not have to be repaid)
- Loans (must be repaid)
  - Subsidized
  - Unsubsidized
- Scholarships (do not have to be repaid)
- Work-Study



# How do I Apply for Financial Aid?

- In January 2011:
  - Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Student Aid Report (SAR) indicates Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- Colleges send Financial Aid Packages (March 2011)
  - Each school will be different
- Regina Financial Aid Night in Fall 2010; TBD

# Scholarships



# The “Skinny” on Scholarships

- College Application = Scholarship Application
- Most student aid comes from grants and loans
- Looking for scholarships takes time and patience
- Prepare early: most scholarships are based on grades, community service, financial need
- Regina has some “local” scholarships – refer to “Counselors’ Notes”

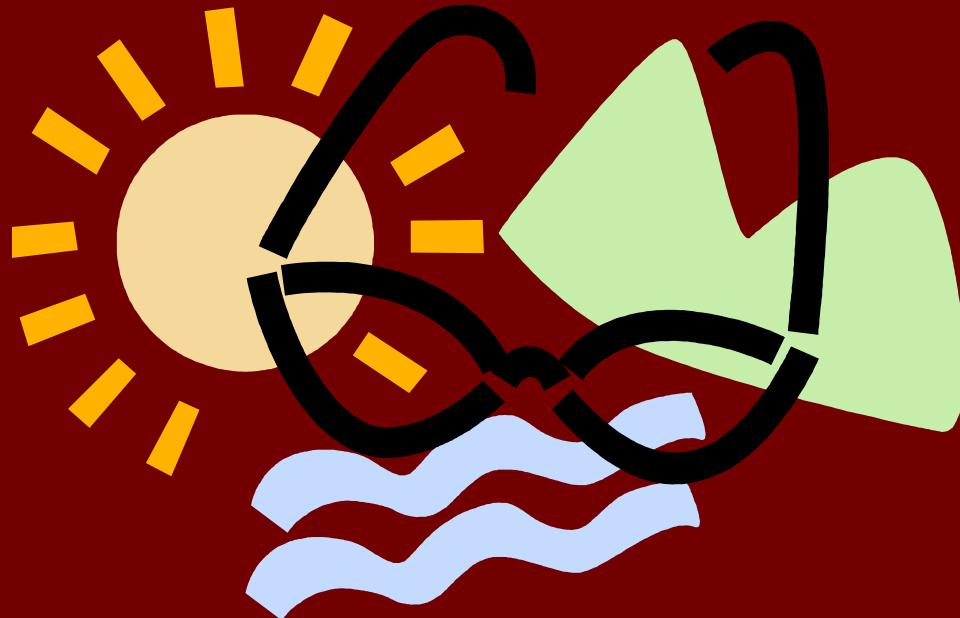
# Develop a Scholarship Strategy

- Check membership organizations and employers
- Use a FREE scholarship search service:
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - [www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com)
  - [www.meritaid.com](http://www.meritaid.com)
  - [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- Check out Regina's Counselors' Notes bi-weekly

# Senior Year Timeline

- Sept – Oct. 2010
  - apply to colleges
  - apply for scholarships
- Oct - Jan 2011
  - receive college decisions
  - apply for scholarships
  - complete the FAFSA at  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Jan. 2011
- Feb - April 2011
  - receive college decisions
  - financial aid packages
  - apply for scholarships
- April - May 2011
  - review college decisions
  - review financial aid packages
  - make decision
- May 1, 2011
  - universal college acceptance deadline

# Summer Break



# What can you do over the summer?

- Research colleges online
- Visit campuses
- Begin / complete applications
  - Create a folder for each college for deadlines, rough drafts, notes, important dates, etc.
  - Complete rough draft before completing online application
- Work on essay / short answer responses
- Search for scholarships
- Create a student resume

# Helpful Resources

- Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges
  - Frederick E. Rugg
- Colleges That Change Lives
  - Loren Pope
- Peterson's Best College Admissions Essays
  - Stewart and Muchnick
- College Board Books
  - College Handbook
  - Book of Majors
  - Scholarship Handbook
  - Getting Financial Aid

# Helpful Resources

- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [www.meritaid.com](http://www.meritaid.com)
- [www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com)
- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- [www.schoolsoup.com](http://www.schoolsoup.com)
- College Navigator
  - [http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/](http://nces.ed.gov-collegenavigator/)

# Questions or Comments