



THE COLLEGE SEARCH made simple

YOUR GUIDE TO FINDING THE RIGHT COLLEGE



CENTRAL
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

/ We do.

Let's make it **SIMPLE**

Searching for a place where you will not only grow personally and professionally but set yourself up for lifelong career success is an important decision. We've gathered the best pieces of advice from those who have stood where you are now. We break down the journey to college so you can be confident you're on track. With every step, you'll meet people here who will be on your team, offering to help you get to where you want to be.

» **Narrow it down**

You may have a dozen or more schools you're considering. Narrowing down your search can help you stack your options against each other.

5 THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Does it have the major you want?
And other good options if you change your mind?
2. How much does it cost, and what scholarships and aid does it offer?
3. How does it prepare you for a career in your field?
4. What are the residence halls like?
5. What is there to do on campus to meet people who like to do the same things I do?

GOLD TIP

The cost of attendance is the sticker price. Get a realistic cost by answering a few questions with a [Net Price Calculator](#).

» **Visit and soak it in**

Put your top choices to the test. Visit and see each one in action.

7 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

1. Do you feel like you'll fit in?
2. What would it be like to live here?
3. Where will you learn? How can you practice what you're learning in the classroom?
4. Do you understand how much it may cost with scholarships and other costs included?
5. What are the admission requirements?
6. What are the important dates and deadlines for applying, housing, scholarships, etc.?
7. What is the town like outside campus?

GOLD TIP

The college visit can help answer so many questions. New questions may come up. Go back for a second or third visit. That's OK!

admissions.cmich.edu/visit

WORDS TO KNOW

Common App

Fill out once, and apply to several schools. The Common Application makes it easy to apply to all your top schools.

Credit Hour

Each course is assigned a certain number of credit hours, usually corresponding to how often the class meets and for how long. Most classes are 3 credit hours.

Direct Parent PLUS Loan

A federal student loan available to parents to borrow money based on information submitted on the FAFSA. Must be requested each year.

Direct Stafford Loans

A type of federal student loan with repayment options based on financial need. Loans are based on information submitted on the FAFSA.

Enrollment Reservation Deposit

This reserves your place in the incoming class and opens doors to schedule orientation and apply for housing.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

Based on information submitted on your FAFSA, the federal government estimates how much you and your family can contribute to your education.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

A form that you should fill out regardless of financial need, after Oct. 1 for the next school year. It'll determine eligibility for federal financial aid, such as loans, scholarships and grants.

Grant

A financial award that does not have to be repaid. In other words, free money!

Net Price Calculator

An estimate of how much college costs. It will take into account any scholarships and aid you've earned.

Scholarships

These are financial awards based on achievement (academic, talent, athletic, etc.). Merit awards are scholarships awarded based on information submitted with your application. Selective or competitive scholarships require additional application. Scholarships do not have to be repaid.

Transcript

A document from your high school or college showing classes, grades and academic accomplishments. Usually obtained from your guidance counselor.

Work-Study

On-campus employment awarded based on financial need as determined by the FAFSA. You'll earn money working on campus. It will be applied to your student account.

» Show 'em what you've got

You're ready to dig in at any one of your top-choice schools with an application that will impress. We've put together some important things you should know so that your application can be considered complete and an admissions decision can be made.

5 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU APPLY

1. What are application requirements and deadlines?

Know when, where and how to apply, and what materials you may need to get started. We'll walk you through how to apply, what comes next and even when you'll receive your admissions decision.

2. How much is the application fee?

Your application is not complete until your fee is paid. If you have special circumstances, talk to your high school guidance counselor or the Admissions Office at the college or university, as you may be eligible for a waiver.

3. Ask your counselor for official transcripts.

All applications require a high school transcript, and you will not receive an admissions decision until your transcript is received. Your high school counselor is usually the person who sends official transcripts to colleges.

4. Do you plan on submitting a test score?

You may not have been able to take the SAT or ACT the spring or summer before your senior year. We are test optional for 2021, meaning you can still be admitted and earn a merit award without submitting a test score. If you take or retake the SAT or ACT, send scores to the schools you have applied to.

