

SENIOR GUIDANCE BULLETIN



South Christian High School

Class of 2021

*Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.
The Lord works out everything for His own ends.
Proverbs 16: 3 & 4*

Life After Graduation

Work

Career Training Schools

- Cosmetology - e.g. Paul Mitchell School of Grand Rapids
- UNOH - University of Northwestern Ohio
- GRCC - Grand Rapids Community College
 - Apprenticeship
 - Job Training

Military / ROTC

- Navy
- Army
- Marines
- Airforce

GAP year

- work
- Volunteerism/mission work
 - Bridge Street Ministries
 - YWAM
 - The World Race

2 year Community College - e.g. Grand Rapids Community College

- Complete a program
- Transfer out
- Less expensive
- Explore educational future
- Other colleges have two year programs (Associate's) as well: Ferris, Davenport & Baker

4 year College - e.g. GVSU, Hope, University of Michigan, Calvin

- Liberal arts - general education classes required (gen ed/core)
- More opportunities
 - Research
 - Internships
 - Study abroad
- Majors and educational programs
- Location and size
- Diversity
- Public or private
- Price tag

How do you find your place?

Senior Interview

Job shadows

Attend College Fair - <https://virtualcollegefairs.org/>

College Representatives visits - virtual this year

Research colleges

- Virtual visits
- On campus when allowed (green permission sheet)
- SCOIR - each of you should have your own account

College Visits - copies available

College Applications

- Check deadlines
- Most applications should be completed by December 1 (some are free)
- Common Application (hand out)
- Difference between early action or early decision
- Transcript request though Parchment
- Recommendations (hand out) - need a two week notice
- You can apply to several colleges
 - May 1 is the deadline for final college choice
- Follow up with the college if you don't hear from them four weeks after applying

