



# 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>.



# 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.

# Academic Transitioning

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://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://events.wayne.edu/2020/02/04/major-match-84855/>
- <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.
- This presentation along with others will be made available at <https://www.detroitcan.org/seniors>

# Thank you for joining us today!

