The Academic Transition to College
Before we begin...

• Please mute your microphones and disable your cameras
• Now is a good time to take out a pen and paper in case you would like to take notes on this presentation.
• Please write down any questions that you may have about the content that we present here.
• Please text all questions to **313 451 3288**.
• This presentation will be made available at [https://www.detroitcan.org/seniors](https://www.detroitcan.org/seniors).
About me…

• My name is Christina Johnson and I am from Detroit, MI.
• I graduated from Detroit School of Arts High School.
• I went to college and earned two bachelor’s degrees. One in Anthropology and the other in African American Studies.
• I have been working in College Access as a College Adviser for the last two years. I worked in Lansing, MI with Lansing Public High School students.
• I have been working for the Detroit Regional Chamber in Partnership with DCAN since March 2020.
As an incoming freshman to college you are embarking on an exciting and rewarding journey.

This presentation will cover:
- Placement Tests/Results and what they mean
- How to select the right major for you
- Communicating with Academic Advisors
- How to choose your classes/When to drop a class
- Transcripts
Placement Tests

• Placement Tests are used to determine whether or not an individual student is prepared for college level coursework in math, reading, and writing.

• Depending on how well you do on placement tests, you may find yourself in classes that reflect that you are prepared for college level coursework.

• Or, you may find yourself in remedial classes which reflect that you need more support and skill building practice in academic subjects.
What are remedial classes?

• Remedial courses were created to prepare students for college level course-work
• Remedial classes DO NOT count towards the credits needed to graduate with degrees from higher educational institutions
• YOUR goal as student is to test well enough to avoid remedial classes
• HOWEVER, if you find yourself in a remedial course, do your best to pass.

We are going to look at some REAL College Placement Test questions. We will make this practice test along with the study guide and answer key available.
College Placement Tests

• [https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students/prepare-for-accuplacer/practice](https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students/prepare-for-accuplacer/practice)

• [https://www.lcc.edu/services/testing/placement/index.html](https://www.lcc.edu/services/testing/placement/index.html)
One more thing about Placement Tests

• **MANY** colleges require that students take their placement tests on their own time. Community Colleges in the past has required that students come to the college campus to take their tests.

• With the recent outbreak, colleges and universities are sending students email reminders to complete their placement exams.

• **PLEASE** check your email to ensure that you are meeting the requirements of your college or university.
How to select the right major for you

- The major that you choose in college will not dictate your overall career trajectory.

- As you are choosing a college major, you should be thinking about what you like to learn about.

- If you have a specific career in mind like, librarian, doctor, journalist, teacher, computer scientist, and food scientist, then there are specific majors that you would want to explore and consider declaring.
Selecting the Right Major for You, continued...

• You should give yourself time to declare a college major.
• Take classes that interest you.
• Attend College Major Fairs and Expos that many colleges and universities hold for their students.
• When you take a class that interests you get involved in the department affiliated with the major.
• They often hold welcome events for students in which you meet faculty, staff, and students involved in that major.
Major/Minor Expos at Michigan Colleges and Universities

• [https://lsa.umich.edu/advising/understand-degree-options/choosing-a-major/expo-for-majors-and-minors.html](https://lsa.umich.edu/advising/understand-degree-options/choosing-a-major/expo-for-majors-and-minors.html)

• [https://events.wayne.edu/2020/02/04/major-match-84855/](https://events.wayne.edu/2020/02/04/major-match-84855/)

• [https://wmich.edu/exploratoryadvising/choosing-your-major](https://wmich.edu/exploratoryadvising/choosing-your-major)
How to pick your classes

• Academic advisers are useful resources when it comes to picking your classes.

• Your first goal in choosing courses is to make sure that you are fulfilling graduation requirements.

• When you are in college you fulfill graduation requirements for your major/minor, and your general education requirements.

• Getting into contact with academic advisers about this process is helpful.
Add/Drop deadlines

- Every semester there are deadlines in which students must decide whether they will add new courses to their schedule or drop courses from their schedule.

- If you must add or drop a class past these deadlines you must get permission from professors to add or drop their class.

- In the case that you are dropping a class because of unforeseeable circumstances you would also want to get into contact with student support services.
Dropping classes

• When you drop a class late in the semester, you may get an Incomplete, or Withdrawal on your transcript.

• You want to avoid this as much as possible.

• Your tuition dollars still go towards these courses, and you still must earn any credits that you have missed by dropping a course late in the semester. Especially if that dropped class counted towards your major or general education requirements.
Transcripts

- EVERY class that you take in college will show up on your transcript.

- If you fail multiple classes in any given semester in college, you put yourself in jeopardy of being put on academic probation.

- You want to pass your college courses with As and Bs. Your transcript should reflect that you were a committed student.

- As you apply for jobs after college you must show your transcript as proof that you attended college and earned degrees/credentials.

- If you are a person that may be considering graduate school, you want to make sure that you leave college with a decent grade point average.
Review Time! 😊

• College Placement Tests are **IMPORTANT**! Do your best on your placement exams so that you can have a great start to getting your degree.

• *Select the major that is right for you by exploring your options! Try new classes and really get involved in class subjects that interest you.*

• College is meant to be a place where you create your learning experience. Choose classes that are: *interesting to you and meet graduation requirements*. Use this strategy and you will not be disappointed.

• **PLEASE** reach out to academic advisers to be sure that you are staying on track to graduate!

• *Watch out for class add/drop deadlines!*

• **Do your best in all your classes!** *Your college transcript does matter not because of the numbers in your GPA but because you want to graduate.*
Don’t forget!

• Text **313 451 3288** with questions about the content covered in this presentation.
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Thank you for joining us today!