

# YOUR SENIOR YEAR CHECKLIST



Senior year moves fast. Stay on track with this month-by-month guide. Start by applying for **free money for college or career training**. Fill out the FAFSA to unlock grants, scholarships (like the Michigan Achievement Scholarship) and other financial aid — no matter your GPA!

## SEPTEMBER

- ☐ Narrow down your options (college, trade school, apprenticeship).
- ☐ Start applications (research deadlines and begin personal essays).
- ☐ Create your **MiSSG Student Portal account**.
- ☐ Meet with your school counselor about graduation requirements and post-graduation plans.

## OCTOBER

- ☐ **File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** as soon as it opens. The earlier you do, the more money you could get. PLUS, by completing the FAFSA, you automatically apply for the **Michigan Achievement Scholarship**!
- ☐ Begin applying for additional scholarships (local, state and national).
- ☐ Ask for letters of recommendation from teachers, coaches or mentors.
- ☐ Take/retake SAT, ACT or placement tests if needed.

## NOVEMBER

- ☐ Continue submitting applications before deadlines (including early action or rolling admissions).
- ☐ Apply for apprenticeships, internships or career training programs with early openings.
- ☐ Work on a basic resume highlighting academics, extracurriculars and work experience.

## DECEMBER

- ☐ **Submit all college and program applications due before January.**
- ☐ Continue applying for scholarships (many have winter/spring deadlines).
- ☐ Research housing options (on-campus, off-campus or alternatives).

## JANUARY

- ☐ **Confirm your FAFSA was processed and fix any errors.**
- ☐ Submit any remaining program or college applications with spring deadlines.
- ☐ Explore dual enrollment or college credit opportunities for spring semester if available.

## FEBRUARY

- ☐ Continue submitting scholarship applications (apply monthly).
- ☐ Attend workshops on budgeting, financial aid and independent living.

## MARCH

- ☐ Keep an eye out for **acceptance letters and financial aid offers**.
- ☐ Compare award letters from schools/programs.
- ☐ Visit or revisit top-choice schools/programs.
- ☐ Enjoy Spring Break!

## APRIL

- ☐ Decide on your post-graduation plan by **May 1** (National Decision Day for many colleges).
- ☐ Submit housing deposits and intent-to-enroll forms if attending college.

## MAY

- ☐ Apply for summer transition programs or orientation sessions.
- ☐ Make sure final transcript requests are submitted to your chosen school.
- ☐ Register for placement testing if required by your college or program.

## JULY

- ☐ Attend college orientation and finalize class schedules.
- ☐ Buy necessary supplies or tools for college or career training.
- ☐ Complete any required health forms, vaccinations or background checks.
- ☐ Learn basic adulting skills: budgeting, meal prep, laundry.
- ☐ **Celebrate — you did it!**

## HAVE QUESTIONS?

Visit the counselor's office!

MICHIGAN  
ACHIEVEMENT  
SCHOLARSHIP



Scan to learn more about  
the Michigan Achievement  
Scholarship.



Mi.gov/Achievement