



College Information Night

April 10, 2024

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Monica Wagner, School Counselor last names P-Z

Chelsea Saldana, School Counselor last names A-G

Keith Medema, School Counselor last name H-O

TBD, College Career & Life Readiness Coach

Families will gain knowledge about:

- ❖ Academic and Career Planning
- ❖ Accessing Post Secondary Information
- ❖ Navigating the College Application Process
- ❖ Preparation opportunities for students
- ❖ How to Pay for College
- ❖ Annual TO DO LISTS

GOALS / OUTCOMES



SUN PRAIRIE WEST
WOLVES

High School General Information

Graduation Requirements

Wisconsin State Civics Test

- Every student in Wisconsin must pass the Wisconsin State Civics Test in order to graduate.
- Most students complete the exam during Foundations of American Democracy or AP US Gov't

Transcripts

- Transcripts are sent through www.parchment.com
- To view your transcript:
 - Open Infinite Campus
 - Click on "Documents"
 - Click on "Unofficial Transcript"

Grade Point Average (GPA)

- Your cumulative GPA is your grade point average over the course of your high school years.
- GPA can be used for various reasons such as college admissions or scholarships



Academic and Career Planning

DPI Video

The Department of Public Instruction requires that every school provides academic and career planning services to students enrolled in grades 6 to 12.

In Sun Prairie, Academic and Career Planning activities are woven into classroom and SP30 lessons. Additionally, Xello serves as the way students keep track of their Academic and Career Planning Progress.

Annual Meetings held with students and slideshows are always posted on our website, send to students and emailed home!!



Make A Plan

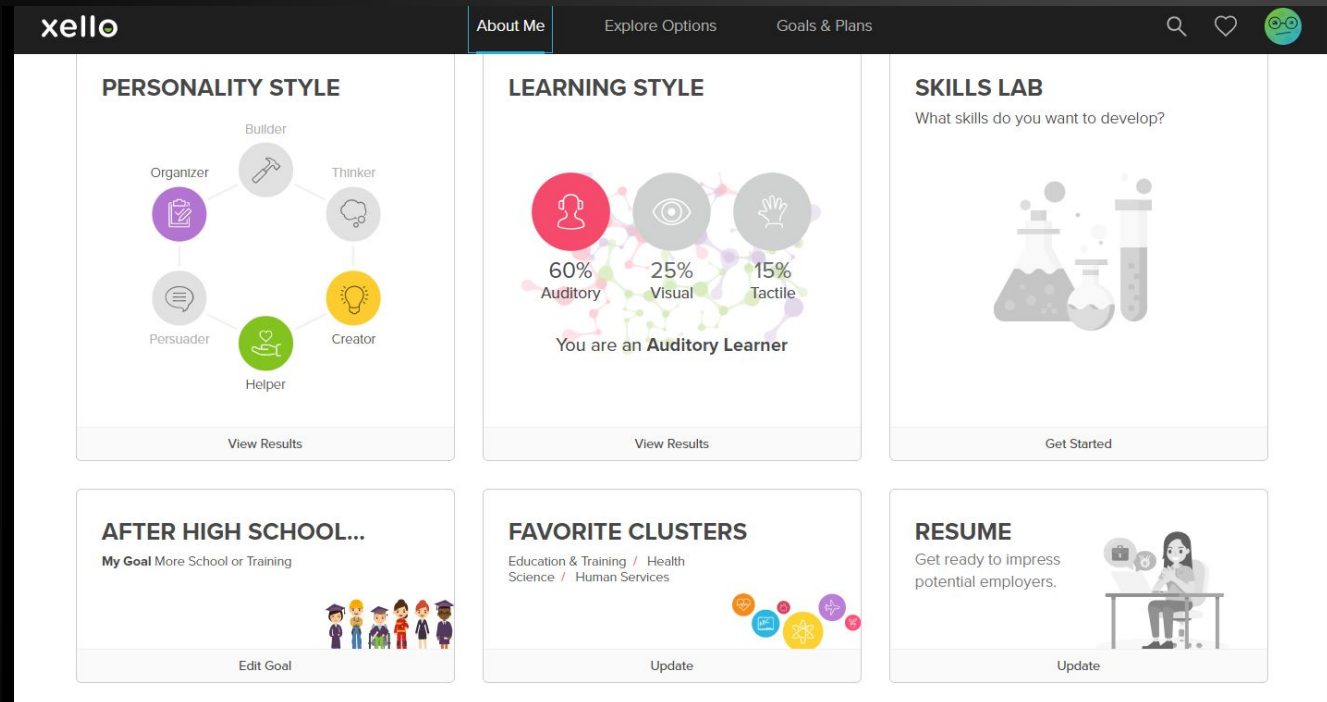
Here are some options:

