

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2011-2012 SENIOR PACKET

**Compiled by the Counseling Departments of:
Farmington High School
Harrison High School
North Farmington High School**

Notice of Nondiscrimination: It is the policy of the Farmington Public School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, age or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity and in employment. Inquiries concerning discrimination issues may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Legal Services at 248-489-3387. Accommodations are available for persons with visual and/or hearing impairments, please contact Special Ed at 248-888-6259. If you need assistance understanding the content of this publication or other correspondence from school, please contact the bilingual department at 248-426-2645.

SENIOR COLLEGE INFORMATION

The following packet of information will aid your application to college this fall. Please take the time to read each section prior to completing your applications. Your transcript should reflect all your current grades through summer school and also shows your cumulative GPA. This GPA will be recomputed at the end of the each term and in June.

General tips to help you gain admittance to the college of your choice are:

- Apply to your first choice school as well as a realistic placement based on your GPA and ACT/SAT score. Check the college/university websites for specific guidelines.
- Email your counselor if you need a recommendation letter. Some applications require a lengthy counselor recommendation-allow 3-5 days for completion. Be aware of application deadlines.
- Be sure that you have requested ACT or SAT to send your official test scores to colleges where you are submitting applications. Any scores sent by you or the high school are considered “unofficial scores” and colleges may only accept your “official scores” which must come directly from the testing company. If you did not request the testing company to send these scores when you took the test, you may go on-line to ACT/College Board to order official results.
- Some colleges require other test scores. Check to see if you need any of the following standardized tests: SAT Subject Tests, Advanced Placement Exams, or TOEFL (for bilingual students).
- Stay informed with HHS listservs for announcements indicating college fairs and scholarship or employment opportunities.
- All college acceptances are considered “provisional” and are based upon continued senior year performance at the same quality level. All colleges review senior grades in July and can cancel admission if your performance has significantly declined.
- All seniors and their parents should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after Jan. 1st (See page 4 of senior packet). A number of colleges do not disburse scholarship monies until this form is on record. Also, peruse scholarship applications located in the counseling office, visit various scholarship websites, and use the Career Cruising program available on all high school computers to enhance your scholarship search.
- Collegiate athletes must meet stringent NCAA academic requirements and register on-line at www.eligibilitycenter.org It would be wise for you to review your academic coursework with your counselor to make sure you are on track. Also refer to the NCAA information on page 10 in this packet.
- See your counselor or Ms. Palmer in the Media Center Office if you have questions about your college applications.
- Visit the counseling section of the HHS website for valuable college and scholarship information.
- The Counseling Center has information for most of the colleges in Michigan and many of the more popular out-of-state colleges and universities. Also, stop by Ms. Palmer’s office in the media center and take a look at the books available to borrow for information on college essays & financial aid!

MICHIGAN COLLEGE INFORMATION GUIDE

Refer to college / university websites for the most current information

The grade point average (GPA) listed on your transcript includes every class you have taken. Many of the college GPA's listed below take into consideration only the subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language. Therefore, your grade point average should be used only as a guide in considering your acceptance for a particular school. If you feel your background is questionable for a school in which you are interested, make an appointment with your counselor.

The material listed below is from our most up-to-date informational resources. Please be aware that the stated minimums **are not** exact criteria for acceptance. The difficulty of your high school class selections, your intended college major, unusual personal circumstances, etc. may raise **or** lower these minimums.

