

GSIS Upper Secondary School Transition Guide



GYEONGGI
SUWON
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

GSIS Counseling Department

The counselors at GSIS meet with students individually and through classroom presentations. During these meetings, we will discuss various topics, depending on grade level, review transcripts and current grades. In addition, counselors are available at all times throughout the day to meet with students. The counseling department has an open door policy; however, students may want to make appointments with their counselor to guarantee ample time for a meeting. Throughout the year, counselors review grades and are available to meet with students. Parents are encouraged to meet with counselors as well.

Top Ten Reasons to See Your Counselor

1. You are having difficulty with your friends, family, or teachers.....
2. You are having trouble in your classes.....
3. You need some help planning for your future.....
4. You need some help picking the “best fit” college for you.....
5. You need some help finding scholarships and financial aid.....
6. You would like to explore some career options.....
7. You have a friend that you are worried about.....
8. You are feeling sad, depressed, or stressed.....
9. You are concerned about substance abuse among your peers.....
10. You have experienced a loss and need help dealing with your grief.....



GSIS 1-7 GPA Equivalency Scale

1-7 Level	Grade	IB MYP / DP SL Scale	IB DP HL Scale
7	4.00	4.25	4.50
6	3.75	4.00	4.25
5	3.25	3.50	3.75
4	2.75	3.00	3.25
3	2.25	2.50	2.75
2	1.25	1.50	1.75
1	0.00	0.00	0.00

GSIS Graduation Requirements (as of 5/2020)

Subject	Credit Requirements for GSIS	Credit Recommended for College
English	4	4
Math	3	4
Science	3	4
Social Studies	3	4
World Language	2	4
Religious Studies	3	0
Fine Arts	1	1
PE/Health	1	1
Electives	7*2 of which must be a GSIS MYP flex course	7
Total (credits)	27	29

For more specific details about what course are required by a specific college/university and their program please consult their website or contact the GSIS Counseling Office.

Timeline for Students

GRADE 9

Counselors will work with freshmen to discuss:

- Role of the Counselor
- Grades
- Study Habits
- Graduation Requirements
- PSAT Test
- Clubs/Sports Involvement

It is recommended that freshmen:

1. Start your freshman year with the understanding that every class you take is important and counts for graduation and your GPA.
2. Familiarize yourself with what is available for your use on campus for high school and post high school planning, and college and career information which is available in the counseling office and on the MaiaLearning website.
3. Sit down with your parents and/or counselor and work out your Four Year Plan.
4. Talk to people who have careers in which you are interested.
5. Start researching colleges and careers. Your counselor is a great resource.

IB Requirements and Standardized Test

Compulsory Courses - Students must take courses from language and literature, language acquisition (or a second language and literature course, taught in a different language), individuals and societies, sciences, and mathematics.

MYP Flexible & Elective Courses - Students must choose one additional subject group from arts OR design plus three additional elective courses. GSIS encourages concurrency in the MYP Flexible Courses. The counseling department recommends students take a flexible course they wish to explore more as they consider future careers.

PSAT- is a predictor for the SAT and also the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Freshman only take this for practice. It is free and required of all students (ELL students may be exempt).

Service and Action - Students take action when they apply what they are learning in the classroom and beyond. IB learners strive to be caring members of the community who demonstrate a commitment to service—making a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment. The counseling department recommends that students serve in a field within their intended career path in order for students to start building their resume and career profiles.

MYP Personal Project - is an independent and creative piece of work that is intended to be the culmination of the student's involvement with the five Global Contexts. Work on the project begins in ninth grade and is completed during grade ten. The counseling department recommends that students choose a topic within their intended career field in order for them to start building their resume and career profiles.

GRADE 10

Counselors will work with sophomores to discuss:

- Transcripts
- Student's Credits
- Graduation Status
- PSAT Test
- College and Career Planning

It is recommended that sophomores:

1. Review your Four Year Plan with your counselor and make adjustments based on your freshman year.
2. Complete an Interest Inventory to help with career and college planning on the MaiaLearning website.
3. Talk with counselor about college and career interests.
4. Research for information on colleges and programs in which you may be interested.

IB Requirements and Standardized Test

Compulsory Courses - Students must take courses from language and literature, language acquisition (or a second language and literature course, taught in a different language), individuals and societies, sciences, and mathematics.

MYP Flexible & Elective Courses - Students must choose one additional subject group from arts OR design plus three additional elective courses. GSIS encourages concurrency in the MYP Flexible Courses. The counseling department recommends students take a flexible course they wish to explore more as they consider future careers.

PSAT- is a predictor for the SAT and also the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sophomores only take this for practice. It is free and required of all students (ELL students may be exempt).

Service and Action - Students take action when they apply what they are learning in the classroom and beyond. IB learners strive to be caring members of the community who demonstrate a commitment to service—making a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment. The counseling department recommends that students serve in a field within their intended career path in order for students to start building their resume and career profiles.