- 2 year college / transfer program
 - Madison College Liberal Arts Program: <https://madisoncollege.edu/academics/programs/associate-arts-humanities>
- Technical college
 - Wisconsin Technical System: <https://www.wtcsystem.edu/>
- Speciality school
- 4 year school
 - UW Schools: www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu
 - Wisconsin Private Schools: www.waicu.org
 - Historically Black Colleges & Universities: <http://www.thehundred-seven.org/hbculist.html>
 - Hispanic Serving Institutions: <https://www.hacu.net/hacu/HSIs.asp>
 - Asian Pacific Islander and Asian American Institutions: <https://apiascholars.org/>
 - Tribal Colleges and Universities : <https://collegefund.org/tribal-colleges-and-universities/>
- Gap Year
- Apprenticeships
 - <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/>
- Workforce
- Military
 - www.military.com



College & Career Exploration Tools

- Xello can help with all your plans after high school. The program includes, but is not limited to:
 - Assessments
 - Careers/Education exploration
 - My Course Plan
 - Resume Builder
 - ACT Prep via Methodize Test Prep



Additional Ways to Research Post-Secondary Options

- Virtual Campus Visits/Tours
- Virtual College Fairs
- See the student services website!
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UW Schools: www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu

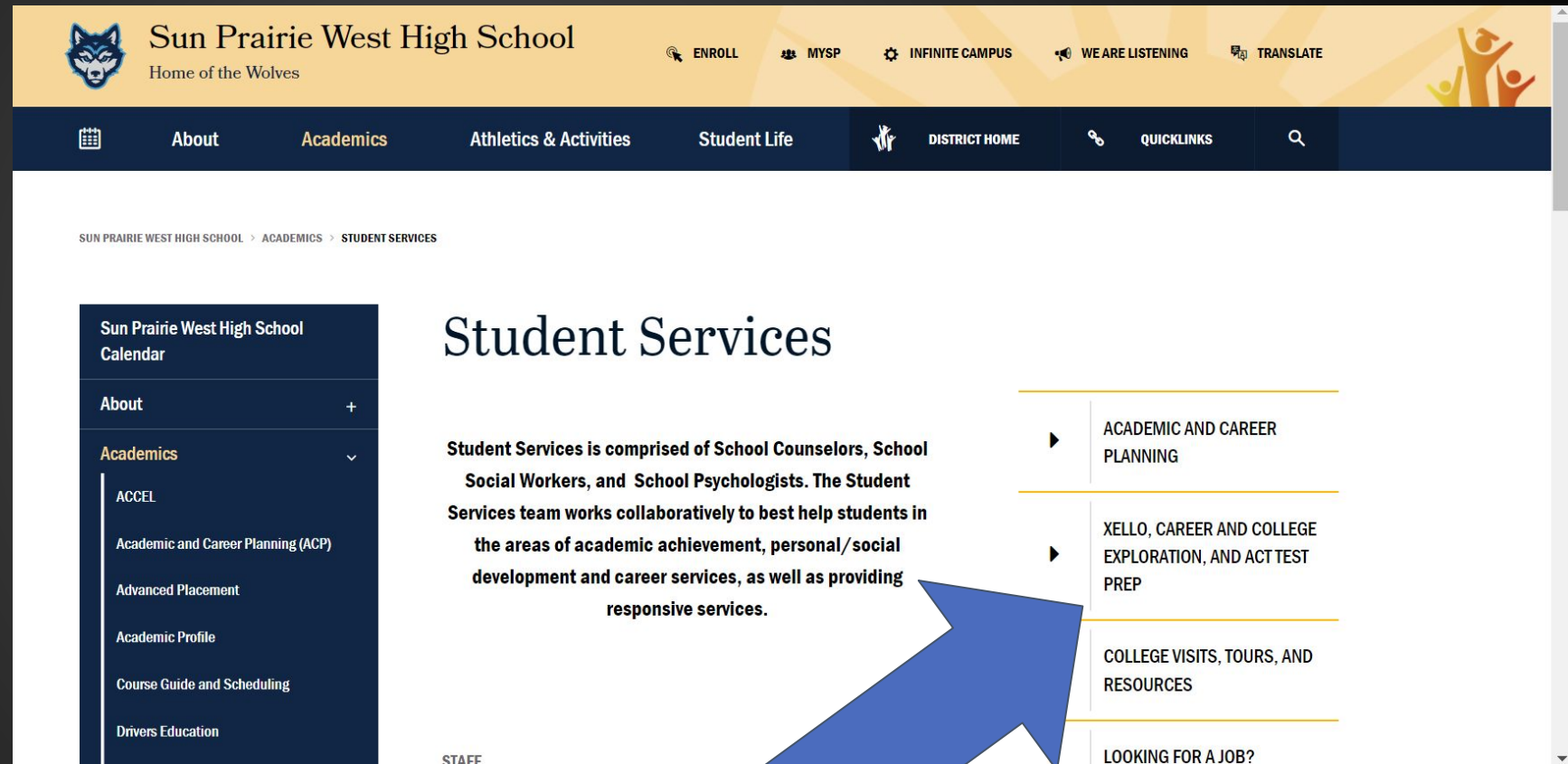
Wisconsin Private Schools: www.waicu.org

