

MY COLLEGE TIMELINE

FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORE

There are some steps you can take as a ninth and tenth grader to make sure you're on the right track for lifelong learning after high school. This list will help you navigate the college planning process.

Start thinking about your life after school, including the types of jobs that might interest you. Things may change but it's good to start thinking about the possibilities.

Meet with your high school counselor. Your counselor knows how to help you get the most out of high school. Take some time each year to discuss your plans and set some goals.

Participate in extracurricular activities, volunteer, and be involved in your community. Explore your interests in a sport, club, drama group, or community organization. Colleges, scholarships, and employers look beyond your GPA to see if you are a well-rounded individual.

Explore summer opportunities. Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.

Keep a running list of awards, volunteer/community engagement experiences, accomplishments, sports, and jobs. Don't wait until the end of high school to think about all the things you've done throughout your high school career. Start the list early and keep it updated. Colleges and scholarship applications ask for this information.

Tour college campuses. If possible, take advantage of vacation or other family travel to visit colleges. Even if you have no interest in attending the college you are visiting, it will help you learn what to look for in a college.

Financial Preparation

Save for college.

It's not too late to put money aside for your future.

Learn about and understand financial aid options

early on can help you down the road.

Learn the basics of college costs. Besides tuition what expenses do college students have to cover?

Participate in pre-college credit opportunities

to save money such as CTE (Career & Technical Education), PROMESA Summer Success, Dual Enrollment, AP (Advanced Placement) Classes, and/or ASM Tech Early College.

Keep your grades up. Remember, what happens in 9th and 10th grade impacts 11th, 12th, and beyond!

Explore the different options like career/technical schools, community colleges, apprenticeship programs, and four year colleges and universities.



OCEANA COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

COLLEGE
is all post-secondary education including certificate programs, trade schools, community colleges, and four year colleges and universities.

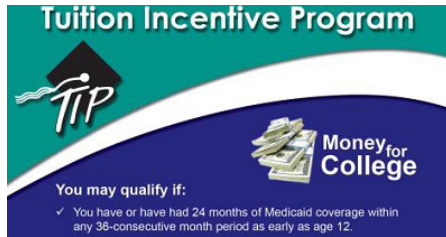
Paying for College – Know the Basics!



THE FAFSA - The Free Application for Federal Student Aid should be submitted by every high school senior. The FAFSA is often the 1st step to any aid, including need and merit based state or federal aid, as well as college or institutional aid. Submit annually between October 1st and March 1st. Loans, work-study, and some scholarships and grants, such as the federal PELL grant will REQUIRE this to be completed. Some funds are first come, first served, so complete ASAP at www.fafsa.gov

Michigan Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)

- Pays for the full annual tuition costs at participating community colleges and partial costs at participating universities. Who is eligible? Nearly ½ of all Oceana seniors!



- Students whom have received Medicaid coverage for 24 months within a 36-consecutive month period between age 9 and high school graduation!
- By **August 31st** of the senior year students must complete the application by logging in at www.michigan.go/missg or by calling 1-888-447-2687. Following high school completion, a student must activate TIP within 4 years, and funding expires after 6 years.

Scholarships

If you're a high school or home schooled senior, current college student, early college senior, or nontraditional student, the Community Foundation for Oceana County (CFOC) may have a scholarship for you. Get a start on your scholarship search by visiting www.oceanacan.org where you can find additional local scholarships as well as state aid that you may qualify for!

- **Over \$230,000** in scholarship dollars – to be used towards the cost of tuition, fees, room and board, books, or other educational expenses
- **Over 35 funds – One application** - Many scholarships are for specific types of students, colleges, or fields of study, yet the Foundation's process is a "general application." Each individual application is reviewed and matched with the best-fitting scholarship.
- The scholarship application is open **October 16th through February 15th** and available at www.oceana-foundation.org/scholarships. Apply for local scholarships before state and national, as these have fewer applicants and your chances are better.
- To be eligible, you must reside in Oceana County and be a graduate of an Oceana public or private school.



Additional Options

- **Work-Study** (money earned) – Work study jobs are part-time, on-campus jobs awarded on the basis of financial need determined by completing the FAFSA.
- **Employment & Savings** – Prepare early and save for college! Summer jobs can help buy books, meet living expenses, and pay for tuition.
- **Loans (repayment required)** – By completing the FAFSA, low interest loans may be awarded to students & parents based on financial need. Varied interest loans may be obtained through banks and other private lenders.
- **Tuition Reimbursement** – some employers provide tuition incentives to encourage continued lifelong learning.
- **Grants** – you may be eligible for institutional, federal, or state grants by completing the FAFSA!
- **Pre-college credit opportunities** (Dual Enrollment, ASM Tech Early College, Advanced Placement Courses, Career & Technical Education, or Promesa Summer Success) can **save you money by getting needed college credits** while still in high school!