



Choosing A College

A tough choice....



The many topics of today's presentation:

*Feel free to ask questions
along the way.

- Factors in choosing a college
 - Reasons for going to college
 - Narrowing down options
 - Questions to ask
 - Final decisions
-

What factors are important in making a college choice?

- Location
- Environment
- Size
- Admission Requirements
- Academics
- College Expenses
- Housing
- Facilities
- Activities
- Campus Visits

Admission Requirements:

Be sure to know the deadlines for the schools you are considering.

Know what tests are required for admission.

Understand what test scores the school desires as well as GPA and rank.

Are there any other special requirements that the school requires for admission.

Location:

Things to consider when thinking about location:

- **Distance from home:** What are you looking for with the distance from home? Are you needing/wanting to be close or further away?

Adrian: 4 Hours 35 Minutes
Ferris State: 3 Hours 15 Minutes
Grand Valley: 4 Hours 11 Minutes
Michigan-Ann Arbor: 3 Hours 47 Minutes
Saginaw Valley: 2 Hours 30 minutes

Finlandia: 6 Hours 39 Minutes
Lake Superior State: 2 Hours 41 Minutes
Michigan Tech: 6 Hours 31 Minutes
Northern Michigan: 4 Hours 49 Minutes
Alpena CC: 5-20 Minutes

Environment:

What type of school are you looking for?

- 2-year or 4-year; public or private

What school setting are you interested in?

- Urban, rural
- What is the location and size of the nearest city?

What student body makeup are you wanting to spend time with?

- co-ed, all male, all female

Other factors:

- religious affiliations

Size

- What is the enrollment at the school you are considering? Are you looking for a

large student body,

or small, or something

in between???



- What is the physical size of the campus?
 - Are you wanting to walk around to your classes? Need a bike or take a bus? Have to drive around to get to places?
 - What fits your personality, character, needs, and wants?

Academics:

- What majors does the school offer?
- Are there special requirements for certain majors offered?
- Is the school accredited (recognized by regional or national accrediting bodies as meeting its objectives)?
- What is the student-faculty ratio?
- What is a typical class size?

College Expenses:

Things to consider:

- tuition, room and board
- estimated total budget
- application fee, deposits
- financial aid
- deadlines
- required forms
- % of student population receiving aid
- scholarships offered: renewable
- part-time employment opportunities
- debt students graduate with

Housing:

- Residence hall requirements
 - Availability; wait lists
 - types and sizes
 - food plans

Facilities:

What facilities are offered on campus?

- Academically and recreationally, what does the school offer the student?

Activities:

What activities are important for your student?

- clubs, organizations
- support services
- athletics, intramurals
- sororities/fraternities

“It’s what you do between freshman year and graduation that will determine the value of your degree!”

Visit College Campuses!

- **AHS Field Trips:**

March 15th: Alpena community College:
Liberal Arts/Transfer Programs

March 16th: Saginaw Valley State University

March 21st: Alpena Community College:
business/Computers/Public Service
Programs

March 23rd: Alpena Community College:
Medical/Health Careers

April 5th: Ferris State University

April 20th: Lake Superior State
University

May 5th: University of Michigan- Ann
Arbor

May 19th: Delta College

TRiO Talent Search College Visits

March 2016 Saginaw Valley
State University

April 2016 University of
Michigan - Flint

April 2016 Michigan
Technological University

- See your counselor or Mrs. Kurowski to see if you can attend any of these upcoming dates!

Why are you going to college?

Think about your reasons for going to college. People go to college for different reasons. What do you want to be when you 'grow up' and how will college help you get there?

College cannot be all things to all students, however with proper planning it can meet your needs and expectations. High school is the time to identify what you expect from college.

Use your interests, abilities, and preferences to help you choose a career and plan your education. USE CAREER CRUISING! :) www.careercruising.com

<https://youtu.be/29tJAgc54RA?t=574>

- Every college has different opportunities
- Don't go just to obtain a degree, that's what everyone else is doing too!
Find a way to **stand out!**
- Look for programs that inspire you and that you would like to get involved with, here are some examples:

- Peer Health
- Internships
- Greek Life
- Special Olympics
- Exchange Clubs
- Travel Abroad
- Music Clubs/Ensembles



The more organizations you are in, the more networking possibilities exist!





Study abroad: *Why?*

Safe, affordable, and a great way to stand out on a resume! Less than *10%* of all college graduates will study abroad.

Many schools allow you to use financial and scholarship(s) to pay for studying abroad. There are thousands of scholarships available to study abroad for certain majors or in certain countries.

