



College Counseling

Suggested Timeline for the College Process

Grade 9

- Work hard in classes, become involved in extracurricular activities, discover areas of personal interest
- Keep in mind that freshman year grades DO matter to colleges, and they ARE used in the calculation of the GPA
- Students & Parents may attend the “College Counseling Preview Night” for freshmen and sophomores at Academy (March)
- Possibly take the SAT Subject Test if enrolled in Honors Algebra 2 & Precalculus (early June)
- A small handful of students enrolled in Advanced Biology may opt to take the SAT Subject Test when this is a primary academic interest and/or area of strength (early June)

Grade 10

- PSAT at Columbus Academy (mid-October); review your score report in mid-December
- Continue to work hard in all of your classes and be involved in activities, arts, athletics
- Understanding Financial Aid for College – evening program for parents at Academy or Columbus School for Girls (October)
- Students and Parents attend the “College Counseling Preview Night” at Academy (March)
- Attend the NACAC Columbus College Fair at the Greater Columbus Convention Center (April)
- Academic Planning Conferences for students and parents with College Counselors and Head of Upper School (April)
- Take AP exams, if applicable (May)
- Sign-up for campus college visit day-trip(s) with the College Counseling Office (late May/early June)
- Possibly take the SAT Subject Test if enrolled in Honors Algebra 2 & Precalculus or Advanced Precalculus (early June)
- In rare cases, students enrolled in Advanced Chemistry may opt to take the SAT Subject Test when this is a primary academic interest and/or an area of strength (early June)
- Take a SAT/ACT prep course or prepare on your own via on-line options (summer between Grade 10 and Grade 11)
 - Do **not** take your first SAT until **next** fall or winter at the very earliest

Grade 11

- College Counseling Junior Class Meetings (first quarter)
- Meet with college representatives visiting Academy during your free periods (Sept. through Nov.)
 - List available with your Naviance password, in the Viking Voice, and posted on College Counseling doors
- Attend the Columbus Suburban College Fair at Otterbein University (September)
- PSAT at Academy (October) – this is the one that “counts” for National Merit selection/honors
- Understanding Financial Aid for College – evening program for parents at Academy or Columbus School for Girls (October)
- SAT or ACT in December or January for the first time, take again in March, April, or May, take SAT Subject Tests in June
- Students and Parents attend “Grade 11 College Night” at Academy (November)
- College Counseling Class (third quarter) and regular meetings with your college counselor
 - Class topics include the basics of the college search process, standardized testing, creating a resume, practice college interviews, writing the college essay, do’s and don’ts of college applications, financial aid, requesting teacher recommendations, and more
 - Regular meetings with your college counselor will address a range of topics including individual planning process, creating a student’s college list, athletic recruiting, financial aid, and suggestions and ideas for summer activities
- Schedule campus tours (end of Feb) and then visit college campuses over spring break
- Attend the NACAC Columbus College Fair (April)
- Take AP Exams (May)
- Summer: Write your college essay and continue to visit college campuses (June and July)
- Summer: Attend Academy’s Common Application Workshops before school begins (early-mid August)

Grade 12

- Meet with college representatives at Academy (Sept. through Nov.)
- College Counseling Senior Class Meetings (first quarter). Work on applications and getting necessary materials to colleges.
- *PARENTS*: Attend Senior Parent College Night at Academy (late August)
- Continue to meet with your college counselor as you prepare your college applications and supplemental materials
- Take the ACT in September and/or the SAT in October
- Understanding Financial Aid for College – evening program for parents at Academy or Columbus School for Girls (October)
- *PARENTS*: file financial aid paperwork via FAFSA and CSS Profile (Oct/Nov. for EA/ED apps, January for Regular apps)
- Choose a college or university by May 1st