

Community College in Michigan for Students with Disabilities



The State of Michigan now offers **three programs for tuition-free community college**. Youth and adults with disabilities are included in these programs. If you are planning to earn an associate degree or professional certificate from a community college, here's what you need to know.

1. [Early Middle College](#)

Early Middle College (EMC) is a five-year course of study approved by the Michigan Department of Education, allowing students to work simultaneously toward a high school diploma and an associate degree, up to 60 transferable college credits, or a professional certificate. EMC works closely with both high schools and community colleges. In most cases, college tuition is paid for by the local school district. Each EMC has its own eligibility requirements. Here's how to start the application process:

- ✓ Talk to your guidance counselor and Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to learn which EMC opportunities are available in your region
- ✓ Ask about admission requirements, such as minimum grade point average (GPA), college placement tests, and admissions essay
- ✓ After admission, meet with the college's resource office for students with disabilities to coordinate accommodations
- ✓ After admission, commit to a 5th year of high school to complete all EMC requirements

2. [Community College Guarantee](#)

The Community College Guarantee is part of the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Program. Recent high school graduates may earn a skill certificate or associate degree tuition-free at their local community college. Eligibility guidelines:

- ✓ Hold a high school diploma, high school equivalency (GED), or a certificate of completion from a Michigan high school
- ✓ Meet with an admissions counselor at the college to learn about program requirements
- ✓ Submit a [federal student aid application \(FAFSA\)](#)
- ✓ Enroll in community college **full-time** within 15 months of graduating high school
- ✓ Michigan resident for at least one year
- ✓ U.S. citizen, or permanent resident, or approved refugee

3. [Michigan Reconnect](#)

Michigan Reconnect is a scholarship program that allows a student to attend their in-district community college tuition-free or provides a tuition discount for an out-of-district community college. Eligibility guidelines:

- ✓ 25 years old or older at the time of application
- ✓ Meet with an admissions counselor at the college to learn about program requirements
- ✓ Already hold a high school diploma, high school equivalency (GED), or certificate of completion
- ✓ Not yet earned an associate or bachelor's degree
- ✓ Michigan resident for at least one year
- ✓ Apply to one of Michigan's [31 community colleges](#)
- ✓ Submit a [federal student aid application \(FAFSA\)](#)
- ✓ [Apply to Reconnect online here](#)