Don't speak another language? Don't worry! Almost all classes are taught by an English speaking professor at your host school.

Faculty led study abroad is a great opportunity to explore the field that you are interested in while building relations with faculty, fellow students, and international colleagues!

What other stats are important?

<https://www.collegegreenlight.com/>

<https://www.collegeraptor.com/>

- There are many sites available to compare schools in more than just the financial or academic aspects. For example you could compare:

- Diversity
- Crime statistics
- Graduation rates
- Alumni employment rates



- Provided are two websites that allow you to gain a better understanding of a campus. You can look at the campus size, what's available around the school, and hear from former students.

Some Colleges are Free???

College of the Ozarks

Berea College in KY

Curtis institute of NY - naval academy and marine engineering

Deep Springs College, CA - for men

United States Military Academy West Point, NY

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

First Generation Students

- While 73% of 'next generation' students go to college immediately following high school, only 29% of first generation students enroll full-time in college right away.
- Only 11% of those first generation students persist and complete college within five year.
- First generation students sometimes have unique needs. Sometimes, they report, they are not even sure what questions they should be asking.
- They may have special needs in certain areas: Choosing a major, seeking help when needed, understanding academic terminology, making timely progress towards graduation, and transferring credits from another institution.

Colleges with Highest Graduation Rates in Six years

*University of Michigan - 90%

*Michigan State - 78%

*Grand Valley State - 70%

* Michigan Technological University - 66%

* Central Michigan University - 59%

Colleges with Lowest Graduation Rates

- * Lake Superior State - 42%
- * Saginaw Valley State - 39%
- * Eastern Michigan University - 38%
- * University of Michigan - Flint - 32%

Community College is an Option

- Of the 1.2 million degrees earned last year, 670,000 included community college credits to some extent.
- Community colleges market themselves as “the gateway of opportunity” by being accessible, affordable, and user-friendly.
- Use the www.macrao.org website to determine what credits will transfer

Transferring... Is it a good idea?

Yes! One of the best “scholarships” you can take advantage of is studying for one-two years at a community college. Most colleges are accepting of 100-200 level classes offered by Community Colleges, and you can always check on your future school’s website to make sure they accept that credit!

[SVSU Transfer Equivalences](#)

[Central Michigan Transfer Equivalences](#)

[Northern Michigan Transfer Equivalences](#)

Credit Hour Cost

ACC: \$120

SVSU: \$284.35

NMU:\$373

CMU: \$374

A New Website/Clearinghouse

- <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>
 - Includes data on school safety, graduation rates, costs of attendance, job placement rates, average ACT scores, diversity percentages, etc.
- www.pcsun.org: information of public schools

Academic Terminology

- What is a bachelor's Degree?
- What is an Associate's Degree?
- What is a Specialist/Doctorate Degree?
- Is it always worthwhile to get more education, i.e. to put in more years of college?
- Is getting a four-year degree still worth the investment??

Associate's vs. Bachelor's Degrees

Q: How many credits are typically needed in order to earn a Bachelor's Degree?

A: 120 or more

Q: How many credits for an Associate's Degree?

A: 60 on average

Q: How can I know for sure that my credits will transfer to another institution?

A: www.macrao.org and/or contacting the college/university's website directly

Satisfactory Progress

- In order to graduate in a timely fashion, you should take approximately 15 credits minimum per semester (4-5 classes typically.) Some programs may require extra time - 5 years for a bachelor's degree (30 credits or more per year is typical.)
- some programs may require an internship or work experience program, in which case more time may be needed to complete the degree.

Skills are not Bought!

They are learned.....

You can brush up on your skills with a free, personalized practice program from Khan Academy.

www.khanacademy.org

TOP WEBSITES FOR SENIORS:

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.macrao.org

www.alpenacc.edu

www.parchment.com

www.actstudent.org

www.commonapp.org

Apply to colleges directly using their websites.

Use www.eligibilitycenter.org for NCAA eligibility

OTHER WEBSITES OF INTEREST

www.fastweb.com

www.collegeboard.com AP scores and PSAT information

www.careercruising.com

<http://itsmilife.com>

www.michigancap.org for current college information

www.knowhow2gomichigan.org for further college planning

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

- Visit several campuses
- Apply to a few colleges
- Do a job shadowing experience if you have not already done so
- Check institutional scholarships
- Apply for federal aid after January 1st and no later than March 1st
- Compare aid packages from various schools
- Research your institution and career pathway

THANK YOU FOR COMING TONIGHT!

REMEMBER:

**DECISION-MAKING IS A
PROCESS, NOT AN EVENT!**