



DEPAUL COLLEGE PREP
FR. GORDON CAMPUS

Making Sure Your Student is On Track for College

Ms. Katie Hassberger, College Counselor
February 13, 2018

faith faith faith faith faith faith faith faith
respect respect respect respect respect
excellence excellence excellence
service service service service service

Freshman Year: Transitioning to High School

- Get involved!
- Do your homework- consistently and on time
- Learn how to study-- build this into your homework time starting several days in advance of a quiz or test
- Read! For school and for fun!
- Get to know a new people
- Get to know your teachers
- Take advantage of any opportunities for extra support



Sophomore Year: Exploring Interests and Career Options

- Stay committed to your extracurricular activities
- Challenge yourself with difficult classes
- Get to know your strengths
- Explore different types of careers
- Ask for help when you need it!
- Read as much as possible!
- Explore summer programs and opportunities
- Maintain positive relationships with your teachers



Junior Year: Focusing on Academics and Exploring College Options

- Stay committed to your extracurricular activities
- Seek our leadership opportunities-- both formal and informal
- Challenge yourself with difficult classes in your areas of strength
- Work hard!
- Visit college campuses
- Explore your college interests
- Take a test prep class beginning in January
- Take the ACT and/or SAT in the spring (our spring test date is April 24th!)
- Ask 2 teachers for letters of recommendation before leaving for summer
- Work on your personal statement over the summer
- Take advantage of summer programs and opportunities



Senior Year: Applying to College

- Continue to challenge yourself with a full courseload
- Make sure your senior year courses align with college admissions requirements
- Submit college applications in the fall! September-November are the months you want to prioritize working on these
- Take the ACT or SAT again if you need to
- Complete the FAFSA as close as you can to October 1st
- Check your email and application portals regularly to ensure colleges have all application materials they need
- Apply for scholarships
- Continue to work hard!
- Thank your teachers for writing letters of recommendation!
- Celebrate your college plans on May 1st!



College Selectivity

Level of Selectivity	Post-Secondary Institutions	Average GPA	Average ACT Score
Most Competitive	Northwestern, University of Chicago, Notre Dame	3.8 - 4.0+	29+
Highly Competitive	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Beloit, Denison, Illinois Wesleyan, Ohio State	3.3 - 3.8+	27-28
Very Competitive	DePaul, Loyola, DePauw, Syracuse, Illinois State, Xavier University	2.7 - 3.3+	24-26
Competitive	Albion, Benedictine, Dominican, Monmouth, Northern Illinois, Southern Illinois University- Carbondale	2.3 - 2.7+	21-23
Less Competitive	Iowa Wesleyan, National Louis, Northeastern Illinois	below 2.3	below 21
Non-Competitive	City Colleges	below 2.0	below 18



High School Graduation Requirements vs. College Admission Requirements

Content Area	Graduation from DePaul College Prep	Admission to Northern Illinois University	Admission to University of Illinois
English	4.0	4 years	4 years
Mathematics	4.0	3 years	3 or 3.5 required; 4 recommended
Science	3.0	3 years	2 required; 4 recommended
Social Studies	3.0	3 years	2 required; 4 recommended
Civics/Consumer Education	0.5	n/a	n/a
World Language	2.0	2 years*	2 required; 4 recommended
Kinetic Wellness/Health	2.0	n/a	n/a
Religious Education	4.0	n/a	n/a
Freshman STEAM/ Electives	2.0 - 3.0	2 years*	2 required; 4+ recommended*



Course Selection for 2019-2020

The Process

- **Feb. 19-22**
 - Teachers share information on course options for students in their classes.
 - Students can ask their teachers questions about course recommendations.
 - Teachers available at tables in the cafeteria on Thurs. 2/21 and Fri. 2/22.
- **Mon. 2/25:** Rising junior course selection
- **Tues. 2/26:** Rising sophomore course selection
- **Wed. 2/27:** Rising freshman course selection



Course Selection for 2019-2020

The Process

- **Wed. 2/27:** Teachers review student course selections and provide input.
- **March 4-14:** Counselors meet with students who may require a follow up meeting.

Factors to Consider

- Graduation requirements
- College admission requirements
- Individual strengths
- Areas of personal interest
- Career interests and goals



Other Tips!

Be aware of strengths and weaknesses

- Grades
- Standardized test scores
- Extracurricular involvement
- Leadership
- Service

One rough semester is okay!

- As long as it is not the norm
- Students should be able to explain a rough semester
- Colleges like to see improvement, rather than deterioration, of grades over time



College Application Timeline

Junior Year

- Throughout: Explore college options
- Throughout: visit college campuses
- January–April: Take ACT or SAT prep course
- April 24: Take ACT in school
- Summer: Retake ACT or SAT

Senior Year

- Fall: Retake ACT or SAT if needed
- October: Take SAT in school
- September–December: Early Action Applications
- After October 1st: Submit FAFSA
- January–March: Regular Decision Applications
- Throughout/Spring: Submit scholarship applications
- Spring: Review financial aid packages
- May 1st: College Decision Day!



Some Resources

Test Optional Schools: www.fairtest.org

Finding a Good College Fit:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-find-your-college-fit>

Best Colleges for Need-Based Financial Aid:

<http://money.com/money/4474375/best-colleges-need-based-financial-aid/>

Colleges That Change Lives: <https://ctcl.org/>



Upcoming Dates

Wed. March 13: College Fair from 11:30–1 (Freshmen–Juniors)

Wed. April 24: All School Testing Day

9th: Pre–ACT 10th: PSAT 10

11th: ACT 12th: Records Day

Tues. April 9: Transitioning from High School to College parent presentation (for senior parents)

