

HHS College Prep Timeline



JUNIORS

Fall

- Visit with college reps at HHS
- Take PSAT given in Oct. (National Merit Qualifier)
- Create a college search file at home
- Explore financial aid and scholarship websites
- Attend Holland Area College Night and/or Grand Rapids Area College Fair

Winter

- Meet with counselor for Junior Interview
- Consider registering for CTC program or Future Prep'd
- Create a list of prospective colleges
- Determine admissions requirements for prospective college(s) (ie. GPA and test score requirements)
- Do SAT and/or ACT test prep
- Take SAT and/or ACT, if desired

Spring

- Take SAT during MME testing at HHS
- Further research prospective colleges
- Visit prospective colleges
- Attend National College Fair @ DeVos Place
- Re/Take SAT and/or ACT, if desired

Summer

- Consider summer employment
- Re/Take SAT and/or ACT, if desired
- Continue to research and visit colleges
- Enroll in summer enrichment programs
- Job shadow, volunteer, continue to find worth pursuits you may include on a resume or in an application
- Determine admission and scholarship deadlines for prospective colleges
- Research the application site and process for prospective colleges

SENIORS

Fall

- Senior Audits & Interview with counselor
- Retake ACT/SAT, if desired
- Narrow college choices to 3 – 6
- Request recommendations from teachers in person or through the Common Application
- Attend College Application Week the last week of October to receive help from counselors
- **APPLY BY NOV 1** for best admissions options. Early Decisions deadlines are usually November 1
- Fill out FAFSA beginning October 1

Winter

- Remain focused!
- Send 10th trimester transcripts to applied-to colleges
- Submit enrollment deposits and housing information to admitted colleges, as needed

Spring

- **May 1st: Accept or reject admit offers**
- Visit colleges that have offered admittance
- Compare financial aid packages that arrive mid-April
- Take applicable AP exams
- Request final transcripts be sent in June to your college of choice

SAT/ACT Test Cycle

SAT

sat.collegeboard.org

August
October
November
December
March
April (at HHS for MME)
May
June

ACT

actstudent.org

September
October
December
February
April
May
June
July

Planning a College Visit

1. For prospective colleges
-consider admissions requirements (i.e. GPA, test scores), academic programs offered, expense, scholarships, location, overall school environment
 2. Schedule visit online with admissions office
 3. Parent calls HHS Attendance Office for absence (1 school related absence for visits per year)
- VISIT WHILE COLLEGE CLASSES ARE IN SESSION TO SEE CAMPUS IN ACTION!**

College Planning

Resources at a Glance

HHS Counselors:

Becky Dawson (A-De)
Carrie Thomas (Df-H)
Rick Bolhuis (I - Mn)
Erica Hoff (Mo-So)
Liesel Kennedy (Sp-Z)

College and Career Resources

Scholarships

- HHS Scholarship Info Page.....hudsonvillepublicschools.org/hudsonvillehigh/guidance ... find link for *Scholarships/Financial Aid*
- On *Scholarships/Financial Aid* page find link for *The Hudsonville Scholarship File*
- *Project Scholarship Scam*.....ftc.gov/scholarshipscams
- *Scholarship Search Engines*.....fastweb.com OR chegg.com

Common Application and Coalition Application

Hundreds of colleges subscribe to “application clearinghouses” which streamline student information regarding demographics, education, activities, and testing into one location which students can then choose where to disseminate. Not all colleges participate in these programs and it is up to the student to determine whether their college(s) of interest are members. The student should then create an account with one or both of the organizations.

Coalition Application.....mycoalition.org

Common Application.....commonapp.org

If you create a Common or a Coalition Application account, it must be linked to your school counselor's email.

HHS College Application Process

1. **Confirm DEADLINES.** The timeline for submitting an application depends on the college.
2. **Request your SAT and/ or ACT TEST SCORES be sent to prospective colleges.** Do so through listing the colleges of interest during SAT or ACT test registration. Or, for an additional fee, make an online request through the testing agency website. You MUST contact ACT or College Board (SAT) directly in order to have scores sent.
3. Complete and submit online application for each college.
4. Request Transcripts through Parchment at parchment.com. (Note: Applications you process through Common App/Coalition App are sent by linking to your counselor's email.)
5. Apply for FSA ID & fill out FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

College Admissions Testing Information

ACT

actstudent.org

SAT/PSAT/AP

collegeboard.com

Practice Tests/Test Prep

khanacademy.org

march2success.com

Financial Aid Information

FAFSA (Free Application For Federal Student Aid)

fafsa.ed.gov

CSS Profile

profileonline.collegeboard.com

Federal Student Aid

studentaid.ed.gov

MI Student Aid

michigan.gov/mistudentaid

Scholarship Research Tips

1. Confirm scholarship/financial aid opportunities and process with colleges of interest.
2. Check HHS website for updates to local scholarships.

Letters of Recommendation

Send letters of recommendation ONLY to colleges that request them, OR if student experienced a special and/or unusual circumstance during high school career that requires explanation.

Requesting letters from HHS teachers

Ask the teacher in person and always remember thank them afterwards.