MAKING A COLLEGE DECISION

STEP 1: HOW TO MAKE A DECISION

Complete the steps below to help guide you toward making a college decision.

☐ Apply to schools of choice and acquire acceptance letters. (Share copies w/ counselor)
☐ Complete FAFSA and ensure all schools of choice are listed in your application.
☐ Apply for scholarships. (institutional, local, private etc.)
☐ Log in to student portal for each school you have been admitted to.
  ▪ Make it a habit to log in each portal once a week for reminders or document request.
☐ Submit verification documents (if applicable) to ensure you receive an award letter.
  ▪ Log in to student portal or call financial aid office to check for outstanding documents.
☐ Confirm you have received an award letter for each school you are considering.
  ▪ Revisit previous step if you have not received an award letter.
☐ With support of parent/guardian/trusted adult, compare award letters and determine which is the best choice for you and your family’s financial needs.
☐ Look at graduation rates and retention rates to help in decision making process.
☐ Look at other important factors for best fit such as majors, sports, clubs, Greek life etc.
☐ Visit Campus or take virtual campus tour to get a feel for the place you will call home.
☐ Think it over. Take your time and consider your thoughts and feelings.

STEP 2: ONCE YOU MAKE A DECISION

Complete the steps below to make your decision official with the institution.

☐ Accept your admissions offer via student portal or directions listed in acceptance letter.
☐ Accept financial aid offer via student portal or directions listed in award letter.
  ▪ Loan acceptances may require signing Master Promissory Note (MPN).
☐ Decline other admissions offers by sending brief email/letter to turn down offer.
☐ Pay enrollment deposit (if applicable) by schools designated deadline (typically May 1).
  ▪ Contact admissions office for options to have deposit waived or deferred.
☐ Register for freshman orientation. (Tell your counselor/adviser your orientation date)
☐ Complete a housing application. (usually on a first come, first serve basis)
☐ Complete Medical forms such as insurance forms, shot records and emergency contact.
☐ Inform HS counselor/adviser of your final decision.
☐ Take any required assessment test.
☐ Complete Detroit Promise ATR form sent via email if you’re a scholarship recipient.
☐ Send final HS Transcript with graduation date listed.
☐ Celebrate!! Making a College Decision is a huge deal and should be celebrated!
STEP 3: SUMMER TRANSITIONING

☐ Check campus website for incoming freshman checklist.
☐ Attend freshman orientation.
☐ Register for classes.
☐ Investigate textbook cost and purchasing options.
  ▪ You can buy new, buy used or rent books.
☐ Confirm housing placement.
☐ Connect with future roommates (if applicable).
☐ Go shopping for dorm room items and school supplies.
☐ Research Professors if possible, on sites like Rate My Professors.
☐ Connect with college on social media.
☐ Move in your dorm and get comfortable in your new space.
  ▪ Attend activities and events hosted by your residence hall. It’s a great way to start meeting new people and making new friends.