<u>College</u>	<u>Minimum GPA</u>	<u>Average GPA</u>	<u>Test Requirement</u>	<u>Minimum ACT</u>	<u>Average ACT</u>
Adrian	2.0	3.2	ACT or SAT	18	22
Albion	3.2	3.55	ACT or SAT	20	25
Alma	3.0	3.5	ACT or SAT	22	25
Central Mich.	3.0	3.3	ACT		23
Eastern Mich.	2.4	3.0	ACT or SAT	18	
Ferris State (4 yr.)	2.5	2.75	ACT	19	
Ferris State (2 yr.)	no set	none			
Grand Valley State	3.1	3.45	ACT	21	24
Hillsdale College	3.5	3.55	ACT	21	26
Hope College	3.0	3.7	ACT or SAT		27
Kalamazoo College	3.0	3.72	ACT or SAT	24	27
Kettering Univ.	3.0	3.7	ACT or SAT	24	27
Lake Superior State	2.4	2.95	ACT	18	21
Lawrence Tech.	2.5	2.8	Desired, not required	20	21
Michigan State	3.2	3.6	ACT or SAT	22	25
Michigan Tech.	3.0	3.5	ACT		25
Northwood Inst.	2.0	2.9	ACT	22	21
Northern Mich.	2.25	3.3	ACT	19	22
Oakland Comm.	(open door)		Own Test		
Oakland Univ.	2.5	3.3	ACT or SAT		23
Olivet	2.6	2.7	ACT		18
Saginaw Valley	2.5	3.2	ACT preferred	18	20.5
Univ. of Detroit	2.75	3.3	ACT or SAT	21	24
Univ. of Mich. (Ann Arbor)	3.0	3.5-3.9	ACT or SAT	24	28
Univ. of Mich. (Dearborn/Flint)	3.0	3.4	ACT or SAT	22	24
Wayne State	2.75	3.2	ACT or SAT	20	21
Western Mich.	2.5	3.2	ACT	17	22

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	The FAFSA is free of cost. Completion of the form is required by most colleges and scholarship services before a student will be considered for financial aid. It is suggested that you apply on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov but forms are also available in the counseling office in January. The FAFSA can't be completed until after Jan. 1st of the senior year. The deadline for Michigan is 3-1-12, the Federal deadline is 6-30-12. Make sure you adhere to the deadlines. The FAFSA is used to apply for: The Pell Grant Program (a federal program) State of Michigan Scholarship or Tuition Program Financial aid administered by individual colleges Guaranteed student loans
CSS/Profile	Twelve private Michigan colleges are PROFILE users. In addition to filling out the FAFSA, the following schools use the CSS/PROFILE to determine financial aid: Adrian, Concordia, Hillsdale, Hope, Kalamazoo, Marygrove, Olivet, Reformed Bible College, St. Mary's, and Sienna Heights University.
Pell Grant Program	The federal government provides opportunities for obtaining financial aid. All seniors are encouraged to apply for the Pell Grant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A direct grant of up to \$2,400—based upon what your family can contribute toward college expenses. • Awarded to college, vocational, technical and business schools • A specific item on the financial statement will indicate your interest in a Pell Grant.
Michigan Tuition Grant	This grant is based on financial need only. It is limited to half-time or more students at private Michigan colleges and universities. Current maximum: \$2,150. ACT exam is not required.
Michigan Competitive Scholarship	The Michigan Competitive Scholarship is based both on <u>merit</u> and <u>need</u> and is for use at Michigan public or private non-profit post secondary schools. Competitive scholarships range from \$1200 at public schools and up to \$2025 at private schools. Students must enroll on at least a half-time basis. Additional information follows:

MICHIGAN COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

1. Students **must** take the ACT Exam in the spring of their junior year or October of their senior year. The spring dates are **recommended**. Scores from ACT tests taken later than October will be considered only if sufficient funds are available. Once a student has a qualifying score, no further higher score will be accepted.
2. Your scores **must** be reported to the Scholarship Program. All ACT scores are sent automatically to the State of Michigan Scholarship Program if the student:
 - a) Lists a Michigan High School Code on the test registration (Harrison's code is 231-404)
 - b) Lists residence in the State of Michigan (The code number for Michigan is 23)
 - c) Codes in 2076 on the ACT Registration.

****** Go to www.michigan.gov for more information regarding the status of any potential state scholarship programs.**

Additional Financial Aid Information:

