

College Planning in High School

Freshman and Sophomore Year

The College Counseling Office encourages students in their freshman and sophomore years to focus on their academic work and their extracurricular activities. A student's high school transcript tells the story of their academic preparedness for college. By the very nature of Seattle Prep's academic program, every student is taking the requisite courses to be an exceptional college applicant.

Junior Year

The junior year is focused on college exploration and forming/implementing your standardized testing plan. It is also a critical year for academics, as colleges focus on trends in academic performance and are most interested in the student you are today.

- Attend college representative meetings at Prep in the fall.
- Attend group sessions with the college counselors in the fall.
- Meet individually with your college counselor beginning in December through Spring semester. Your parents are included in this meeting. Complete junior questionnaire in SCOIR prior to meeting.
- Start to determine your criteria for colleges.
- Determine your testing plan and begin to implement it. We encourage all students to wait to take the SAT or the ACT until March of junior year.
- Visit colleges in person. Spring break is an ideal time to do this.

Senior Year

It's not where a student goes to college that matters most; it's the journey that should be memorable. The college counseling goal for the senior year is to help families navigate their journey through the college application process. College counselors communicate with and advocate for each student during conversations with college admissions colleagues. We celebrate each student's accomplishments and wish them success and happiness as they complete their journey.

- Meet with your college counselor to finalize your college list in the fall.
- Visit your college counselor often; we like to know how the college process is progressing.
- Complete your applications on time.
- Complete your financial aid application in early fall.
- Present yourself in the most positive fashion to the colleges of your choice. At Seattle Prep, virtually, and on all applications.
- Plan to attend college representative visits held at Seattle Prep as well as college fairs in Seattle, especially if you can't meet with representatives at Seattle Prep. Remember that the representatives who come to the Northwest are the ones most likely to read your application and to be your advocate on their admissions committee. Therefore, it is to your advantage to get to know these representatives.

- Continue to visit college campuses
- Avoid senioritis. Colleges always predicate acceptance upon satisfactory completion of the senior year. Students are urged to consult with their college counselor about any substantial changes in senior year courses or grades.
- If a student's academic situation changes at any time during the senior year, colleges will be notified. Self-disclosure by the student of any academic inconsistencies is the preferred way for colleges to learn of these changes.