



ETS SENIORS AT OUR ANNUAL SENIOR RECOGNITION BANQUET

Senior Focus Fall 2014

Issue 1

IN THIS ISSUE

Senior Year: A Look at Your Accomplishments

Many people, when discussing public education, will refer to it by its shorthand: K-12 education. This shorthand, however, is a disservice to all the years that you, our seniors, have put into your education. So, in honor of your 13 years of education, we want to remind you of some of the accomplishments you have made throughout your K-12 years:

1. Tests
2. Homework
3. Sports, volunteering, and all the other countless activities that get in the way of tests and homework
4. Tests
5. Building relationships that could last a lifetime
6. Impacting the community in ways that you should legitimately be proud of
7. Tests
8. From coloring in the lines and playing tag to performing on stage, or making one last goal, home run or touchdown to win the game
9. Staying on track (FOR 13 YEARS) in order to go to college
10. And tests. Did we mention tests?

As you work your way through your senior year, remember all that you have accomplished within your first twelve years. Remember the friends you've made, the countless hours of work you dedicated to building a solid résumé, and the people who have helped you along the way.

In this newsletter, you will find tips that will help you through your senior year. From knowing **when to apply to certain colleges to special events for seniors and scholarship advice** to boot, you can find it all in here.

But don't worry. This newsletter won't be the only resource available to you. Remember that you can always contact your advisor. Just call us at 616-331-7110. Or you can contact us at our various websites.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/gvsuets

Twitter: www.twitter.com/gvsutrioets

Website: www.gvsu.edu/ets

We'll be ready to help you with everything you need.

Welcome back to your last year of K-12 education.



Plan Ahead

When to Apply

College application dates will be here before you know it. Make sure that you are turning in your applications before certain dates so that you can receive the most opportunities for earning scholarships

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Know Your Scholarships

Money is probably the biggest barrier for those interested in going to college. Make sure it is not a barrier for you. On this page we will provide a list of local scholarships, and the different values attached to them.

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When to Apply

Many colleges have application deadlines. With the mountain of students applying to college each year, many colleges like to give priority (in terms of selection and scholarship availability) to those who apply to their school early. Below, you will find a list of popular Michigan colleges and their application deadline dates.

November 1 Deadline

Central Michigan University

Hope College

Kalamazoo College

Kettering University

Michigan State University

University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

December 1 Deadline

Grand Valley State University

Western Michigan University

Saginaw Valley State University



January 1 and Later

Alma College

Eastern Michigan University

Lake Superior State University

Northwestern Michigan College

Oakland University

Rolling Admission*

Aquinas College

Calvin College

Grand Rapids Community College

Michigan Technological University

Northern Michigan University

Wayne State University

***Make sure you check when to apply if you are interested in starting Fall 2015**

Senior Timeline

Your senior year will come and go more quickly than you might expect. Make sure you have everything in order early. Make your transition from high school senior to college freshman will be an easy one.

September

Create a personal essay (for college and scholarship applications)

Write a Résumé for college applications

Begin applying to colleges (at least 3)

Meet with your counselor

Have your social security number memorized

Sign up for the October ACT: September 19 and **write down all of your passwords**

October

Continue applying for colleges (at least 3)

Make sure that your counselor knows where to submit your transcript and ACT scores
(Your application is not complete until your counselor sends these items!)

Turn in applications with Nov. 1 Deadline

Attend the Aquinas College Fair (October 23; 12:00 – 2:00; 6:30-8:00)

November

College Application Week (Nov. 3-7)

Turn in applications with a December 1 deadline

Meet with college reps, they might be able to take your application on the spot

Ask teachers and counselors for letters of recommendation

Begin researching scholarships

Sign up for the December ACT: November 7

December

Finish essays for scholarships

Have teachers and counselors look over your essays and résumé

Make sure that you have applied to all the colleges and scholarships of your choice before the holiday break

***Remember to meet with your ETS advisor throughout the year!**

IN THE NEXT ISSUE



Filling out a FAFSA

Colleges cost a lot of money. Make sure that you are getting the best Financial Aid package available by filling out your FAFSA on time. Look out for our **Winter issue** of Senior Focus to find out more about Financial Aid.



What Now?

Now that you've been accepted, what do you need to do? Make sure to watch out for our **Winter issue** of Senior Focus to see what you need to do after you have been accepted to a college.

FAST FACTS

6%

Did you know that Harvard has a 6.1% acceptance rate...

83%

Whereas GVSU has an 83.1% acceptance rate?

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

You can visit <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/rankings> to find out more about various colleges, their programs, and their acceptance rates.



Sophie Delacruz (right) posing during the TRiO ETS Senior Banquet. Sophie is a recipient of the 2014 Gates-Millennium scholarship, which is worth 10 years of college tuition. It is awarded to 10,000 students annually.

Know Your Scholarships

Scholarships are a necessary part of affording college tuition. Whereas student loans must be paid back (with interest), scholarships do not have to be paid back.

Below you will find a list of popular scholarships that TRiO Educational Talent Search students have applied for (and received).

- **MI-CAPP Academic Progress Award:** Students with a GPA between 2.00 and 2.99 can apply. The student must be active in TRiO.
 - Worth \$500
 - Due in late November
- **Grand Rapids Community Foundation Scholarships:** Deadlines, amounts, and qualifications vary by school. One application that applies students for all qualifying scholarships.
 - Opens on January 1
- **Michigan Competitive Scholarship:** A scholarship for students with at least a 2.0 and planning to go to a two-year or four-year college.
 - \$575; renewable
 - Due March 1
- **Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids Minority Scholarship:** For students of color (African American, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, Pacific Islander) with at least a 2.5 GPA and interested in pursuing an arts degree.
 - Amounts vary
 - Due April 1
- **Tuition Incentive Program:** for students who have received Medicaid for 24 consecutive months within three years of applying.
 - Pays for \$250/semester at a 2-year college
 - \$500 for 4 semesters at a 4-year college
- **Michigan Experience Scholarship:** A University of Michigan Scholarship for TRiO students.
 - \$10,000/year for 4 years
- **Early Awareness Scholarship:** A GVSU scholarships for students with (at least) a 3.3 GPA and a 21 on the ACT.
 - \$3,000/year for 4 years
- **Gates-Millennium Scholarship:** Students go through a rigorous process writing 8 essays, creating a résumé, and gathering letters of recommendation.
 - Worth 10 years of college tuition
 - Due January 14, 2015
- **MI-CAPP Academic Achievement Award:** Students with a 3.00 or higher can apply. The student must be active in TRiO.
 - Worth \$500
 - Due in late November

This list is only a brief one. You can find out more about scholarships by looking online at the following sites:

www.petersons.com

www.fastweb.com

Or you can stay updated with scholarship alerts on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Happy scholarship hunting!

Keep Your Eye on the Prize

Keeping organized with all your college information, due dates, deadlines, and scholarship information will be your most important tasks for the next few months. By following these simple rules, your Senior Year will be fun, manageable, and productive.

1. Address your college plans with your TRiO Advisor.
2. Keep track of all of your deadlines for colleges and financial aid.
3. Work hard at applying for scholarships. Ask your TRiO Advisor and school counselor for scholarship leads.
4. Keep on working in your classes to get the best grades possible.
5. Become familiar with your college choices.
6. Keep track of your mail, email, and college information.
7. Make a point to see your TRiO Advisor regarding college applications and applying for financial aid.
8. Politely remind your counselor to send your transcript and ACT info to schools to which you have applied.



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A part of Grand Valley
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FALL COLLEGE FAIR



Over 70 colleges will be present at the free college fair October 23, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Aquinas College campus in the Sturges Sports and Fitness Center, 1580 E. Fulton, Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Make sure to check it out and see what college is best for you.



**GRAND VALLEY
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