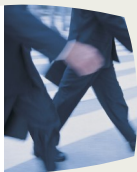




► Don't miss out on important information. See your TRIO Advisor each week .....1



► Make the date and max your cash. FAFSAs on time by March 1 .....1



► Check out the Senior Checklist .....2

**TRIO**  
TALENT SEARCH

# Senior

FALL  
2017

## *focus*

**THIS IS YOUR YEAR TO SHINE! TAKE EACH MOMENT TO MOVE YOUR PLANS AHEAD FOR AFTER GRADUATION AND INTO COLLEGE!**

*Your GVSU TRIO Educational Talent Search Advisors would like for you to read this issue completely and make a point each week to update them with your progress and steps toward college.*

## *Helping you achieve your steps to college*

It's finally here! It's your senior year of high school! It is an exciting time in your life and time is ticking ahead toward your graduation. Your TRIO Educational Talent Search Advisors are ready to help answer any questions that you may have about getting into college when they are at your schools.

Here are some important points about making sure that you are on track toward graduation:

1. Make sure that you meet with your high school counselor so you are on track to graduate on time.
2. Invest in a binder to keep all of your college information in one place.
3. Be ready to submit your **FAFSA before March 1, 2018** (you can also use last year's estimates). You can apply as early as **Oct. 1, 2017**.
4. Submit your college applications before **Nov. 1, 2017**.
5. Apply, apply, apply to scholarships!



## Financial Aid FAFSA Count Down

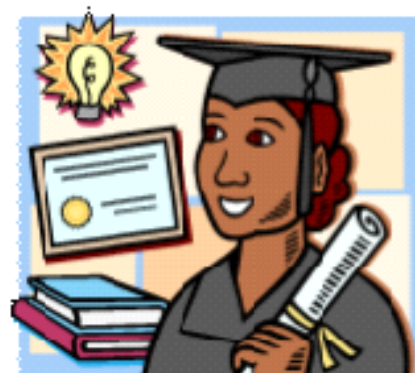
If you are on target to finish your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on time, you stand the best chances to get the most financial aid. If you complete it after that, you may get less in financial aid. For Michigan students, the date to file a FAFSA on time for the next academic year is **March 1st**. You may submit your FAFSA as early as **October 1st**. We recommend that you complete it in the fall to maximize financial aid benefits. Please visit: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) for complete information and talk to your TRIO Advisor.

# Your Senior Checklist

*Keep this page posted where you can see it all school year!*

## September

1. Ask for recommendations from teachers, counselors and others for scholarships.
2. Research and begin applying for scholarships.
3. Meet with College Representatives when they come to your school.
4. Apply to colleges and financial aid.



## October

1. Meet with your counselor to make sure that you are graduating on time.
2. FAFSA application is available **October 1st**, go to: **www.fafsa.ed.gov**
3. Create your FAFSA ID by going to the same website above.
4. Know your social security number or write it down.
5. Check in with your TRIO Advisor, make it to **EVERY** senior meeting.
6. Create a **resume**. You may need it for applications.
7. Set aside a college binder with separate pockets to organize all of your information about college applications.
8. Begin writing essays for college applications. Have teachers and TRIO Advisors look them over.
9. **Apply to 3-5 colleges.** Have one “safe college” that you know you can get into, one “average college” that you will most likely get into, and one “reach college” which may be a challenge to get into. Take advantage of **fee waivers**. If you are on free lunch ask your counselor to submit your college application with a fee waiver and your transcript.
10. Make sure that you ask your counselor to submit your transcript and SAT score to each and every college to which you have applied. You are not finished with the application process until the college has received your transcript!
11. Many Michigan colleges have a **November 1st** college application deadline for scholarship consideration. If you do not submit your application with all of your materials to colleges before this deadline, you may be missing out on valuable scholarships!
12. Don't fall for scholarship scams. You should never have to pay for a scholarship search or service.
13. Attend the Fall College Fair at Aquinas College on **October 24th** from 12:00 noon to 2 PM, or 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Sturges Sports & Fitness Center, to talk with admissions representatives directly.
14. Register to retake the SAT if you need to.

## November

1. You may start getting notice of college acceptance. Keep these letters in your folder.
2. Be aware of **fees and deposits** from colleges. You may have to start paying these to hold your spot. Know refund dates if you are no longer planning to attend the chosen colleges.
3. Visit college campuses where you have applied. Check with your school counselor about scholarship leads.
4. Register on **scholarship search engines** such as [www.Fastweb.com](http://www.Fastweb.com) for scholarship leads. Line up 10-20 scholarships that you will apply to and organize a chart for yourself of when they are due.
5. 4 weeks after you have submitted your FAFSA, look over your **Student Aid Report** to see if your FAFSA needs any corrections. If you need to correct yours, go back online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and log in with your username, and FSAID and make the corrections.

