

RHS Senior Year College Planning

Graduation is right around the corner! Here is some important information from your RHS counselors

The suggestions/information below is **IN ADDITION TO** the information the [RHS Underclassmen \(9th-11th\) College Planning](#) document you (hopefully) reviewed in previous years. Review this underclassmen document in conjunction with the additional Senior information below:

Maintaining a Strong Transcript

- Colleges care about GPA and the number of academic classes in a student's senior year schedule. Math, Science, English, Social Studies, and World Language classes are considered core/academic classes by colleges.
- Check each college's website for their specific recommendations and requirements for admission.
- Before you drop/change any classes for the second semester of your senior year, you should check with the college admissions office to verify that they will not rescind your admission.
- Colleges can rescind admission if a student's grades drop significantly, if a student's schedule changes significantly, or if poor behavior is exposed/discovered by the college, including online and social media posts.
- AP Scores - Investigate the process for receiving college credit or placement for any AP tests you have taken. Start [here](#) and then check with your colleges.
- Check your transcript through Parchment. Make sure it is consistent with what you believe your grades are supposed to be.
- If you are considering participating in college athletics, ensure you will be eligible with [NCAA](#) or [NAIA](#).

College Application Process

- College Applications
 - [Strengthen your college list](#) (safety schools, fit schools, and reach schools)
 - Apply online through college websites or by using [Common App](#)
 - Some colleges have a November 1 or another fall deadline for Early Action. Check deadlines for your applications. Keep processing time in mind when trying to meet any deadlines. It will take time for teachers and counselors to submit any recommendations (sometimes needed for Common App). It will take time for your Parchment transcript request to be processed.
 - Many colleges will have application fees that you will have to pay online.
 - Some colleges like Oakland University and Macomb Community College do not have application fees.
 - Here are some [tips](#) for writing college application essays.
 - It is the student's responsibility to make sure that they are meeting all deadlines and submitting all required information.
- Transcripts
 - You will need to request your transcript be sent electronically to any colleges through your [Parchment](#) account when you apply.
 - You can send transcripts to all Michigan schools for free while you are an RHS student.
 - Be sure to use your personal email address to create your Parchment account.
 - Request an "unofficial self-view transcript" be sent to you through Parchment so that you can review your transcript and verify your cumulative GPA and class rank.
 - Some colleges may want you to request a transcript with your "7th semester grades" (senior year 1st semester grades) if they are still making a decision about your admission.

- You will need to request your final transcript after your senior year and have it sent to the college you plan to attend. That college will need the final transcript to verify your graduation and to review your senior year classes and grades. Failure to do so could put your financial aid and scholarships in jeopardy.
- See the secretary in the main office with any Parchment questions.
- Letters of Recommendation
 - They are often NOT required for college applications.
 - You may need a letter of recommendation from a teacher if you are applying to a college using Common App
 - You may need a letter of recommendation for some scholarship applications.
 - You should speak with the recommender directly to ask if they are able to submit a recommendation for you. A face-to-face conversation is preferred if possible.
 - Fill out the [teacher recommendation form](#) or a resume to give to the teacher to help guide them when they write your letter. Follow the instructions noted at the top of the form.
 - You must give the teacher a minimum of two weeks to complete. The sooner you speak to the recommender, the better.
 - The recommender should be someone you know well.
- Extra-Curricular Activities
 - Continue to participate in school and community activities. Athletics, clubs, and school events will help you develop time management skills and enhance your interpersonal skills.
 - Continue/consider any volunteer, internship, or part-time job opportunities.
- SAT and the College Application Process:
 - Students should check with each college regarding admissions requirements and the SAT.
 - Some colleges require students to request their SAT scores be sent directly to the college from the College Board. Students can [request scores be sent](#) through their College Board accounts.
 - Students who would like to take an additional SAT test on their own must [register for that test](#) through their College Board accounts.

Preparing to Pay for College

- Financial Aid
 - Here is [financial aid information from Big Future](#).
 - Check out this informative [video](#).
 - FAFSA is for scholarships, grants, work study and loans. Check out this [information](#).
 - You may begin completing your application for financial aid online on December 1st for the 2024-25 school year and October 1st for the 2025-26 school year and beyond. Michigan's deadline is May 1, but each college may set their own deadline. This is a link to the [FAFSA](#) so that you can apply.
 - The earlier you apply, the better.
 - Contact a college financial aid office if you need help. They are the experts on the form and the process.
 - Oakland University offers several [financial aid events](#) where students and families can learn more about the financial aid process.
- Scholarships
 - You can request transcripts through Parchment for scholarship applications.
 - Check out these websites: [Fastweb](#), [Finaid](#)
 - Check on college websites and with their admissions offices on any scholarships the college offers and their process for application.

- RHS counselors post scholarship information year-round on our website [RHS Non-Local Scholarship Postings](#)
- The [Four County Community Foundation](#) posts scholarships December 1 - March 1. Students should carefully read all directions and apply online. It is recommended to begin applying early because it is a lengthy process.
- The [Sandbox Foundation](#) collects scholarship applications from RHS students January-March.
- Local scholarships for RHS seniors will be posted on the [RHS website](#) in mid-February. They will be due in the Business, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation (BEI) Academy office in mid-March.
- Check with your employer to see if there are any scholarships offered by the company.