

Glen Lake College Planning Guide



Mrs. Woessner

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"College is a match to be made not a prize to be won"

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Deciding Where to Apply

When deciding where to apply, students and parents have a wealth of resources. Sometimes, the resources make the process feel overwhelming. It is for this reason that you may want to begin by making an appointment to sit down and discuss your child's college search.

- Make an appointment to meet with Mrs. Woessner. Call 334-3061, ext 506 or e-mail woessnerv@glenlake.k12.mi.us.
- Try some internet resources

<http://www.petersons.com/college-search.aspx>

<http://www.collegesimply.com>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

<http://colleges.niche.com>

<http://www.act.org/collegesearch>

<http://www.princetonreview.com>

- Use books available in my office and library such as:
The Insider's Guide to the Colleges, Yale Daily News
Colleges That Change Lives, Loren Pope

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

When you are trying to narrow down your college choices, you may wish to consider the following:

- Do I want to attend a 4-year college or begin at a community college?
- Does this college have programs that I want to study?
- Is it located where I want to be?
- What will the cost be over 4 or more years?
- Does this school graduate most students in 4 years?
- Does the school have study abroad?
- Can I play sports?
- Are internships available?
- Are my grades and test scores in the range typically admitted to this school?
- Am I a candidate for scholarships at this school?
- What percentage of freshmen return as sophomores?

- Does this school have the living amenities, dorms, gyms, dining halls that will make me feel comfortable?

Application Timeline

Typically, students begin to submit applications in the fall of the senior year. Bigger schools, like Michigan State, may begin to give away scholarship dollars in late October and early November. It is recommended that students use the fall to submit applications. Students should look for deadlines. For example, students who wish to be admitted to the University of Michigan by early action need to have applied by a November deadline. It is the student's responsibility to observe deadlines. Students applying to community college have a much broader timeline. However, it is beneficial to apply in the fall so that you can attend one of the first orientations at the college and have the best selection of classes.

Types of Applications

When you have a list of schools, check to see if they are all Common Application schools. Go to www.commonapp.org and click on “member colleges”. If your schools are all common application schools you will only have to fill out one application for all schools. Things to remember about Common App:

- Your transcript will be added to your application when the counselor fills out the school report. No need to use Parchment.
- A letter of recommendation is written by the counselor for all Common Applications. So, please make an appointment with Mrs. Woessner for an interview prior to this letter being written.
- Ask your teachers if they will be a recommender before you click their names into Common App.

- Look for college supplemental material required by some schools.
- A mid-year report will automatically be sent by the guidance office on behalf of all students using the Common Application so be aware that first semester grades for the senior year are very important.

If your school is not a member of the Common Application, you should Google the school's name and follow the steps.

- Be sure you are at the official school website (usually ending in .edu)
- Apply on-line. It is rare to see paper applications and colleges much prefer on-line.
- Reminder – If you are on free and reduced lunch, do not pay for college application fees – get a fee waiver from the Guidance Office.

Sending the Transcript

After you have applied to college, you need to make sure that your transcript is sent. If applied using the Common Application, this will be done as part of the counselor's school report.

Students must be sure that they properly "invited" the counselor on their Common Application. If you are not using the Common App, you should log-in to Parchment, a company that manages sending digital transcripts:

<http://www.parchment.com/>

From Parchment you can send many transcripts free (some out of state for a small fee). This resource allows you to see when your transcripts were sent and when they were uploaded by the college.

A Note of Caution: *After you apply to a college, you are usually given access to an on-line portal to check your application status. Check these portals with some regularity to be sure that the school has all of the information they need to process your application.*

Sending Scores

Many of you chose to have four schools receive your ACT scores, when you took your ACT. Those schools are listed on your score reports (copies are also available in the guidance office). If your scores need to go to a school that doesn't have your score, they need to be sent by ACT. You can contact ACT on-line at:

<http://www.actstudent.org/scores/send/>

After March of 2015, Glen Lake students will be taking SAT tests. The process for sending scores will be similar. SAT scores or SAT 2 scores can be sent by contacting <http://sat.collegeboard.org/scores> .

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to wait to apply until I have taken my last ACT? *No, most applications will give you a place to let them know that you plan to take another ACT. If not, e-mail the admissions office and tell them.*

Do I have to wait until all my recommendations are complete? *No, colleges will put things together.*

What if I want to play sports at Division 1 or 2? *See your counselor to be sure that you have taken the 16 core courses required by NCAA. Check to see that you meet the NCAA grades and testing scale. Fully familiarize yourself with the NCAA Clearinghouse Eligibility Guide. Be sure to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse. www.eligibilitycenter.org.*

What if a school asks for my 7th semester grades? *This is usually an indication that the college wants to see a little more about your academic progress before they make a decision. The seventh semester grades are available after the end of the first semester senior year.*

What if I want the college to know something that is not on the application? *You can always e-mail the admissions offices at the colleges with any questions you may have.*

Scholarships and Financial Aid

We will have a financial aid night in December and you will get a letter in the mail about this event and it will be announced. At this meeting, you will learn about the FAFSA, which helps colleges determine aid eligibility. The FAFSA can't be filled out for students

beginning college in the fall of 2016 until on or after January 1, 2016.

Begin to look at our school website:

Go to “counseling” and then “scholarship listings”. If paper copies of scholarships are available they are in a box in our office. Most often the website is listed and students can apply at that site.

In March of the student’s senior year, a meeting will be held with all seniors to give them access to the Glen Lake Local Scholarships.

Fast Web is a national college search engine that can be helpful in securing scholarship opportunities. Reputable scholarship search engines are always free!