## December

1. If you are applying to GVSU, have your application and transcripts to your counselor by early December. GVSU must receive your application by Dec. 31 in order for you to be considered for the Early Awareness Scholarship. You must have a 3.3 GPA and a 21 on your composite ACT or a 990 on the SAT on the critical math and combined science score. You **must** mark the box on the application that you have participated in TRIO Educational Talent Search in order to be considered.

## January

1. Have your counselor send your first semester grades to colleges where you may need a higher GPA to get in or to get scholarships.
2. Begin applying for scholarships January through May. Watch your deadlines! Devote at least 4 hours to this task weekly for a bigger pay-off. Remember, YOU apply for scholarships. Apply for 15-20 or more.

## February

1. Watch for acceptance letters, financial aid letters, scholarship notices and check all of your e-mails on a daily basis.
2. Begin planning your **graduation celebration!**
3. Continue to work hard in classes. The college that you choose will get your final grades and if you have let your grades slip, you may be denied admission even if you have been accepted already!
4. Make sure that you have **applied to many scholarships** in the past two months. Reach your goal of applying to 15-20, especially local ones.

## March/April

1. Review your financial **aid award letters** from your colleges. **Discuss issues with TRIO Advisors.**
2. Visit the colleges you are considering before accepting.
3. If you've made your decision on which college to attend, let the college and your TRIO advisor know. Inform the other colleges that you won't be attending their college.
4. Continue to apply for scholarships.
5. Start looking for summer employment and complete your job applications. Open a savings account and plan on saving money for college; you'll need it.
6. If you have **housing deposits**, pay them.



## May

1. **By May 1st, make your final decision** on which college you will be attending in the fall and let the college (and your TRIO Advisor) know. Tell the other colleges that you will not be attending their college.
2. The college that you have accepted will require a **deposit by May 1st**. Watch your refund dates if you have given deposits to other colleges.
3. Attend the TRIO ETS year end **celebrations!**
4. Register to attend your college's **orientation day**. Schedule the earliest date you can.
5. If you are attending a community college, go to their registration on campus and take the *Accuplacer* test if they have requested that you do so.

## June

1. **Graduate! Celebrate!**
2. Begin working your summer job to raise money for college.
3. **Register** for classes if you are attending a community college. Register for classes at your **orientation**.

## July

1. Visit your college to locate buildings.

## August

1. Begin classes at your college!



### Questions? Call us at: 331-7110 M-F, 9-4 p.m.

Check in with your Advisor, and feel free to e-mail him/her too!

**Mr. Marroquin:** marroqut@gvsu.edu  
School: Union HS, Westwood MS

**Mr. Solis:** solisj1@gvsu.edu  
School: Innovation Central HS, Burton MS

**Ms. Keranen-Lopez:** keranesa@gvsu.edu  
School: Godwin Heights HS, East Kentwood HS

**Mr. Landy:** landyf@gvsu.edu  
Schools: Ottawa Hills HS, University Prep Academy, Riverside MS

**Ms. Fritz:** clarkas2@gvsu.edu  
School: Wyoming HS, Wyoming Jr





*“College graduates will earn over one million dollars over the course of their lifetime as compared with high school graduates.”*

*Source: US Department of Labor*

# Keep your eyes on the prize!

**Keeping organized with all your college information, scholarships and financial aid is key.**

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, ask, ask, for scholarship leads from your TRIO Advisor and school counselor.
4. Keep on working in your classes to get the best grades possible.
5. Focus on your college choices and become familiar with them.
6. Keeping track of your mail, email and college information is key.
7. Make a point to see your TRIO Advisor every step of the way regarding college applications and applying for financial aid.
8. Write down the dates of the activities just for seniors in TRIO ETS.

**FALL  
College Fair  
October 24th**



**Over 70 colleges will be present at the free college fair October 24th, from 12 noon to 2 PM and then from 6:00 to 7:30PM on the campus of Aquinas College, held inside the Sturuss Sports and Fitness Center, 1580 E. Fulton, Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Contests for scholarships!  
Questions: (616) 632-2863**



**GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**  
TRIO EDUCATIONAL  
TALENT SEARCH PROGRAM

510 Fulton St W  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY