DURHAM ACADEMY

College Counseling Philosophy

Durham Academy’s college counseling team represents 50 years of collective experience in college counseling. We are committed to providing a rigorous, data-driven approach to college counseling, and working closely with students to ensure a successful college search and application process. Our team is dedicated to helping students navigate the complexities of the college application process and making the most of the unique opportunities available at Durham Academy. We understand that the college counseling process is an essential part of the Upper School experience and we are committed to supporting students in their academic, personal, and professional development.

Academic Programs

Upper School Courses

Our Upper School offers a wide range of courses designed to meet the needs of our students and help them prepare for college and beyond. We offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses in a variety of subjects, including English, History, Science, and Math. Our Advanced Placement (AP) courses are designed to challenge students and prepare them for success in college and beyond.

Advancement (ADV) Courses

In 2023-2024, the most challenging ADV courses are reserved for 11th- and 12th-graders. ADV courses are designed to provide an opportunity for students to think critically, solve complex problems, and engage in meaningful projects.

Independent Study

Students have the opportunity to pursue a longstanding personal interest, delve deeply into a topic, and meaningfully engage with the local community and emphasize authentic demonstrations of learning.

CAVALIER CAPSTONES

The Cavalier Capstone is a capstone project that is undertaken by students in their senior year. This project is supervised by a faculty member in a relevant academic field and is designed to help students integrate what they have learned throughout their Upper School experience.

Peer Educators

A year-long course in which students identify and solve problems with their peers. During three problem-solving cycles, students collaborate in small teams to identify root causes and design and implement solutions.

Teaching Literacy Skills (Augustine Tutoring):

A semester course in which students identify and solve the needs of specific students to help them acquire literacy skills.

Examples include:

- outdoor education
- hands-on projects
- global exploration
- interdisciplinary and community-based mini-courses

These activities are designed to broaden students' learning and complement and enhance the Upper School curriculum.

Dean of College Counseling

Michael Ulku-Steiner

Christopher Briggs

2021, 2022, 2023

DEE) enrich and enliven the intellectual and social environment of an academic community. Co-educational students are encouraged to work, including training for faculty and staff, affinity groups for teachers, parents, and students, the focus on the school's culture and character, a review of our policies, programs, and practices, and level — from the boardroom to the classroom — to the dual pursuit of excellence and service. We are committed to the moral, ethical, and professional values that underpin our educational ideals, and the personal, intellectual, and social development of our students. We are dedicated to serving the needs of our students and preparing them for life, work, and leadership in a diverse and dynamic world.

Unique Programs

Green Capture

We are committed to being in the forefront of sustainability initiatives and promoting environmental awareness. We offer a range of environmental science courses and opportunities to engage in hands-on projects, including green capture projects. Our students are encouraged to think critically and creatively about sustainability issues.

Diversity, Equity, and Engagement at DA

We are committed to providing a diverse and inclusive educational environment for all of our students. We believe that diversity is an essential component of a rich and dynamic educational experience. We are dedicated to creating an environment in which all students feel welcomed, empowered, responsible, and safe. As an essential element of the school's mission, we are committed to preparing our students for life, work, and leadership in a diverse and dynamic world.

Pre-K — 12th Grade

Incorporated in 1933, Durham Academy is a co-educational, independent day school for students in Pre-K—12th grade. Durham Academy is committed to providing a rigorous, balanced educational program that prepares students for life, work, and leadership in a diverse and dynamic world.

Our mission is to provide an educational program that challenges and inspires students, develops their critical thinking skills, and prepares them for success in college and beyond. Through a rigorous curriculum and a student-centered approach, we strive to help students develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for success in college, career, and life.

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