MYP Personal Project - is an independent and creative piece of work that is intended to be the culmination of the student's involvement with the five Global Contexts. Work on the project begins in ninth grade and is completed during grade ten. The counseling department recommends that students choose a topic within their intended career field in order for them to start building their resume and career profiles.

The MYP Certificate – students may have the option to complete the MYP Certificate in Grade 10. Further information about this is available from the MYP Coordinator.

GRADE 11

**Grade 11 students should plan to take the SAT or ACT at least once by the end of this year if needed for a student's post-GSIS plans. **

Counselors will work with juniors to discuss:

- Transcripts
- Student's Credits
- Graduation Status
- PSAT, ACT, and SAT Tests

IB Requirements and Standardized Tests

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) - Students are expected to be involved in CAS experiences during both years of the DP program. *Creativity* includes a broad range of arts activities as well as the creativity students demonstrate in designing and implementing service projects. *Activity* involves exercising the mind and the body. These can include participation in individual and team sports, working out at a fitness center, or exercises of the mind. *Service* encompasses a wide range of community and social service activities. The counseling department recommends that students fulfill CAS requirements in a field within their intended career path in order for students to start building their resume and career profiles.

PSAT- is a predictor for the SAT and also the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Juniors take it for competitive purposes for National Merit Scholarships.

SAT* - is a test used by many US universities for admission. The testing areas are math, evidence-based reading/writing, and essay (optional). Go to www.collegeboard.com for details.

SAT - Subject area tests which some US universities require.

ACT*- is a test used by many US universities for admission. The testing areas include Math, Science & Reasoning, English, Critical Reading, and Writing (optional). Go to www.actstudent.org for details.

*US universities accept both SAT and ACT, so students can choose which test best suits them. Some universities in other countries may also accept either test, though most will want students to complete the full IB Diploma as an admission credential.

It is recommended that Grade 11 students follow this calendar:

August	September	October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Review your four year plan and make adjustments · Think about college and career plans · Understand that you must have your GPA where you want it by the end of your junior year. This is the GPA colleges will see when you apply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Meet with college reps who visit GSIS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Study Hard! · Continue to meet with college reps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Talk with graduates who are home from college. · If you are interested in scholarships, start your search this year by visiting the scholarship link on MaiaLearning and register with Fastweb at www.fastweb.com. 	
January	February	March	April	May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Take the SAT/ACT exams this spring. Take the SAT Subject exams if necessary. · Continue career exploration · Develop a preliminary list of colleges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Attend college visits. They will run through December of senior year. · Speak to alumni locally if possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Go to Junior University Night with your parents. · Examine your transcript. · Complete the "A Little Bit More About You" survey from your counselor. · Meet with the College Counselor for junior conference. · Start heavily researching colleges on MaiaLearning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Explore Early Decision/Early Action options · Ask teachers for college recommendation · Continue researching colleges and develop an effective resume on MaiaLearning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ask teachers for college recommendations · Arrange college visits and/or interviews for summer · Continue researching colleges <p style="text-align: center;">Summer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Complete your Extended Essay · Start writing your college essays · Start completing your applications; you only have until the first week of December to finish!

GRADE 12

Grade 12 students may want to take the SAT/ACT again if unsatisfied with their Grade 11 scores

Counselors will work with seniors to discuss:

- Transcripts
- Student's Credits and Graduation Status
- College Application Process
- Financial Aid (FAFSA/CSS Profile forms)
- Scholarships
- SAT / ACT / Subject Tests

IB Requirements

IB DIPLOMA

Students may undertake the IB Diploma as either a Diploma candidate (full Diploma) or a Course candidate (partial Diploma). Diploma candidates complete 6 courses (3 at HL level and 3 at SL level), Theory of Knowledge, the Extended Essay and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS). Course candidates have less restrictions on their courses (1 or 2 HL courses and 4, 5 or 6 SL courses), do a Bible class and complete CAS but do not take TOK or EE.

The final results awarded for each DP course range from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest). The diploma is awarded to students who gain at least 24 points, subject to certain minimum levels of performance across the whole program and satisfactory completion of the Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) requirements. The highest total that a Diploma Program student can be awarded is 45 points.

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) – a course that encourages students to think about the nature of knowledge, to reflect on the process of learning in all the subjects they study as part of their Diploma Program course, and to make connections across the academic areas.

Extended Essay - an independent, self-directed piece of research, culminating in a 4,000-word paper. This is required of all DP students.

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) - Students are expected to be involved in CAS activities during both years of the DP program. *Creativity* includes a broad range of arts activities as well as the creativity students demonstrate in designing and implementing service projects. *Activity* involves exercising the mind and the body. These can include participation in individual and team sports, working out at a fitness center, or exercises of the mind. *Service* encompasses a wide range of community and social service activities. The counseling department recommends that students fulfill CAS requirements in a field within their intended career path in order for students to start building their resume and career profiles.