5. Have you earned college credit?

If you have earned college credit through dual enrollment or early college, now is when it pays off. Literally. Talk to your counselor about having official transcripts sent to the colleges you are applying to. Your classes will be evaluated for credit. Each class you're awarded credit for is one you do not have to take or pay for.

admissions.cmich.edu/HowToApply

» Investing in your future

College is an investment, and you can help reduce your cost by securing scholarships. There are several ways to earn scholarships, from academic success to community involvement and more. Here are some tips to help you earn more scholarship money.

5 TIPS TO FIND MORE SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Search for free money

We've compiled [Scholarship Search Tips](#) so you can find more scholarships.

Here are a few other places to look for scholarships we offer and some that other agencies offer:

» Our merit and competitive awards:

Merit awards are based on your GPA and SAT/ACT (optional) and require no additional application. Our competitive rewards do require an application and are awarded based on competition results.

» Our academic department scholarships:

Students admitted to CMU may apply beginning in January.

» Scholarship Universe: a scholarship match tool for students admitted to CMU.

2. Raise your GPA

Want to earn more scholarship dollars? Send us a transcript with your improved GPA before May 1.

3. Take or retake your SAT/ACT

Aiming for that next level of merit award? You can retake the SAT or ACT to improve your score, and we'll give you more. Just be sure to submit it before May 1.

4. Learn about local scholarships

Some community agencies and companies offer scholarships to area students. Ask your guidance counselor about local scholarships given to students in your high school.

5. Search and apply often

Set aside time each week to search or apply for scholarships. Keep track of deadlines. Scholarships add up, reducing how much you'll have to pay.

go.cmich.edu/scholarships



85% of CMU students receive financial assistance.

» Once you're admitted, what's next?

Keep your dreams, and college plans, moving forward.

Secure your place

After you've been accepted, your next step is to reserve your place in the freshman class and pay an enrollment reservation deposit. Ours is \$175 and is refundable if you change your mind before May 1.

Select and attend orientation

Keep your eyes open for information about orientation. This is usually held on campus between May and August. You'll meet other incoming students, learn helpful tips about services available to you, and most importantly, you'll choose your classes. Here, you can begin registering in January for orientation.

Apply and choose housing

Is living away from home part of your life goals? Some require freshmen to live on campus. Look for information about housing and how to apply and choose your housing. It's important to note deadlines for applying and payment due dates. At CMU, the housing application information is mailed starting in December to students who have submitted their enrollment reservation deposit.

Accept your financial aid package

Your financial aid package will show scholarships, grants, loans and other financial aid offered to you by that university or college. Some pieces, such as suggested loans, you may have to accept or decline. Here at CMU, financial aid award letters are posted to your student account in February-March.

Learn when payment is due and how you'll pay

Learn when payment is due for housing and tuition. Make plans for how you'll pay. Your college or university will offer payment plans, often interest free. Information about these may not be shared until orientation, with the first payment usually due before classes begin.



KEY DATES

Aug. 1

- Application for admission opens.

Oct. 1

- Apply for financial aid by filling out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

October-August

- Submit Enrollment Reservation Deposit of \$175 to reserve orientation and apply for housing.

Dec. 1

- Freshman applications submitted by this date receive priority consideration for merit scholarships. Funds are not guaranteed for merit scholarships for applications received after this date.

December

- Begin housing application process.

January

- Schedule your summer orientation date.
- Apply for additional CMU scholarships on [Scholarship Universe](#).

February

- FAFSA submission deadline to receive priority consideration for federal, state and institutional funds (Feb. 15).

March

- Register for Leadership Safari, a program to help new students learn about CMU; and IMPACT, a program for new students focused on mentorship and making connections.

May 1

- Share your CMU pride on Decision Day!
- First housing payment is due.

May-August

- Attend your orientation session.

August

- Move-in! Residence halls officially open the Thursday before classes begin.
- Attend Leadership Safari or IMPACT.
- Classes begin the Monday before Labor Day.