



CARROLLWOOD DAY SCHOOL

COLLEGE COUNSELING

An early start to planning your Collegiate Career

PHILOSOPHY

Carrollwood Day School's college counseling department focuses on a developmental model for students beginning as early as eighth grade. In an effort to simplify an increasingly complex college admission landscape, we invest in providing a gradual release of information that is relevant to each student's grade level to ensure that they are fully prepared for their transition to higher education. It is our goal as a department to find the most competitive fit institution for each CDS student by matching each student's aspirations with a plethora of colleges and universities that will allow students to thrive. We are proud to say that 100% of our students have been admitted to a four-year college or university since the first upper school graduating class in 2009.

DEVELOPMENTAL PLAN

From our first official meeting during the second semester of 9th grade, to submitting an enrollment deposit at your selected institution, the college counseling department will serve as your advocate and trusted advisor to navigate the entirety of the application process.

In this spirit, the department offers a variety of resources to ensure the success of each student as they consider where to continue their education. Some of which include:

- Standardized testing practice with the PSAT and Pre-ACT in grades 9 through 11.
- Standardized testing preparation with an eight-week spring ACT and SAT course, as well as a two-week summer test preparation bootcamp.
- College representative visits to the CDS campus open to students in grades 10 through 12.
- Student and family access to the Tampa Bay Area Independent Schools (BAIS) college fair in grades 10-12 to directly speak with college representatives.
- Educational programming for families including an annual financial aid night, and a five-part college counseling coffee series.
- Academic advising and course selection discussions yearly to ensure that each student's IB pathway aligns with their collegiate aspirations.



MEET THE TEAM

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Providing Family Education & Support for the College Admission Process

Students/Families in all grades have access to:

- Individual grade level nights
- An annual Financial Aid Night
- A five-part college counseling coffee series covering current trends in college admission
- Advisement with course selection

8th Grade

- Introduction to college counseling at the fall move-up day for upper school.
- 8th grade parent coffee highlighting college counseling service.
- Optional drop-in hours for students/families in abbreviated individual meetings.

9th & 10th Grade

- Receive college counselor assignment. (9th)
- Hold an individual meeting with a college counselor and at least one parent/guardian. (9th & 10th)
- PSAT/Pre-ACT testing for all 9th/10th graders.
- Access to the Tampa Bay Area Independent Schools. (BAIS) college fair and college representative visits to CDS. (10th)

11th Grade

- Hold two individual meetings with a college counselor and at least one parent/guardian. (midyear & end of year)
- PSAT/Pre-ACT testing.
- Access to the Tampa Bay Area Independent Schools (BAIS) college fair and college representative visits to CDS.
- Students will attend college counseling advisory classes to work on their college applications.
- Access to the BAIS case studies program to learn the intricacies of the college admission evaluation process.
- College essay workshop with college admission representatives to learn tips and strategies about formulating an effective essay.

12th Grade

- Attendance at the college application party in August to get a head start on applying to colleges.
- A college supplemental essay or SSAR/SRAR workshop held during orientation week.
- Submit all college applications, standardized test scores, & SSAR/SRAR/SPARK forms with their assigned college counselor.
- Continued college counseling advisory courses in the fall semester.
- Creation of a Florida Bright Futures account.
- Access to the Tampa Bay Area Independent Schools (BAIS) college fair and college representative visits to CDS.
- Attend a CDS alumni panel with recent college enrollees.

