

# SENIOR GUIDANCE BULLETIN



**South Christian High School**

**Class of 2022**

*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*

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# 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 Fairs

- **Virtual Options:** - <https://virtualcollegefairs.org/>
- **In Person Options:**
  - Holland Area College Night - Hope College - 9/23/32 - 6 - 7:30 pm
  - Grand Rapids Christian College Fair - Cornerstone - 10/4/21 6:30 - 8:30 pm

## College Representatives Visits - in person & virtual this year

- sign up in the Guidance Counselor's office to attend
- [Continually updated document shared from Mrs. DeWeerd](#)

## Research & Visit Colleges

- Virtual visits
- On campus visits - need green permission sheet for excused absences

## College Applications

- Check deadlines
  - Michigan State, University of Michigan (November)
- Most applications should be completed by December 1 (some are free)
- Common Application (hand out)
- Difference between early action or early decision
- Transcript request through 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



## Places to Look for Scholarships

- Counseling Office bi-monthly scholarship list
- 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 SCHS on Sept 15

## 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 your 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 ( <a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a> ). 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 <sup>st</sup> semester senior grades to colleges if they help your chances for admission or scholarships.
March		Check financial aid information received from schools. Make decisions. Finalize plans.
April/May		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).