Historically Black Colleges & Universities:
<http://www.thehundred-seven.org/hbculist.html>

Hispanic Serving Institutions:
<https://www.hacu.net/hacu/HSIs.asp>

Asian Pacific Islander and Asian American
Institutions: <https://apiascholars.org/>

Tribal Colleges and Universities :
<https://collegefund.org/tribal-colleges-and-universities/>



The screenshot shows the Sun Prairie West High School website. The header features the school's logo, name, and tagline "Home of the Wolves". Navigation links include ENROLL, MYP, INFINITE CAMPUS, WE ARE LISTENING, and TRANSLATE. A secondary navigation bar contains links for About, Academics, Athletics & Activities, Student Life, DISTRICT HOME, QUICKLINKS, and a search icon. The main content area is titled "Student Services" and includes a sidebar with a calendar and a list of links: About, Academics (expanded to show ACCEL, Academic and Career Planning (ACP), Advanced Placement, Academic Profile, Course Guide and Scheduling, and Drivers Education), and a "STAFF" link. The main text describes the Student Services team's role in helping students with academic achievement, personal/social development, and career services. A large blue arrow points from the bottom right towards the "COLLEGE VISITS, TOURS, AND RESOURCES" link in the right-hand menu.

Sun Prairie West High School
Home of the Wolves

ENROLL MYP INFINITE CAMPUS WE ARE LISTENING TRANSLATE

About Academics Athletics & Activities Student Life DISTRICT HOME QUICKLINKS

SUN PRAIRIE WEST HIGH SCHOOL > ACADEMICS > STUDENT SERVICES

Sun Prairie West High School
Calendar

About +

Academics -

ACCEL

Academic and Career Planning (ACP)

Advanced Placement

Academic Profile

Course Guide and Scheduling

Drivers Education

STAFF

Student Services

Student Services is comprised of School Counselors, School Social Workers, and School Psychologists. The Student Services team works collaboratively to best help students in the areas of academic achievement, personal/social development and career services, as well as providing responsive services.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLANNING

XELLO, CAREER AND COLLEGE EXPLORATION, AND ACT TEST PREP

COLLEGE VISITS, TOURS, AND RESOURCES

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Apply Online

Apply Online:

- a. Look at your school's website for instructions and deadlines
 - i. Send your transcripts (create your account using your personal email)
 1. www.parchment.com
 - ii. Letters of Rec
 1. Tip: Fill out a [Brag Sheet](#) for your letter writers
 - iii. Essay Writing
 - iv. ACT scores, if needed
 1. www.act.org or www.collegeboard.org

Frequently used application platforms:

- b. UW System Application apply.wisconsin.edu
- c. Common Application www.commonapp.org
- d. Common Black College App <https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/>
- e. Madison College Liberal Arts Transfer program madisoncollege.edu
- f. Wisconsin Technical Schools <http://www.wtcsystem.edu/>



Essay Writing

It doesn't get said enough, but colleges are literally looking for reasons to admit you. That's why they ask for an essay. They simply want to hear about you. Take your time. Give it some thought, share it with a few people you trust, and revise.

ESSAY BASICS

- Write your essay in a program like Microsoft Word or Google Docs so you can simply copy and paste it into your online application.
- Watch word limits-- commonly between 250 and 650 words
- Ask a friend or teacher to look for inconsistencies, grammatical mistakes, and typos.
- Proofread, proofread, proofread. You don't want some small mistake to accidentally make it look like you don't care.
- Proofread again.

ESSAY TIPS

- Tell colleges something about yourself that you can't capture in the application.
- Jump off the bandwagon. Don't write what you think your colleges will want to hear. Let them know about what drives you.
- Use your own voice. Ask someone you trust to read your essay to see if it "sounds like you."
- Be short and sweet. Clear, concise writing matters more than length.
- Show, don't tell. Be specific and factual.
- Write about your real life. Don't exaggerate or embellish
- Be confident. Skip all the maybes, sort ofs, I thinks, and so on.

