

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.