1. Check “yes” on your college application if you are seeking financial aid. Remember that you **must** file a financial statement (FAFSA or CSS) in order to receive aid.
2. You and your parents should review information that is available in the Counseling Office on how a typical family might fare under a typical need situation. Financial aid information will also be available in an evening program during the fall of your senior year.
3. Review the scholarship applications available in the Counseling Center.
4. MME: The Michigan Merit Exams offers an opportunity for students to earn up to \$4,000 in scholarship funds (**subject to legislation**) when qualifying scores are earned on the individual MME tests.
5. College Scholarship Programs—Some colleges offer tuition scholarships for academic excellence (not based on need); some colleges provide competitive examinations to obtain scholarships. The following is a sample of likely scholarship opportunities. Specific information can be gained from resources in the Counseling Center.
 - A. Eastern Michigan University—Presidential Scholarship
 - B. Western Michigan University—application can be obtained by applying for academic scholarships
 - C. Michigan State University—Creative Arts Scholarship in the fields of Art, Theatre, Music and Composition
 - D. Michigan State University—Distinguished Scholarship Award—by invitation only
 - E. Oakland University—participate in a competitive scholarship examination
 - F. University of Michigan—Regents Scholarship
6. Special Farmington Area “Local Scholarships”—Applications for these local scholarships are available in March or April of the senior year. All awards vary each year. Students from all four high schools in the district are eligible for these scholarships. Additionally, each high school has some local scholarships offered to the students of that particular school. Check your Counseling Office in the spring for further information. A sample of the scholarships offered include:
 - A. Farmington Education Association
 - B. Beechview Elementary Scholarship
 - C. Farmington Area Senior Scholarship
 - D. James V. Ellis Rotary Scholarship
7. Other Sources:
 - A. Always refer to your college for the most current scholarships or aid available.
 - B. Upon reaching college, you will have a few federal financial programs that might help you.
 - C. Let your counselor know you are seeking a scholarship.
 - D. Check parents’ employer, religious and community group affiliations for possible scholarship opportunities.
8. Things to do and/or consider:
 - A. Get a Social Security Number—available through the Post Office or Social Security Office.
 - B. Find out your academic grade point average (GPA).
 - C. Study your strengths and weaknesses—try to overcome the important weaknesses, but build your future on your strengths.
 - D. Familiarize yourself with vocations in which you have possible interest. Contact your counselor or counseling technician in each building regarding career guidance.
 - E. Field of study—choose a college that grants a degree in your major area of interest.
 - F. Cost—a year of college can cost from \$2,500 to more than \$18,000.
 - G. Study college catalogs—they can be found on-line at the college websites.

H. Consider the size of a school

General Characteristics of a large school:

- Greater depth of curriculum
- Greater concentration of offerings within a curriculum
- Less personal
- Located in or near a metropolitan area
- Graduate assistants as instructors (freshman or sophomore years)

General Characteristics of a small school:

- Liberal Arts oriented
- Greater chance for active involvement in activities
- More personal
- Full professors as instructors

- I. Any student interested in applying for financial aid should have taken the ACT on the April or June test dates of their junior year or be registered for the ACT October test. Students testing later will receive secondary consideration for financial aid from the State of Michigan.
- J. Scholarships—review current scholarship information with your counselor and the website of your chosen college. Also, review Financial Aid resources not based on your parents' income. Check scholarship application files in the counseling office.

CAREER CRUISING EDP

- At home visit [CareerCruisingEDP](#)
- Username (HHS 10 digit student ID, add lead zeros if necessary) and Password: (Student generated)
Send an email to vicki.palmer@farmington.k12.mi.us if you need assistance
- Click on **Schools**
- Click on **Financial Aid** tab, then **Financial Aid Selector**
- Answer the series of questions for a list of scholarships that are tailored to your background & interests
- Save list to your EDP and go shopping for \$\$\$\$

For further scholarship search assistance, you man also want to visit:

www.fastweb.com

www.weeklyscholarshipalert.com

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PREPARATION PROCESS

It is **recommended** that students complete the following coursework:

Foreign Language	2 years
Fine/Performing Arts	2 years
Computer Literacy	1 year

Are You Ready to Apply?

1. Do you know and understand the importance of your grade point average?
2. Have you taken at least one college admission test (ACT or SAT)?
3. Do you know what colleges are likely to accept you?
4. Have you reviewed the websites of realistic college choices?
5. Have you discussed with your parents their ability to pay (their maximum contribution) for your college expenses?
6. Have you visited the colleges to which you are going to apply?

If you can answer yes to all six questions, you have done a good job! Apply immediately and await your acceptance.