It is recommended that Grade 12 students follow this calendar:

August	September	October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Finalize college list of reach, 50-50, and likely schools · Decide if applying Early Decision (ED) and/or Early Action (EA) · Meet with College Counselor for senior conference. · Continue to work hard academically. · Continue GSIS college visits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Review transcript with counselor · Research sources of private outside scholarships throughout the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · If you apply ED and/or EA, be aware of deadlines. · Finish college essays · Finish ED/EA applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Continue to research private scholarships. · Finish all draft applications and essays - go over with counselor, teacher, or parent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Proofread all final apps prior to sending to colleges · Receive results for ED and EA applications.
January	February	March	April	May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · File FAFSA, CSS Profile, or other appropriate financial aid forms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Have you sent all necessary forms and application for financial aid? · College results begin to be received. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · More college results are received; keep the College Counselor updated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Review college responses and aid offers with parents and counselor. · Make final decision - send deposit by May 1 · Write withdrawal letters to colleges you will not attend. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · IB Exams · Graduation!

MaiaLearning

- MaiaLearning is a secure, web-based resource to support course, career, and college planning for students, parents, teachers, and counselors.
- Each Upper Secondary student at GSIS has their own MaiaLearning account which can be accessed from any computer at any time.
- Students can sign on by accessing the link on the Go GSIS website.

What can be done on MaiaLearning?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Academic Plans · Resumes · Learning Style Inventory · Personality Type Inventory · Career Interest Inventory · Career Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Journals · College Searches · College Matches · College Compares · Communication with Counselors

Information that can be accessed on MaiaLearning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · College Visit Schedule · Scholarship Search 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · GSIS Acceptance History · Documents Related to College and Career Planning

Extracurricular Expectations

Colleges want students to take full advantage of their school's academic and extracurricular opportunities, as well as give back to their school community. One of the best ways of predicting what students will do in college and thereafter is to see what they HAVE DONE in high school. What they are looking for is students who are focused on one, two or three activities in which they are totally involved and to which they are committed. Extracurricular activities are a major way you can show how unique and qualified you are for contributing to a university's community.

Choosing Activities	Pattern of Activities
<p>The Golden Rule for choosing extracurricular activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do what you love (or at least what you're interested in). Develop interests and follow your passions, whatever they are. ● People who do what they enjoy are happier, healthier, usually more successful people. ● Your enthusiasm for an activity - or lack of it - often comes through in college applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No one activity will get you accepted into college; rather, what appeals to admissions officers is the weaving together of a pattern of activities and interests (sometimes going back to when you were very young) that demonstrate who you are. ● In choosing extracurricular activities, go for quality, not quantity: 2, 3, 4 activities and/or sports – and stay committed all four years. Consistency is crucial! ● Develop a couple or a few interests and act on them every which way you can.

Extracurricular Timeline

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
<p>9th grade is the time to focus your activities on three or four areas you really enjoy. See what's available at school and if you don't find what you like, check out opportunities outside of school or even create what you want. In the spring, don't forget to plan something for the summer before your sophomore year.</p>	<p>By the time you hit sophomore year, you should have settled into a few favorite activities. Once again, remember to plan a summer activity you can use to write on your college applications.</p>	<p>Go beyond just being a member of a club or team junior year; take a leadership role. Make sure that you do something special for the summer before your senior year (some applications may ask what you did during the summer before your senior year).</p>	<p>Senior year is when your involvements should peak. Go for the presidency or another officer position of a club/organization; push yourself to be the leader or captain of a team; apply for selected programs in an area of your interest; or go outside your school to develop a skill/talent. Since the college admissions process is time consuming, limit your activities to those that are most enjoyable and meaningful.</p>

Summers Colleges are interested in how students spend their summer vacations. Any indication that you have done nothing more than attend hagwons, play video games, watch television, or just hang out with friends is not going to impress admissions officers.

GYEONGGI SUWON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOUR YEAR PLAN
Graduation & College Eligibility Requirements (updated 5/2020)

Name _____

GSIS Graduation Year _____

NOTE: For more specific details about what courses are required by a specific college/university and their program, please consult their website. Individual plans will vary.

Subject	HS Grad. Req.	College Req.	9th-MYP	10th-MYP	11th-DP	12th-DP
1. English	4 cr.	4 cr.	IB MYP English Lang & Lit 4	IB MYP English Lang & Lit 5		
2. Math	3 cr.	4 cr.	IB MYP	IB MYP		
3. Science	3 cr.	4 cr.	IB MYP Science	IB MYP		
4. Social Studies	3 cr.	4 cr.	IB MYP History 1	IB MYP History 2		
4. Language Acquisition	2 cr.	4 cr.	IB MYP	IB MYP		
5. Religious Studies	3 cr.	0 cr.	Bible 9	Bible 10	Bible 11 (Course Candidate) or TOK (Diploma Candidate)	Bible 12 (Course Candidate) or TOK (Diploma Candidate)
6. Fine Arts	1 cr.	1 cr.				
7. Physical Education and Health	1 cr.	1 cr.	IB MYP PE and Health 4			
8. Design	0 cr.	0 cr.				
9. Electives	7 cr. *2 of which must be a GSIS MYP flex course	7 cr.				