2026-27 Program Schedule

Student Sessions
Two sessions per month // Wednesday from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

September

Date	Session	Focus
September 23, 2026	Senior Year Starts Now: Scholars Kickoff	Welcome students into the Scholars year, review program and Charter Scholar Award expectations, establish senior-year goals, complete the program starting-point survey, and introduce the year ahead.

October

Date	Session	Focus
October 7, 2026	The Senior Year Game Plan	Build an individualized senior-year roadmap covering college applications, FAFSA, scholarships, recommendations, important deadlines, and immediate next steps.
October 21, 2026	Build Your College List: Fit, Facts, and Finances	Evaluate college options based on academic fit, campus environment, affordability, student support, outcomes, and personal priorities to develop a balanced college list.

November

Date	Session	Focus
November 4, 2026	Application Lab: Tell Your Story	Work directly on college applications while strengthening activities lists, application responses, personal storytelling, recommendations, and other required materials.
November 18, 2026	Show Me the Money: Paying for College and JRLA FAFSA Night	Understand FAFSA, grants, scholarships, loans, work-study, cost of attendance, and net price. Scholars will complete a FAFSA Readiness Checklist and are expected to attend JRLA FAFSA Night with a parent/guardian following the Scholars session.

December

Date	Session	Focus
December 2, 2026	Scholarship Lab: Make Yourself Competitive	Identify scholarship opportunities, work on applications and essays, strengthen scholarship materials, and develop a system for tracking opportunities and deadlines.
December 16, 2026	Senior Checkpoint: Are You on Track?	Complete an individual progress review covering applications, FAFSA, scholarships, grades, missing documents, CMU status, and priorities for the second half of senior year.

January

Date	Session	Focus
January 13, 2027	AAD 197 Kickoff: College Success to Career Foundations	Introduction to the course; connecting college success with long-term career development; expectations; academic and career goal setting.
January 27, 2027	Know Yourself: Strengths, Values and Career Identity	Self-awareness, interests, values, strengths, transferable skills, and Real Colors® assessment and reflection.

February

Date	Session	Focus
February 10, 2027	From Major to Career: Exploring Your Pathway	Career pathways, degree alignment, major exploration, and connecting academic choices to career possibilities.
February 24, 2027	College Ready: Managing the Transition	Academic planning, time management, persistence, self-advocacy, and identifying campus resources that support college success.

March

Date	Session	Focus
March 5, 2027	*Field Trip: Forgotten Harvest* Community Service and Leadership	Experiential learning opportunity focused on service, leadership, community engagement, teamwork, and reflection. Field trip details will be shared with students and families.
March 10, 2027	Professional Communication and Your Personal Brand	Professional written, verbal, and digital communication; email etiquette; and introduction to professional identity.
March 19, 2027	Dining and Professional Etiquette Workshop	Professional etiquette, communication, professional dress and presence, dining etiquette, and preparation for college, internships, and the workplace.
March 24, 2027	Build Your Resume: Skills That Tell Your Story	Resume development, identifying transferable skills, and communicating experiences to employers and organizations.

April

Date	Session	Focus
April 7, 2027	Build Your Network: Social Capital and LinkedIn	Networking strategies, social capital, career exploration, LinkedIn, and developing a professional digital presence.
April 21, 2027	Ready for the Opportunity: Interviewing and Professional Presence	Interview preparation, elevator pitches, professional dress, workplace communication, and presenting yourself confidently.

May

Date	Session	Focus
May 5, 2027	From College to Career: Workplace and Experiential Readiness	Final AAD 197 instructional session. Explore workplace expectations, internships, experiential learning, and NACE Career Readiness Competencies; finalize short- and long-term goals and an individual Career Action Plan; and complete course reflection.
May 6, 2027	Central Celebration	Culminating Charter to CMU celebration recognizing Scholars, program completion, senior-year accomplishments, and the transition to students' next chapter. Families will receive event details separately.

Transition to CMU // For Scholars Enrolling at CMU for Fall 2027

Date	Session	Focus
June - July, 2027 *Dates TBD*	CMU New Student Orientation	Scholars enrolling at CMU will complete New Student Orientation, including academic advising, course registration, campus resources, and preparation for their first semester.
August, 2027 *Dates TBD*	IMPACT	Incoming CMU Scholars are encouraged to participate in IMPACT, a pre-semester transition experience focused on community, mentorship, campus resources, and preparation for college life.
August, 2027 *Dates TBD*	Leadership Safari	Incoming CMU Scholars are encouraged to participate in CMU's pre-semester Leadership Safari experience focused on leadership, connection, and transition to campus.
August 30, 2027	First Day of Fall Classes at CMU	Fall 2027 on-campus classes begin at Central Michigan University.