[UW System Prompts](#)

[Common Application Prompts](#)

[Common Black College App](#)



ACT Preparation Options

Hard Copy Resources can be found at:

- Public Library
- School Library
- Books stores (ex. Barnes and Noble)
Princeton Review “Crack the ACT”
Kaplan “ACT Premium Program”
Sparknotes “ACT Power Pack”

NOTE: UW Madison just announced that it will remain test optional through the Spring of 2027! Check with your universities regarding ACT/SAT requirements!

FREE Online Resources

- [ACT.org](https://www.act.org)
- [Xello - Methodize](https://www.xello.org)
- [Testprepreview.com](https://www.testprepreview.com)
- [Number2.com](https://www.number2.com)

In Person Course Options (COST)

- [Sylvan Learning Center](https://www.sylvanlearning.com) 1-800-661-0129
- [Kaplan](https://www.kaplan.com) 1-800-KAP-TEST



Paying for College

There are 3 primary ways folks get help paying for college

- 1) Financial Aid (Grants, Federal Loans or work study)
- 2) Scholarships
- 3) Private Loans
- 4) Self Funding

FINANCIAL AID:

- Attend COLLEGE GOAL WI for live help with FAFSA registration, date TBD
- Complete the FAFSA
- Get additional assistance from the Financial Aid offices at your potential universities

SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Remember, the more time and energy you put into completing scholarship applications, the more scholarships you will receive.
- Where to look for scholarships (free money for school!):
- Visit the [Sun Prairie West High School Scholarship Website](#) weekly
 - Search for scholarship applications from the college(s) you are applying to.
 - Complete the Local Scholarship application

PRIVATE LOANS:

- Speak to your financial institution
- <https://finaid.org/loans/privatestudentloans/>



In the News....

What is Direct Admit Wisconsin?

- Direct Admit Wisconsin is an initiative by the Universities of Wisconsin to proactively offer admission to qualifying high school students between their junior and senior years of high school.
- Direct admission removes the traditional application process and instead uses data provided by the high school to admit students to universities.
- For more information about Direct Admit Wisconsin, please visit the following website: www.wisconsin.edu/direct-admissions

What is the Wisconsin Guarantee?

- Starting August 1, 2024, with the high school class of 2025, the Wisconsin Guarantee will offer guaranteed admission to all Universities of Wisconsin universities for Wisconsin high school students in the top 5% to 10% of their graduating class.
- For more information about the Wisconsin Guarantee, please visit the following website: www.wisconsin.edu/wisconsin-guarantee
- The hope is that more Wisconsin students will stay in-state during and after college, rather than leaving to continue their education or enter the workforce.
- The new guaranteed admissions policy will apply to students entering college in the Fall of 2025.



UW System: UW Help

- [FINDING YOUR UW](#)
- [PREPARING FOR COLLEGE](#)
- [GETTING STARTED](#)
- [APPLICATION CHECKLIST](#)
- [AFTER YOU HAVE APPLIED](#)
- [ONCE YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING](#)
- [PAYING FOR COLLEGE](#)
- [TUITION](#)



Grade 9 TO DO List

- It's normal to feel shy as you transition to high school, but if you have any questions, ask friends, a teacher or a trusted advisor.
- Try new classes and extracurricular activities.
- Explore your interests!
- Develop good study habits.
- College admission offices will evaluate your grades from ALL four years.
- Discuss your options after high school with your counselor.
- Plan to take challenging and advanced level courses.
- Start a brag sheet: a list of activities, achievements, awards, and other notable accomplishments.
- Search for part-time or seasonal jobs and volunteer experiences, especially for the summer after freshman year.
- Save for college. Money from holidays, birthdays, or part-time jobs can go a long way.
- Think about how your skills and interests might direct you toward a career.
- Ask people how they got their current jobs. If possible, shadow careers that interest you.
- Take a look at summer pre-college programs offered by your local university.
- Review UW course requirements for admission.
- Review & start budgeting for college now.



Grade 10 TO DO List

- Evaluate the extracurricular activities that you began your freshman year.
- Try to pick up something new. Level up involvement in your activities.
- Grow your leadership skills by taking on a new project or contributing new ideas.
- Revisit the plans that you made last year with your counselor.
- Learn the requirements to take advanced courses your junior and senior years.
- If possible, take practice tests to help you prepare for the ACT or SAT.
- Explore ways to use financial aid, grants and/or scholarships to pay for attending a UW campus.
- Reexamine the careers you found interesting in your freshman year. Job shadow someone if you can.
- Talk to your parents and friends about how your career interests align with college majors.
- Explore which UW campuses offer your major of interest.
- Take a look at summer pre-college programs offered by your local university.