If you have answered no to any of the questions and need some assistance, make an appointment with your counselor.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Visit the following sites for registration information, prep materials, test dates & to request test scores:

www.actstudent.org (ACT) or www.collegeboard.com (AP & SAT)

COMPLETING YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

1. Applications can 't be processed unless the following documents have been submitted to counseling
 - *Updated & signed (Parent/Guardian and Student) Career Cruising Educational Development Plan (EDP)
 - *Transcript requests for each school application must be made through Docufide. Transcript link is on the HHS homepage and in the Counseling drop down tab
 - *Refer to checklist & Docufide by Parchment link on pg 11 of Senior Packet
2. Email your counselor to request a recommendation letter. Allow 2 weeks notice from deadline! In the case of a required counselor recommendation, be sure to email your counselor as early as possible to give sufficient time to review your EDP in order to write an appropriate and complete recommendation letter. Information contained in the EDP will be used by your counselor to write your recommendation letter. Also, the EDP is considered an obligation. Therefore, you must submit a signed copy to receive your cap & gown in the spring.
3. Teacher recommendations must be requested by the student. Completed recommendations should be included with any documents that are being turned into counseling. Please instruct your teacher to give you their letter of recommendation and your counselor can proceed with the application.
4. Bring all of the documents that you need completed by your counselor to the counseling office.
5. A copy of your ACT/SAT/AP results must be requested by the student directly through the testing agency.
6. Normally, an application will be 'turned around' within one week.
7. **DO NOT BRING INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS! THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR PROCESSING!**
8. **Apply early in the fall!** The vast majority of applications are submitted in September or October. It is recommended that you complete all of your applications by Halloween, but no later than Thanksgiving. The earlier, the better!! Most colleges prefer an electronic application/payment.
9. Your college applications are very important to you and your family. Please take some time to discuss your choices carefully with your family and select the colleges to which you are interested in applying.
10. Your counselor also recognizes the importance of your college applications and believes the processing of these applications is one their most important assignments. You and your family are encouraged to contact your counselor if there are questions regarding this process.
11. In the event you're applying with a *paper application*, neatness counts! This is the first impression the college or university will have and you want it to be positive. Also, be sure that you have completed all parts of the application and sign it. Attach the application fee (check or money order) to the front page and any letters of recommendation to the back page. You might want to make a copy of the application to use as your draft before actually completing the final copy. Be sure to either type or use ink in completing your final application. **Cross outs are not acceptable!** Use care if you need to make a correction.

RECOMMENDATION WRITER

Do's and Don'ts for Students Requesting Letters of Recommendation

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do carefully select the person you ask to write a letter of recommendation. 2. Do read the section in the college handbook regarding the type of student for whom the college is looking. Tailor your choice of the recommendation writer to the needs expressed. 3. Do photocopy the section of the college handbook and give a copy to your recommendation writer. 4. Do check around school and learn who writes the best letters of recommendation 5. Do realize that although you may be an exceptional student in your own school, at the college level, everyone is outstanding. What makes you unique? Pass this information on to your recommendation writer in a polite, discreet manner. 6. Do consider what you as an individual have to offer the college's student body. Again, let the recommendation writer know. 7. Do take more than a minute to ask someone to write a letter for you. The recommendation writer needs to know more about you—your thoughts, plans, and goals. 8. Do ask your counselor to survey your teachers if the only letter required is one to be written by a counselor. Counselors tend to know you globally while teachers and coaches know you more personally. Their comments and anecdotes can be a great help to the counselor. You can provide the names of the teachers and coaches to be surveyed. 9. Do volunteer for activities in school, church, and the community. These are important to colleges. Do keep a running list of the activities you have done. 10. Do let the recommendation writer know your plans for graduate school even though you are requesting a letter for the undergraduate level. 11. Do allow the letter writer enough lead time to produce a quality letter for you. 12. Do thank all people who write letters for you. Writing a good letter of recommendation takes time and effort. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Don't grab the first teacher to come along in a desperate attempt to get the letter finished. 2. Don't ask the recommendation writer to provide you with a blanked letter that can merely be photocopied and attached to all of your college applications. 3. Don't expect the letter writer to operate in a vacuum. Provide data on the type of student the college is seeking. 4. Don't randomly pick someone. Put some thought into the choice of writer. 5. Don't be humble. Be honest but do list all of your accomplishments and assets. The more data that you provide the recommendation writer, the better letter she/he can write. 6. Don't assume that all colleges are looking for the same qualities in you 7. Don't follow a "hit and run" procedure. Spend some time with the letter writer. 8. Don't overlook the fact that your teachers have a great deal of personal knowledge about you that would help the counselor write a letter. 9. Don't assume that if you are active in school you have done your fair share. Get involved in the community. 10. Don't expect the college to assume that you will be attending graduate school. Give them all the facts. 11. Don't ask one day for a letter due the very next day. Consider the writer's schedule. (A two-week "lead time" is highly advised!) 12. Don't take for granted that the letter writer will follow your instructions. Keep in touch and provide additional information if necessary |
|---|---|