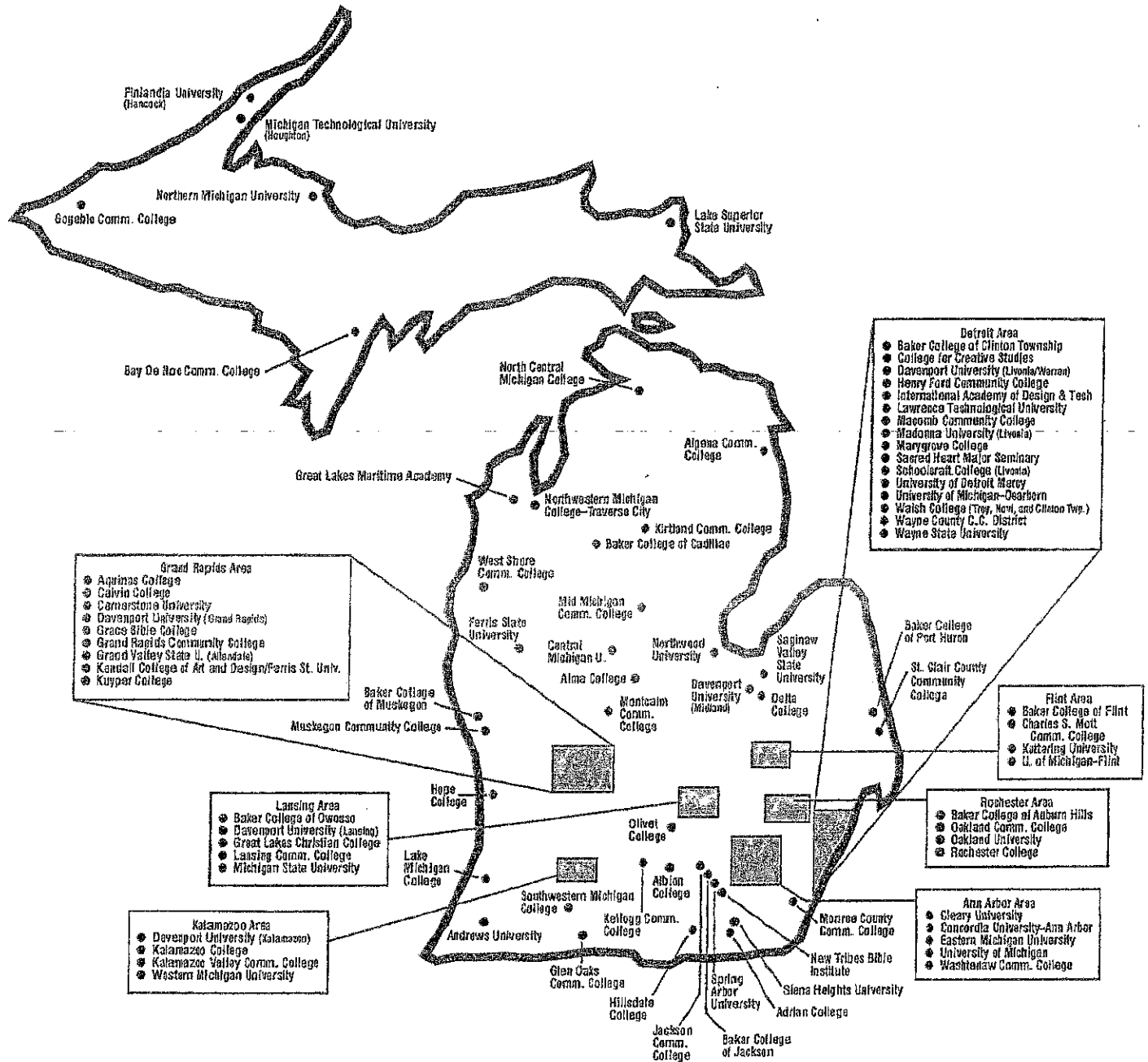
Honors College

Many colleges and universities have honor colleges for high achieving students. This allows you to take distinctive coursework and have more contact with professors. Check out requirements and apply if interested.

Services at College

- Tutoring
- Writing lab
- Special Education Services
- Advisors work with students on majors
- Career Counseling
- Mental Health Counseling

Michigan Colleges and Universities














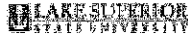














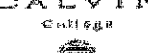










Compliments of the ACT Midwest Region and the Michigan ACT State Organization



Colleges in Michigan

GPA & ACT/SAT Tiers

Community Colleges: No minimum GPA & ACT/SAT requirements	GPA: 2.5-2.8 Avg. ACT: 16-19 Avg. SAT: 860-1010	GPA: 2.8-3.2 Avg. ACT: 18-22 Avg. SAT: 940-1120	GPA: 3.3-3.5 Avg. ACT: 21-25 Avg. SAT: 1130-1380	GPA: 3.5-3.8 Avg. ACT: 23-29 Avg. SAT: 1130-1380	GPA: 3.8-4.0 Avg. ACT: 29-36 Avg. SAT: 1350-1600
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpena CC • Bay College • Delta College • Glen Oaks CC • Gogebic CC • Grand Rapids CC • Henry Ford CC • Jackson CC • Kalamazoo Valley CC • Kellogg CC • Kirtland CC • Lake Michigan College • Lansing CC • Macomb CC • Mid-Michigan CC • Monroe County CC • Mott CC • Muskegon CC • North Central Michigan College • Northwestern Michigan College • Oakland CC • Schoolcraft College • Southwestern Michigan College • St. Clair County CC • Washtenaw CC • Wayne County CC • West Shore CC 	      	         	         	     	   

GPA & ACT/SAT are based on the Michigan Post-Secondary Handbook. Contact the admissions office for most up to date information.

Standardized Testing

Standardized tests - VERY confusing!

- Some colleges require test scores for admission (many do not)
- Some colleges require test scores to be considered for scholarships (some do not)
- It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to learn about the colleges you are applying to

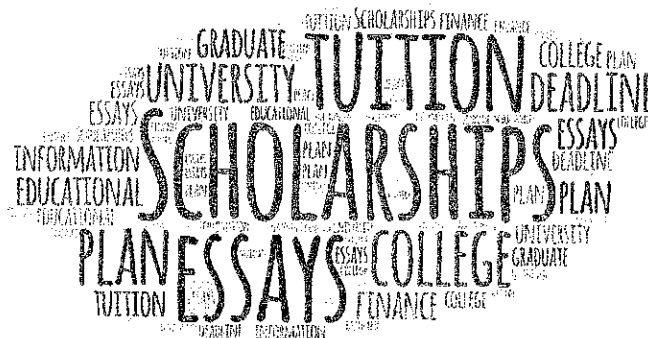
Some important details about standardized testing:

- The registration code for South Christian is 231-745.
- There is no penalty for taking the ACT or SAT more than once. Colleges only look at your best scores.
- Both tests offer a writing portion. The writing portion is NOT required by all colleges. You may want to check with the colleges you are interested in to see if they require it. Most students only take the writing portion once, if at all.
- www.act.org - find dates, register, etc
- www.collegeboard.org - find dates, register for SAT, etc
 - Khan Academy is a great resource to help you prepare for the SAT (you can link this account with the College Board and they will make FREE personalized prep.)

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Types of Financial Aid

- Scholarships & Grants - FREE MONEY. Scholarships are often based on some sort of ability (academic, music, theater, athletic). Grants are often need-based.
- Loans - money you borrow and repay with interest
- Work study - guaranteed on-campus job to help you pay for college
- Some scholarships are awarded automatically when you are accepted to a college. Finding scholarships takes hard work and time.
- State of Michigan offers a couple of scholarships. These are based on financial need and an SAT (not ACT) score.
- FAFSA should be filled out. Encourage your parents to fill it out (available Oct. 1).