Grade 11 TO DO List

FALL

- Get ready for the ACT and/or SAT.
- Explore potential UW System campuses and see what appeals to you, then visit websites and attend college fairs to hone in on what's important to you.
- Download the UW Journey App.
- Stay on track with your classes and grades.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT.
- Ask the teachers, counselors and coaches who know you best for letters of recommendation.
- Register for UW campus tours and preview days.

SUMMER

- Research admissions requirements for the colleges you're interested in.
- Review priority dates and deadlines for admission.
- Attend UW campus tours & preview dates.



Grade 12 TO DO List

FALL

- Attend Senior Meeting with your School Counselor in September / October
- Attend the Wisconsin Education Fair (WEF) at SP West- October 3, 2024
- Letters of Recommendations (obtain in fall / winter)
- Complete college applications (fall / winter)
- Attend College Goal Wisconsin for FAFSA help (fall / winter)
- Create an account on www.parchment.com in preparations for sending your transcripts
- Keep track of application dates and deadlines, scholarships and housing
- Gather application materials. Include transcripts, test scores and letters of recommendation
- Apply for financial aid using the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

WINTER

- Decide which UW you will attend next fall
- Pay enrollment deposit (if required)
- Complete your housing application
- Watch your email for campus updates
- Making housing decision

SPRING

- Register for college placement tests
- Make the last semester of high school count
- Take placement tests
- Review financial aid offer from your future UW
- Send final grades from your senior year to the UW you are attending

SUMMER

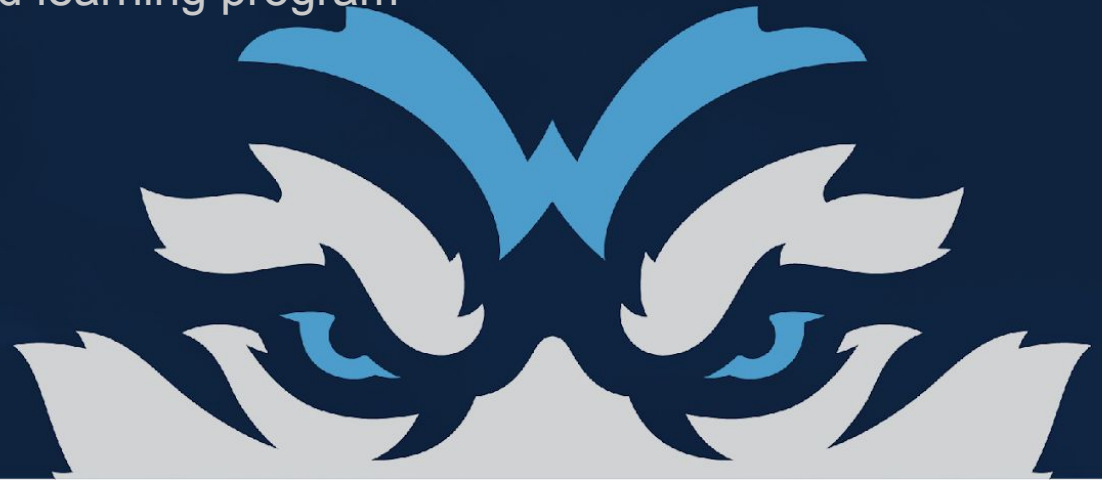
- Sign up and attend student orientation at your future UW
- Prepare for your first year of college



Additional Considerations

1. Extracurricular Activities are not REQUIRED but are helpful for admissions purposes, especially if you demonstrate leadership. Quality over quantity!
2. Foreign Language is not required for HS graduation, but may be required for admissions--check you universities of interest for clarification!
3. Take advantage of all of learning opportunities!
 - a. Dual Credit
 - b. Advanced Placement
 - c. [Early College Credit Program](#) (ECCP) allows students to take one or more courses through a college or university
 - d. [Start College Now](#) (SCN) allows students to take one or more courses at Wisconsin Technical Schools
 - e. Participate in a youth apprenticeship or other work-based learning program
 - f. Participate in Fire Academy/EMR Academy
 - g. Early Graduation
 - i. Applications due no later than the 10th day of first semester

NOTE: When considering options c-g, it is best to weight these carefully. SOME universities prefer students take advantage of their full curriculum and when in doubt, reach out to admissions!



Questions? SPWHS Counselors are here to help!



Ms.Saldana
(A-G)



Mr. Medema
(H-O)



Ms.Wagner
(P-Z)