Note:

Allow 2 weeks notice from deadline! In the case of a required counselor recommendation, be sure to email your counselor as early as possible to give sufficient time to review your EDP in order to write an appropriate and complete recommendation letter.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Students must earn a grade point average of at least 2.00 (on a 4.00 scale) in a core curriculum of at least 16 academic courses, which have been successfully completed during grades 9 through 12. Only courses that satisfy the NCAA definition of a core course can be used to calculate the NCAA GPA. Visit www.eligibilitycenter.org for a list of those courses specific to your high school. No special values are allowed for “+” or “-” grades. The chart below shows what core courses must be included, at a minimum.

Core Units Required for NCAA Certification

	<u>Division I</u>	<u>Division II</u>
English Core	4 credits	3 credits
Math Core*(Alg. 1 or higher)	3 credits	2 credits
Science Core	2 credits	2 credits
Soc. Science Core	2 credits	2 credits
Additional year from English, Math or Science)	1credits	2 credits
Additional Core (Eng., Math, Science, Soc. Sci.,Foreign Lang., Philosophy)	4 credits	3 credits
TOTAL REQUIRED	16 credits	14 credits

*Important Note: Division I certification requires 3 credits of math, including at least 1 credit of algebra and 1 credit of geometry (or a course for which geometry is a prerequisite). No math below Algebra 1 is accepted.

In addition to GPA requirements, the NCAA also has ACT/SAT test score requirements to determine athletic eligibility for Division I. The higher the core GPA, the lower the test score required. In Division II, there is no sliding scale. The minimum core-grade point average is 2.000. The minimum SAT score is 820 (Verbal and Math sections only). And the minimum ACT sum score is 68. Please review the following NCAA freshmen-eligibility standards quick reference sheet for further details. Test scores must be requested from students who are registered for the Clearinghouse to be sent directly to the NCAA Clearinghouse. Harrison High School **can not** send test scores to the NCAA Clearinghouse.

SENIOR EXIT INTERVIEWS

During September and October, counselors will be meeting with each senior to review graduation requirements, discuss post secondary plans, review transcripts, and much more. Please email your counselor or stop by the counseling office to schedule an appointment.

Thank you for your attention to these very important issues 😊

College Application Checklist

- Update EDP, print, get signatures & turn into Counseling
- Complete college application(s) including fees
- Bring Counselor/High School Certification to Counseling (if required)
- Request recommendations (if required) from Counselor and/or Teacher(s) and turn into counseling with other materials.
- Send ACT and/or SAT scores to each school
- Register & request transcript for each school application with Docufide

DOCUFIDE BY PARCHMENT

College Bound? Now transcript requests are available online. If you're applying to college, you've already got plenty of forms to fill out. So, here's how to avoid a few, by ordering your transcripts on line. Farmington Public Schools has joined forces with Docufide to bring you Secure Transcript™—the safe, paperless way to send transcripts directly to the colleges you choose. It's easy, it's secure, and it's available 24/7. An official transcript will be checked and approved by the counseling office and sent electronically to colleges or scholarship organizations. You'll receive an email to confirm that they've gone out. And for the colleges that accept transcripts electronically, we'll even confirm when they receive them. Secure Transcript makes applying to college a little easier—for your high school, for your colleges, and for you. Good luck with your applications!

Visit [Docufide](#) and here's how it works:

Sign Up by identifying Harrison as the school you are enrolled in and provide some information about yourself, including your email address.

Choose the destinations you want to send your transcripts to

Sign Off—There may be a small fee per transcript and you're done.

About Docufide...Docufide, Inc. is building a national reputation as the trusted intermediary for the electronic exchange of student records. Secure Transcript, uniquely provides a highly efficient electronic environment for sending transcripts between high schools and colleges and universities. Drawing on the strength of advanced technology, superior service, and an experienced management team.

Send email inquiries to info@docufide.com or call 310.309.3722