Places to Look for Scholarships

- Counseling Office bi-monthly scholarship list - available in Oct
- Colleges you apply to
 - Scholarship & financial aid page
 - Admissions page
 - Many have search box for scholarships available
- Free scholarship searches on the internet. Create an account and searches will match you with scholarships.
 - Opportunity.collegeboard.org
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
 - Meritaid.com
 - Goingmerry.com
 - Fastweb.com
- Check with employers, organizations and clubs you (or parents) belong to.

Other financial aid advice

- PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!
- Don't be afraid to ask a school if they can do anything else to help you.
- Don't pay for scholarship searches.
- Have your parents attend the financial aid night at SC on Sept 16

Sports in college

- Talk to your counselor if you hope to play sports in college. You may need to register with the NCAA or NAIA.

Senioritis

Senioritis is a condition that causes a decline in grades and level of achievement. Often you think, "I've already gotten into the school of my choice, so now I can take a break and have fun.", however, colleges grant admission and scholarships based upon the condition that your level of achievement be **maintained** throughout the senior year.

In June, the college you plan to attend requests that SCHS send a copy of your transcript to them and a college can change your admission status or scholarship after reviewing your final grades.

Enjoy the last months of high school, but don't allow you college plans to be jeopardized in any way. Also remember that your high school G.P.A. and transcript will remain on file at South forever and may be requested by future employers who can check grades as well as attendance and discipline points.

Senior Calendar and Checklist

Month	Check	What To Do
September		Meet individually with your counselor to talk about your post-secondary (after high school) plans in September or October.
		Visit school campuses now or make plans to do so soon.
		Meet with College Representatives as they visit South Christian (most in Sept. - Dec.)
		Don't rule out any college based on price/cost until you've seen the financial aid you may qualify for.
October		Work on FAFSA (financial aid form) with your parents (www.fafsa.ed.gov). Parents attend the Financial Aid Workshop at SCHS.
		Submit FAFSA for maximum scholarship consideration.
		Fill out college applications. Use Parchment.com to request transcripts be sent.
		Begin checking the list of local scholarships in the Guidance Office.
December		Complete and send in college applications, if you have not already done so.
January		Check to see if colleges you are applying to require additional financial aid applications.
		Check housing and enrollment deposit deadlines for schools. These are sometimes refundable if you decide not to attend, but the refund dates and percentages vary for each college.
		Ask counselors to send 1 st semester senior grades to colleges if they help your chances for admission or scholarships.
March/ April/May		Check financial aid information received from schools. Make decisions. Finalize plans.
		Notify schools you have decided not to attend.
		Enjoy your final months in high school and finish strong.
June		Final transcript is sent to the college you plan to attend.



GLOSSARY

Application fee - A non-refundable fee usually charged for making an application to a particular college.

Associate of Arts Degree - Two years of college study in a community college may lead to an Associate of Arts Degree.

Bachelor of Arts - Usually signifies concentration of studies in the humanities - languages, literature, social studies, etc. - a four-year program.

Bachelor of Science - Concentration in mathematics and science; foreign language not required - a four-year program.

Early action (EA) - This is a nonbinding plan that requires you to submit your application in early fall (usually by November 1 or 15).

Early decision (ED) - This requires you to submit your application in early fall and is considered "binding," so it's essential that you be certain about wanting to enroll at that college.

Liberal Arts - A broad course of instruction comprising the arts, natural sciences, social sciences, languages, literature, philosophy, religion, and the classics. The Latin origin of the term, artes liberales, literally means "the arts that free" (the mind and the spirit.)

Major - Subject in which a student takes the greatest concentration of courses - mostly in the last 2 years of college.

Master's Degree - Degree conferred for completion of a program after you've completed a 4-year college degree - usually lasts for one or two years.

Minor - Subject in which a student takes the second greatest concentration of courses.

Prerequisite - A requirement which must be met before a certain course can be taken.

Private College - A college which is not supported by public taxes. May be independent or church related.

Core Curriculum/Liberal Arts Core/General Education Requirements - A group of courses, in varied areas of the arts and sciences, designated by a college as one of the requirements for a degree. These courses are usually taken in the first two years of a four year degree.

Course Load - The number of hours the student is permitted to schedule in a given semester. This is usually 15-18 hours on a semester system, which is considered a "full load" ..

Credit - Colleges assign a given number of credits to a particular college course based on a standard of one credit for every hour per week that the course is held. For example, a course that meets for three hours each week is generally awarded three credits.

Graduate Student - A student who has earned a Bachelor's Degree and is continuing college to earn a graduate degree (Master's Degree, Doctorate).

